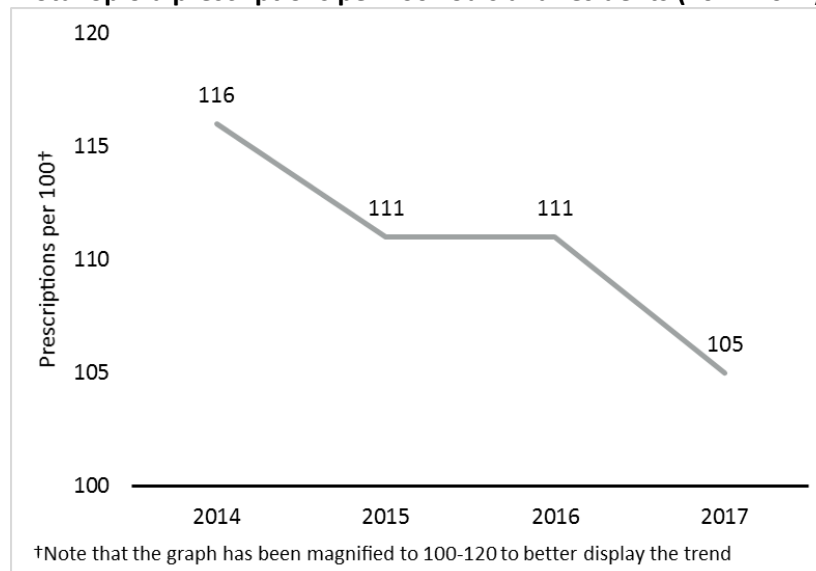


Opioid Prescribing in Louisiana

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. Prescribing has decreased since 2014, dropping to **105 opioid prescriptions per 100 people in 2017**. In this graph, opioids include opioid agonists or opioid cough suppressants (antitussive) as defined by the American Hospital Formulary System. 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.

Total opioid prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents (2014-2017)



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 (2011-2017)

Opioid prescriptions* per 100 people, by sex							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Men	99	104	108	105	101	99	92
Women	129	134	137	134	124	123	115

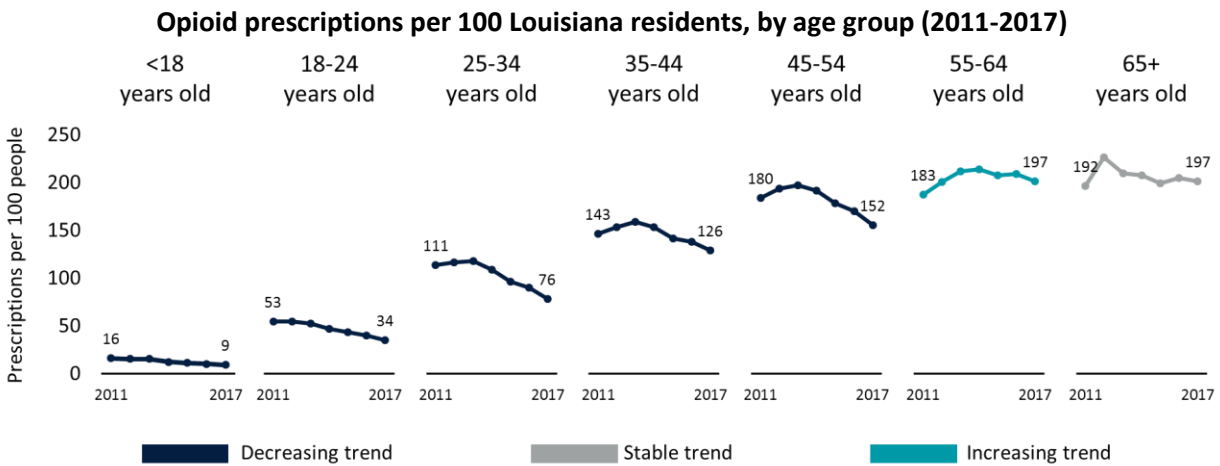
Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, Prescription Behavior Surveillance System

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

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. More opioids are prescribed for older age groups. **People older than 55 are prescribed more opioids** than other age groups. Over the past five years (2013-2017), prescribing rates have **gone down (decreasing trend) in people under the age of 54**. The prescribing rates have **stayed mostly the same (stable trend) for people ages 65+**. The prescribing rates have **gone up (increasing trend) for people between 55-64 years of age**.

Opioid prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents, by age group (2011-2017)

Opioid prescriptions per 100 people, by age							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<18	16	15	15	12	11	10	9
18-24	53	53	51	46	42	39	34
25-34	111	114	115	106	94	88	76
35-44	143	150	155	150	138	135	126
45-54	180	189	193	187	174	166	152
55-64	183	196	207	209	203	204	197
65+	192	221	205	203	195	200	197

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 tramadol and short-acting oxycodone.

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*

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Opioid prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents, by major drug category (2011-2017)

Opioid Type*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Buprenorphine	4.28	5.22	6.20	6.54	6.33	6.15	6.04
Butorphanol	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.13
Codeine	4.95	4.72	4.49	4.05	5.27	5.07	4.74
Dihydrocodeine	0.40	0.39	0.22	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.05
Fentanyl LA	1.69	1.81	1.82	1.79	1.80	1.76	1.56
Fentanyl SA	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Hydrocodone LA ^{a,b}	-	-	-	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Hydrocodone SA ^a	66.30	70.12	69.47	62.59	52.21	50.49	46.42
Hydromorphone	0.78	0.91	0.91	0.86	0.81	0.76	0.64
Meperidine	0.76	0.69	0.59	0.53	0.48	0.41	0.34
Methadone	1.20	1.11	1.08	0.95	0.86	0.78	0.70
Morphine LA	1.73	1.95	2.15	2.17	2.34	2.27	2.07
Morphine SA	0.79	1.00	1.03	1.05	1.06	1.08	1.09
Oxycodone LA	1.22	1.17	1.16	1.14	1.10	1.00	0.91
Oxycodone SA	13.22	14.48	15.46	16.37	18.31	19.16	18.64
Oxymorphone LA	0.42	0.41	0.42	0.48	0.51	0.51	0.39
Oxymorphone SA	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.08
Pentazocine	0.37	0.32	0.24	0.13	0.08	0.07	0.05
Tapentadol	0.33	0.32	0.25	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.20
Tramadol LA ^c	-	-	-	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.26
Tramadol SA ^c	-	-	-	21.08	21.46	21.28	20.19
Other Opioids	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04

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*

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*These are opioid types, not brand names