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# The Problem of Prescription Drug Use in the United States

#### **Background**

- 1. An additional adverse health consequence that may result from prescription drug misuse and abuse includes:
- A. Transitions to injection drug use with resulting risk for infections such as hepatitis C and HIV.
- B. Falls and fractures in older adults.
- C. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrom.
- D. All of the above.

### **Epidemiology and Drivers of Prescription Drug Abuse in the United States**

- 2. In addition to opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines and antidepressants are often involved in overdose deaths, often in combination of opioid analgesics.
- A. True
- B. False
- 3. All of the following statements are true with regard to the use and abuse of prescription drugs among men and women, except for:
- A. More women die of prescription drug overdoses than men.
- B. The rate of chronic nonmedical use of opioids among men is nearly twice that of women.
- C. More women are prescribed drugs prone to abuse than are men.
- D. Rates of ED visits for misuse or abuse are roughly equal among men and women.
- 4. Overdose deaths are less common among Medicaid-eligible populations.
- A. True
- B. False
- 5. Which of the following groups is at an increased risk of dying from a prescription

#### opioid overdose?

- A. Those with a history of chronic pain.
- B. Those prescribed higher doses of opioids.
- C. Those with a history of mental health and substance abuse problems.
- D. All of the above.
- 6. Having a greater number of prescriptions and/or going to a greater number of providers or pharmacies have been identified as predictors of opioid misuse or abuse.
- A. True
- B. False
- 7. Among nonmedical users of opioid analgesics, most report buying them from a drug dealer.
- A. True
- B. False
- 8. Which of the following have increased since 1991?
- A. The number of opioid prescriptions.
- B. The amount prescribed per prescription.
- C. The days supply.
- D. All of the above.
- 9. Insurer and pharmacy benefit manager policies likely contribute to abuse and overdose in all of the following ways, except for:
- A. Covering methadone as a first-line agent for pain because it is inexpensive.
- B. Covering medications purchased over the internet.
- C. Not covering non-opioid and non-pharmacological therapies.
- D. Not reimbursing for screening and risk mitigation activities.

## Current HHS Prescription Drug Abuse Activities and Opportunities to Enhance Activities

- 10. Research has shown that the most effective drug abuse prevention programs are those that help individuals to develop the intentions and skills to act in a healthy manner, and those that create an environment that supports healthy behaviors.
- A. True

11. Studies show that teens and young adults perceive prescription drug abuse as
safer, less addictive, and less risky than using illicit drugs, and that drugs obtained
from a medicine cabinet or pharmacy are believed to be less risky than drugs obtained
from a drug dealer, and that such perceptions result in subsequent abuse.

- A. True
- B. False
- 12. Research suggests that for states with prescription drug monitoring programs, compared to states without such programs, all of the following are reduced, except for:
- A. The prescribing of Schedule II opioid analgesics.
- B. The number of unethical pain clinics, also known as "pill mills."
- C. Substance abuse treatment admission rates.
- D. Annual increases in opioid misuse or abuse.
- 13. Educating individuals on overdose prevention, including how to recognize and respond to an overdose and how to obtain and administer an opioid overdose reversal medication, is an important public health intervention to reduce mortality.
- A. True
- B. False
- 14. Because studies show that people witnessing an overdose may not call emergency services because of a fear of arrest for drug use or sale, some states have passed immunity from prosecution laws that provide legal protection to an individual seeking help for themselves or for another person experiencing an overdose.
- A. True
- B. False

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