



Health Poll

# Narcotic Painkillers

May 2014

# Executive Summary

## SURVEY OVERVIEW

Each month, the Truven Health Analytics™-NPR Health Poll surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues. Poll results are reported by NPR on the health blog Shots (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/>) and on air.

Complete survey results are posted here: [www.truvenhealth.com/truven\\_insights/npr\\_poll.aspx](http://www.truvenhealth.com/truven_insights/npr_poll.aspx)

NPR's reports on the findings are archived here: [www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh\\_sttag](http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh_sttag)

The Truven Health Analytics-NPR Health Poll is powered by the Truven Health Analytics PULSE® Healthcare Survey, an independently funded multi-modal (land line, cell phone, internet) survey that collects information from more than 82,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted here represent responses from 3,010 survey participants interviewed from May 1-15, 2014. The margin of error is +/- 1.8 percent.

## The survey asked respondents' opinions on use of narcotic painkillers.

Following were the results:

- 54 percent of all respondents indicated that they had previously taken narcotic painkillers.
- 36 percent of respondents who had, and 30 percent of those who had NOT, taken narcotic painkillers said they had concerns regarding the painkillers and these rates tend to increase with increasing level of education.
- The main concern regarding narcotic painkillers for all respondents is fear of addiction at 36 percent. Other concerns include side effects at 30 percent, long-term health impact at 14 percent, and association with drug abuse at 9 percent.
- 78 percent of all respondents believe that addiction is linked to the use of narcotic painkillers. The lowest rate (68 percent) for the Silent Generation is statistically significant.
- 53 percent of all respondents believe that depression is linked to the use of narcotic painkillers, a rate that tends to increase with increasing level of education, but decrease with increasing age.
- Overall 74 percent of all respondents believe there is no difference between men and women with regard to overuse of/addiction to narcotic painkillers. Among those who believe there is a difference, respondents age 35 and younger and Millennials believe men have a bigger problem with addiction/overuse than do women, while respondents age 65 and older and Silent Generation believe women have a bigger problem with addiction/overuse than do men.
- 54 percent of all respondents believe that ZoHydro ER should be allowed on the market; this rate tends to increase with increasing level of education, and decrease with increasing age.

These questions, except for the questions about overuse among men/women and market availability for ZoHydro ER, were asked in a November 2011 poll, and the differences in results were not statistically significant between the years.

# Survey Data

Responses in **BOLD** are statistically significant.

## Question 1

Have you ever been prescribed a narcotic pain killer such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, or morphine?

Age	Yes	No
<35	56.2%	43.8%
35 – 64	54.8%	45.2%
65+	48.6%	51.4%
<b>Total</b>	54.1%	45.9%

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	51.3%	48.7%
Some College/Assoc	53.9%	46.1%
College+	55.9%	44.1%
<b>Total</b>	54.1%	45.9%

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	<b>44.7%</b>	<b>55.3%</b>
Baby Boomers	55.6%	44.4%
Generation X	55.9%	44.1%
Millennials	54.0%	46.0%
<b>Total</b>	54.1%	45.9%

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	51.7%	48.3%
\$25k - \$49.9k	54.4%	45.6%
\$50k - \$99.9k	56.2%	43.8%
\$100k+	54.5%	45.5%
<b>Total</b>	54.1%	45.9%

## Question 2

What was it prescribed for? Was it for?

Age	Chronic Pain	Acute Pain	Cancer Pain	Other
<35	16.2%	75.4%	1.8%	6.6%
35 - 64	22.2%	73.0%	1.1%	3.7%
65+	16.3%	77.8%	1.9%	4.0%
<b>Total</b>	19.3%	74.5%	1.4%	4.7%

  

Education	Chronic Pain	Acute Pain	Cancer Pain	Other
HS or Less	26.3%	68.0%	0.7%	5.1%
Some College/Assoc	24.5%	68.2%	1.5%	5.8%
College+	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	1.8%	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	19.3%	74.5%	1.4%	4.7%

  

Generation	Chronic Pain	Acute Pain	Cancer Pain	Other
Silent Generation	14.1%	80.9%	1.6%	3.4%
Baby Boomers	21.2%	74.3%	1.3%	3.1%
Generation X	20.6%	73.3%	1.7%	4.5%
Millennials	17.2%	74.4%	1.1%	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	19.3%	74.5%	1.4%	4.7%

  

Income	Chronic Pain	Acute Pain	Cancer Pain	Other
<\$25k	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	1.3%	7.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	22.1%	70.7%	1.6%	5.6%
\$50k - \$99.9k	13.3%	81.2%	1.8%	3.6%
\$100k+	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>89.0%</b>	0.8%	2.8%
<b>Total</b>	19.3%	74.5%	1.4%	4.7%

### Question 3

Did you have concerns about taking these drugs? (Asked of respondents taking painkillers.)

Age	Yes	No
<35	32.2%	67.8%
35 - 64	38.4%	61.6%
65+	37.7%	62.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>

#### Education

HS or Less	28.9%	71.1%
Some College/Assoc	36.6%	63.4%
College+	40.5%	59.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>

#### Generation

Silent Generation	35.2%	64.8%
Baby Boomers	37.8%	62.2%
Generation X	38.3%	61.7%
Millennials	32.1%	67.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>

#### Income

<\$25k	33.2%	66.8%
\$25k - \$49.9k	35.5%	64.5%
\$50k - \$99.9k	38.2%	61.8%
\$100k+	36.0%	64.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>

#### Question 4

Do you have any concerns regarding the use of narcotic pain killers? (Asked of respondents NOT taking painkillers.)

Age	Yes	No
<35	20.9%	79.1%
35 - 64	30.1%	69.9%
65+	<b>40.3%</b>	<b>59.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	29.6%	70.4%

#### Education

HS or Less	25.0%	75.0%
Some College/Assoc	29.5%	70.5%
College+	32.7%	67.3%
<b>Total</b>	29.6%	70.4%

#### Generation

Silent Generation	36.5%	63.5%
Baby Boomers	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>
Generation X	26.3%	73.7%
Millennials	19.0%	81.0%
<b>Total</b>	29.6%	70.4%

#### Income

<\$25k	23.9%	76.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	30.6%	69.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	34.4%	65.6%
\$100k+	32.5%	67.5%
<b>Total</b>	29.6%	70.4%

## Question 5

Which of the following best describes your concerns?

Age	Fear of Addiction	Effectiveness	Side Effects	Long Term Health Impact	Religious Concerns	Costs	Association with Drug Abuse	Other
<35	24.3%	<b>1.2%</b>	30.3%	20.6%	1.3%	5.7%	12.1%	4.5%
35 - 64	39.9%	7.0%	29.3%	12.8%	0.1%	1.8%	6.9%	2.3%
65+	40.9%	3.7%	31.4%	10.4%	1.3%	1.6%	8.6%	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	36.2%	4.9%	30.0%	14.3%	0.6%	2.7%	8.5%	2.8%
<b>Education</b>								
HS or Less	38.7%	6.3%	24.7%	10.7%	0.8%	2.5%	9.2%	7.1%
Some College/Assoc	27.8%	4.5%	40.0%	15.2%	0.3%	3.0%	7.6%	1.5%
College+	40.7%	4.5%	25.6%	15.2%	0.8%	2.6%	8.8%	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	36.2%	4.9%	30.0%	14.3%	0.6%	2.7%	8.5%	2.8%
<b>Generation</b>								
Silent Generation	47.4%	4.1%	23.6%	12.9%	1.0%	1.5%	7.5%	2.0%
Baby Boomers	36.0%	5.9%	33.0%	14.1%	0.5%	1.4%	7.8%	1.3%
Generation X	40.8%	6.3%	30.4%	10.6%	0.1%	2.5%	6.5%	2.8%
Millennials	20.9%	1.0%	28.4%	22.3%	1.6%	6.0%	14.1%	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	36.2%	4.9%	30.0%	14.3%	0.6%	2.7%	8.5%	2.8%
<b>Income</b>								
<\$25k	34.2%	5.6%	28.1%	13.6%	0.3%	6.0%	4.4%	7.8%
\$25k - \$49.9k	32.4%	5.7%	33.3%	14.9%	1.4%	0.9%	9.8%	1.6%
\$50k - \$99.9k	41.7%	4.6%	27.5%	13.7%	0.0%	2.6%	9.1%	0.8%
\$100k+	46.8%	0.0%	20.8%	19.2%	0.0%	2.8%	7.1%	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	36.2%	4.9%	30.0%	14.3%	0.6%	2.7%	8.5%	2.8%

## Question 6

Have you ever questioned or refused doctor-recommended pain killers?

Age	Yes	No
<35	28.3%	71.7%
35 - 64	28.7%	71.3%
65+	23.6%	76.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	26.4%	73.6%
Some College/Assoc	29.1%	70.9%
College+	27.3%	72.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	22.0%	78.0%
Baby Boomers	26.6%	73.4%
Generation X	30.4%	69.6%
Millennials	27.2%	72.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	30.6%	69.4%
\$25k - \$49.9k	27.0%	73.0%
\$50k - \$99.9k	24.2%	75.8%
\$100k+	31.9%	68.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>



### Question 7

Do you believe any of the following are linked to the use of narcotic pain killers?

	Drug Addiction	Depression	Bone Loss	Constipation
<b>Age</b>				
<35	78.2%	53.7%	24.7%	45.1%
35 - 64	79.8%	53.1%	22.4%	54.1%
65+	72.5%	51.2%	23.0%	46.6%
<b>Total</b>	78.0%	52.9%	23.2%	49.9%
<b>Education</b>				
HS or Less	72.2%	49.2%	24.8%	<b>40.0%</b>
Some College/Assoc	79.5%	53.8%	24.3%	54.8%
College+	80.4%	54.5%	21.5%	52.3%
<b>Total</b>	78.0%	52.9%	23.2%	49.9%
<b>Generation</b>				
Silent Generation	<b>67.6%</b>	51.3%	21.8%	43.6%
Baby Boomers	82.8%	57.4%	28.0%	<b>58.5%</b>
Generation X	77.1%	49.7%	19.6%	50.1%
Millennials	78.9%	53.6%	24.2%	43.8%
<b>Total</b>	78.0%	52.9%	23.2%	49.9%
<b>Income</b>				
<\$25k	73.3%	48.1%	26.2%	46.4%
\$25k - \$49.9k	80.6%	56.6%	23.0%	51.1%
\$50k - \$99.9k	81.0%	52.7%	22.1%	52.6%
\$100k+	78.5%	56.6%	18.2%	51.3%
<b>Total</b>	78.0%	52.9%	23.2%	49.9%

### Question 8

Do you believe that unnecessary overuse or addiction to narcotic pain killers is a bigger problem among?

Age	Men	Women	No Difference
<35	<b>18.7%</b>	10.8%	70.6%
35 - 64	8.7%	14.6%	76.7%
65+	<b>6.8%</b>	18.8%	74.3%
<b>Total</b>	11.5%	14.1%	74.4%

Education	Men	Women	No Difference
HS or Less	7.9%	12.1%	80.0%
Some College/Assoc	11.6%	12.8%	75.6%
College+	13.5%	16.4%	70.1%
<b>Total</b>	11.5%	14.1%	74.4%

Generation	Men	Women	No Difference
Silent Generation	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	72.8%
Baby Boomers	<b>6.5%</b>	15.1%	78.4%
Generation X	10.4%	14.0%	75.6%
Millennials	<b>20.3%</b>	10.5%	69.2%
<b>Total</b>	11.5%	14.1%	74.4%

Income	Men	Women	No Difference
<\$25k	12.1%	12.1%	75.7%
\$25k - \$49.9k	11.1%	15.5%	73.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	12.9%	15.2%	71.9%
\$100k+	10.5%	16.1%	73.5%
<b>Total</b>	11.5%	14.1%	74.4%

### Question 9

Do you believe that new higher strength narcotic pain killers such as Zohydro ER should be allowed on the market?

Age	Yes	No
<35	56.0%	44.0%
35 - 64	55.7%	44.3%
65+	48.1%	51.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	45.7%	54.3%
Some College/Assoc	53.8%	46.2%
College+	60.3%	39.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	44.3%	55.7%
Baby Boomers	55.0%	45.0%
Generation X	57.0%	43.0%
Millennials	54.6%	45.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	52.8%	47.2%
\$25k - \$49.9k	50.6%	49.4%
\$50k - \$99.9k	57.9%	42.1%
\$100k+	<b>68.6%</b>	<b>31.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>