



## A Retrospective Review of Initial Motives for Seeking Opioids as Reported by Patients Being Treated for Opioid Addiction

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### Introduction

► An ongoing challenge is to determine the exact sources of opioids used nonmedically (1). This analysis sought to distinguish personal variables associated with self-reported motives for seeking subsequently abused opioids.

### Methods

► Forty consecutive subjects presented to the investigator for treatment of opioid addiction.

► Treatment consisted of detoxification in conjunction with buprenorphine agonist therapy.

► A retrospective chart review was conducted to collect and analyze characteristics of age and initial purpose of opioids for each subject.

► Confidence intervals for percents were computed using the exact binomial approach.

► Linear trend across ordered categories was tested using the Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test.

### Results

► Subjects ranged in age from 18 to 85 (mean±SD, 36±13 years).

► The most frequent initial purpose of opioids was physician prescriptions for pain (70%, 95% CI, 54%-83%).

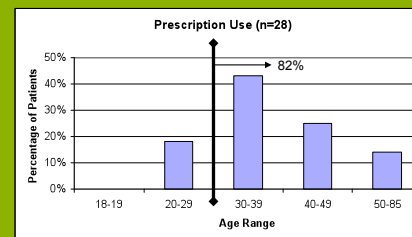
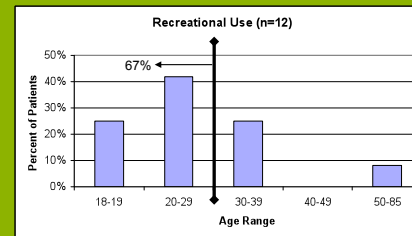
► The initial motive for seeking opioids was significantly associated with the age of the patient ( $p=0.003$ ) as follows:

► Subjects <30 sought opioids for recreational use (67%); and

► Subjects ≥30 sought opioids for pain via physician-issued prescriptions (82%).

► Of the 12 subjects who reported recreational use, 3 subjects (25%) were 18-19 years; 5 subjects (42%) were 20-29 years; 3 subjects (25%) were 30-39 years; 0 subjects (0%) were 40-49 years; and 1 subject (8%) was 50-85 years.

► Of the 28 subjects who reported a physician prescription for pain, 0 subjects (0%) were 18-19 years; 5 subjects (18%) were 20-29 years; 12 subjects (43%) were 30-39 years; 7 subjects (25%) were 40-49 years; and 4 subjects (14%) were 50-85 years.



### Discussion

► These results from a self-selected sample of treatment seekers from 1 center indicate that opioid pain prescriptions could be a risk factor for opioid addiction.

► Furthermore, age may be associated with the initial motive of seeking opioids that are subsequently abused.

### References

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2006). Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-30, DHHS Publication No. SMA 06-4194). Rockville, MD.