

## Examining Australian and United States user-reported opioid data on StreetRx, a crowdsourced, drug market surveillance website: 2015-20

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**Introduction and Aims:** Monitoring and surveillance of drug use markets can inform drug policy, market availability and demand, and potential harms. Alongside existing systems, a novel online platform, StreetRx, allows anonymous reporting of drug and medication purchases, including opioids. We examine user-reported opioid purchases on the StreetRx platform for Australia and the United States (US), including changes in reporting between 2015-2020.

**Design and Methods:** Australian and US user-submitted data for opioids on StreetRx, 2015-2020 were examined. The user-submitted information assessed included active ingredient(s), brand, medication strength, and purchase price.

**Results:** StreetRx received 2,473 Australian opioid entries between 2015-2020, representing 39.6% of all Australian platform submissions. Reported Australian opioids included oxycodone (45.2%) buprenorphine (29.0%), morphine (9.0%), codeine (4.6%), tramadol (4.4%), and tapentadol (2.0%). Comparatively, there were 133,833 US opioid entries, comprising 44.0% of US submissions. Reported opioids included oxycodone (35.2%) hydrocodone (31.9%), morphine (7.6%), hydromorphone (5.3%), buprenorphine (4.0%), and tramadol (3.7%).

Proportions of reported opioids in Australia decreased between 2015 and 2020 for buprenorphine (31.0% to 7.8%) and morphine (26.1% to 8.7%), while oxycodone (38.1% to 53.0%) and codeine (1.6% to 7.4%) increased. US reported proportions decreased between 2015-2020 for hydrocodone (33.3% to 18.0%) and oxycodone (43.3% to 28.2%), while morphine (5.4% to 14.3%) and buprenorphine (1.7% to 10.2%) increased. Fentanyl reports were comparatively low, with modest increases from 2015-2020 for Australia (0.3% to 2.4%) and US (0.5% to 3.6%).

**Discussions and Conclusions:** Our analysis found opioids comprise a large proportion of StreetRx reports in Australia and the US. However, the type of opioids and trends in reporting over time differed between the two countries.

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** StreetRx provides a novel approach to monitoring reported drug use and prices and could serve as an additional indicator, alongside other data of the impacts of opioid-related policies on illicit markets.

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