

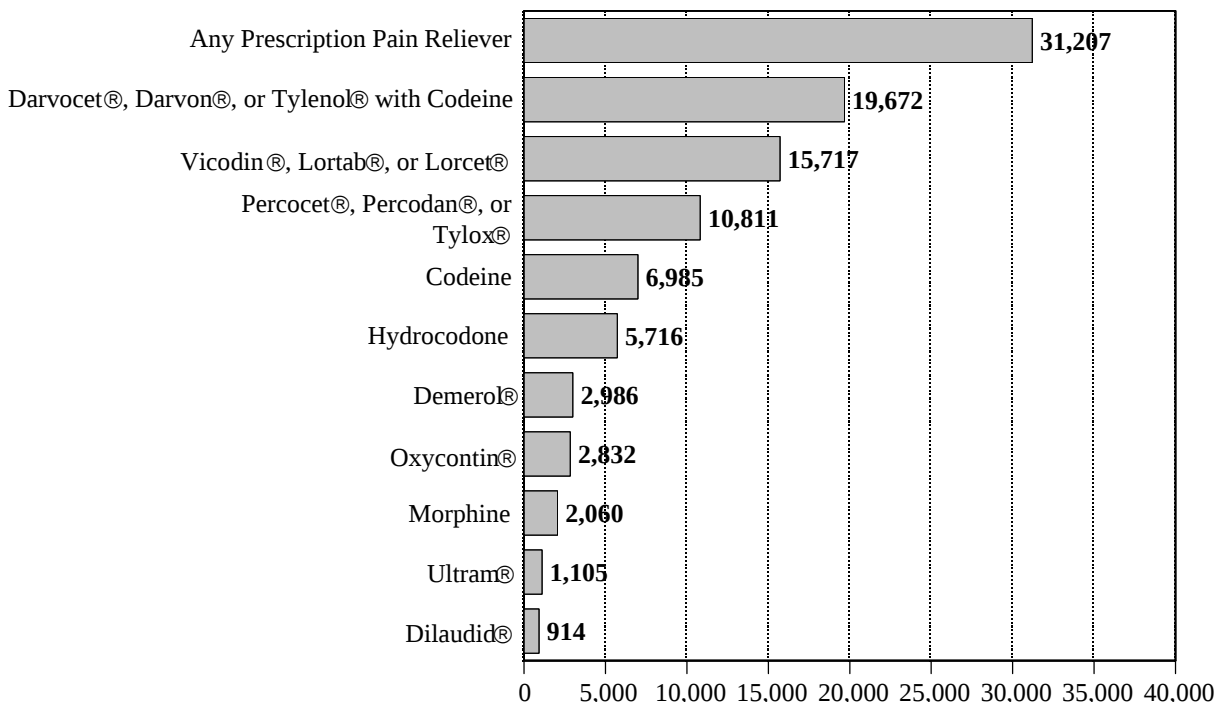
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***More Than One-Tenth of U.S. Residents Reported
Non-Medical Use of Prescription Pain Relievers in 2003***

Thirteen percent of U.S. residents—an estimated 31.2 million people—reported non-medical use of prescription pain relievers in 2003, according to recently released data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).^{*} The most commonly reported prescription pain relievers were Darvocet®, Darvon®, or Tylenol® with Codeine, followed by Vicodin®, Lortab®, or Lorcet® (see below). Previous NSDUH surveys have shown a steady increase in the number of first-time users of prescription pain relievers since 1988 (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 11, Issue 39; available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol11/11-39.pdf>). A copy of the full report, *Overview of Findings from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, is available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nhsda.htm#NHSDAinfo>.

**Estimated Number (in thousands) of U.S. Residents (Age 12 and Older)
Reporting Lifetime Non-Medical Use of Prescription Pain Relievers, 2003**



^{*}Prior to 2002, the NSDUH was known as the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. Due to changes in the survey, estimates from the 2002 and 2003 NSDUHs should not be compared with estimates from the 2001 and earlier NHSDAs to assess changes over time.

NOTE: Nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers is defined as the use of a prescription pain reliever that was not prescribed for the user or that was used only for the experience or feeling it caused.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Overview of Findings from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, 2004.

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