

New 2005 Global and Regional opioid consumption statistics

PPSG website users can now find global and regional consumption data for fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and pethidine from each Country Profile page on the PPSG international website. These can be accessed at <http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/countryprofiles.htm> or from the [PPSG homepage](#) under International Resources.

We hope you find this information useful in addressing patient access to essential opioid pain medications throughout the world. Please contact us if you have any questions about this new resource.

Policy Evaluation Resources for the Practitioner

An article, titled "Improving state pain policies: Recent progress and continuing opportunities," was published in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. This article presents recent results from the PPSG's national policy evaluation project, and describes how practitioners can use each state's findings to inform and guide state-level efforts to improve policies affecting appropriate pain management and patient care. Although the policy evaluation resources are specific to the U.S., the criteria used to evaluate policy also have international relevance because similar requirements or restrictions can be found in drug control and professional practice laws in other countries. The article is available at <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/reprint/57/6/341>.

Evaluating DEA's New Regulation Governing Prescription Series

As a follow-up to their commentary earlier this year, Aaron Gilson and David Joranson have issued another editorial piece examining the DEA's amendment to the Code of Federal Regulations regarding practitioners' issuing of a "prescription series" for Schedule II controlled substances. The authors evaluate the Final Rule, which will become effective on December 19, 2007, to determine whether the DEA has developed a balanced policy. For further information, please visit http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/DEA/Rx_Series_Adoption.pdf.

Happy holidays and all the best for 2008!