

THE STATE OF PAIN IN AMERICA

Acute pain is a familiar experience that impacts millions of Americans every year. Defined as pain that lasts for less than three months, about **80 million adults in the U.S.** are prescribed medicine to treat their acute pain each year.

To better understand the impact of acute pain, Vertex conducted a double-blinded, quantitative survey in June 2024 that collected data from a diversified sample of 1,001 adults (ages 18+) in the United States who were treated for acute pain in the 12 months prior and 547 health care providers who treated the condition in the month prior. To further recognize the complexities of treating acute pain, Vertex commissioned the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) to conduct a separate survey among its membership of orthopaedic surgeons who are on the frontlines of pain management. The sample included 49 U.S. surgeon members of AAOS who treated patients with moderate-to-severe acute pain over the course of two weeks in August–September 2024.

The data below are based on respondents of the surveys.

PATIENT IMPACT

DISRUPTIONS TO DAILY LIFE



NEARLY 9 IN 10 (89%)

of patients with acute pain surveyed said **pain** disrupts their daily life. They reported that pain:

70% Limited them from walking and exercising

69% Limited their sleep

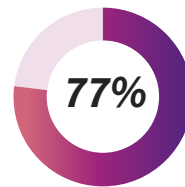
65% Affected hobbies or leisure activities

65% Made them feel irritable or emotionally drained

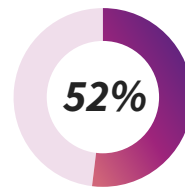
Patients surveyed reported missing an average of **~19 WORKING DAYS ANNUALLY**



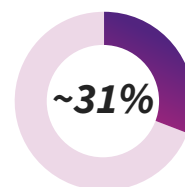
UNMET TREATMENT NEEDS



of patients surveyed said they are **interested in trying a different pain medication** if they experience acute pain again



of patients surveyed said they are **seeking a new pain medication with fewer side effects** than their last medication



of patients surveyed reported they stopped taking their medication **before their pain was resolved, among which more than half (~58%)** continued to experience pain

PATIENT CONCERNS

49%

of patients surveyed were concerned about the risk of developing an addiction to opioids, if prescribed

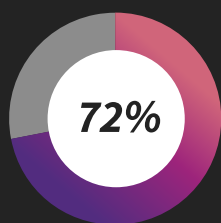
67%

of patients surveyed reported that they will request a nonopioid medication for acute pain if they experience it again



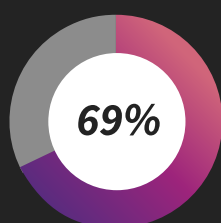
HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE

DISRUPTIONS TO DAILY LIFE



72%
of health care providers surveyed

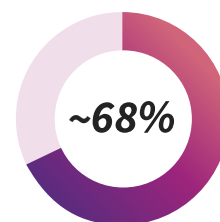
&



69%
of AAOS orthopaedic surgeons surveyed

reported that their patients frequently experience major disruption in their daily lives due to acute pain

LOWER QUALITY OF LIFE



~68%
of health care providers surveyed agree that poorly controlled acute pain often results in lower quality of life

PRESCRIBER CONCERNS

88% of health care providers surveyed reported that their patients prefer to manage pain without a prescribed opioid

78% of health care providers reported concern about the risk of opioid addiction among their patients with moderate-to-severe acute pain

74% of AAOS orthopaedic surgeons also showed concern



PRESCRIBER PRIORITIES

The top three characteristics that are most important in an acute pain medication according to health care providers surveyed are:

84% LOWER RISK OF ADDICTION

74% A NON-SCHEDULED MEDICATION AS EFFECTIVE AS AN OPIOID

71% FEWER SIDE EFFECTS



These findings revealed that patients, health care providers and AAOS orthopaedic surgeon respondents have complex considerations when it comes to acute pain.

Vertex is committed to continuing our work in pain and learning from organizations like the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. [Learn more at www.vrtx.com](http://www.vrtx.com).

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Survey Methodology

The national survey, conducted by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, collected responses in June 2024 from 1,001 U.S. adults ages 18+ who were treated for moderate-to-severe acute pain in the 12 months prior and 547 health care providers who treated moderate-to-severe acute pain in the month prior. The quantitative survey was conducted in a double-blinded manner to minimize bias and ensure objectivity. Participants were recruited from a panel who consented to participate in market research and were paid for their time. The survey ensured a diversified sample of participants across demographics and other characteristics. Initial findings were previously shared in October 2024.

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Survey Methodology

The AAOS conducted a separate, single-blinded survey using a subset of 12 questions from the Vertex Pharmaceuticals health care provider survey. The sample included 49 U.S. surgeon members of AAOS who treated patients with moderate-to-severe acute pain in the past month. Vertex commissioned the survey August 26, 2024–September 10, 2024, among AAOS members.



References

- Data on file. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. Boston, MA. REF-26477 (v1.0); 2024.
- Data on file. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. Boston, MA. REF-27351 (v1.0); 2024.
- Data on file. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. Boston, MA. REF-27381 (v1.0); 2024.

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