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2007 Global, Regional, and National opioid consumption statistics now available through PPSG's Country Profiles

The Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) is pleased to announce its annual release of new and updated global, regional, and national consumption data for fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and pethidine. Available through the Country Profiles section of the PPSG's international website, it includes new 2007 data and revised data for 2003 - 2006. A review of the 2007 INCB morphine data reported by governments reveals that 7 high-income countries (United States, France, Canada, Germany, Austria, United Kingdom, and Australia) accounted for nearly 84% of medical morphine consumed in the world, but comprise less than 10% of the world's population. These figures point to the large and continuing disparity in morphine consumption among countries, and provide further evidence of the inadequate global treatment of pain, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

However, there have been some notable increases in consumption in a few countries where International Pain Policy Fellows have been making progress to improve the availability of opioids, such as morphine. In Serbia, the milligram per capita consumption of morphine more than doubled from 2006 to 2007. Similarly, in Vietnam, morphine consumption has been continuously increasing since 2003. In 2007, the amount of morphine (mg/capita) consumed in Vietnam represents a three-fold increase since 2003.

We are grateful to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for their continued collaboration and for providing annual updates of this important data.

The Country Profiles can be accessed at

<http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/countryprofiles.htm> or from the PPSG homepage under International Resources.