



Title:	Primary Drug of Healthcare Workers in Italy and Spain using Europad Pilot Study Data
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Abstract:

Background: Healthcare workers (HCW) are at increased risk for drug misuse due to availability in the workplace. To date, minimal literature exists about drugs of abuse among HCW in Southern Europe. We aim to describe HCW primary drug of misuse in Italy and Spain using Europad pilot study data.

Methods: Surveys of patients entering substance abuse treatment are collected at intake. Demographic and primary drug use data are collected. These data were utilized to describe differences in HCW compared to non-HCW in each country. Italy defines HCW as practitioners only; Spain additionally includes non-practitioners working in a healthcare setting. Demographic data were analyzed using t-tests and Fisher's exact test. Primary drug was summarized as a 2-level variable of heroin or prescription opioid (buprenorphine, codeine, fentanyl, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, tramadol).

Results: There were 12 (6%) HCW and 196 non-HCW respondents in Italy, and 16 (18%) HCW and 71 non-HCW respondents in Spain. In Italy, HCW were on average 9 years older than non-HCW (HCW mean=36.5 (SD=6.5), non-HCW mean=26.9 (SD=7.4), $p<0.0001$). Italian HCW were 58.3% male, and non-HCW were 69.9% male, which was not statistically different ($p=0.52$). In Spain there was no difference in age (HCW mean=40.8 (SD=10.1), non-HCW mean=37.7 (SD=8.7), $p=0.21$) or gender (HCW=62.5% male, non-HCW=63.2% male, $p=0.22$). All ($n=12$) HCW respondents in Italy had a primary drug of prescription opioid compared to 36% ($n=71$) of non-HCW ($p<0.0001$). In Spain, 1 (6%) of the HCW listed prescription opioid as their primary drug compared to 1 (1%) of the non-HCW ($p=0.34$).

Conclusions: Results indicate Italian HCW are almost a decade older and primary drug of abuse is more likely a prescription opioid when compared to non-HCW, possibly due to drug availability in healthcare settings. By contrast, self-identification as a HCW in Spain does not appear to influence primary drug of abuse.