Injection Drug Use in the United States

M. Fe Caces
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20503

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Overview

Data sources:

- Estimates of Injection Drug Use Prevalence
- Estimates of Injection Drug Use Incidence among Persons with HIV
- Treatment Data

Linkage of injection heroin use with non-medical pain reliever use
Injection Drug Use Estimates

- 1,520,054 estimated number of injection drug users (IDU) in the United States in 2007

- Prevalence varies widely by location: in 2007, major metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) range from 34 to 324 IDUs per 10,000 population; median among MSAs is 95.1 per 10,000

- Variability between subgroups:
  - Prevalence increased among non-Hispanic Blacks; declined among Hispanics
  - Prevalence increased among youth, from 90-100 per 10,000 population in the early 1990s to >120 in 2006-2007


http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0064789
New HIV Infections Attributed to Injection Drug Use

*Includes transmission categories “Injection drug use” and “Male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use”.

Injected Drugs

Heroin is the most commonly injected drug

- Seventy percent of primary heroin treatment admissions reported injection as the route of administration, and 25 percent reported inhalation
- Fourteen percent of primary non-heroin opiate admissions reported injection as the route of administration, while 62 percent reported oral route of administration
- Eleven percent of primary non-smoked cocaine admissions reported injection as their route of administration
- Twenty-two percent of primary methamphetamine/amphetamine admissions reported injection as the route of administration

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2010 Treatment Episode Data Set (Data received through 10-10-2011).
Mode of Administration among Heroin Treatment Admissions, Ages 12 or Older, 2010

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episode Data Set* (Data received through 10-10-2011).
Percent Injecting among Heroin Treatment Admissions, Ages 12 or Older, 2000-2010

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (Data received through 10-10-2011).
Percent Injecting among Heroin Treatment Admissions, 2000-2010

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episode Data Set* (Data received through 10-10-2011).
Heroin Treatment Admissions, By Route of Administration and Age Group, 2000-2010

SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Data received through 10.10.11.
Younger Injectors

• Route of administration of heroin was closely linked to age - injection increased among young adults; inhalation increased among those 45 and older.

• The proportion of injectors aged 20 to 34 among heroin admissions increased from almost 1 in 4 (24 percent) in 2000 to more than 2 in 5 (41 percent) in 2010.

• During the same period, the proportion of injectors aged 35 to 44 fell from 22 percent to 13 percent.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2010 Treatment Episode Data Set (Data received through 10-10-2011).
Heroin Initiation among Non-Medical Users of Pain Relievers

Findings from analysis of pooled data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted annually from 2002 through 2011 among persons aged 12 to 49:

- The vast majority of non-medical pain reliever (NMPR) users have not progressed to heroin use. Only 3.6 percent of NMPR initiates had initiated heroin use within the 5-year period following first NMPR use.
- However, the heroin incidence rate in the 12 months preceding interview was 19 times higher among those who reported prior non-medical pain reliever (NMPR) use than among those who did not (0.39 vs. 0.02 percent).
- Four out of five recent heroin initiates (79.5 percent) previously used NMPR.

Source: Muhuri, PK, Gfroerer, JC and Davies, C. Associations of Nonmedical Pain Reliever Use and Initiation of Heroin Use in the United States CBHSQ Data Review, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (August 2013).
Most opiate admissions are for heroin, with increasing admissions for other opiates or synthetics since 1999.

Number of Primary Treatment Admissions, 1999 to 2010

NOTE: “Other opiates/synthetics” excludes non-prescription methadone.

Source: SAMHSA, Treatment Episode Data Set 2000-2010 (June 2012) and Treatment Episode Data Set 1999-2009 (April 2011).
Emergency Department Visits Involving Heroin or Non-medical Use of Narcotic Analgesics, 2004-2011

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Highlights of the 2011 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Findings on Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits* (February 2013) and DAWN 2010 Emergency Department Excel Files – National Tables (2012).
Drug Poisoning Deaths Involving Heroin: United States, 1999–2010

Number of Deaths

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1999</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012. Extracted on February 11, 2013.

Note: Not all drug poisoning deaths specify the drug(s) involved, and a death may involve more than one specific substance. The rise in 2005-2006 in opioid deaths is related to non-pharmaceutical fentanyl (see http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5729a1.htm). *Heroin includes opium.
Drug Poisoning Deaths Involving Heroin
United States, 1999–2010

Deaths per 100,000 Population