At a glance – the global burden of disease

Our patient-focused platform – people, culture, collaboration and evidence-based innovation – uniquely position us to help address patients’ unmet needs for the chronic conditions and co-occurring disorders of addiction.

A human crisis
Addiction is a chronic condition reaching epidemic proportions – and a global human crisis we are committed to helping address.


- An estimated 1 in 20 adults (5%) – more than 250 million people worldwide – used an illicit drug* in 2015.
- Opioids, including heroin, remain the most harmful drug type.
- Opioid use disorders account for the heaviest burden of disease attributable to drug use disorders: in 2015, approximately 70% of the global burden of disease attributable to drug use disorders were attributable to opioids.

*Defined as opioids, opiates, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines, psychoactive substances.

- In the United States alone, opioid use disorder is an epidemic and is accelerating.
  The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in December 2017 reported a 21% increase in the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths from 63,632 lives lost in 2016 vs. 52,404 lives lost in 2015. In fact, the rate of increase in deaths from synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, doubled from 2015 to 2016.

But the global addiction crisis is not restricted to drug use disorders and drug dependence.

The World Health Organization (WHO)’s Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health (2014) reports:

- In 2012, approximately 3.3 million deaths, or 5.9% of all global deaths, were attributable to alcohol consumption.
The same report concludes that the harmful use of alcohol ranks among the top five risk factors for disease, disability and death throughout the world.

Addiction differs in prevalence and severity
Addiction differs in substance use disorder, prevalence and severity in different parts of the world.

According to the US 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH):

- In 2016, approximately 20.1 million people had a substance use disorder (SUD) related to alcohol or illicit drug use in the past year.
- Of the 20.1 million people with a SUD, there were 15.1 million people with an alcohol use disorder
- An estimated 2.1 million people suffered from an opioid use disorder, which includes 1.8 million people with a prescription pain reliever use disorder and approximately 626,000 people with a heroin use disorder.
- In Canada, in 2012, as many as 200,000 people were estimated to be addicted to prescription painkillers.

In Europe, in 2015, there were potentially 1.3 million high-risk opioid users, the majority of whom were heroin users. Of these 1.3 million high-risk opioid users, five countries in the European Union (Germany, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom) accounted for the majority (76%) of high-risk use. And, as in the US, the emergence of highly potent synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, are causing much concern. The 2016 European Drug Report notes an overall increase in opioid-related overdose deaths.

In 2014, Australia ranked as the third highest country worldwide for prescription painkiller misuse per year. China has an estimated 7.3 million people dependent on opioids and 27.3 million people dependent on alcohol (2014).

Rising to the challenge – our global presence
Indivior has a global presence in over 40 countries. Our core products are SUBLOCADE™ (buprenorphine extended-release) injection for subcutaneous use (CIII), SUBOXONE® (buprenorphine and naloxone) Sublingual Tablet, and SUBUTEX® (buprenorphine) Sublingual Tablet.

In these countries, we work closely with medical professionals, advocating on patients’ behalf and educating the public about opioid use disorder.

Fewer than one in six persons with drug use disorder are provided treatment each year.

Our aim is to expand access to evidence-based treatments for patients.