Among an at-risk sample of patients with chronic pain, those using opioids and those not using opioids had similar levels of suicidal ideation, but those misusing opioids were more likely to attempt suicide.

METHODS
- 1,090 people with chronic pain, who reported feeling hopeless about their pain, were surveyed online and asked about suicide risk and opioid use.
- Opioid use was measured using a cutoff 8 using a modified version of the Current Opioid Misuse Measure (COMM).
- Suicidality risk level was divided into three categories: low risk (i.e., feel hopeless but no reported suicidal ideation within the past year), moderate risk (i.e., reported suicidal ideation but no attempts within the past year), and high risk (i.e., reported suicide attempt(s) within the past year).
- We hypothesized that there would be a positive significant relationship between opioid misuse and suicide risk, which was tested with a chi-square analysis.

RESULTS
- There was a significant association between suicidality risk level and opioid misuse, \( \chi^2(2) = 62.39, p < .000 \).
- More than half of the sample reported taking opioids (53%), and 79% of those taking opioids screened positive for opioid misuse.

DISCUSSION
- The data suggests that patients who misuse opioids were more likely to have attempted suicide within the past year than patients who use opioids (but do not misuse) or those who do not currently take opioids.
- Findings suggest that the relationship between opioid misuse and suicidality risk level is not linear: people in all groups had comparable rates of ideation, but patients who misuse opioids are most likely to act on this ideation.
- Clinical implications include asking people with chronic pain about their history of suicidal thoughts and behaviors and current opioid use behavior.