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 by 33% from 2006 to 2015.

**Too High a Dose**
- 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.

**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