



Title:	Studying new trends of prescription drug use in Europe: the European opioid treatment patient survey
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Abstract:

Background: Background: Governments and public health organizations worldwide are increasingly aware of drug abuse related issues and eager to receive systematically collected surveillance data, which may assist in formulation and solidification of their plans to address this emerging epidemic. Through the coordinated research efforts of the Italian-based Associazione per l'Utilizzo delle Conoscenze Neuroscientifiche a fini Sociali (AU-CNS), Denver Health Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center in the United States, and European opioid treatment program physicians, this study will provide for proof of concept for developing an international drug surveillance system as well as feasibility of the pilot study's methods, data collection/aggregation, and related study materials.

Methods: Launched in January 2012, this study uses surveys to assess overall rates of prescription drug misuse in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain using patient self-report data collected at treatment program intake, during the past 30-day use and injection history for European-market prescription opioids, prescription stimulants, and heroin as well as basic demographic information, treatment history, and health care worker status.

Results: A total of 271 surveys (35 from France, 28 from Germany, 137 from Italy, and 71 from Spain) have been collected at this moment. Preliminary results from Spain showed that the main drug was heroin (97%); 18 patients reported the abuse of prescription opioids; 10, methadone; 7, tramadol; 5, codeine; and 1, buprenorphine.

Conclusions: Preliminary data show that besides heroin, in Spain, there is a concomitant abuse of prescription opioids (methadone, tramadol, codeine). The knowledge of drug use patterns can provide useful information to develop effective prevention and treatment.