Patterns of Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions for New York City Residents

- The number of New York City (NYC) residents who filled an opioid analgesic prescription increased by 19% between 2008 and 2011, from 632,000 (75 per 1,000 residents) to 765,000 (89 per 1,000 residents).
- In 2011, Staten Island residents filled prescriptions at higher rates than residents of all other boroughs (131 per 1,000 residents compared with about 100 per 1,000 residents of the Bronx and Manhattan and close to 80 per 1,000 residents of Brooklyn and Queens).

Rate of opioid analgesic prescriptions filled by New York City residents, by borough, 2011

- More than two-thirds of NYC residents who filled an opioid analgesic prescription (68%) filled only one prescription; 18% filled two or three prescriptions; 13% filled four or more prescriptions in 2011.
- Female New Yorkers filled more than half (57%) of opioid analgesic prescriptions (95 per 1,000 females versus 82 per 1,000 males).
- New Yorkers aged 45 or older had a higher rate of prescriptions filled (139 per 1,000 residents) than younger residents aged 44 and younger (65 per 1,000 residents).
- In 2011, the most common payment method was commercial insurance (55%), followed by cash or credit (18%) and Medicaid (13%).
- More than three-quarters (77%) of New Yorkers filled prescriptions written by only one prescriber, while 19% filled prescriptions written by two to three prescribers, and 4% by four or more prescribers in 2011.
- Nearly all (95%) New Yorkers filled prescriptions at only one or two pharmacies.
- Approximately 90% of prescriptions were for short-acting opioid analgesics.
Prescription characteristics: median day supply and high dose prescriptions

- In 2011, the median day supply of short-acting opioid analgesic prescriptions was 15 days.
- Those aged 45 to 54 received the highest median day supply (22 days), while those aged 15 or younger had the lowest median day supply (5 days).
- Males had a longer median day supply (16 days) than females (15 days).
- In 2011, Staten Island residents had the highest median day supply (25 days), compared with 15 days among residents of the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens, and 10 days among Manhattan residents.
- Between 2008 and 2011, the median day supply of short-acting opioid analgesic prescriptions increased among residents of all boroughs; for residents of Staten Island from 19 to 25 days, Queens 10 to 15 days, for residents of the Bronx from 11 to 15 days, Brooklyn from 13 to 15 days, and Manhattan from 8 to 10 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough of Residence</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 residents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

High dose is any opioid analgesic prescription with a calculated morphine equivalent dose (MED) greater than 100. Among patients receiving opioid prescriptions, overdose rates increase with increasing doses of prescribed opioids.

Source: NYS Prescription Monitoring Program, 2008-2011

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