

U.S. Opioid Prescriptions: Still High Despite Recent Declines

Too many opioid prescriptions for too many days at too high a dose.



TOO MANY DAYS



Average prescription days supply

INCREASED
33%

from 2006 to 2015

TOO MANY PRESCRIPTIONS



In 2015, there were enough prescriptions for **every American to be medicated around the clock for three weeks.**

(640 MME per person, which equals 5 mg of hydrocodone every 4 hours)

NATIONWIDE INCONSISTENCIES

The total amount of opioids prescribed (per person for the year 2015) varied widely from county to county.

1,319 MME

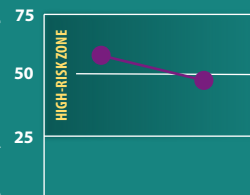
Average of highest 25% of US counties in 2015

203 MME

Average of lowest 25% of US counties in 2015

TOO HIGH A DOSE

Average Daily MME Per Prescription



2006 2015

A dose of **50 MME or more** per day doubles the risk of opioid overdose death, compared to 20 MME or less.

Average daily MME per person declined **nationwide**, but is still too high.