

# Age and Gender Distribution among Patients Entering Treatment for Opioid Addiction

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## Introduction

- The age and gender distribution of patients entering opioid dependence treatment in Europe has not been well studied.
- Understanding these distributions can advise targeted prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.
- In this analysis, we compared age and gender distributions of adult patients entering opioid dependence treatment in four European countries and the United States (US).

## Methods

- Age and gender data for the general population for each country were collected from the US Census International Database.
- Age and gender data for our study sample were collected from the European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association (EUROPAD) and the RADARS<sup>®</sup> System Treatment Center Programs in the US (Opioid Treatment Program and Survey of Key Informants' Patients Program combined). These programs survey patients entering drug treatment centers about their past drug use.
- Five countries were assessed: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the US.
- The following number of respondents from each country were included in this analysis for our study sample for the time period 1Q2012 – 3Q2013.
  - France: 144
  - Germany: 158
  - Italy: 309
  - Spain: 123
  - US: 12,415
- Distributional differences between our study sample and the general population for each country were assessed using an overall Chi-square goodness-of-fit test.

## Table 1. Age and Gender Distribution by Country

|        | France       |                    | Germany      |                    | Italy        |                    | Spain        |                    | US           |                    |
|--------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Age    | Study Sample | General Population | Study Sample | General Population | Study Sample | General Population | Study Sample | General Population | Study Sample | General Population |
| 18-19  | 0.0%         | 3.8%*              | 1.3%         | 3.2%*              | 13.6%        | 3.1%*              | 0.8%         | 2.9%*              | 2.3%         | 4.3%*              |
| 20-29  | 13.9%        | 19.9%*             | 27.2%        | 18.6%*             | 54.1%        | 16.9%*             | 17.9%        | 17.5%*             | 40.1%        | 21.5%*             |
| 30-39  | 37.5%        | 20.6%*             | 30.4%        | 18.3%*             | 22.7%        | 22.3%*             | 30.1%        | 25.9%*             | 31.6%        | 19.8%*             |
| 40-49  | 42.4%        | 22.5%*             | 29.8%        | 25.5%*             | 9.1%         | 25.5%*             | 38.2%        | 24.8%*             | 15.7%        | 20.9%*             |
| 50-59  | 5.6%         | 21.1%*             | 10.1%        | 23.2%*             | 0.7%         | 20.9%*             | 12.2%        | 19.4%*             | 8.6%         | 21.2%*             |
| 60-64  | 0.7%         | 12.2%*             | 1.3%         | 11.1%*             | 0.0%         | 11.4%*             | 0.8%         | 9.5%*              | 1.7%         | 12.2%*             |
| Gender |              |                    |              |                    |              |                    |              |                    |              |                    |
| % male | 77.8%        | 49.9%*             | 63.3%        | 50.5%*             | 67.3%        | 49.3%*             | 77.2%        | 50.6%*             | 52.8%        | 49.7%*             |

\* indicates a significant difference (p < 0.05)

## Results

- The age distribution of those participating in the study was different than the age distribution of the general population in all countries (p<0.05).
- Additionally, the gender distribution of those participating in the study was different than the gender distribution of the general population in all countries (p<0.05).
- Results are shown in Table 1.

## Limitation

- Our study sample respondents were assigned to country by the country in which they sought treatment. However, the country of origin for respondents could be different from the country in which they sought treatment.

## Conclusions

- Across all five countries, our study sample had a higher percentage of males than in the general population.
- Across all five countries, our study sample had a lower percentage of 50-64 year olds than in the general population.
- A significant difference in age and gender distribution between our study sample and the general population for all countries was identified.
- These data can help us to better understand populations that may be at high risk in order to best use already limited resources.



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