

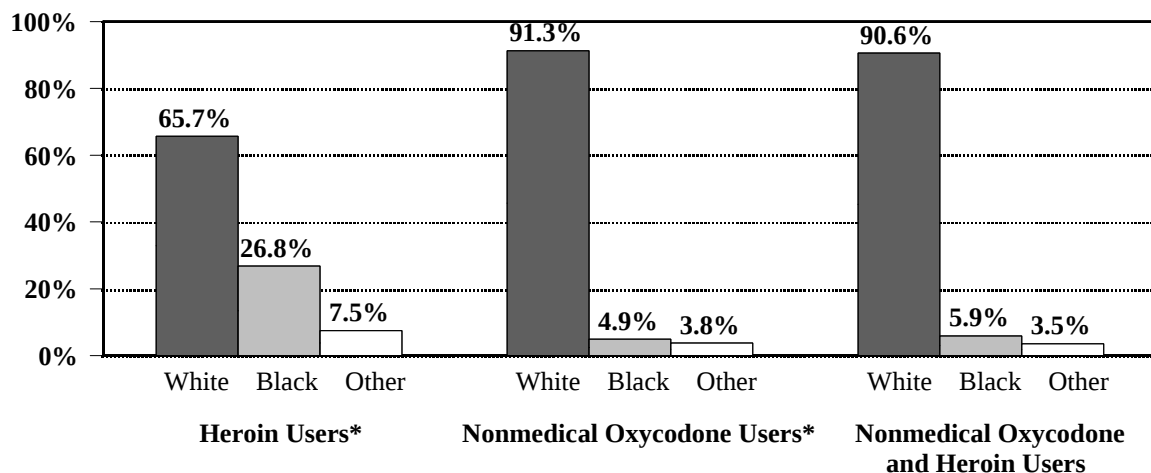
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***Not All Opiates Are the Same:
Differences Between Oxycodone and Heroin Abusers***

While heroin and oxycodone are both opiates, the characteristics of people who abuse these drugs are different, according to a recent analysis of data from the 2002 and 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Regardless of whether they ever used heroin, nearly all persons who reported lifetime use of oxycodone nonmedically were white; fewer than 10% were black or of other races/ethnicities. In contrast, more than one-third of persons who ever used heroin but not oxycodone were black or of other races/ethnicities. Other differences between users are described in the original report, available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k4/oxycodoneH/oxycodoneH.cfm>.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Lifetime Users of Nonmedical Oxycodone and/or Heroin



*The “heroin” and “nonmedical oxycodone user” categories are mutually exclusive. In 2002 and 2003 combined, an estimated 1.9 million U.S. residents age 12 and older used heroin at least once in their lifetime, but never used oxycodone nonmedically; an estimated 11.0 million used oxycodone nonmedically, but never used heroin; and an estimated 1.7 million used both heroin and oxycodone nonmedically.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Nonmedical Oxycodone Users: A Comparison with Heroin Users,” *The NSDUH Report*, January 21, 2005.

Random Student Drug Testing—“Prevention, Not Punishment”

Student Drug Testing: Prevention, Not Punishment (www.PreventionNotPunishment.org), is a new website that provides educators, parents, students and community leaders information about the best practices in random student drug testing. This interactive website features a bulletin board for educators to post questions and discuss student drug testing programs, as well as other resources helpful in understanding and creating successful random student drug testing programs.

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