

IN THIS ISSUE: NEVADA PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ACT

Prescribing Controlled Substances under the New Nevada Law

The use of prescription drugs in the United States has increased over the past 30 years.¹ Further, there has been an increase in prescription drug-overdose deaths throughout the country, with opioids being the primary driving factor.²

Prescription Drugs and Opioids in Washoe County

These prescription drug-related trends are also seen in Washoe County.

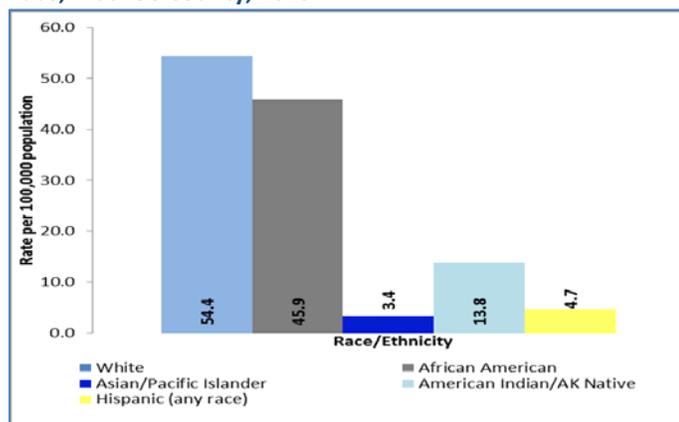
Table 1. Hospitalizations & Deaths Due to Opiates & Prescription Drugs, Washoe County, 2007-2015

Indicator	Trend	Most Recent Year
Hospitalizations Due to Opiates	Increasing	39.0 per 100,000 Population (2015)
Prescription Drug-Related Death-Rate	Increasing	16.3 per 100,000 Population (2015)

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services as cited in the 2018-2020 Washoe County Community Health Needs Assessment³

Between 2007 and 2015, hospitalizations due to opiates have increased, as have prescription drug-related deaths.

Chart 1. Hospitalization Rate Due to Opioid Poisoning by Race, Washoe County, 2015



Nevada Department of Health and Human Services as cited in the 2018-2020 Washoe County Community Health Needs Assessment³

The rate of hospitalizations due to opioid poisoning in Washoe County when comparing race is highest among non-Hispanic whites, followed by non-Hispanic African Americans.

Table 2. Hospitalizations Due to Opioid Poisoning by Sex, Washoe County, 2007-2015

Indicator	Trend	Most Recent Year
Hospitalizations Due to Opioid Poisoning, Male	Increasing	44.3 per 100,000 Population (2015)
Hospitalizations Due to Opioid Poisoning, Female	Increasing	33.8 per 100,000 Population (2015)

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services as cited in the 2018-2020 Washoe County Community Health Needs Assessment³

The rate of hospitalizations due to opioid poisoning in Washoe County remains higher among males than females.

Table 3. Percent of High School Students who ever Took Prescription Drugs without a Doctor's Prescription*

Location	2013	2015
Washoe County	22%	18.3%
Nevada	18.4%	17.0%
United States	17.8%	16.8%

*OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, Codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax, one or more times during their life

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services as cited in the 2018-2020 Washoe County Community Health Needs Assessment³

The rate of high school students who have ever taken a prescription drug not prescribed to them remains higher in Washoe County when compared to Nevada and the United States.

Nevada Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Act

In response to the prevalence of opioid misuse in Nevada, Governor Sandoval proposed Assembly Bill 474 (AB474), the Nevada Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Act during the 2017 Nevada Legislative Session. AB474 unanimously passed the Legislature.

The new regulations went into effect on January 1, 2018, impacting all prescriptions for controlled substances while preserving clinical decision-making of

healthcare providers. The Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA) has identified the following elements that healthcare providers, including medical residents, need to be aware of:⁴

- All licensed prescribers are required to complete two units of Continuing Medical Education per licensing cycle related to prescribing opioids, misuse and abuse of controlled substances, and addiction.
- Registry and use of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is mandated. This applies to every initial prescription of a controlled substance, and every 90 days during the course of treatment. Further, all licensed prescribers must self-query the PMP every six months to ensure the controlled substances prescribed are valid prescriptions. For more information on the PMP, including how to request reports and to register visit: <http://bop.nv.gov/links/PMP/>.
- All prescriptions for controlled substances must include the following components:
 - Patient's Date of Birth
 - International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) diagnosis code for the disease being treated with the controlled substance
 - The fewest number of days necessary to consume the quantity of the prescribed medication dispensed to the patient if the patient consumes the maximum dose authorized by the prescriber
 - Practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number
- AB474 also provided new Prescribing Guidelines for Controlled Substances. This includes initial prescription provisions, such as, conducting a patient risk assessment and obtaining informed consent. Guidelines are also provided for prescribing after 30 days, 90 days, and 365 days.

More information on regulations mandating overdose reporting is expected to come later in 2018. It is important to note that new overdose reporting will be managed by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (NDPBH), **not** by local public health agencies. **Should you have any questions regarding this new reporting, please contact NDPBH at 775-684-5911.**

Resources

Community organizations have made available a variety of resources to help healthcare providers adhere to the new regulations. The NSMA has developed the AB474 Toolkit as a resource for prescribing controlled substances under the new Nevada law. The toolkit includes risk assessment tools, prescription medication agreement, sample letter to electronic medical/health records vendors, and sample letter to patients. The toolkit can be accessed at: <https://nvdoctors.org/practice-resources/prescribing-opioids/>.

NDPBH also provides resources, such as a full list of prescribing guidelines for controlled substances, a compliance checklist, and prescriber posters, at: http://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/opioids/Prescription_Drug_Abuse_Prevention/. Their staff members are also available to answer further questions pertaining to AB474 via email at AB474FAQs@health.nv.gov

Finally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, and a training series for providers to earn free continuing education credits on the topic: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/providers/index.html>.

References

1. National Center for Health Statistics. (2014). Health, United States, 2013: With Special Feature on Prescription Drugs. Hyattsville, MD.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Accessed <http://wonder.cdc.gov>
3. Washoe County Health District, Renown Health and Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities. 2018-2020 Washoe County Community Needs Assessment. Retrieved December 2017 from: https://www.washoecounty.us/health/files/data-publications-reports/2018-2020%20CHNA_FINAL.pdf
4. Nevada State Medical Association. AB474 Toolkit. Retrieved December 2017 from: <https://nvdoctors.org/practice-resources/prescribing-opioids/>

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Disclosure

This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Please do not act upon the information without first seeking professional counsel on your specific issue.