



## Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team: Online mentions of Pregabalin

**Context:** This alert was prompted by a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) request for information on coinciding reports of pregabalin and nitrous oxide misuse in Europe.

**What was found?** A discussion trend for the drug pregabalin has grown steadily since 2019. In Summer 2021, a sharp increase in total mentions of the drug led to a higher sustained discussion baseline. Total mentions have increased to a new peak level in Summer 2022.

**To what does Pregabalin refer?** Pregabalin is a drug prescribed to treat seizures, anxiety, and neuropathic pain.

**How is it being discussed?** While pregabalin discussion in drug Subreddits focuses on recreational use, many commenters discuss receiving a prescription for the drug. Commenters discuss developing tolerance to and experiencing withdrawal symptoms from taking pregabalin.

**Drug Terms:** Pregabalin, Lyrica.