Project Title: Prevalence of Prescription Opioid Abuse among New Admissions to Opioid Treatment Programs
Funding Source: AATOD
Start Date: June, 2006
Principal Investigator: Andrew Rosenblum
Project Director: Chunki Fong

Objective: To determine the prevalence and type of prescription opioid abuse among admissions to methadone programs and to describe the relationship between type of opioid drug and pain severity, psychological distress and dependence severity.

Significance: Abuse of prescription opioids has reached epidemic proportions, especially among enrollees in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) in certain regions of the United States. Our previous work indicated that chronic pain contributes to opioid abuse, especially among OTP patients. However little is known about current and lifetime prevalence of different types of opioids among methadone enrollees or factors that may contribute to the use of different types of opioid drugs.

Methods: In collaboration with the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD), NDRI is conducting a survey of opioid abuse among OTP enrollees. This project is one of several surveillance projects as part of the RADARS System (Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance System).

Applications: The data collected by this study will help policy makers, government agencies, the pharmaceutical industry and treatment providers better understand the prevalence of prescription opioid abuse and assist them in making rational, science-based decisions regarding the prevention and treatment of this disorder.

Publications:

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