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Incidence of Drug Abuse in the United States---

National Institute on Drug Abuse (2002):

.....societal rates of substance abuse in U.S. are at about 8% -12%.
According to National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (1998), 1.6 million Americans used prescription pain relievers for the first time. This represents a significant increase since the 1980's. From 1990-98 the number of new users of pain relievers increased by 181%, sedative users increased by 132% and stimulant users increased by 165%.

National Institute on Drug Abuse, Research Report from Director (2002):

.....estimated 9 million people aged 12 and older used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in 1999.

.....46.6% of physicians find it difficult to discuss prescription drug abuse with their patients.

Medline Plus, T. Zwillich, September 5, 2002:

.....7.1% of U.S. population (16 million people) used illegal drugs. This represents an annual increase.

.....109 million people (half U.S. population) are currently drinkers of alcohol.

.....the sharpest rise occurred with prescription drug Oxycontin; illegal use shot up nearly 140%.

.....U.S. smoking have not increased, remaining unchanged at 30%.

Kreek and Reisinger (1997):

.....2.7 million used heroin at some time

.....1 million use heroin regularly

.....500, 000 - 1 million are hard-core addicts.

.....11 million alcoholics.

.....1 in 250 hardcore narcotic addict in U.S.

Kleber, Califano & Demers (1997):

.....80 million Americans have tried drugs.

.....between 5 - 6 million illicit drug addicts in U.S.

.....75% of illicit drug users are employed. 15% of them work under the influence.

.....opioids may make physical pain worse by causing hyperalgesia (Christensen & Kayser (2000), Doherty, et.al. (2001) Mayer et. al. (1999) [from **N. Harden, APS Bulletin, 2002**].

.....up to 38% of pain patients lack analgesic response to opioids (Becker, et al (2000), Portnoy & Foley (1986) and Zenz, et al(1992). [**N. Harden, 2002**]

.....Growing body of research suggests that opioids are less effective in neuropathic conditions indicating a possible difference in response between nociceptive and neuropathic pain. [**N. Harden, 2002**].