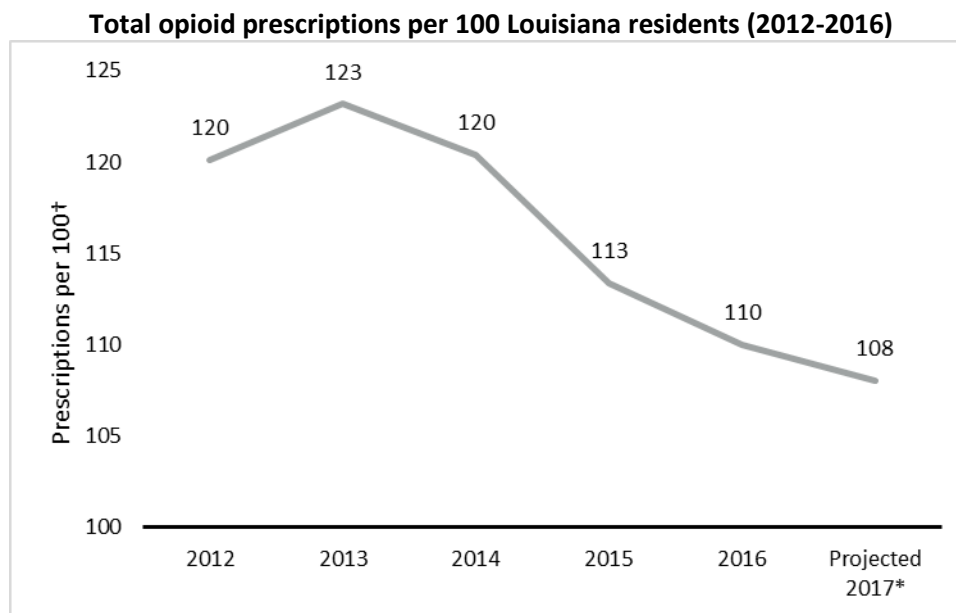


Opioid Prescribing in Louisiana

The **Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)** is the statewide electronic database housed under the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy (<http://www.pharmacy.la.gov/>) that tracks the number and type of controlled prescription medicines filled by pharmacists. Prescribers, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals use this system to ensure that opioids are appropriately prescribed and not misused. This fact sheet provides information on opioid prescriptions in totals, by demographics, and changes over time. The information is displayed in “rates,” which show the number of prescriptions in relation to the number of people in Louisiana. In this fact sheet, the number of prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents is used.

The PMP started tracking prescriptions in 2010. The opioid prescribing rates reached a high of 123 per 100 people in 2013, but prescribing did drop to **110 per 100 people in 2016**. The rates in the image below were calculating using raw count data from the PMP and the most recent population estimates data from the US Census Bureau.



Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, US Census Bureau

The following data come from the **Prescription Behavior Surveillance System**, which analyzes de-identified prescription data received from the PMP. Due to the different methodologies and datasets used by PBSS, the numbers differ from those calculated directly from PMP data, but the trends are accurately represented.

Opioid prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents, by sex (2010-2015)

Opioid prescriptions* per 100 people, by sex						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Men	95	95	97	92	98	102
Women	120	115	118	111	121	125

Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, Prescription Behavior Surveillance System

Population data in rates from U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States*

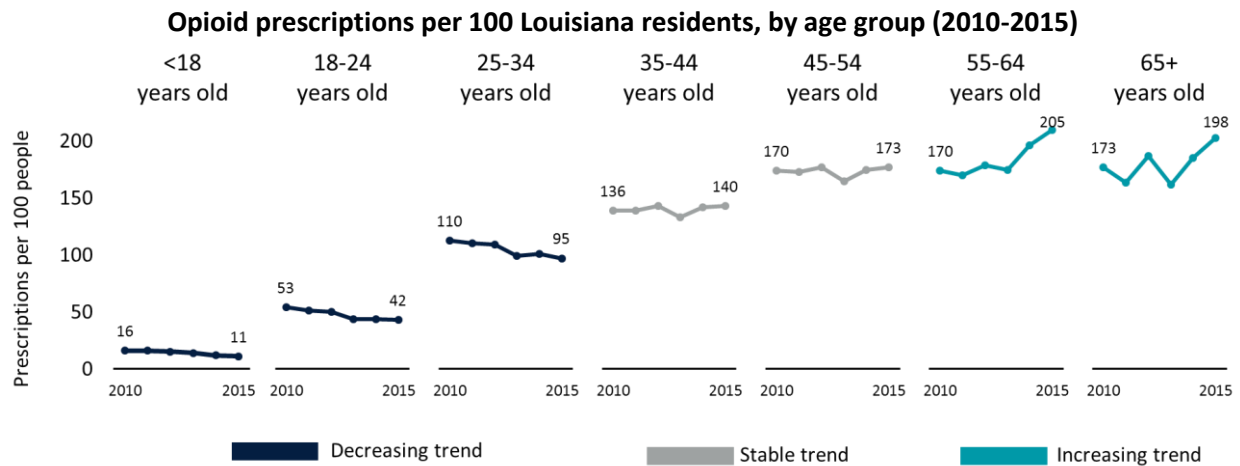
Rates are rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Limited to prescriptions to state residents in state’s PMP

†Note that the graph has been magnified to 100-125 to better display the trend

*2017 projections based on average daily number of prescriptions as of 10/15/17

The number of prescriptions per 100 people changes with the age of the person receiving the prescription. The image below shows those changes.



Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, Prescription Behavior Surveillance System

For children under the age of 18, the numbers of opioids prescribed are **low** compared to older age groups. **People older than 45 are prescribed more opioids** than other age groups. Over the past six years (2010-2015), prescribing rates have **gone down (decreasing trend) in people under the age of 34**. The prescribing rates have **stayed mostly the same (stable trend) for people ages 35-54**. The prescribing rates have **gone up (increasing trend) for people older than 54**.

Opioid prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents, by age group (2010-2015)

Opioid prescriptions per 100 people, by age						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<18	16	16	15	14	12	11
18-24	53	50	49	43	43	42
25-34	110	108	107	97	99	95
35-44	136	136	140	130	139	140
45-54	170	169	173	161	171	173
55-64	170	166	175	171	192	205
65+	173	160	183	158	181	198

Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, Prescription Behavior Surveillance System

There are many different kinds of opioids. Some of these are short-acting (SA) opioids, meaning the medicine is released from the pill into the body quickly and only stays for a short period of time. Others are long-acting (LA) opioids, meaning the medicine is released into the body slowly over many hours or stays in the body for a longer period of time (usually 12 or 24 hours). The rate of prescriptions for each major kind of opioid (per 100 Louisianans) is shown in the table below. **Short-acting hydrocodone is prescribed the most**, followed by short-acting oxycodone and tramadol.

Population data in rates from U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States*

Rates are rounded down to the nearest whole number.

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Opioid prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents, by major drug category (2010-2015)

Opioid Type*	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Buprenorphine	4.12	4.85	5.51	5.98	6.63	6.39
Butorphanol	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.13
Codeine	4.97	5.22	4.83	4.51	3.84	5.30
Dihydrocodeine	0.35	0.42	0.40	0.23	0.01	0.04
Fentanyl LA	1.80	1.78	1.85	1.77	1.80	1.80
Fentanyl SA	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.02
Hydrocodone LA ^{a,b}	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
Hydrocodone SA ^a	67.18	70.56	72.02	65.96	62.79	52.47
Hydromorphone	0.70	0.83	0.94	0.92	0.87	0.79
Meperidine	0.86	0.80	0.71	0.59	0.53	0.48
Methadone	1.47	1.32	1.20	1.09	0.96	0.86
Morphine LA	1.62	1.82	2.00	2.16	2.18	2.35
Morphine SA	0.75	0.83	1.02	1.04	1.05	1.05
Oxycodone LA	1.82	1.31	1.22	1.17	1.17	1.13
Oxycodone SA	13.06	14.43	15.06	15.60	16.44	18.38
Oxymorphone LA	0.32	0.44	0.42	0.43	0.49	0.51
Oxymorphone SA	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.10
Pentazocine	0.29	0.39	0.32	0.25	0.13	0.08
Tapentadol	0.17	0.34	0.33	0.25	0.20	0.20
Tramadol LA ^c	-	-	-	0.00	0.15	0.29
Tramadol SA ^c	-	-	-	0.00	10.74	21.49
Other Opioids	8.52	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, Prescription Behavior Surveillance System

^aHydrocodone combination products were rescheduled from DEA Schedule III to Schedule II effective October 6, 2014.

^bThe FDA approved Zohydro ER, a single-entity, long-acting hydrocodone (i.e., hydrocodone LA) on October 25, 2013

^cTramadol became a DEA Schedule IV controlled substance on August 18, 2014.

Population data from U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States*

Limited to prescriptions to state residents in state's PMP

*These are opioid types, not brand names