

with doctors, but not plans to stop taking them

Q: When your doctor first prescribed these medications, did your doctor talk to you about (ITEM) or not?

Among long-term opioid users A plan for getting off the medication

33%

Other ways to manage pain besides painkillers

62

The possibility of addiction or dependence 65

Keeping medications in a safe place so they're not misused by others

Possible side effects associated with painkillers

Avoiding alcohol or certain medications while taking painkillers Source: Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll Oct. 3-Nov. 9; error margin plus or

minus five percentage points among 622 current or recent long-term opioid users

70

## People living with opioid users are far more likely to perceive addiction and dependence than opioid users themselves Percentage who say they or their household member are/were

addicted to OR physically dependent on prescription opioids Among U.S. adults who are long-term opioid users or live with an opioid user

Opioid users **Household members** 34% 54% User addicted or dependent

65 45 User not addicted/dependent No opinion not shown. Note: Combination of two questions "Do you think you/they are/were physically

dependent on these painkillers, that is, you/they would find them very hard to

quit, or not?" (Including those who say it would be hard to quit because of pain) and "Do you think you/they are/were addicted to these painkillers or not?"

Source: Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll Oct. 3-Nov. 9; error margin plus or

minus five percentage points among 622 current or recent long-term opioid users, plus or minus nine percentage points among 187 people who live in a household with a long-term opioid user

## Percentage who say each is a major or minor reason they take

A significant minority use painkillers for fun or stress relief

prescription painkillers Among long-term opioid users Dependent Not dependent

**Overall** 

or addicted

or addicted

To relieve physical pain	98%	95%	100%
For fun or to get high	34	47	27
To deal with day to day stress	22	38	14
To relax or relieve tension	12	30	3

Source: Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll Oct. 3-Nov. 9; error margin plus or minus five percentage points among 622 current or recent long-term opioid users

## Opioid users place largest blame for epidemic on painkiller users and doctors

**O**: How much, if any, do you blame each of the following for the prescription painkiller addiction epidemic? Percentage saying "a lot" or "some" blame

Among long-term opioid users 61% People who use painkillers 54 Doctors who prescribe painkillers

47 Drug companies The government 40 27 Hospitals 17 Law enforcement 15 Pharmacies and pharmacists

Source: Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll Oct. 3-Nov. 9; error margin plus or minus five percentage points among 622 current or recent long-term opioid users Sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS of Media, Pa. Full results and methodology

are available at: wapo.st/pollarchive EMILY GUSKIN AND CRISTINA RIVERO/THE WASHINGTON POST