



What Americans believe about opioid prescription painkiller use

Presented by:

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Who is NSC?

Our Mission:

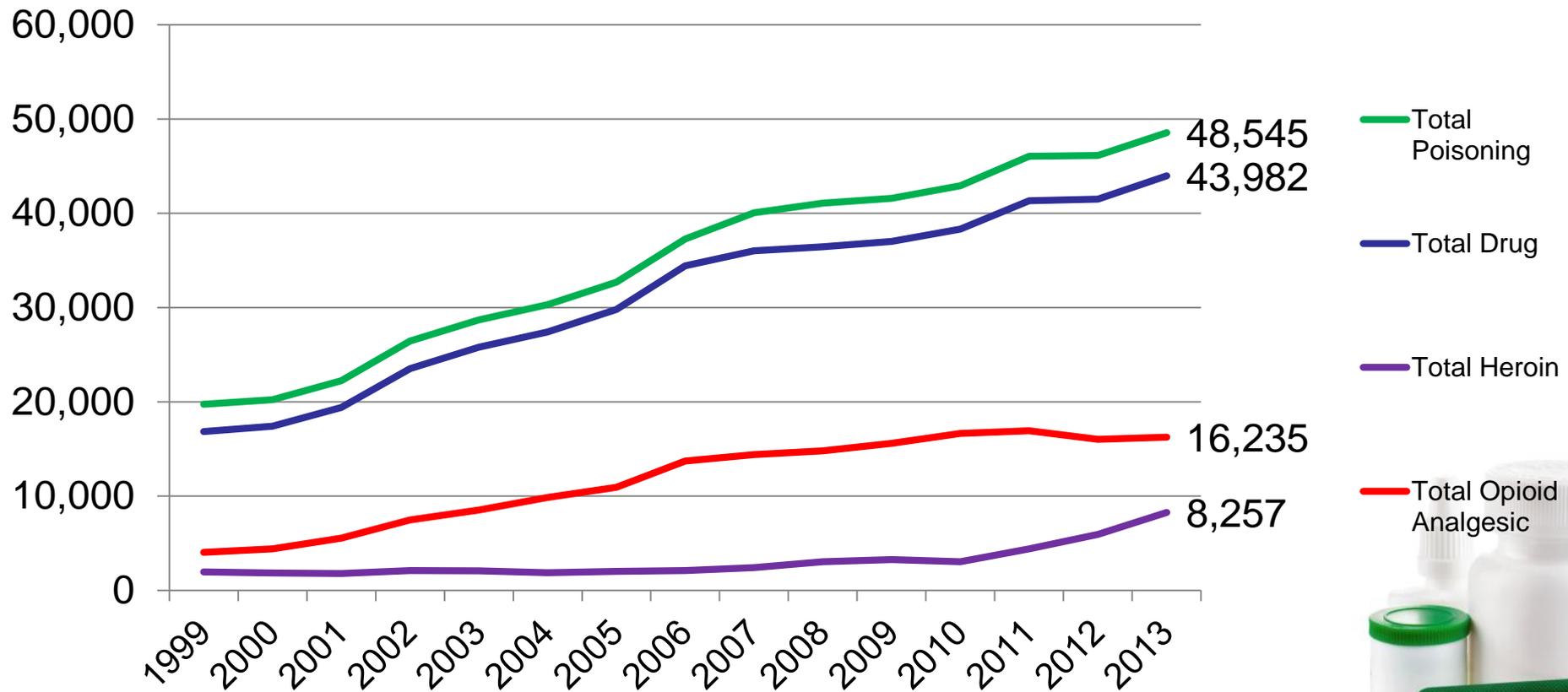
The National Safety Council saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads through leadership, research, education and advocacy.





Drug overdose trends

Number of Poisoning Related Deaths in U.S





National Poll

Methodology:

- Conducted an online survey with a nationally representative sample balanced to U.S. Census figures for gender, age geographic region, and ethnicity.
- To qualify for the study, respondents had to be 18 or older.
- Fieldwork was completed between January 30th thru February 5th, 2015.

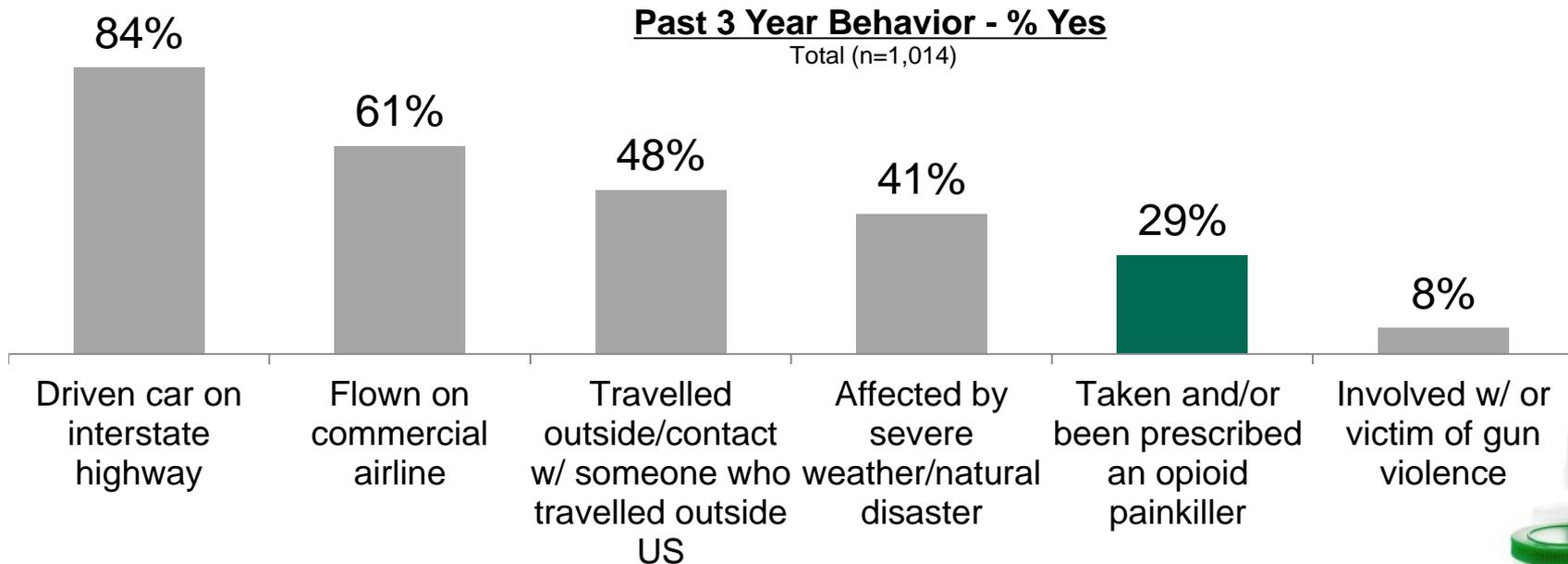
Key Takeaways:

- 1. Americans don't know their painkillers contain opioids, or that it is a felony to share them.**
- 2. Opioid users are unconcerned about addiction, but most have reason to worry.**
- 3. Opioid users overestimate the benefits of opioids and underestimate the risks of addiction or death.**





Nearly 30% of respondents say they have taken or been prescribed an opioid painkiller in the past three years.



Source: NSC Rx Study – In the past three years have you...

Actual usage is much higher when users are told which painkillers contain opioids.

Names of Common Opioid Painkillers

- Codeine
- Fentanyl (Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora)
- Hydrocodone (Lorcet, Lortab, Norco, Vicodin)
- Hydrocodone and Acetaminophen (Lorcet, Lortab, Norco, Vicodin)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid, Exalgo)
- Meperidine (Demerol)
- Methadone (Dolophine, Methadose)
- Morphine (Avinza, Kadian, MS Contin, Ora-Morph SR)
- Oxycodone (OxyContin, Oxyfast, Percocet, Roxicodone)
- Oxycodone and Acetaminophen (Percocet)
- Oxycodone and Naloxone (Targiniq ER)

29%



Taken and/or been prescribed an opioid painkiller

42%



Taken and/or been prescribed an opioid painkiller



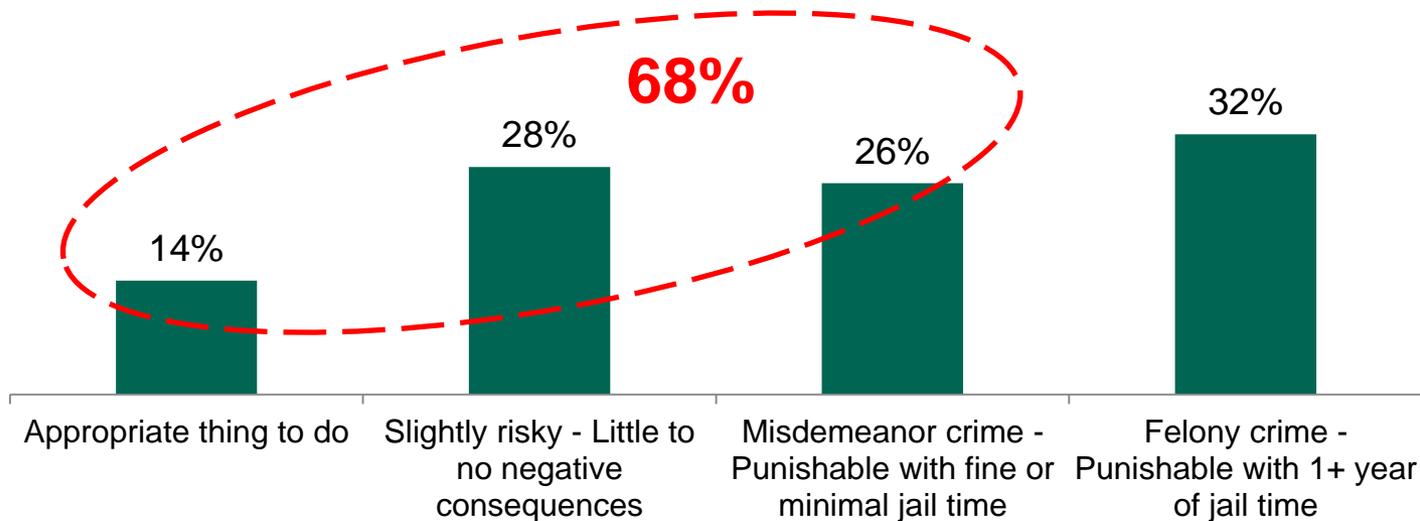
Source: NSC Rx Study – Which of the following best describes your usage of these types of medications in the past three years?



Nearly 70% of opioid painkiller users do not know sharing painkillers is a felony

- Majority of users are likely to believe that sharing their prescriptions with family/friends is perfectly legal or slightly risky

Attitude Towards Sharing Medications with Family/Friends – Among Users

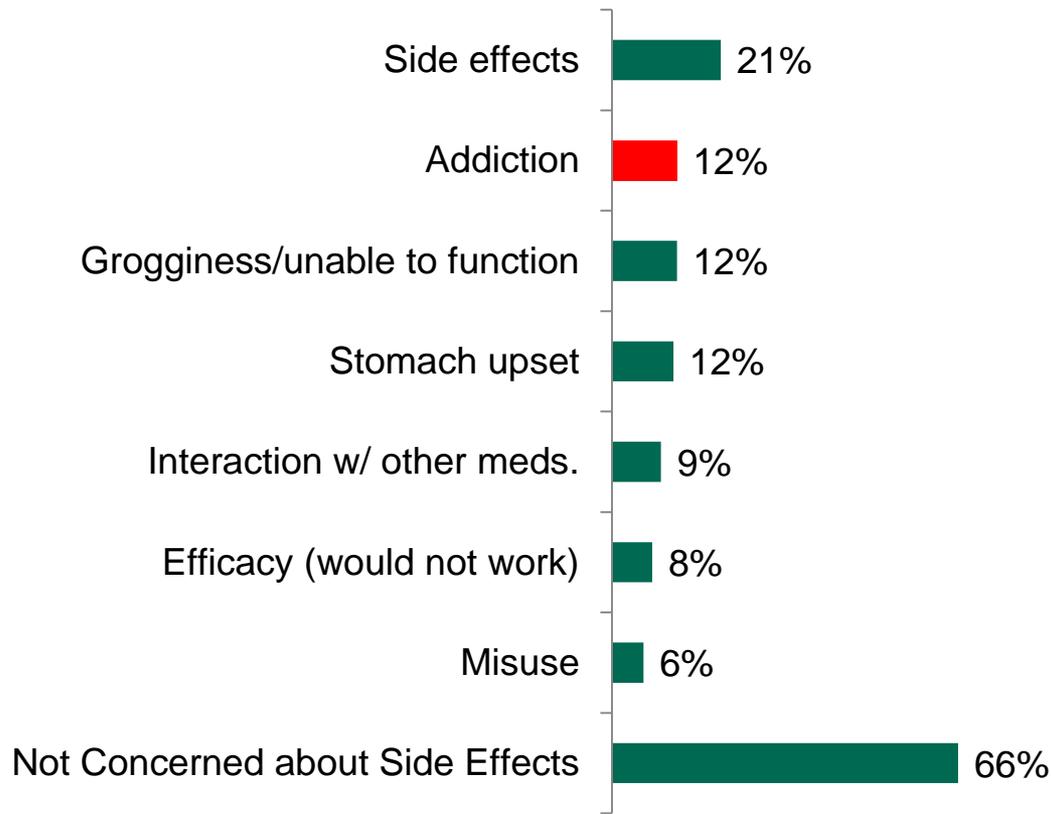


Source: NSC Rx Study - Which of the following best describes the act of sharing a prescription painkiller with a friend or family member? (Among users -n =427)



Nine in 10 opioid painkiller users are unconcerned about addiction

Specific Concerns about Opioid Prescription



Source: NSC Rx Study - Which of the following were you most concerned with before taking the prescription?
(Among users - n = 427)



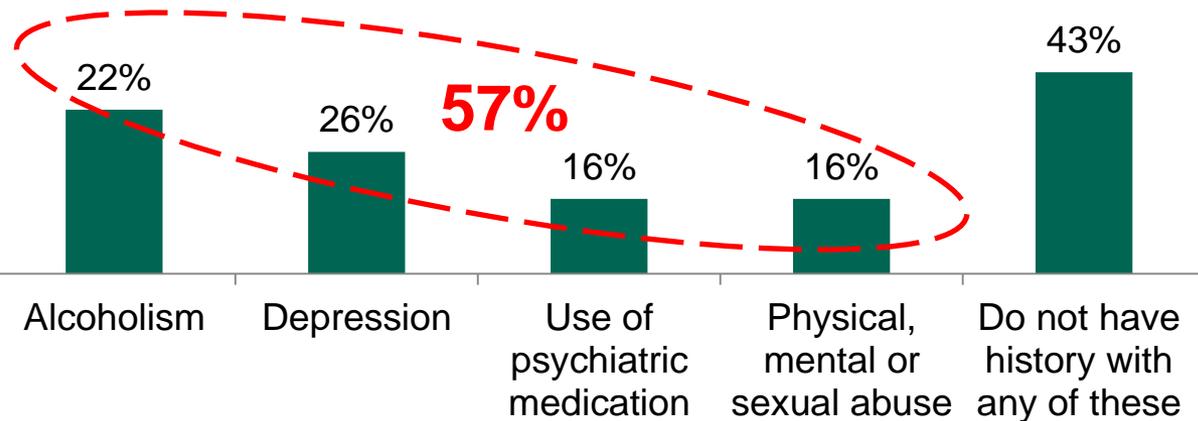
Most users should be concerned about addiction. Nearly 60% have at least one addiction risk factor...

...and opioid users admit these pills are more addictive than other medications.

Personal or Family History

Agreement Statement*

"Opioid prescriptions are more addictive than other types of prescriptions"



67%



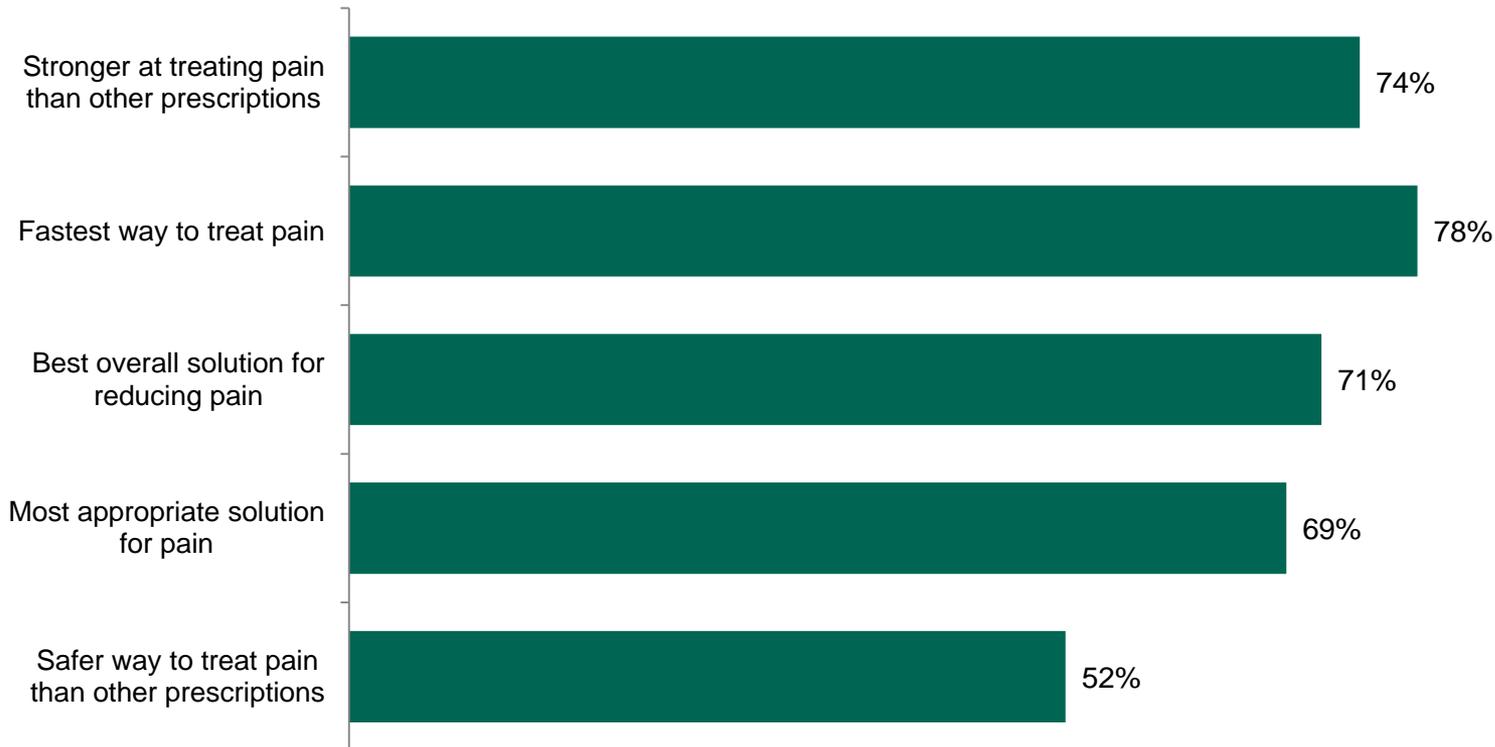
*Note: % of Opioid Prescription Users that Strongly & Somewhat Agree

Source: NSC Rx Study
- Which of the following were you most concerned with before taking the prescription? (Among users -n =427)
- Please indicate your agreement with each of the following statements about opioid painkillers as a way of dealing with severe pain.



Users overestimate the benefits of taking opioid painkillers.

Opinions of Using Opioids as Pain Solution %Somewhat/Strongly Agree

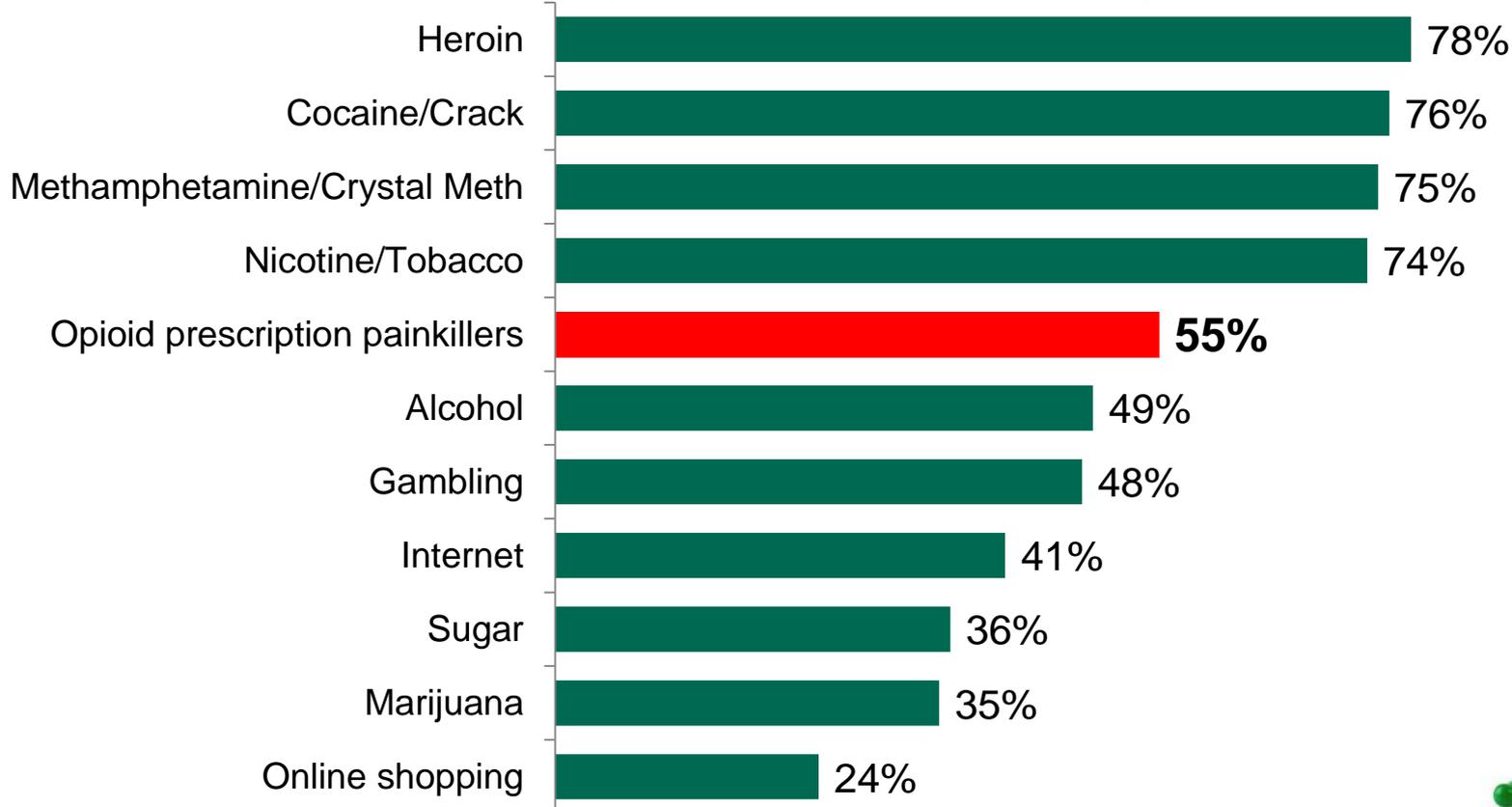


Source: NSC Rx Study - Which of the following were you most concerned with before taking the prescription? (Among users -n =427)



Americans know opioid painkillers are addictive – but they do not understand *how* addictive.

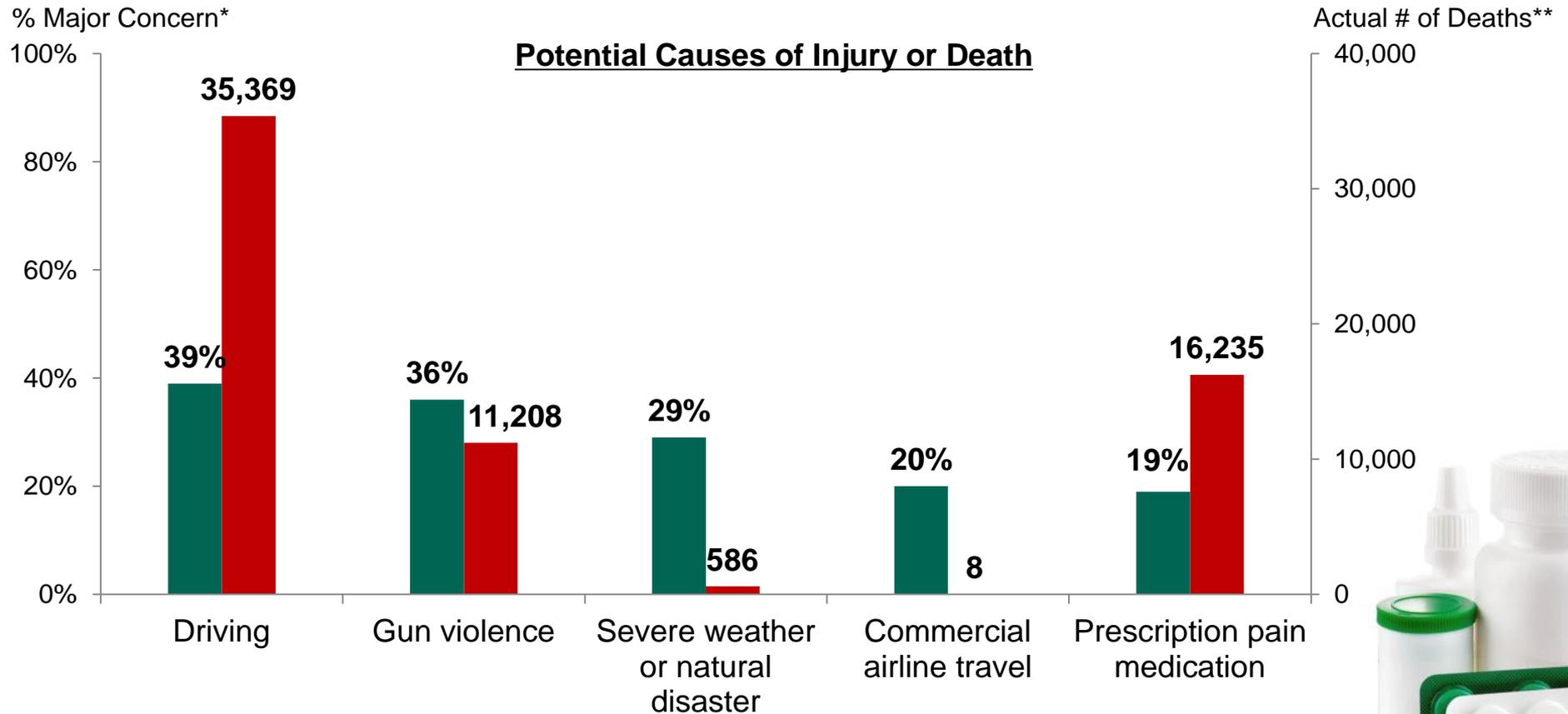
Perceptions of Addictiveness - % Very Addictive



Source: NSC Rx Study - In your own opinion, how addictive are the following? (Among Total -n =1,014)



Only one in five Americans consider prescription pain medication to be a serious safety threat.



*Source: NSC Rx Study – How concerned are you about each of the following as potential causes of injury or death for your family? (Among Total – n = 1,014)

**Source: 2013 data from National Safety Council, National Center for Health Statistics, National Climatic Data Center and National Transportation Safety Board



NSC resources

- Visit nsc.org/rxpainkillers for up-to-date information
- Report: *Prescription Nation*
- Report: *The Proactive Role Employers Can Take*
- Report: *Evidence for the Efficacy of Pain Medications*
- Report: *The Psychological and Physical Side Effects of Pain Medications*

Tips for the Public:

- Talk to your doctor about alternatives.
- Take opioid painkillers for the shortest length of time possible, and at the lowest dose.
- Understand the risks, especially the risk of addiction.
- Never share your medication, even with friends or family.
- Dispose of unused drugs properly. Never keep them or save them for later.
- Store opioid painkillers in a locked box or a locking cabinet.





Subject matter experts



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Questions?

