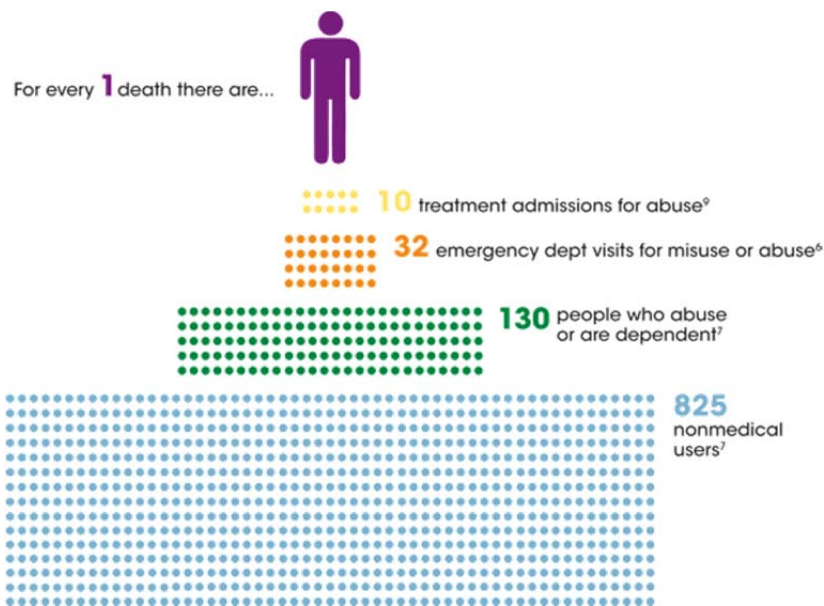


CURRENT TRENDS IN DRUG ABUSE

Ivan Petrzela, PharmD, JD, MBA

NoRxAbuse.org

- Abuse of prescription drugs in U.S. exceeds that of illicit drugs (cocaine, heroin, etc.)
- Prescription opioids are the fastest growing cause of death in U.S.
- Drug-related deaths exceed deaths caused by firearms and motor vehicles
- CDC categorized prescription drug abuse as a national epidemic
- U.S. consumes >75% of world's prescription medications



ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OFTEN STARTS AS UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF TREATMENT AFTER AN INJURY. PROLONGED OPIOID TREATMENT CAN LEAD TO DEPENDENCE AND ADDICTION.

Sources: DEA, FDA & CDC - 2014

**HYDROCODONE IS # 1
PRESCRIBED DRUG IN U.S.**

**U.S. CONSUMES >95% OF
WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF
HYDROCODONE**

MOST ABUSED MEDICATION CLASSES

- **OPIOIDS**
- **MUSCLE RELAXANTS**
- **ANXIOLYTICS**
- **COUGH SUPPRESSANTS**
- **STIMULANTS**

**>50% OF ABUSED DRUGS
ARE OBTAINED FROM
FRIENDS OR RELATIVES**

**ABUSE AMONG TEENS IS
GROWING FASTEST OF ALL
DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES**

**EASY ACCESS IS CITED AS
PRIMARY REASON FOR
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE**

SIGNS OF ABUSE

Loss of interest in daily activities

Missing work or school

Declining performance at work or school

Slurred speech

Poor coordination

Lack of motivation

Deterioration of personal hygiene and appearance

Secretive behavior

Excessive sweating

Forgetfulness

Irritability

Paranoia

ONE PILL CAN KILL

PREVENTION TIPS

- Timely and proper disposal of unused medication
- Secure storage of medication
- Do not give medication to others, even if they exhibit similar symptoms
- Education – family members, employees, caregivers, etc.
- Workplace vigilance – be observant for signs of abuse and unusual changes in behavior
- Timely referral to professional help

DISPOSAL METHODS

- Community Drug Take-Back programs
- Follow product-specific instructions (if supplied)
- Flush in toilet or sink
- Household refuse
 - Remove product from packaging
 - Mix with coffee grounds, kitty litter, or other unpalatable substance
 - Place in sealable plastic bag & dispose