

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PURCHASED THROUGH THE INTERNET: WHO ARE THE USERS?



**Vicodin Online. Purchase Without
Prescription. international pharmacy**

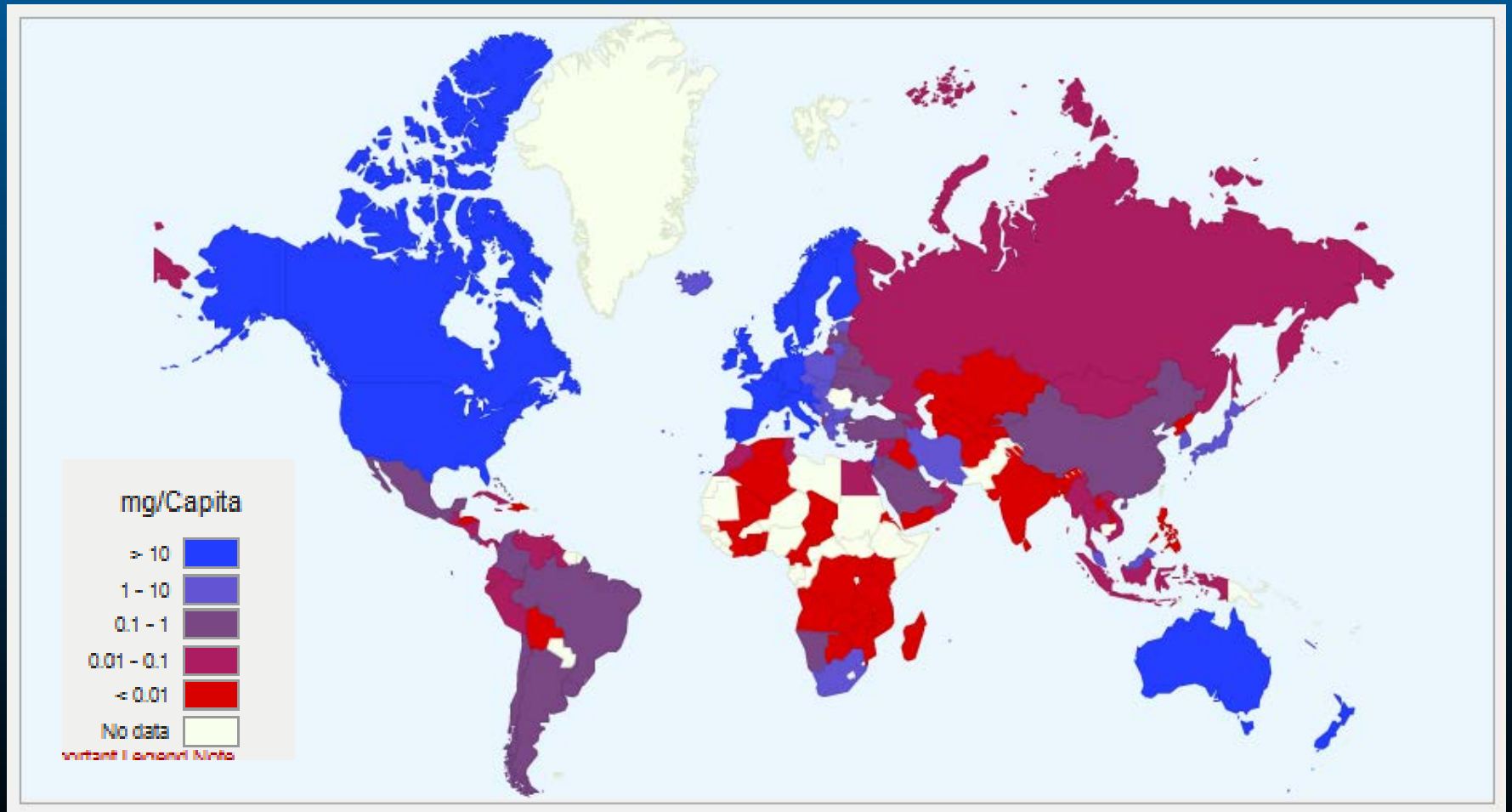
[>>>BUY Vicodin. CLICK HERE <<<](#)

Richard C. Dart, MD, PhD

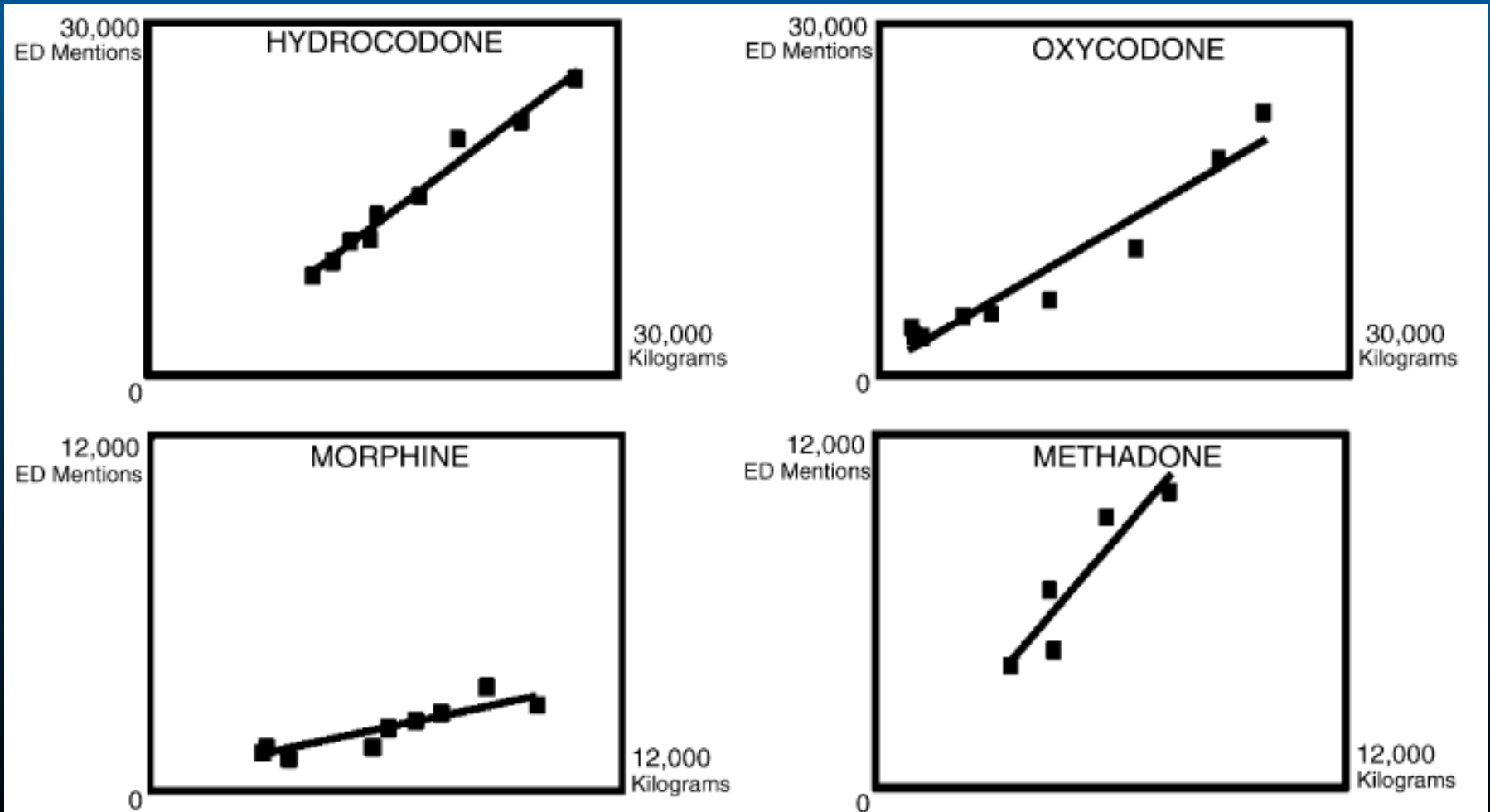
Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
Denver Health and Hospital Authority
Professor, University of Colorado
Emergency Medicine

OPIOID CONSUMPTION MAP

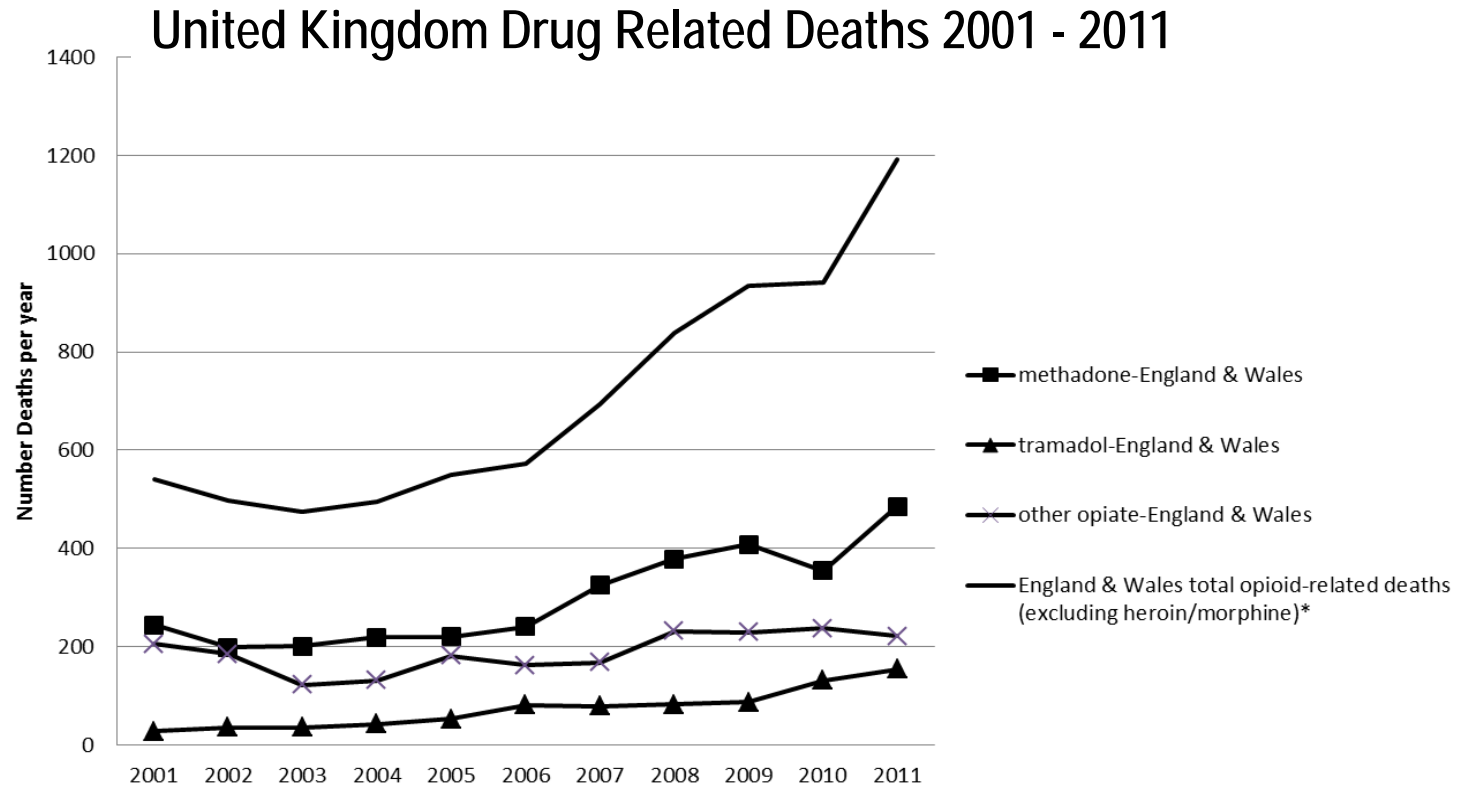
MORPHINE EQUIVALENTS, MG/CAPITA, 2010



ABUSE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO DRUG PRODUCTION



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?



*Note: heroin and morphine are reported as one category in the data from England, Wales and Scotland; since the focus of this analysis is on prescription opioids, that category was not included in this analysis.

DEAD FROM RX OPIOIDS

- Lenny Bruce – 1966 - comedian
- Leslie Carter – 2012 - singer
- Eric Douglas – 2004 - comedian
- J Drummond Webb – 2004 – heart surgeon
- **Howie Epstein – 2003 – (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers)**
- Edward Fatu (aka Umaga) – 2009 – professional wrestler
- Danny Gans – 2009 – entertainer
- Greg Giraldo – 2010 – comedian
- DJ AM – 2009 – disc jockey
- Domino Harvey – 2005 – bounty hunter
- **George Hickenlooper – 2010 – film maker**
- Miss Elizabeth – 2003 – prof wresting manager
- Steven Jensen – 2005 – (The Vandals)
- Chloe Jones – 2005 – pornograph
- **Heath Ledger – 2008 – actor**



- Bruce Lee – 1973 – martial artist
- Gerald Levert – 2006 – singer
- Trinity Loren – 1998 – pornography actress
- **Anna Nicole Smith – 2007 – “actress”**
- Adrien Martin – 2010 – model
- Dest – 2009 – professional wrestler
- **Stephen McKeag – 2000 – Ulster Defense Association Member**
- Lani O’Grady – 2001 – actress
- Haley Paige – 2007 – pornography actress
- Wallace Reid, 1923 – actor – Rx morphine
- Sherri Russell – 2007 – professional wrestler
- Catya Sassoon – 2002 – model/actress
- The Rev – 2009 – (Avenged Sevenfold)
- Chase Tatum – 2008 – professional wrestler
- Amy Tryon – 2012 – equestrian
- Luna Vachon – 2010 – professional wrestler

IS THE INTERNET A MAJOR SOURCE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS?

“the Internet has become a pharmaceutical candy store stocked with addictive drugs, available at the click of a mouse to any kid with a credit card number”

J. Califano, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (2007)

“the Internet has become an open medicine cabinet, a help-yourself pill bazaar to make you feel good”

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Kaufman, 2005

RX OPIOIDS ARE *NOT* OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNET BY ABUSERS

- Attempted to purchase
 - Oxycodone products (e.g. OxyContin®)
 - Hydrocodone/paracetamol (Vicodin)
 - Oxycodone/paracetamol (Percocet)
 - Tramadol (Ultram, not scheduled in US)
- Random sample of 10% (47) of 457 websites - 2006
- Credit card information, mailing address, completed online “medical exams,” and joined several required “clubs” for the privilege of ordering these drugs.

INTERNET PURCHASE OF OPIOID ANALGESICS

- Spent \$2000: no schedule II or III drug received, including “European vikodin” (paracetamol and narcotic - not specified).
- Often had to join a club (\$179-\$499), but no drugs available after paying fee.
- “Bait and switch” tactics were frequent.
 - Many sites advertised names like OxyContin. Brand was “out of stock”, but they could provide tramadol (unscheduled).
- Successfully purchased 30 tabs (50 mg) of tramadol for \$97.59.
 - Completed an online “medical examination”
 - The site physician writes a “prescription” and tramadol was delivered the next day by FedEx.

AN INTERNET “MEDICAL EXAMINATION”

Table 2 Summary of Internet order form

Personal Details:	
Billing Address:	
Shipping Address:	
Extra Information:	
	Date of Birth
	Your Height
	Your Weight
	Your Sex
	Is your Personal Healthcare Practitioner aware that you are requesting this medication?
	Have you been prescribed this medication before?
	Have you had a physical exam in the last 12 months?
	Please state the medical condition requiring you to use this medication.
	Do you suffer from any seasonal allergies?
	List in detail any allergies you have to medicines.
	Are you currently under treatment for any health problems?
	Are you suffering from high blood pressure?
	Are you currently taking any prescription or non-prescription medicines?
	List any significant family medical history.
	Are you currently pregnant or have you been nursing within the past 12 months?
	Will you be taking other medications while taking this medicine?
	Please let us know whether you are currently taking any opioid medications such as Tylenol #3, Percocet, Vicodin, OxyContin® or suffering from a seizure disorder or convulsions.
	If you have a history of narcotic or opioid use, please indicate the last time you took a narcotic or opioid.
Payment Information:	

MALE
 YES
 YES
 YES
 LOWER BACK PAIN
 YES
 NONE
 NO
 NO
 NO
 NONE
 NO
 NO
 NA
 NA

CONUNDRUM

Rx opioid drugs are
available through
the internet



Abusers do **not** get
their drugs from the
internet

RX OPIOIDS *WERE* AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) *restriction of product availability for online pharmacies*
 - 2006 - Southwood Pharmaceuticals
 - 44 million hydrocodone doses, 80-90% of online pharmacies
- Online Consultation Services
 - Pay fee for “consult” with physician
 - Operations limited by DEA and FDA: a legitimate *patient-doctor relationship cannot be established via internet correspondence*
- US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and FDA
 - *Aggressive interdiction* of medication entering the country from international online pharmacies
 - 2005 – 72,000 interdictions!

INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT

Record-Breaking Internet Pharmacy Prosecution Nets Millions for Iowa Law Enforcement

* Reuters is not responsible for the content in this press release.

Wed Jun 10, 2009 3:56pm EDT

Record-Breaking Internet Pharmacy Prosecution Nets Millions for Iowa Law Enforcement

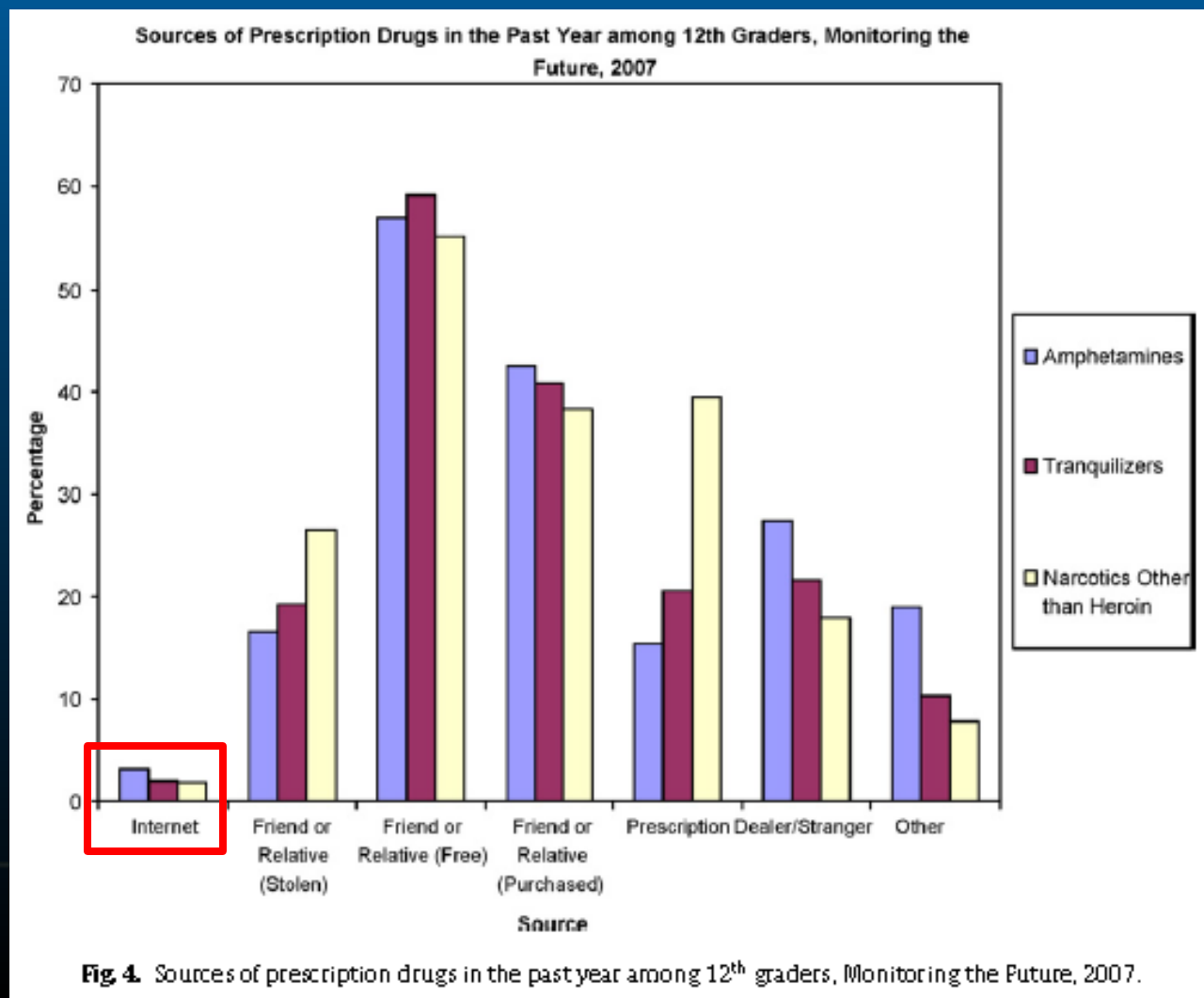
6-Year Federal Investigation Results in 26 Convictions, Forfeiture of Over \$7 Million, and Sharing of Over \$4 Million in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines Areas

THEN WHO ARE THE USERS?

- NSDUH - 6.6% ages 12 and above reported misuse of prescription drugs during 2007. Nationally = 16 million persons
 - 0.5% (80,000 individuals) reported obtaining pain relievers via the Internet
 - 1.0% or 160,000 persons for tranquilizers
 - 4.1% or 656,000 persons for stimulants
 - 0.7% or 112,000 persons for sedatives
- There are significant numbers of people obtaining prescription drugs via the Internet, and that stimulants are the drugs most often purchased through this mechanism.
- But they are a small proportion of the total abusers

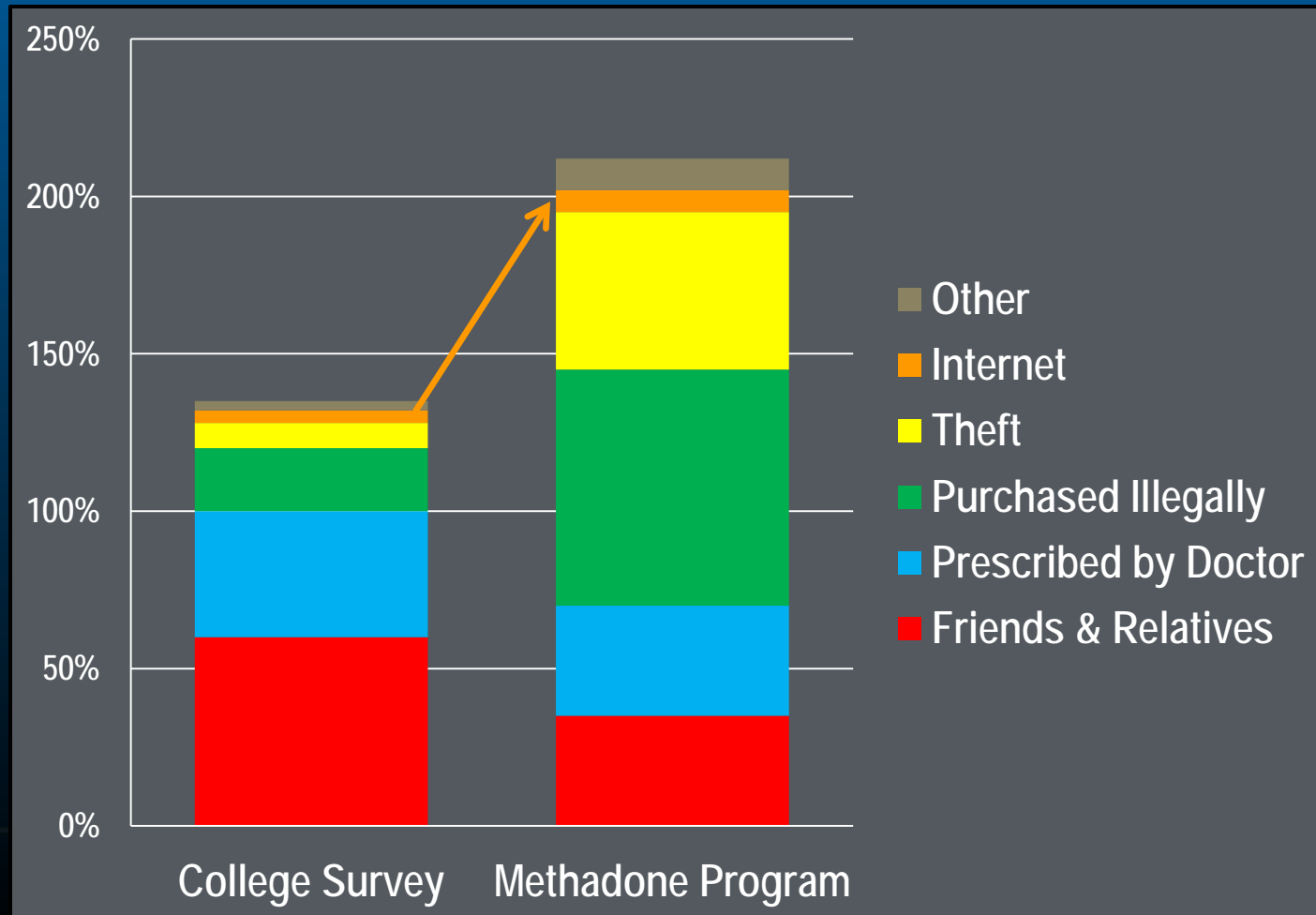
MONITORING THE FUTURE

SOURCES OF DRUG, 12TH GRADERS, 2007



RADARS[®] SYSTEM

SOURCE OF ABUSED OPIOID, 2008

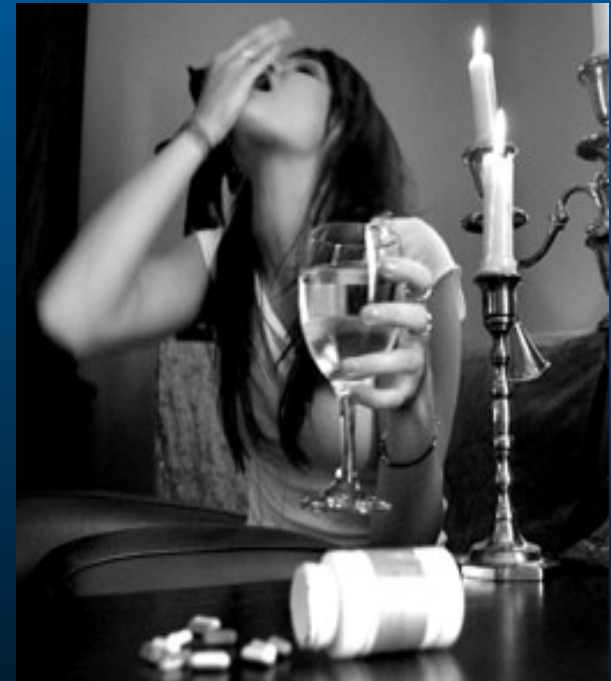


OTHER STUDIES

- Only 11 of 100 (11%) drug-dependent patients in treatment endorsed use of the internet to obtain drugs. Only 6 reported had actually obtained drug from internet. Gordon et al. (2006)
- Only 1% of 515 prescription drug abusers recruited from the Miami club scene had ever utilized the Internet to purchase medications without a prescription (Inciardi et al., 2008).
- Why not?
 - "prescription drugs are cheaper on the street;"
 - "there are too many 'rip offs'"
 - "big brother is watching"

WHO ARE THE TYPICAL POPULATIONS OF "END USERS"?

- Small numbers of each category
 - High school students
 - College students
 - Abusers in treatment programs
- Potential is high
- New developments



Underground Website Lets You Buy Any Drug Imaginable

BY ADRIAN CHEN, GAWKER 

06.01.11 2:25 PM

 Like 11k

 Tweet 1,023

 +1 44





Silk Road

anonymous market

messages 1 | orders 0 | account \$0.00

a few words from
the Dread Pirate Roberts



Search

Go

Hi, ~~anonymous~~
logout



Shop by Category

Drugs 5,511

Cannabis 1,166

Dissociatives 119

Ecstasy 463

Opioids 444

Other 206

Precursors 18

Prescription 1,456

Psychedelics 769

Stimulants 598

Apparel 166

Art 8

Books 889

Collectibles 6

Computer equipment 57

Custom Orders 57

Digital goods 372

Drug paraphernalia 183

Electronics 59

Erotica 424

Fireworks 15

Food 6

Forgeries 98

Hardware 5

Herbs & Supplements 16



P.E.T Trip Pack

\$8.48



5 GaryGlitter MDMA Pill*UK
Vendor Free UK Shipping

\$3.96



(1) Gram Dutch Crystal
MDMA as PURE as it gets!

\$7.63

Walmart
Save money. Live better.



20mg Adderall IR

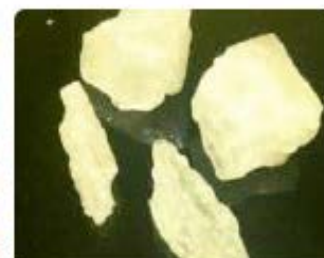
★ Adderall - 20mg - Instant
Release - 5 Pack ★

\$7.08



2CB shipped free from the
USA!

\$1.57



1 Gram Highest Quality
Crystal Methamphetamine

\$13.86



News

- Closing the Armory
- A brand new look for Silk Road!
- The gift that keeps on giving
- Who's your favorite?
- Acknowledging Heroes

Drugs(373)
Cannabis(76)
Ecstasy(28)
Dissociatives(6)
Psychedelics(69)
Opiates(14)
Stimulants(22)
Other(156)
Lab Supplies(4)
Digital goods(27)
Services(21)
Money(6)
Jewelry(2)

sort by

title	price	seller	ship to	ship from	
1x (Sample) Avatar Blotter 180ug	\$2.32	bloomingcolor(100)	Worldwide	EU	add to cart
10x (Tenstrip) Avatar Blotter 180ug	\$16.72	bloomingcolor(100)	Worldwide	EU	add to cart
Hydrocodone (Norco) 10mg-325mg x 5	\$4.51	time2deal(100)	US	US	add to cart
Robaxin (Methocarbamol) 500mg x 10	\$4.00	time2deal(100)	US	US	add to cart
JWH-019 - 500mg	\$1.93	shepj(100)	Worldwide	USA	add to cart
100 mg Psilocin (4-HO-DMT) Freebase	\$6.94	swish(100)	Worldwide	US	add to cart
1 Gram DMT - Offwhite color like white chocolate	\$7.61	swish(100)	Worldwide	US	add to cart
2c-B - 250 MG	\$7.82	swish(100)	Worldwide	US	add to cart
1 OZ Psilocybe Cubensis - Thai Pink Buffalo strain	\$20.00	swish(100)	US	US	add to cart
500 mg 4-HO-DMT (Psilocin) Freebase	\$24.78	swish(100)	Worldwide	US	add to cart
1 gram (1000 MG) 2c-I	\$7.41	swish(100)	Worldwide	US	add to cart
LSD Blotter x 1	\$3.04	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
2C-E 10 x 10mg Caps	\$7.83	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
2C-B - 10mg x 10 Caps	\$9.56	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
Magic Truffles 12.5grams Fresh	\$3.48	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
1g Afghani Hash	\$2.67	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
MDMA Tan 1g - REAGENT TESTED	\$8.70	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
1/8th (3.5g) High Quality Cannabis	\$6.10	Ivory(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
1oz (28g) of Ed Rosenthal	\$41.38	GreenCo(100)	US	US	add to cart
Avatars (180-200ug)	\$1.96	owsley(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
25C-NBOMe Blotters 3x350ug LAST FEW REMAINING	\$3.88	NBOME(100)	World	UK	add to cart
DOC Blotter 1.5mg	\$1.41	NBOME(100)	World	UK	add to cart
DOC Blotter 1.5mg x 3	\$3.88	NBOME(100)	World	UK	add to cart
1/8oz (3.5g) of Super Bud	\$6.46	GreenCo(100)	US	US	add to cart
4x Avatars (180-200ug)	\$7.05	owsley(100)	UK	UK	add to cart
1/8oz (3.5g) of Ed Rosenthal	\$6.47	GreenCo(100)	US	US	add to cart
1oz (28g) of Super Bud	\$41.38	GreenCo(100)	US	US	add to cart
DOC UK Sample Offer 1.5mg Blotter	\$0.96	NBOME(100)	UK	UK	add to cart

12/2012

The New York Times

Business Day

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Facing Black Market, Pfizer Is Looking Online to Sell Viagra



RX OPIOID ANALGESIC AVAILABILITY THROUGH THE INTERNET, 2000 - 2010

- Internet pharmacy was important for Rx opioids in early 2000s, but interdiction efforts reduced this source by mid-2000s
 - Silk Road – internet will again become frequent?
- Rise of pain clinics in US may have been fueled by the need for a in-person, domestic source of prescription opioids for abuse. These sources are under closer scrutiny now.
- Most abusers continue to get their drugs from
 - New initiates – friends and family, doctors
 - Experienced abusers – dealers and doctors
 - Small (but growing?) number from internet
- Impact of legitimate sites like Viagra?

THANK YOU!

