



Title:	Global Impact of Prescription Opioid Misuse: Europe and US
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Abstract:

Aim Describe prescription opioid misuse reports to poison centres (PC) in Göttingen(Germany), Milan(Italy), and US, and by patients entering treatment programs (TP) for opioid addiction in Munich, Piemonte & Puglia, and US.

Methods PC: intentional exposures reported in 2012 for buprenorphine, methadone, and oxycodone. TP: self-reports of drug use “to get high” by patients entering therapy from Jan2012–Jun2013 for buprenorphine, methadone, oxycodone, codeine, fentanyl, morphine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, and tramadol (heroin DNS).

Results Germany: 70% of PC calls were intentional exposures and 57% suicidal intent, methadone was most frequent (46%). 48% of TP patients reported prescription opioid as their primary drug, methadone was most frequent (36%).

Italy: 77% of PC calls were intentional exposures with 51% misuse and 49% suicide, methadone was most frequent (51%). 36% of TP patients reported prescription opioid as their primary drug, buprenorphine was most frequent (43%).

US: 62% of PC calls were intentional exposures and 52% suicidal intent, oxycodone was most frequent (71%); 46% of TP patients reported prescription opioid as their primary drug, oxycodone was most frequent (52%).

Conclusions Data from PC and TP in Germany, Italy, and US illustrate similar patterns of prescription opioid misuse, a sizable minority report a prescription opioid as their primary drug. Drugs typically prescribed for treatment of opioid addiction are more misused in Europe while oxycodone is the drug of choice in the US.

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