

Oral Abstracts

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PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE MISUSE IN THE UK AND EUROPE

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Abstract: Prescription medicine misuse is a major public health problem in the USA and in other areas of the world including Australia and Canada. Until recently there was limited data to be able to determine how common a problem this is in the UK and Europe. Our group have undertaken a number of studies in the UK and there are also emerging data from Europe suggesting that prescription medicine misuse, although less common than in the USA, is an issue in the UK and Europe with drug classes including the benzodiazepines, opioids and GABA-analogues. Data sources include sub-population surveys, poisons centre data and data from the European Drug Emergencies Network (Euro-DEN). This talk will summarise this data and provide an overview of the current situation and limitations of the available data.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the data limitations and emerging sources of data on prescription medicine misuse in the UK and Europe
2. Be able to describe drugs most commonly associated with prescription medicine misuse in the UK and Europe.