Almost 16% of construction workers in the study population used either opioid or non-opioid analgesics during the study period.

On average, an estimated 10% of construction workers (n=1.2 million) used prescription opioid analgesics annually.

Workers suffering from work-related injuries were almost four times as likely to use prescription opioids than those without injuries. In comparison, those with non-work-related injuries were three times as likely to use prescription opioids as those without.

Workers with musculoskeletal disorders, poor physical health, or mental health disorders were twice as likely to use prescription opioids than those without the listed conditions.

Those with other pain (such as cancer or headaches/migraines) had a higher prevalence of opioid use than those without the conditions.

The findings suggest the workplace can play an important role in addressing opioid use. Multifaceted strategies could help reduce opioid use, including:

- Supporting workers with pain conditions or existing injuries, as well as those in need of health care or mental health care through finding alternative treatments and providing workplace services to promote recovery from injuries.
- Improving working conditions to reduce factors leading to opioid use, including injuries and stress.