Introduction

• Abuse of prescription opioids is a significant public health problem in both Canada and the United States (US).
• Specific substances and routes used among the Canadian general adult population are not well understood.
• The aim of this study was to determine the national prevalence and detailed characteristics of non-medical use (NMU) of specific opioids in Canada.

Methods

• The Survey of Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs (NMURx) Program employs a cross-sectional, opt-in online survey that utilizes survey panels to contact respondents (n=10,007).
  – 5.2% Participation rate; 75.1% Completion rate
• The questionnaire is a self-administered, confidential survey completed by respondents on their own time, in their own setting, and on their own device.
• Post-stratification weights for 48 sex/region/age strata are used to better represent the national adult population.

Results

• Nearly 6 million Canadian adults (27.7%) have non-medically used a prescription opioid in their lifetime
  – A majority (79.3%, over 4 million adults) were estimated to have non-medically used to treat pain
  – Nearly 1 in 5 (19.4%, approximately 1 million) used for enjoyment or to get high
• Prescription codeine had the highest lifetime prevalence (13.4%)
• NMU of products not available in Canada were endorsed (tablet/capsule hydrocodone and oxymorphone)

Conclusions

• High prevalence of NMU of prescription codeine and NMU of products not available in Canada are concerning
• A notable proportion of those who non-medically use do so utilizing an unintended route of administration

Non-Medical Use of Prescription Opioids from 3rd Quarter 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient</th>
<th>Lifetime Non-Medical Use % (95% Confidence Interval)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any Prescription Opioid</td>
<td>27.7 (26.7, 28.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Codeine</td>
<td>13.4 (12.69, 14.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxycodone</td>
<td>2.2 (1.85, 2.58)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morphine</td>
<td>1.3 (1.01, 1.53)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydromorphone</td>
<td>1.2 (0.98, 1.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocodone</td>
<td>1.1 (0.83, 1.31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tramadol</td>
<td>1.1 (0.84, 1.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxymorphone</td>
<td>0.7 (0.48, 0.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Fentanyl</td>
<td>0.5 (0.34, 0.67)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Routes of Administration by Dosage Form

- Tablets/Capsules (n=1,642)
  - Swallow
  - Chewed
  - Disolved in Mouth
- Liquids (n=932)
  - Swallow
  - Chewed
- Patches (n=47)
  - Placed on Skin
  - Disolved in Mouth

Limitations

• Non-probability sampling was used.
• Participation rate was low; however, this is the largest sample size studying Canadian NMU characteristics

Disclosures

The System is supported by subscriptions from pharmaceutical manufacturers for surveillance, research and reporting services. The System is the property of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado. Denver Health retains exclusive ownership of all data, databases and systems. Subscribers do not participate in data collection or analysis, nor do they have access to the raw data.