

Addiction Narratives:

How the Stories We Choose to Tell
& Our Language

Shapes Debate and Policy

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The New York Times

NEGRO COCAINE "FIENDS" ARE A NEW SOUTHERN MENACE

By Edward Huntington Williams, Jr. N. Y.

Murder and Insanity Increasing Among Lower Class Blacks Because They Have Taken to "Sniffing" Since Deprived of Whisky by Prohibition.

FROM SOME PARTS THERE HAVE BEEN rumors about the business of drug peddling in the Southern States, but EDWARD HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS, JR., who has been in the Southern States for a considerable time, says that the addition to such States of cocaine and opium was becoming a veritable scourge to the colored race in certain regions. Some of those reports of drug peddling read like the "olden days" of a somewhat "blue" society. Stories of cocaine use and "sniffing" pervade the Southern States, from the level of the colored man to the highest circles of the aristocracy.

It is stated that there was a "sniffing" about 1880 in these States. When one killed in Mississippi a few months by means of cocaine, the man in North Carolina, there is a common story that there was a long-haired woman, and also a few other victims in Georgia, who were killed in the streets of New York, and in other places, and in other parts of the South.

In the North drug peddling is a prevalent trade, in all countries. The "sniffing" for the time in New York was about the time of the first war, and in other parts of the South.

The list of Southern cities in which cocaine is used is as follows:—Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, and other cities. The list of Southern cities in which cocaine is used is as follows:—Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, and other cities.

States Better Marked.

Many of the wholesale dealers in the South may be said to be "sniffing" cocaine in the streets, and in other parts of the South. The "sniffing" for the time in New York was about the time of the first war, and in other parts of the South.



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The Mississippi River is probably the greatest highway for "wholesale" cocaine, but it is not the only one. It is probably the greatest highway for "wholesale" cocaine, but it is not the only one.

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Language of Addiction

Avoid	Use Instead
Addict, junkie, druggie, etc.	Person with Addiction or Person with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Exception: when people use this language about themselves deliberately.
Drug Abuse	Drug Misuse
Drug Dependence	Addiction or substance use disorder. Unless you actually mean dependence!
Addicted Baby, Opioid Baby, Crack Baby	Drug exposed baby, baby with neonatal abstinence syndrome (opioids only)
Clean / Dirty	In recovery, abstinent, drug-free. For urine: positive drug test
Medication-Assisted Treatment	Medication treatment for addiction, medication. We don't have "Prozac-Assisted" treatment for depression!

Addiction v. Dependence

Addiction	Dependence
Compulsive drug use despite negative consequences.	Needing a substance to function without symptoms.
Always problematic, by definition.	Can be problematic if substance is unavailable or if risks outweigh benefits.
Typically characterized by relapse.	Relapse unlikely after withdrawal completed.
Requires explicit learning in order to spur drug seeking.	Can occur unconsciously. People can undergo withdrawal without being aware that the drug would relieve symptoms.
Only affects people capable of seeking and obtaining drugs repeatedly.	Can affect anyone, including babies and medical patients who are not aware of the potential for dependence.
Characterized by craving and desire for the substance, regardless of circumstances.	Desire for substance is only associated with symptom relief, if patient is aware of association at all.

Opioid (Flawed) Narrative

- Big Pharma and greedy or gullible doctors by themselves “turned” patients into “addicts.”
- Most of those who became addicted are white, middle class pain patients.
- Opioids don’t work for chronic pain.

Opioid crisis leaves 8-year-old fatherless 06:44



Story highlights

Ohio has seen an 11% increase in foster children since 2010 due to the opioid epidemic

Ava, 8, asked her incarcerated dad why he uses drugs

(CNN) — It all started with pain killers after a dentist appointment. Now, Drake, a 32-year-old from Columbus, Ohio has struggled with opioid abuse for more than a decade.

"I was just in disbelief," Drake's mother Carlene says, adding that she never thought her son would be a heroin addict. CNN has chosen not to use last names to protect

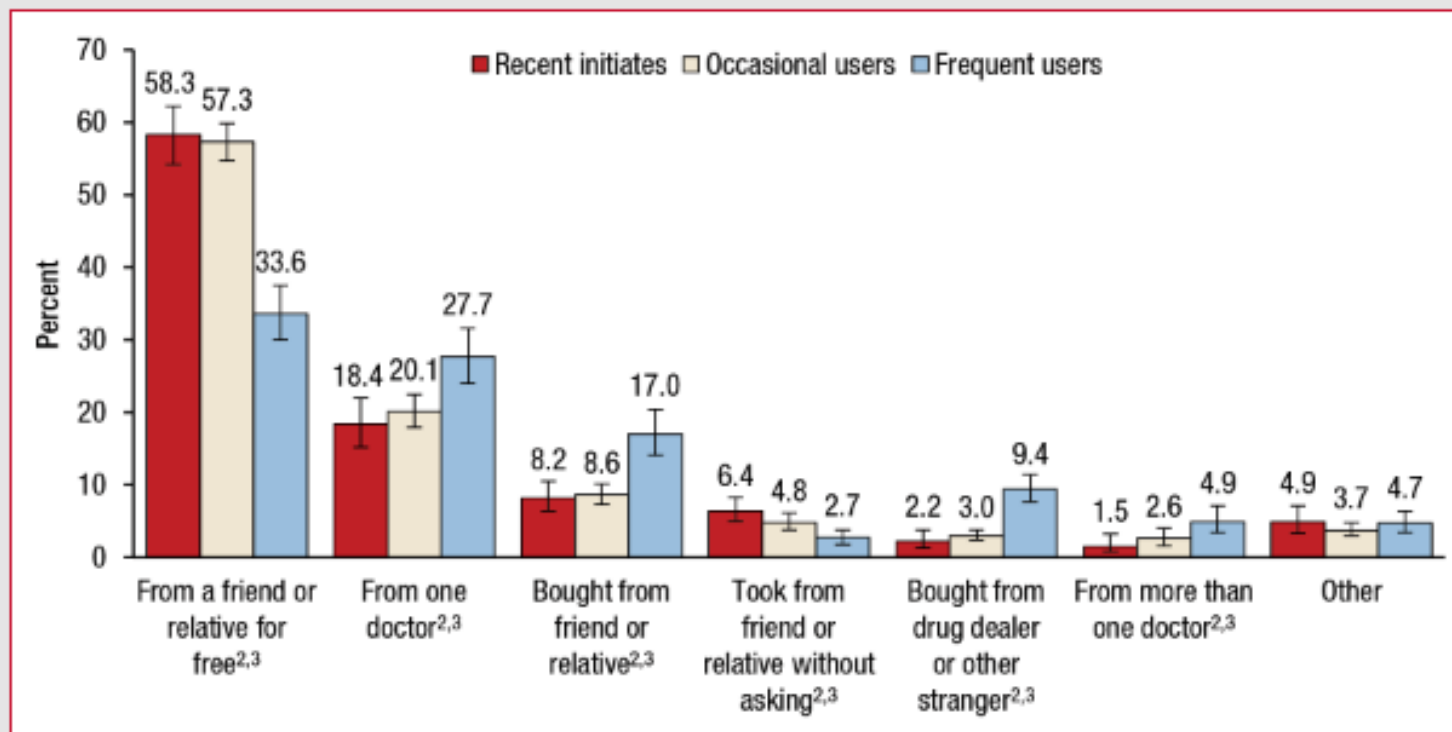
the family's privacy.

Drake's addiction makes life harder for his 8-year-old daughter, Ava. Her mother is out of the picture, too, with a long arrest record herself -- so eventually Carlene took legal custody of her granddaughter. "I knew she needed a stable environment, and that going into a foster care system (it) would be difficult to be able to see her parents, you know, as I've allowed her to see them."



As many children do when trying to cope with a parent's addiction, Ava tried to appeal directly to her dad for answers. "So, first I asked, 'why do you take the drugs?'" she said. "And he says 'well I take them when I'm mad about something.' And I'm like, 'what are you mad about?' And he just doesn't tell me."

Figure 4. Source of prescription pain relievers for the most recent nonmedical use among past year users aged 12 or older, by type of user: annual averages, 2013 and 2014



¹ Difference between recent initiates and occasional users is statistically significant at the .05 level.

² Difference between recent initiates and frequent users is statistically significant at the .05 level.

³ Difference between occasional users and frequent users is statistically significant at the .05 level.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2013 and 2014.

tion. Rates of carefully diagnosed addiction have averaged less than 8% in published studies, whereas rates of misuse, abuse, and addiction-related aberrant behaviors have ranged from 15 to 26%.¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰³ A small (estimated at 4%) but growing percentage of persons who are addicted to prescription opioids transition to heroin,¹ mainly because heroin is typically cheaper and in some instances easier to obtain than opioids.



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Opioids for long-term treatment of noncancer pain

Published:
20 January 2010

Authors:
Noble M, Treadwell JR, Tregear SJ,
Coates VH, Wiffen PJ, Akafofomo C,
Schoelles KM, Chou R

Primary Review Group:
Pain, Palliative and Supportive
Care Group

The findings of this systematic review suggest that proper management of a type of strong painkiller (opioids) in well-selected patients with no history of substance addiction or abuse can lead to long-term pain relief for some patients with a very small (though not zero) risk of developing addiction, abuse, or other serious side effects. However, the evidence supporting these conclusions is weak, and longer-term studies are needed to identify the patients who are most likely to benefit from treatment.

Authors' conclusions:

Many patients discontinue long-term opioid therapy (especially oral opioids) due to adverse events or insufficient pain relief; however, weak evidence suggests that patients who are able to continue opioids long-term experience clinically significant pain relief. Whether quality of life or functioning improves is inconclusive. Many minor adverse events (like nausea and headache) occurred, but serious adverse events, including iatrogenic opioid addiction, were rare.

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Changing the Narrative



CHANGING THE NARRATIVE:

A HEALTH IN JUSTICE ACTION LAB INITIATIVE
AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Glossary

Resources

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Changing The Narrative is a network of reporters, researchers, academics, and advocates concerned about the way media represents drug use and addiction. Our mission is to help journalists report accurate, humane and scientifically reliable stories about this complex and often misunderstood terrain. We offer expert sources—including people with lived experience of the issues—and up-to-date, fact-checked, and evidence-based information on news and controversies.

The Tired Narratives of Drug Policy

"Prescription Fentanyl is Driving Overdoses"

Distinguishing between Illicit and Pharmaceutical Fentanyl

"Hooked on Opioids"

The Difference Between Addiction and Dependence

"It's Trading One Addiction for Another"

Myths about Medication for Addiction Treatment

"Filling Parks & Playgrounds with Syringe Litter"

Misconceptions about Syringe Service Programs

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