



Fast Facts

What is the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives?

The Alliance of State Pain Initiatives (formerly American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives) is a national network of state-based Pain Initiatives dedicated to promoting pain relief. State Pain Initiatives (SPIs) exist in nearly every state of the country and are inter-disciplinary organizations comprised of health care professionals, researchers, educators, patient advocates and others who work to remove the barriers to effective pain control through professional and patient education, advocacy, and improvements to the health care system.

The national office of the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives is part of the Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The national office facilitates the sharing of resources among SPIs, develops innovative pain management improvement programs, organizes an annual national meeting, and serves as the collective voice for the SPIs on national issues.

How prevalent is pain in the United States?

- Over 50 million Americans suffer from persistent pain.
- 25 million experience acute pain as a result of injuries or surgery.
- For persons with cancer, one-third experience pain at the time of diagnosis and more than two-thirds with advanced disease experience significant pain.

Why isn't pain managed very well?

Many obstacles stand in the way of effective pain management including inadequate training of health professionals, exaggerated fears of side effects and addiction related to pain medication, lack of communication between patients and health care providers, the low priority of pain management in the health care system, and government laws and regulations that impede effective pain care.

Can pain be relieved?

Most pain can be effectively relieved or greatly eased with existing therapies.

Need more information?

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