

A Survey of Pain in America (2002)

On November 14, 2000, Partners Against Pain, the educational arm of Purdue Pharma, released the findings of a survey of 1,000 pain patients.

Key Findings

- ❖ At least one member of almost half of America's 44 million households (43 percent) suffers from chronic pain due to a specific illness or medical condition.
- ❖ Eighty percent of patients surveyed thought that their pain was a normal part of their medical condition and something with which they must live.
- ❖ For one third of sufferers, their chronic pain was so severe and debilitating, they felt they couldn't function as normal people and sometimes felt so bad they wanted to die.
- ❖ Some 40% said they were uncomfortable discussing their pain and 37% said they felt isolated and alone.
- ❖ One-third of sufferers did not believe people understood how much pain they were in, and one quarter said their families were tired of hearing about it.
- ❖ Fifty six percent of pain patients said that pain interfered with their sleeping, 51 percent said it interfered with their mood; 30% their ability to drive; and 28% their ability to have sexual relations.
- ❖ Those not completely happy with their doctors cited unsuccessful treatment (62%) as the main reason.
- ❖ Patients were so dissatisfied with the efficacy of their prescription and OTC pain control medications that 78% were willing to try new treatments, and 43% said they would spend all their money if they thought it would work.
- ❖ Two thirds said their OTC medications were not effective, and 52% of those taking prescription medications said they were not effective.