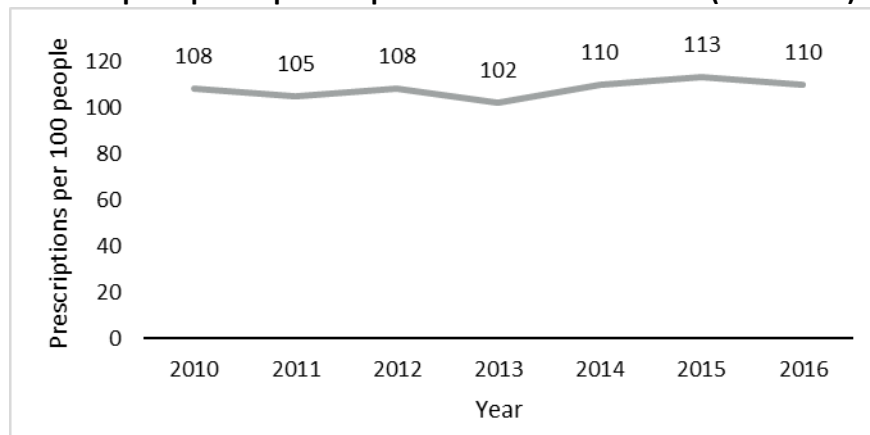


Opioid Prescribing in Louisiana

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. So far, 2013 had the fewest prescriptions per person (102 per 100 people). The opioid prescribing rates reached a **high of 113 per 100 people** in 2015, but prescribing did drop to **110 per 100 people** in 2016. These numbers are shown in the grey bars in the picture below.

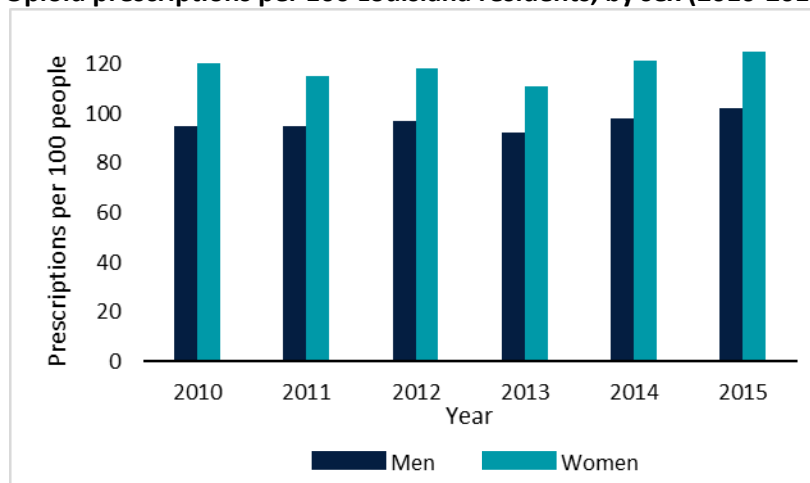
Total opioid prescriptions* per 100 Louisiana residents (2010-2016)



Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program

Opioids have been prescribed to **women** (teal bars on the right) at a higher rate than men (navy blue bars on the left) for the last six years.

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



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

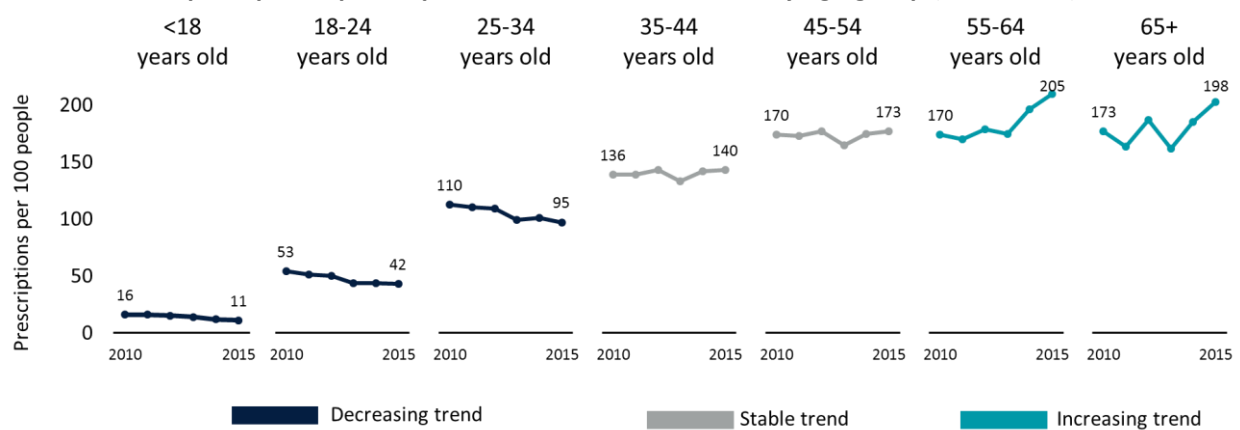
Opioid prescriptions* per 100 Louisiana residents, by sex (2010-2015)

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
Total	108	106	108	102	110	114

Source: Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program, Prescription Behavior Surveillance System

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

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



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
Total	108	105	108	102	110	113

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

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.

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

Opioid Type**	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Opioids	108.28	105.66	108.10	102.17	110.24	113.89
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