



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Misuse of medical opioids Just a trend in the US?

Roland Simon

DRD Expert meeting

29. September 2016



Contents

- Medical opioids and heroin in the US
- The situation in Europa
- What makes the difference?
- Outlook

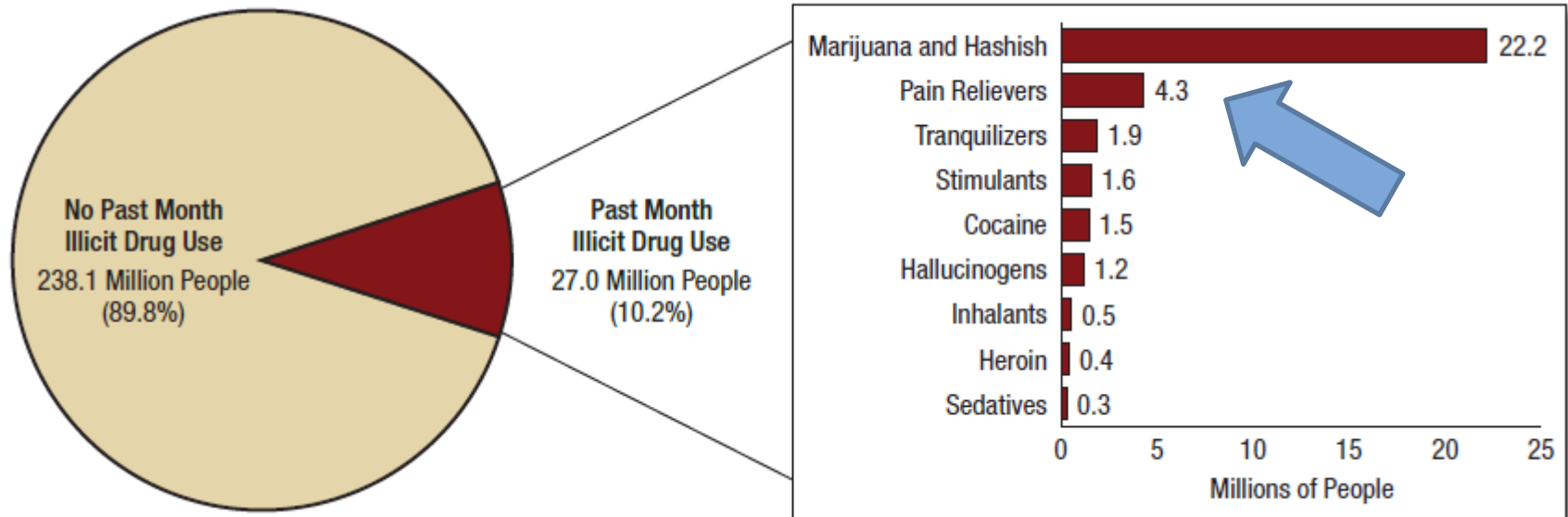
Focus on opioids for pain relief medication outside cancer treatment

Overlap with medicaments used for opiate substitution treatment

US

Opiates, Heroin, Drug related Deaths

Use of illicit substances during the last month (12+ US population)



Source: SAMSHA 2015

Medical opioids (MO) and drugs

Opioides for pain relief medication:

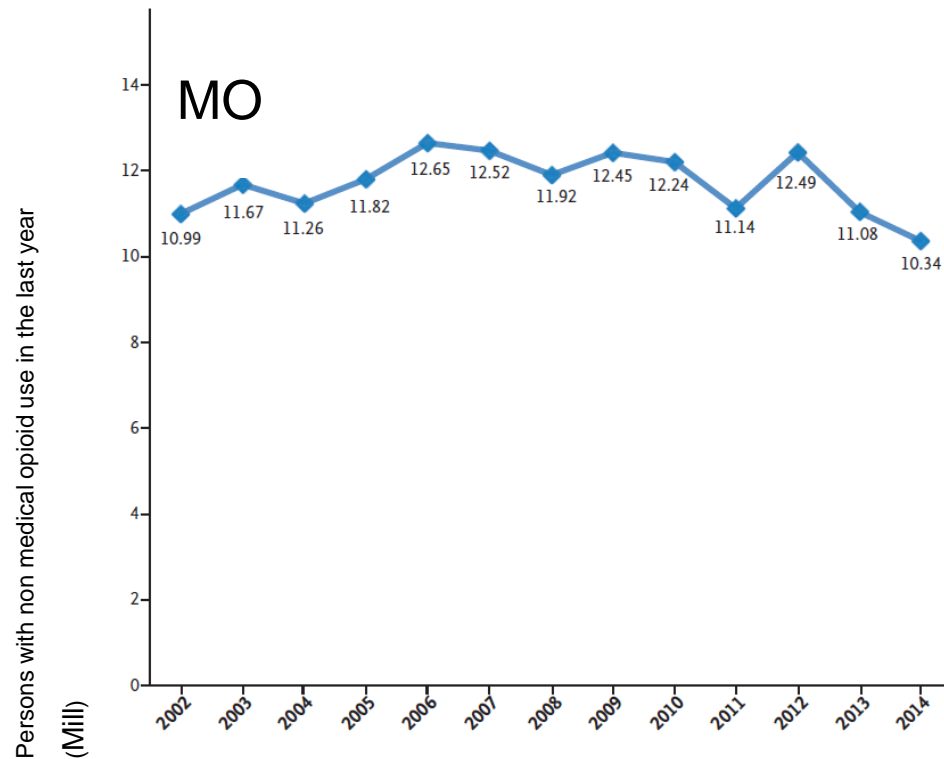
- Effective
- Widely used
- Unwanted side effects :
 - Misuse
 - Emergencies
 - DRD

US (Juni 2016):

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| • 650.000 | Opioid prescriptions per day |
| • 3.900 | New cases of MO misuse per day |
| • 500.000 | DRD by opioids 2000-2014 |
| • 165.000 | DRD with MO involvement |

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Factsheet-opioids-061516.pdf>

Misuse of opioids and heroin use in the last year (12+)



MO one year before start of heroin use (OR: 40)

Transition shown by qualitative study

580 new heroin users per day

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Factsheet-opioids-061516.pdf>

US OD deaths: trend still problematic

TABLE. Number and age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths,* by sex, age, race and Hispanic origin,† Census region, and state —United States, 2013 and 2014

Decedent characteristic	2013		2014		% change from 2013 to 2014
	No.	Age-adjusted rate	No.	Age-adjusted rate	
All	43,982	13.8	47,055	14.7	6.5
Sex					
Male	26,799	17	28,812	18.3	7.6
Female	17,183	10.6	18,243	11.1	4.7
Age group (yrs)					
0–14	105	0.2	109	0.2	0
15–24	3,664	8.3	3,798	8.6	3.6
25–34	8,947	20.9	10,055	23.1	10.5
35–44	9,320	23	10,134	25	8.7
45–54	12,045	27.5	12,263	28.2	2.5
55–64	7,551	19.2	8,122	20.3	5.7
≥65	2,344	5.2	2,568	5.6	7.7

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6450a3.htm?s_cid=mm6450a3_w



Opioids in Europe

Situation and risks

Opioids in Europe: Studies

Marschall et al. (2016): Long term treatment with MO for pain relief medication

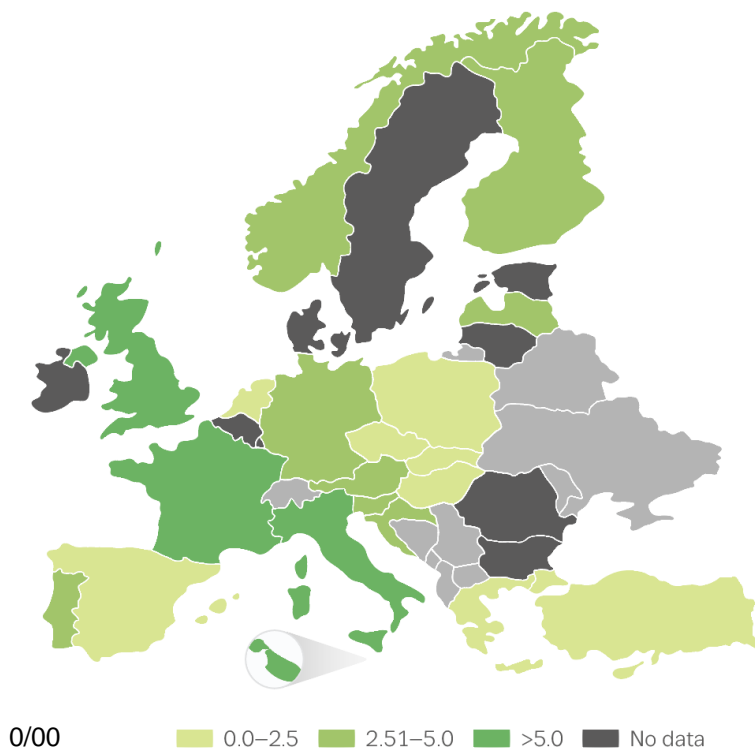
- 3+ quarters prescriptions : 1,3% Prävalenz
- 0,008% addiction treatment per year
- 1/7 High dose treatment
increased risk, client profile similar to US

Van Amsterdam et al (2015): Risks through MO for Europe?

- Increase of prescriptions of 10 year: IT +292% UK +58%
- DDD/million population: USA 52.000 West Europa 12.000 DE 22.000
- DRD due to MO stable/slightly increasing – UK clear increase

Opioids in Europe: EMCDDA

Problematic opioid use



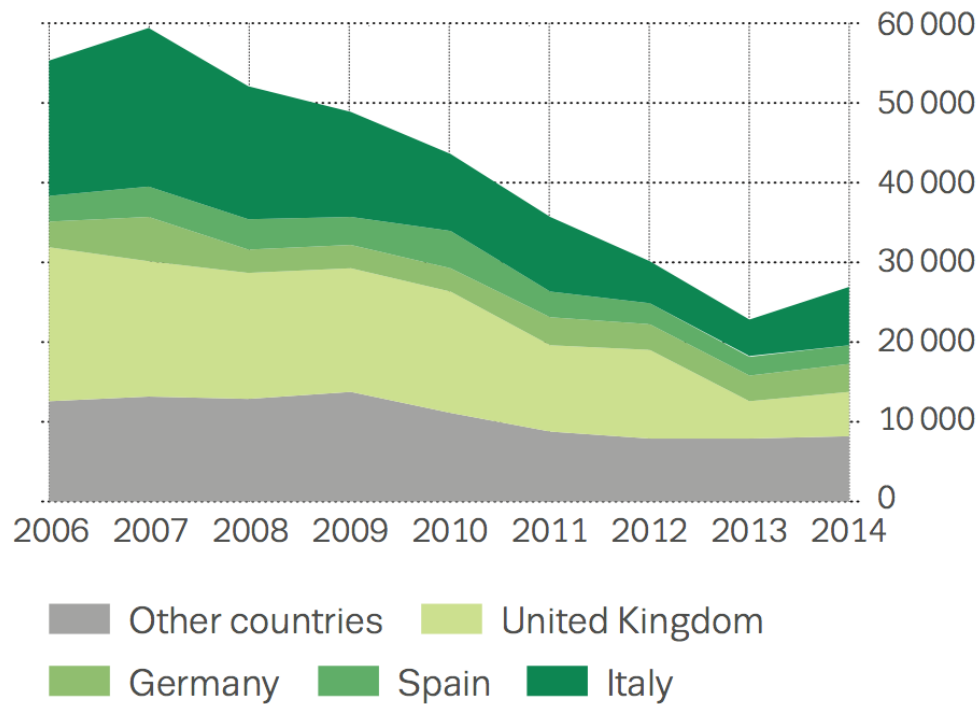
- Prevalence: 4 ‰ (15-64 years), 1.3 million
- Trend: stabil – decreasing
- First treatment demands decreasing
- Aging cohort



Source: EDR 2016

Opioid situation in Europe: EMCDDA

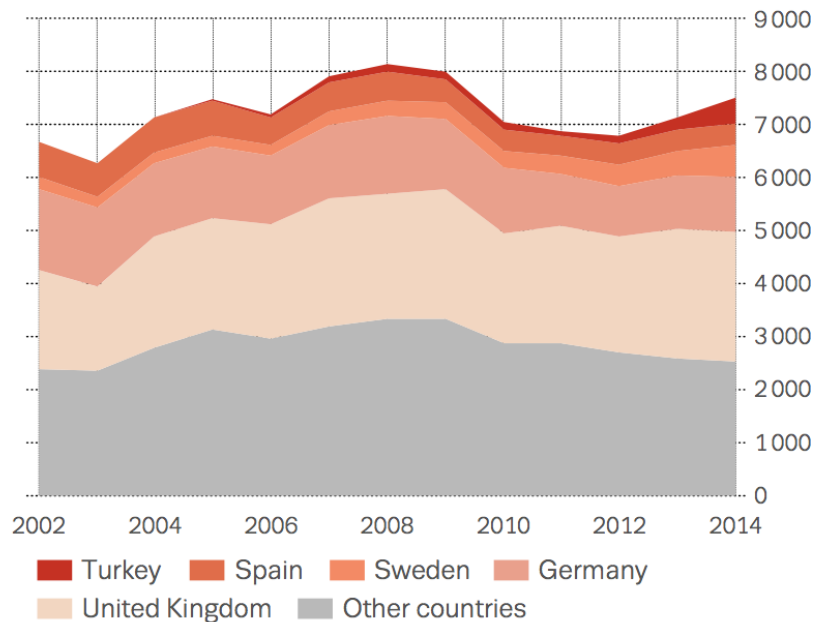
Treatment demands with primary heroin related problems



Quelle: EDR 2016

Opioide situation in Europe: DRD

More than 6 800 DRD in 2014



Total:

- Stabil/slightly increasing
- Local differences
- Age



Mono intoxications MO

- Total: 666

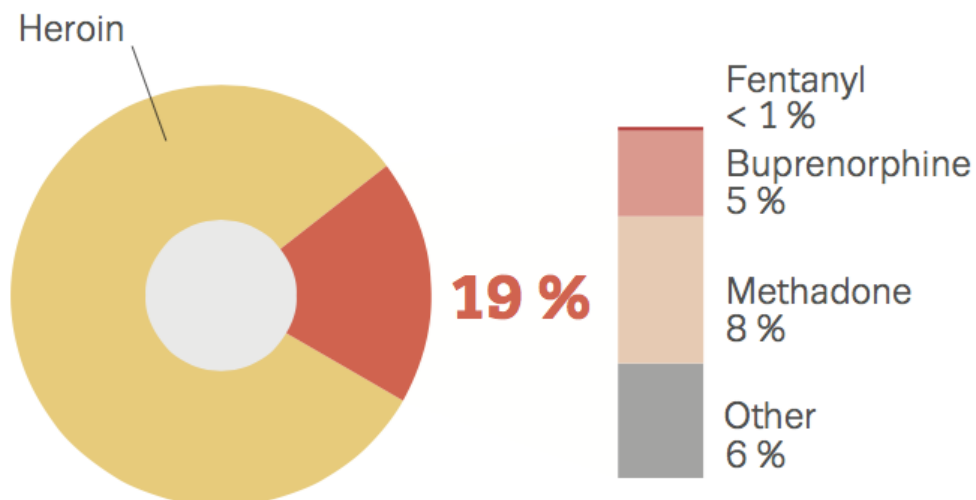
Substances

- Buprenorphine
- Methadone
- Oxycodone
- Tramadol

Source: EDR 2016/ HR workbooks

Synthetic opioids

Treatment demands with main drug opioids:



>10% main diagnoses “other opioids” in 18 EU Member States

Source: EDR 2016

Differences between USA and Europe

Facts and hypotheses

Literature

- Fischer et al. 2013
- Van Amsterdam et al. 2015
- Weisberg et al. 2014

Regulation

	USA	Europa
Health care system	Lack of integration Objective: market supply	Vertikal integration allows more control Objective: Public Health
Ads	“Freedom of speech”	No ads for end user
Prescribing doctor	“Prescription monitoring programmes” Pill mills – now closed	Partly specific qualifications required
Indications	“Moderate pain” for long term MO included earlier – now dropped	More narrow rules especially for high dose treatment

Market

	USA	Europa
Risk awareness	Lower “Psychopharmacological society”	Higher
Motivation for prescribers	Patient satisfaction	Health insurance, health funds
Alternatives	Heroin expensive, OST rare ➡ MO attractive	Heroin cheap, OST accessible ➡ MO less attractive

Availability and control

	USA	Europa
Prescription practice	Easy	Complicated
Prescription monitoring	Not used so often Focus: misuse	In pharmacies partly good
Availability MO	High	Low
High dose MO	Frequent, also as first level medication	Less frequent, more often second option

Conclusions

- Trends in DRD and incidence of heroin misuse in the US are very likely linked – but no longer limited - to medical opioids
- Increased number of prescriptions of MO also in some parts of Europe
- Until now no indication of developments of DRD in Europe like in the US
- Protective faktors in Europe:
Regulation – Market – Availability – Risk awareness
- US Interventions against epidemic follow EU mode
- but

Outlook

- Conflicting needs: Pain medication vs. risk avoidance
- Conditions might only buffer problems temporarily
- Internet pharmacies are increasing – decreased level of control possible
- Monitoring of misuse of medicaments often insufficient
- Weisberg (2014): “call for action”

Literatur

- EMCDDA (2016). European Drug Report 2016.
- Fischer, B., Keates, A., Bühringer, G., Reimer, J. & Rehm, J. (2013). Non-medical use of prescription opioid-related harms: why so markedly higher in North America compared to the rest of the world. *Addiction*, 109, 177-181
- Van Amsterdam, J., & Van den Brink, W. (2015). The misuse of prescription opioids: A threat for Europe? *Current drug abuse reviews*. 8, 3-14
- Weisberg, D.G., Becker, W.C., Fiellin, D.A. & Stannard, C. (2014) Prescription opioid misuse in the United States and the United Kingdom: Cautionary lessons. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 25, 1124-1130




European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction


emcdda.europa.eu/edr2016

|emcdda.europa.eu

 twitter.com/emcdda

 facebook.com/emcdda

 youtube.com/emcddatube

 flickr.com/photos/emcdda