

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

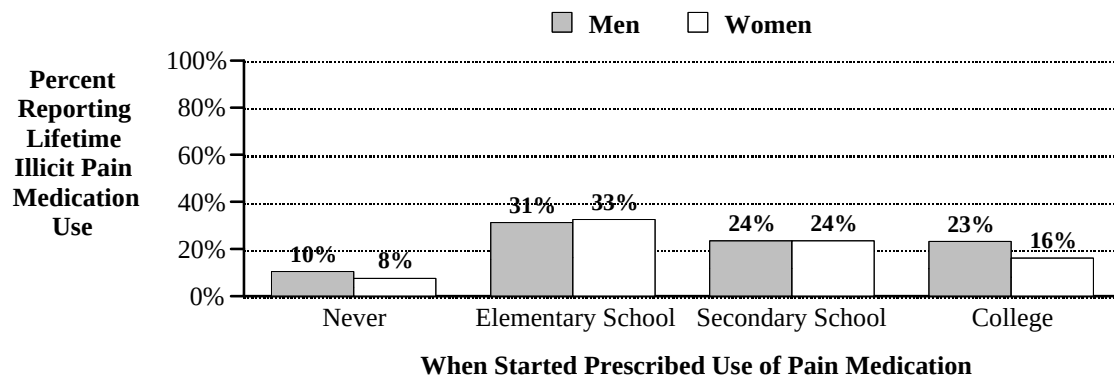
University of Maryland, College Park

***College Students Who Were Prescribed Pain Medication in Elementary School
Most Likely to Illicitly Use Pain Medications***

College students who were previously prescribed pain medications were more likely to report illicit use of such medications, according to a web-based survey of a random sample of undergraduate students attending a Midwestern university. Furthermore, those who reported the earliest initiation of prescribed pain medication had the highest rates of illicit use. Nearly one-third of male and female college students who had been prescribed pain medications in elementary school reported lifetime illicit use of pain medications, compared to 24% of those who had been prescribed them in secondary school and 8% to 10% of students who had never been prescribed pain medications. This relationship remained after controlling for other variables, including race, class year, and living arrangement, and also held for past year illicit use. The authors note that “based on qualitative responses, it was clear that some students used prescription pain medication that was previously prescribed for legitimate medical reasons for later illicit use. However, it is unknown whether this later illicit use represents a form of self-treatment due to the inadequate treatment of pain or the illicit use is for non-medical purposes” (p. 44).

**Prevalence of Lifetime Illicit Pain Medication Use Among College Students,
by Prescribed Pain Medication Use**

(n=8,438 students at a Midwestern university)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from McCabe, S.E.; Teter, C.J.; and Boyd, C.J. “Illicit Use of Prescription Pain Medication Among College Students,” *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 77(1):37-47, 2005. For more information, contact Sean Esteban McCabe at plius@umich.edu.

CESAR Seeking PI-Level Researchers with Existing Funding

CESAR is seeking PI-level researchers who wish to relocate to CESAR with their existing grants and/or collaborate with CESAR in obtaining new funding. If you have a proven funding track record and are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating, university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Eric Wish at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

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