

GLOBAL HEALTH **HOT TOPIC:**

The opioid epidemic in North America

North America is experiencing an epidemic of addiction to opioid painkillers and deaths from their overuse in the over 50s. In the USA, the CDC estimates that 40 Americans die each day from overdoses of these drugs.

Though the typical addict is white, middle-aged and male, women are catching up fast as they are more likely to have chronic pain than men and so use these painkillers. Native Americans and Alaska natives are severely affected with double the level of addiction of the general population.

To control painkiller use, ten US states recently introduced a law restricting prescriptions to a 7-day supply.

CABI's **Global Health** database provides access to global research, enabling the work of policymakers and practitioners, researchers and trainers at leading public health schools including Universities of Cornell (USA), Oxford (UK), and McGill (Canada).

CABI's Global Health database comprehensively covers hot topics that matter

Global Health draws from social, economic, environmental and public health sources to provide the complete picture of the use and abuse of prescription opioids around the world:

- **Being female puts you at risk of overdose:** suffer more chronic pain; react to distress with self-medication; faster physical addiction.
Can gender difference in prescription drug use be explained by gender-related morbidity?: A study on a Swedish population during 2006.
BMC Public Health 2014
- **Adolescents are at risk of addiction and injury:** access to leftover drugs increases recreational use, which increases injuries through fighting.
Nonmedical use of prescription opioids and injury risk among youth [Canada].
Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse 2016
Leftover prescription opioids and nonmedical use among high school seniors: a multi-cohort national study. [USA]
Journal of Adolescent Health 2013
- **Social networking messages about painkiller use:** response of US college students to pro- or con- messages from facebook, twitter or e-newsletter.
New communication platform, message valence, and health risk: does social networking media matter in understanding painkiller use?
Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet 2015
- **Use of veterinary opioids in heroin causes deaths in US and UK:** under strict controls, vets use fentanyl and carfentanyl for pain-relief in dogs, horses and elephants.
The prescription, supply and control of prescription-only veterinary medicines (POMs) in zoological collections and wildlife rescue centres. [UK]
British Veterinary Zoological Society Proceedings of the Autumn Meeting 2014

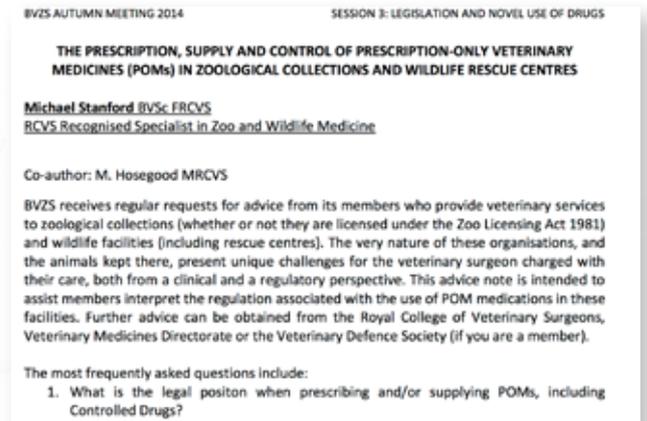
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