

PRESCRIPTION OPIOID MISUSE AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND EMERGING ADULTS IN THE UNITED STATES: A SCOPING REVIEW

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Substance use and misuse typically begins in adolescence and emerging adulthood. As the U.S. opioid epidemic is a critical public health problem, prevention efforts to disrupt opioid misuse trajectories during this key developmental period are critically needed.

Given the rapidly changing nature of the opioid epidemic, we applied PRISMA Scoping Review guidelines to describe the current state of research focusing on prescription opioid misuse (POM) among adolescents and emerging adults in the U.S. Empirical articles published in the past 5 years (January 2013–September 2018) from nine databases examining POM among adolescents and emerging adults (ages 10–25) in the U.S. were identified.

ARTICLE SELECTION

EBSCO and Embase searches resulted in 8,312 publications total.

After removing duplicates, the titles and abstracts of 6,758 publications were reviewed.

Reviewed the full text of 456 remaining articles.

76 articles

identified as meeting inclusion criteria.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND INSIGHTS

1 in 20 adolescents (10-17 years) and **1 in 10 emerging adults** (18 – 25 years) report prescription opioid misuse (POM).

Evidence-based interventions are needed

Need for increased universal or primary prevention programming (for all youth in a setting regardless of risk) earlier in adolescence, with potentially more intensive, selective or secondary prevention interventions for those with greater risk factors.

Efforts for this age group should be tailored to individuals' contexts, severity, motives, and other risk factors.

Efforts should be informed by behavioral change theories, be community-focused, efficient, and scalable, and be tailored to developmental considerations.



Majority of studies focused on the epidemiology of POM among youth.



Lacking studies that explore opioid misuse trajectories and the efficacy of prevention programs.



There is an urgent need for future youth prevention research in these areas.



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