

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

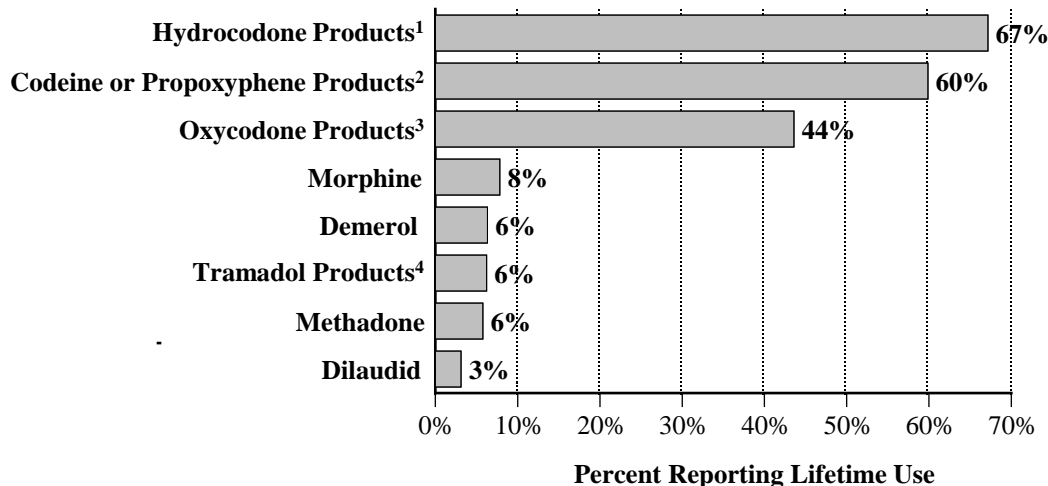
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Nearly 14% of U.S. Residents Report Lifetime Nonmedical Use of Prescription Pain Relievers; Hydrocodone, Codeine/Propoxyphene, and Oxycodone Products Most Commonly Used

Nearly 14% of U.S. residents--an estimated 35 million people ages 12 and older—reported using prescription pain relievers nonmedically at least once in their lifetime, according to data from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Hydrocodone products (such as Vicodin® and Lortab®), codeine or propoxyphene products (such as Darvocet® and Darvon®), and oxycodone products (such as OxyContin®, Percocet®, and Percodan®) were the most commonly reported pain relievers, used by 67%, 60%, and 44%, respectively, of persons who had used a prescription pain reliever nonmedically in their lifetime. Other pain relievers used nonmedically included morphine, Demerol®, tramadol products, methadone, and Dilaudid® (see figure below).

Specific Pain Relievers Used by U.S. Residents Ages 12 and Older Who Reported Lifetime Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers, 2009*

(N=an estimated 35,046,000 lifetime nonmedical users of pain relievers)



*Percentages do not sum to 100 because respondents could cite more than one type of pain reliever used nonmedically in the past year.

¹Includes Vicodin®, Lortab®, Lorcet®, and hydrocodone.

²Includes Darvocet®, Darvon®, Tylenol® with Codeine, codeine, Phenaphen® with Codeine, propoxyphene, and SK-65®.

³Includes Percocet®, Percodan®, Tylox®, and OxyContin®.

⁴Includes tramadol and Ultram®.

NOTE: The NSDUH questionnaire does not ask specifically about all types of prescription pain relievers that could be used nonmedically. For example, buprenorphine, a prescription opioid used to treat opioid addiction, is not included in the list of specific pain relievers presented to the respondent. Adding buprenorphine to this list would provide important information about any nonmedical use of this drug.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*, 2010. Available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/WebOnly.htm#NSDUHtabs>.