

A CHARACTERIZATION OF FIRST-TIME ENROLLEES AND REPEATED ENROLLEES ENTERING MEDICATION-ASSISTED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Z Margolin¹, G Bau¹, K McBride¹, M Guareschi², D Hill³, O D'Agnone⁴, M Auriacombe⁵, JP Daulouède⁶, P Villèger⁷, D Touzeau⁸, A Benyamina⁹, N Scherbaum¹⁰, G Deruvo¹¹, T Clausen¹², F Fonseca¹³⁻¹⁴, S Bacciardi², E Goodman¹, JL Green¹, RC Dart¹, I Maremmani^{2, 15}

¹Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center, Denver Health, Denver, CO, US, ²Associazione per l'Utilizzo delle Conoscenze Neuroscientifiche a fini Sociali (AU-CNS), Pietrasanta, Italy, EU, ³National Health Service Lanarkshire, Motherwell, Scotland, UK, ⁴Crime Reduction Initiatives, London, England, UK, ⁵Department of Psychiatry and Addiction, Victor Pachon Medical School, Université Victor Segalen, Bordeaux, France, EU, ⁶Bizia Addiction Treatment Clinic, Bayonne, France, EU, ⁷Centre Hospitalier Esquirol de Limoges, Limoges, France, EU, ⁸Clinique Liberté, Bagnaux, France, EU, ⁹Paul Brousse Hospital, Villejuif, France, EU, ¹⁰Department for Addictive Behaviour and Addiction Medicine, VR-Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany, EU, ¹¹SerT Bitonto-Palo del Colle, Bari, Italy, EU, ¹²Norwegian Centre for Addiction Research, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, ¹³Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addiccions-INAD, Hospital del Mar, Barcelona, Spain, EU, ¹⁴Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques (IMIM), Barcelona, Spain, EU, ¹⁵Department of Neurosciences, Santa Chiara University Hospital, Pisa, Italy, EU

Introduction

- According to results from the Opioid Analgesic Dependence Education Nexus Meeting in 2014, an estimated 22.8 million patients across European countries use prescription opioid analgesics; with an estimated 455,000 likely to be dependent.
- We aim to describe characteristics of individuals entering medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for drug dependence for the first time compared to those who sought treatment more than once.

Methods

- EUROPAD Program data collected at sites in France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom (UK) from fourth quarter 2014 through third quarter 2015 (N=508). Data collection between sites may not be identical.
- Patients aged 18-65 entering MAT were surveyed to gather demographic information, primary drug used "to get high," including route and source, in the 90 days prior to treatment intake.
- Data were stratified by country (location of centre) and compared by group (first-time enrollees versus repeated enrollees).
 - T-tests were used to determine differences between current age and age at first entrance into treatment. Chi-square tests were used to determine if gender or current treatment for an opioid substance use disorder were different between the two groups.
- If a patient endorsed more than one primary drug, they were characterized as having "More than 1 primary drug."

Results

- The mean (SD) of current age of first-time enrollees and repeated enrollees were statistically different in France (p=0.047) and Italy (p=0.043).
 - Differences in mean (SD) age at first entrance into treatment were statistically significant in Germany (p=0.0016), Norway (p=0.019), and the UK (p=0.033).
- In all countries except France, heroin was among the most frequently reported as the primary drug of abuse for both first-time and repeated enrollees.
- In France and the UK repeat enrollees and German first-time enrollees, "More than 1 primary drug" was one of the top two primary drugs of abuse.
 - Of the drugs reported as the primary drug of abuse, codeine was the second most frequently reported in the UK among first-time enrollees.
 - Buprenorphine was one of three most frequently reported primary drugs in the repeated enrollees in both France and Norway.

Table 1: Characteristics of EUROPAD Enrollees

Variable	France N = 104	Germany N = 133	Italy N = 46	Norway N = 63	Spain N = 40	UK N = 122
First-Time Enrollees						
N, %	38, 36.5	6, 4.5	6, 13.0	9, 14.3	2, 5.0	42, 34.4
Age, Mean (SD)	35.7 (10.53)	40.0 (13.90)	28.8 (7.91)	36.2 (7.08)	54.0 (15.56)	36.2 (7.67)
Treatment Age, Mean (SD)*	28.2 (9.38)	36.8 (13.20)	25.8 (10.16)	31.1 (7.20)	34.5 (6.36)	30.0 (6.81)
Repeat Enrollees						
N, %	66, 63.5	127, 95.5	40, 87.0	54, 85.7	38, 95.0	80, 65.6
Age, Mean (SD)	39.6 (8.97)	39.9 (8.68)	38.1 (10.36)	35.5 (10.53)	45.6 (9.96)	39.1 (8.09)
Treatment Age, Mean (SD)*	26.0 (8.00)	25.8 (7.92)	26.3 (8.27)	24.3 (7.87)	31.0 (11.46)	26.9 (7.65)

*Some respondents did not supply their age at first entrance to treatment, therefore the N may be smaller

Conclusions & Limitations

- Current age was similar between the groups, and statistically significant differences were found for France and Italy.
- Significant differences were found between the groups in age at first entrance to treatment for Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom.
- The majority of both first-time and repeat enrollees endorsed heroin as their primary drug.
- Additional studies are necessary to further understand these results and the complexities of this patient population.

