Epi Data Tables

Opioid Analgesics in NYC: Prescriber Practices

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Data Sources

NSDUH: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) conducted annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA] includes a representative sample of NYC residents aged 12 years and older. Two-year averages are presented.

NYS PDMP: The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) managed by the New York State Department of Health collects data from drug dispensers on schedule II-V controlled substances. Data from 2008 to 2010 on schedule II and select schedule III opioid analgesics are presented here.

To access the related Epi Data Brief, go to nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief15.pdf

Table 1. Any self-reported, non-medical opioid analgesic use in the past year by age group, NYC and US, 2002-2009

Source: NSDUH; analysis by SAMHSA

NYC Data presented as two-year average of 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2006-2007, 2008-2009
National (US) data presented for the year 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009

	NYC 2002-2003		US 2003		NYC 2004-2005		US 2005		NYC 2006-2007		US 2007		NYC 2008-2009		US 2009	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Any Drug	920,000	15.1	34,993,000	14.7	868,000	14.1	35,041,000	14.4	975,000	16	35,692,000	14.4	1,034,000	16.4	37,954,000	15.1
Opioid Analgesics	181,000	3.0	11,671,000	4.9	145,000	2.3	11,815,000	4.9	263,000	4.3	12,466,000	5.0	263,000	4.2	12,405,000	4.9
Opioid Analgesics by Age Group																
12 to 17	25,000	4.1	----	3.2*	18,000	3.5	----	2.7*	28,000	5.0	----	2.7*	23,000	4.3	----	----
18 to 25	57,000	6.5	----	4.7*	44,000	5.6	----	4.7*	49,000	5.4	----	4.6*	85,000	9.0	----	----
26 to 35	45,000	3.7	----	----	57,000	5.5	----	----	54,000	5.1	----	----	85,000	6.9	----	----
35 years+	54,000	1.6	----	----	26,000	0.7	----	----	133,000	3.7	----	----	70,000	2.0	----	----

---- No data available

* Estimates are for past month use

Table 2. Opioid analgesic prescriptions by drug type, 2008-2010

Source: PDMP; analysis by DOHMH

Opioid Analgesic Type	Brand Names	2008*		2009*		2010*		2008-2010 total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
TOTAL		1,661,465	100	1,884,145	100	2,029,156	100	5,574,766	100
FENTANYL	Duragesic®, Fentanyl®	76,117	5	77,024	4	76,432	4	229,573	4
HYDROCODONE	Vicodin®, Lortab®	774,442	47	804,759	43	770,127	38	2,349,328	42
HYDROMORPHONE	Dilaudid®	36,939	2	39,929	2	45,382	2	122,250	2
MEPERIDINE	Demerol®	2,543	0	2,133	0	2,105	0	6,781	0
METHADONE	Dolophine®, Methadose®	34,901	2	37,382	2	37,974	2	110,257	2
MORPHINE	MS Contin®, Kadian®	72,884	4	84,885	5	93,288	5	251,057	5
OXYCODONE	Pecocet®, OxyContin®	663,639	40	838,033	44	1,003,848	49	2,505,520	45

* Year based on the date the prescription was filled

Table 3. Distribution of opioid analgesics prescriptions and pharmacies that dispensed opioid prescriptions to New York City residents by pharmacy location, 2010

Source: PDMP and Census 2010; analysis by DOHMH

	Prescriptions			Pharmacies	
Pharmacy location	N	%	Rate per 100,000 population	N	%
Bronx	300,650	14.8	21,706	357	9.4
Brooklyn	422,141	20.8	16,854	726	19.2
Manhattan	510,351	25.2	32,181	585	15.5[D]
Queens	433,101	21.4	19,415	594	15.7
Staten Island	216,935	10.7	46,281	86	2.3
New York State outside New York City	121,759	6.0	----	1,383	36.6
Connecticut	6	0.0	----	2	0.1
New Jersey	11,613	0.6	----	6	0.2
Other	11,897	0.6	----	42	1.1

Table 4. Distribution of prescribers and prescriptions by provider prescribing frequency classification, 2010

Source: PDMP; analysis by DOHMH

Prescribers were classified into four categories: "rare", "occasional", "frequent" and "very frequent". The classifications were based on the distribution of prescribing practices to reflect minimum number of prescriptions per year. "Rare prescribers" are the 49% of prescribers who wrote one to three opioid prescriptions per year. "Occasional prescribers" comprise 36% of all prescribers, writing four to 49 opioid prescriptions per year. The "frequent prescribers" (14% of prescribers) prescribed between 50 and 529 opioid analgesics per year, or about one to 10 per week. "Very frequent prescribers" are the top 1%, who wrote from 530 to 10,185 prescriptions per year (maximum of 195 per week).

Prescriber Classification	Number of Prescribers*	Percent of Perscribers	Number of Prescriptions	Percent of Prescriptions	Mean Number of Prescriptions per Prescriber	Median Number of Prescriptions per Prescriber	Maximum Number of Prescriptions /week	Minimum Number of Prescriptions /year	Maximum Number of Prescriptions /year
Rare	26,897	49%	39,703	2%	1	1	0.06	1	3
Occasional	19,671	36%	309,666	15%	16	11	0.94	4	49
Frequent	7,465	14%	1,043,343	51%	140	104	10.17	50	529
Very Frequent	549	1%	636,444	31%	1,159	835	195.87	530	10,185
TOTAL	54,582	100%	2,029,156	100%					

*Prescriber numbers are unique

Table 4a. Distribution of prescribers and patients by provider prescribing frequency classification, 2010

Source: PDMP; analysis by DOHMH

Prescribers were classified into four categories: "rare", "occasional", "frequent" and "very frequent". The classifications were based on the distribution of prescribing practices to reflect minimum number of prescriptions per year. "Rare prescribers" are the 49% of prescribers who wrote one to three opioid prescriptions per year. "Occasional prescribers" comprise 36% of all prescribers, writing four to 49 opioid prescriptions per year. The "frequent prescribers" (14% of prescribers) prescribed between 50 and 529 opioid analgesics per year, or about one to 10 per week. "Very frequent prescribers" are the top 1%, who wrote from 530 to 10,185 prescriptions per year (maximum of 195 per week).

Prescriber Classification	Number of Prescribers*	Number of Patients**	Percent of Patients	Mean Number of Patients per Prescriber	Mean number of Prescriptions per Patient
Rare	26,897	34,248	4%	1	1.2
Occasional	19,671	189,381	22%	10	1.6
Frequent	7,465	462,574	55%	62	2.3
Very Frequent	549	157,836	19%	287	4.0
TOTAL	54,582	844,039			

*Prescriber numbers are unique

**Total Number of unique patients is 722,621. Patients can be in more than one prescriber classification

Table 5. Oxycodone and Hydrocodone prescriptions by provider prescribing frequency classification, 2008-2010

Source: PDMP; analysis by DOHMH

Prescribers were classified into four categories: "rare", "occasional", "frequent" and "very frequent". The classifications were based on the distribution of prescribing practices to reflect minimum number of prescriptions per year. "Rare prescribers" are the 49% of prescribers who wrote one to three opioid prescriptions per year. "Occasional prescribers" comprise 36% of all prescribers, writing four to 49 opioid prescriptions per year. The "frequent prescribers" (14% of prescribers) prescribed between 50 and 529 opioid analgesics per year, or about one to 10 per week. "Very frequent prescribers" are the top 1%, who wrote from 530 to 10,185 prescriptions per year (maximum of 195 per week).

OXYCODONE Prescriber Classification	2008		2009		2010		Percent Change 2008-2009	Percent Change 2009-2010	Percent Change 2008-2010
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
Total Oxycodone	663,639	100	838,033	100	1,003,848	100	26	20	51
Rare	15,780	2	17,790	2	19,831	2	13	11	26
Occasional	116,601	18	135,027	16	153,583	15	16	14	32
Frequent	357,987	54	442,973	53	508,018	51	24	15	42
Very Frequent	173,271	26	242,243	29	322,416	32	40	33	86

HYDROCODONE Prescriber Classification	2008		2009		2010		Percent Change 2008-2009	Percent Change 2009-2010	Percent Change 2008-2010
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
Total Hydrocodone	774,442	100	804,759	100	770,127	100	4	-4	-1
Rare	19,773	3	18,483	2	17,427	2	-7	-6	-12
Occasional	145,038	19	137,333	17	129,547	17	-5	-6	-11
Frequent	463,302	60	469,578	58	428,996	56	1	-9	-7
Very Frequent	146,329	19	179,365	22	194,157	25	23	8	33