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OPIOIDS IN NEVADA

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PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet presents data from the *Washington Post's* Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) database on opioid shipments in the United States and provides information pertaining to Nevada and each of its 17 regions (16 counties and one independent city).¹ This Fact Sheet compares the *Washington Post's* opioid shipment data with opioid prescription rates relative to Nevada's population in 2010.

DATA SELECTION:

The *Washington Post* database provides details on the shipment of 76 billion opioid (oxycodone and hydrocodone) pills "which account for three-quarters of the total opioid pill shipments to pharmacies" in the United States. The data includes information on the distribution of opioids at state and county levels for a seven year period (2006 - 2012), a time period which resulted in almost 100,000 opioid-related overdose deaths across the country (Washington Post).

To supplement distribution data from the *Washington Post*, prescription rate data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *U.S. Opioid Prescribing Rate Maps* are included.² The prescription database rates are clustered and divided into four groups over a "12-year range of data to determine class breaks." The rates are described in terms of *prescriptions per 100 persons* (crude rate), and data from 2006 - 2012 is presented on a county-by-county basis.

Total prescription rates for the State of Nevada from 2006 - 2016 are included in this Fact Sheet. CDC data does not specify the type of opioids prescribed, nor does the data specify if prescriptions are limited to oxycodone and hydrocodone pills.

Data from the 2010 United States Census Bureau is paired with the *Washington Post's* shipment data and the CDC's prescription rate data to provide additional context.³ Although more recent Census data is available (2018), 2010 data is used because it falls within the collection timeframe for the CDC rates reviewed and the *Washington Post* data.

One cannot assume that all opioids shipped and prescribed in a certain region, county, or state are prescribed and/or purchased by residents who only live within that respective area.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE REPORT:

1. From 2006 - 2012, Nevada pharmacies received over 1 billion opioids; that equates to an average of 143,172,479 pills each year or 392,253 every day.
2. Walgreens distributed the most opioids in Nevada; Actavis Pharma, Inc. manufactured the most pills shipped; now-defunct DBA Lam's Pharmacy, Cofii Corporation in Las Vegas received the most pills.
3. From 2006 - 2012, Nevada consistently ranked above the national average for opioid prescription rates; the average prescription rate per 100 persons in Nevada between 2006 - 2012 totaled about 95 prescriptions; the highest national average at any one time, in 2012, was 81.3 prescriptions per 100 persons.
4. The Nevada prescription rate per 100 persons peaked in 2011, at 100.3 prescriptions per 100 persons.
5. Some counties with smaller populations, such as Carson City, Nye County, and White Pine County, have disproportionately high opioid shipments and prescription rates; Clark County also has disproportionately high opioid shipments in relation to its population.

¹ The Washington Post's DEA database on pain pills can be accessed using this link: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/dea-pain-pill-database/>

² The CDC's database on pain pills can be accessed using this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxrate-maps.html>

³ The U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts page can be accessed using this link: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218>

6. There is a large discrepancy between calculated opioid pills per prescription, ranging from a high of 75.95 pills per one prescription in Nye County to a low of 43.85 pills per one prescription in Elko County.
7. Although Lander County and Pershing County had large quantities of opioids delivered between 2006 - 2012, there is inadequate or no prescription rate data during this period of time.

OPIOID SHIPMENTS IN NEVADA:

Between 2006 - 2012, Nevada received enough prescription opioids to supply each resident in the state with an average of 53 pills per year. Some counties in the state received less opioids than the state average per person, while others received significantly more. Table 1 shows the population of Nevada and the amount of opioids shipped to each county, while Figure 1 represents the percentage of opioids shipped to each county. Figure 2 is included to compare the percentage of opioids shipped per county (in Figure 1) to the percent population distribute of each county in the state.

TABLE 1: 2010 NEVADA POPULATION AND 2006 - 2012 OPIOID SHIPMENTS

County	2010 Census Population	Total Pills Delivered 2006-2012	Average Pills Delivered <u>Yearly</u>	Average Pills Delivered <u>Daily</u>	Average Pills Delivered <u>Per Person Yearly</u>
Nye	43,946	29,557,843	4,222,549	11,569	96
White Pine	10,030	5,339,260	762,751	2,090	76
Mineral	4,772	2,175,110	310,730	851	65
Carson City	55,274	25,105,185	3,586,455	9,826	65
Clark	1,951,269	745,110,939	106,444,420	291,629	55
Churchill	24,877	9,412,960	1,344,709	3,684	54
Douglas	46,997	16,892,990	2,413,284	6,612	51
Washoe	421,407	133,415,800	19,059,400	52,218	45
Lincoln	5,345	1,602,590	228,941	627	43
Lyon	51,980	15,349,658	2,192,808	6,008	42
Humboldt	16,528	4,461,140	637,306	1,746	39
Lander	5,775	1,548,710	221,244	606	38
Elko	48,818	12,086,020	1,726,574	4,730	35
Pershing	6,753	148,850	21,264	58	3
Esmeralda	783	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eureka	1,987	300	43	0.12	N/A
Storey	4,010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	2,700,551	1,002,207,355			
Average			143,172,479	392,253	53

Table 1 illustrates that Carson City, Churchill County, Clark County, Mineral County, Nye County, and White Pine County received shipments of opioids that exceeded the state average of 53 pills per person. Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Pershing, and Washoe Counties received less shipments than the state average. Inadequate or no data is available for Esmeralda County, Eureka County, and Storey County.

Nye County (96) has the highest shipment of prescription opioids per person in the State, followed by Carson City (64) and Mineral County (64). For counties that have complete data sets, Elko County (36), Humboldt County (39), and Lander County (40) received the least amount of opioids shipped per person.

Figures 1 and 2 show that Clark County received the greatest amount of shipments as a percentage of total shipments to the state (74.3%), although the County only accounted for 72.3% of Nevada’s population in 2010. Nye County, which accounted for only 1.6% of the state’s population in 2010, received close to 3% of the state’s total opioid shipments between 2006 - 2012. Carson City, which accounted for 2% of the state’s population in 2010, received 2.5% of opioids delivered to Nevada. Pershing County and White Pine County also received more of the state’s share of opioids than matched their populations relative to the 2010 state population.

Other counties, such as Washoe (13.3% to 15.6%), Lyon (1.5% to 1.9%), Humboldt (0.4% to 0.6%), and Elko (1.2% to 1.8%) received less opioids than relative to their share of the state’s population.

Douglas County, along with Lincoln County, Mineral County, and Lander County, received opioid shipments in close proportion to their share of the state’s population.

FIGURE 1: 2006-2012 TOTAL OPIOIDS DELIVERED TO NEVADA, BY COUNTY

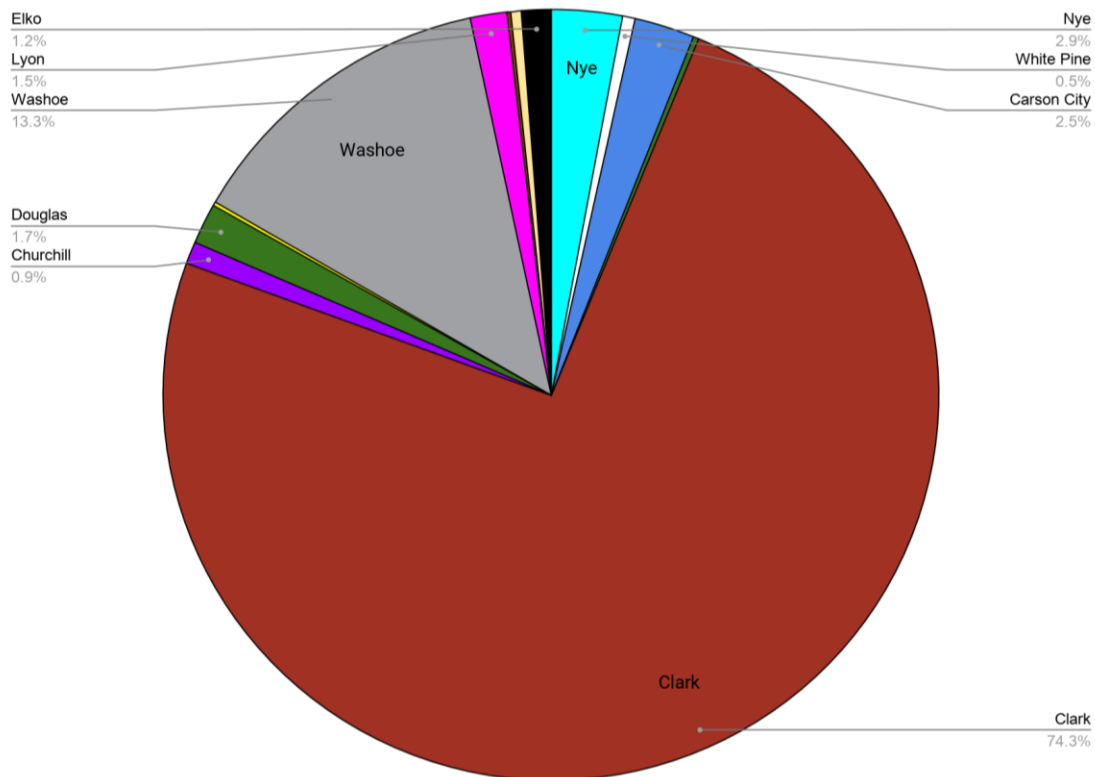
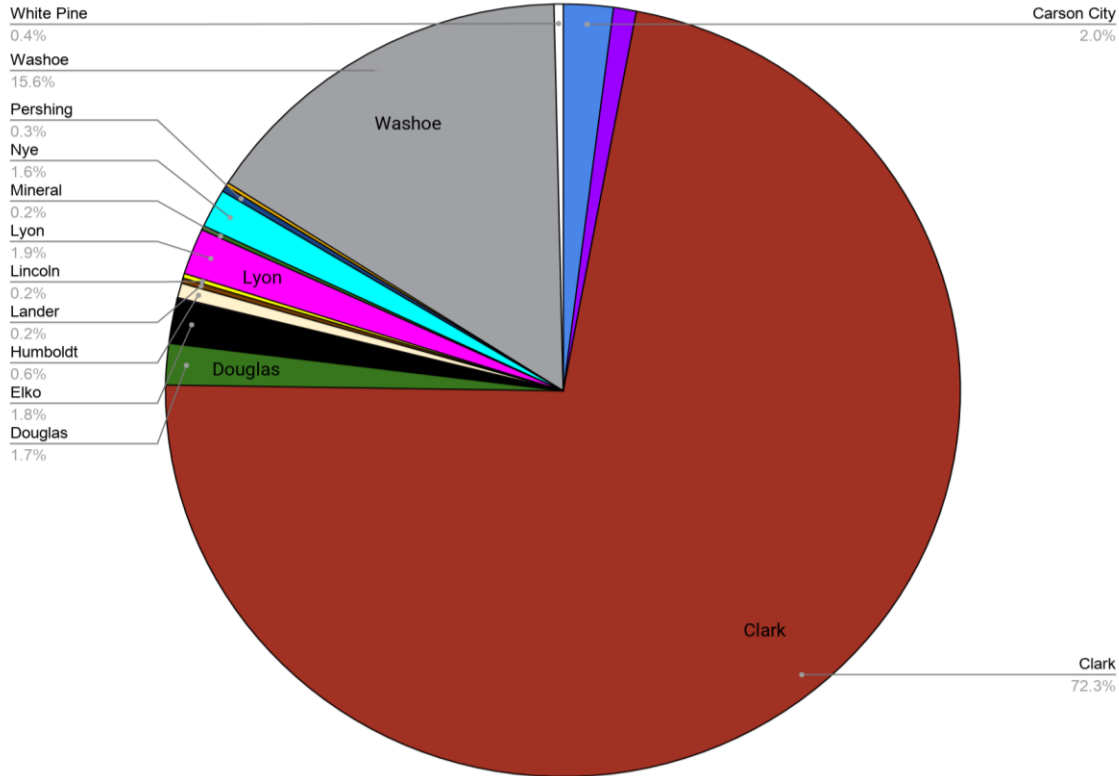


FIGURE 2: 2010 NEVADA POPULATION, BY COUNTY



DISTRIBUTORS, MANUFACTURERS, AND PHARMACIES:

Table 2 shows the top opioid distributors, manufacturers, and pharmacies for each county from 2006 - 2012. Statewide, the top distributors, manufacturers, and pharmacies were in Clark County, Nevada.

Walgreen Co. distributed the most opioids in Nevada. Walgreens was the number one opioid distributor in Clark County and Nye County; the number two opioid distributor in Carson City; and the number three opioid distributor in Washoe County and Churchill County.

Actavis Pharma, Inc. manufactured the most pills shipped in Nevada. Actavis was the number one manufacturer for Clark County, Nye County, Lincoln County, and Humboldt County; the number two manufacturer for White Pine County, Carson City, Churchill County, Douglas County, Washoe County, Lyon County, and Elko County; and the number three manufacturer for Mineral County.

The now-defunct DBA Lam’s Pharmacy, Cofii Corporation in Las Vegas (Clark County) received the most pills. The top three pharmacies in the State were all located within Clark County.

Inadequate or no data is available for Esmeralda County and Storey County. The data listed for Eureka County describes three purchase orders between 2006 and 2008.

TABLE 2: TOP OPIOID DISTRIBUTORS, MANUFACTURES, AND PHARMACIES IN NEVADA, BY COUNTY

County	Top Distributors (1 - 3)	Top Manufactures (1 - 3)	Top Pharmacies (1 - 3)
Nye	Walgreen Co.	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Walgreen Co., Pahrump
	Walmart	SpecGx LCC	Smith's Food & Drug, Pahrump
	Smith's Food & Drugs	Par Pharmaceutical	Nevada CVS Pharmacy, Pahrump
White Pine	Cardinal Health	SpecGx LLC	Economy Drug, Inc., Ely
	McKesson Corporation	Actavis Pharma	Baily Stores, LLC., Ely
	AmerisourceBergen Drug	Par Pharmaceutical	Ridley's Clinic Pharmacy, Ely
Carson City	AmerisourceBergen Drug	SpecGX LLC	Walgreen Co., Carson City
	Walgreen Co.	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Walmart Pharmacy, Carson City
	Cardinal Health	Par Pharmaceutical	Smith Management Carson City
Mineral	McKesson Corporation	SpecGx LCC	Safeway, Inc., Hawthorne
	Cardinal Health	Par Pharmaceutical	
	Anda, Inc.	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	
Clark	Walgreen Co.	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	DBA Lam's Pharmacy, Las Vegas
	Cardinal Health	SpecGX LLC	BER Corporation, Las Vegas
	McKesson Corporation	Par Pharmaceutical	Walgreen Co., Las Vegas
Churchill	AmerisourceBergen Drug	SpecGX LLC	Walmart Pharmacy, Fallon
	Walmart	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Walgreen Co., Fallon
	Walgreen Co.	Par Pharmaceutical	Longs Drug Stores CA, Fallon
Douglas	McKesson Corporation	SpecGX LLC	Scolari's Pharmacy, Gardnerville
	AmerisourceBergen Drug	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Thrifty Payless, Gardnerville
	Walmart	Par Pharmaceutical	Walmart Pharmacy, Gardnerville
Lincoln	McKesson Corporation	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Meadow Valley Pharmacy, Caliente
	AmerisourceBergen Drug	SpecGx LCC	
	Anda, Inc.	Par Pharmaceutical	
Washoe	AmerisourceBergen Drug	SpecGx LLC	Walgreen Co., Reno
	Walgreen Co.	Actavis Pharma	Nevada CVS Pharmacy, LLC Sparks
	Walmart	Par Pharmaceutical	Walmart Pharmacy, Reno

County	Top Distributors (1 - 3)	Top Manufactures (1 - 3)	Top Pharmacies (1 - 3)
Lyon	Cardinal Health	SpecGx LCC	Smith's Food & Drug, Dayton
	AmerisourceBergen Drug	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Bob Tucker United Drug, Fernley
	Smith's Food & Drugs	Par Pharmaceutical	Scolari's Food & Drug, Fernley
Lander	McKesson Corporation	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Mill's Pharmacy, Battle Mountain
	Cardinal Health	SpecGx LCC	
	Anda, Inc.	Par Pharmaceutical	
Humboldt	Walmart	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Olsen's Corner Drug Store, Winnemucca
	AmerisourceBergen Drug	SpecGx LCC	Walmart Pharmacy, Winnemucca
	McKesson Corporation	Par Pharmaceutical	Raley's Pharmacy
Elko	Cardinal Health	SpecGX LLC	Walmart Pharmacy, Elko
	Walmart	Actavis Pharma, Inc.	Smith's Food & Drug, Elko
	Smith's Food & Drugs	Par Pharmaceutical	The Pill Box, Spring Creek
Pershing	Cardinal Health	Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC	Lovelock Pharmacy, Lovelock
	Associated Pharmacies, Inc.	SpecGx LCC	
	-	Par Pharmaceutical	
Eureka	Henry Schein Inc.	Par Pharmaceutical	Whitaker, John William, Eureka
Nevada, Overall	Walgreen Co.	Actavis Pharma	DBA Lam's Pharmacy, Las Vegas
	Cardinal Health	SpecGx LLC	BER Corporation, Las Vegas
	McKesson Corporation	Par Pharmaceutical	Walgreen Co., Las Vegas

PRESCRIPTION RATES:

Table 3 shows the rate of prescriptions per 100 persons between 2006 - 2012. Nevada’s annual average amount of opioid prescriptions per 100 persons during this time period was 95.06. During this same period of time, the national average was 78.48 prescriptions per 100 persons. Nevada was 21.12% over the national average for opioid prescriptions between 2006 - 2012.

The highest national average of opioid prescriptions at any one time during this time period was 81.3 prescriptions per 100 persons. This occurred in 2012, which is one year after Nevada peaked in opioid prescriptions written. 2006 was the closest year that Nevada’s opioid prescription rate was around this national high mark (87.70 prescriptions per 100 persons), yet in 2006, Nevada’s rate was 21% over that year’s national average.

Between 2006 - 2012, Carson City residents had the most prescriptions written per person, with an average of 142.75 over the seven-year time frame. Carson City prescriptions peaked at 153.72 per 100 persons in 2006, then fell to a low of 96.20 in 2008, before almost surpassing 2006 levels in 2011.

2011 was the peak year of state-wide opioid prescriptions per 100 persons. 100.30 prescriptions were written per 100 persons (more than 1 prescription per person), and Mineral County (population 4,772 in 2010) led Nevada in the most prescriptions per 100 persons (156.40) at any one point.

No data is available for Esmeralda County, Storey County, and Lander County. The data listed for Eureka County describes three purchase orders between 2006 and 2008. 2012 is the first year Pershing County data is available.

TABLE 3: 2006-2012 NEVADA PRESCRIPTION RATES PER 100 PERSONS, BY COUNTY

County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Annual State Average (2006 - 2012)
Carson City	153.72	148.80	96.20	149.90	151.70	153.00	145.90	142.75
White Pine	129.95	121.40	132.90	143.80	140.10	149.10	175.60	141.84
Mineral	89.71	96.30	123.90	145.10	150.40	156.40	150.60	130.34
Nye	106.98	114.50	119.90	120.10	142.30	143.50	138.20	126.50
Churchill	110.55	110.50	114.20	119.30	122.10	118.70	126.30	117.38
Douglas	90.41	96.60	110.70	114.90	116.00	113.60	113.80	108.00
Washoe	91.19	92.90	96.20	95.90	102.30	103.30	110.40	98.88
Clark	85.73	88.40	95.90	91.70	94.10	97.90	94.20	92.56
Lincoln	86.80	90.60	90.20	68.20	88.50	101.20	96.20	88.81
Lyon	69.06	75.80	82.20	91.70	94.40	97.50	102.60	87.61
Humboldt	77.80	75.10	85.50	75.30	80.70	80.60	96.30	81.61
Elko	70.62	76.20	81.70	79.70	82.20	84.50	89.60	80.65
Pershing	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	28.60	4.09
Nevada Average	87.70	90.20	97.00	94.00	97.30	100.30	98.90	95.06

OTHER FINDINGS:

Table 4 combines 2010 Census population data with county prescription rates and average annual opioid shipments. These averages are used to calculate the average annual opioids per prescription in each Nevada County.

For counties with complete prescription data sets, Nye County had the highest average number of opioids per prescription (75.95), 28.85% higher than the next county (Clark). Between 2006 - 2012, Elko County had the lowest average amount of opioids per one prescription in Nevada (43.85). The variance in the average amount of opioids per prescription between Nye County and Elko County is 73.20% during this seven-year period.

The lack of opioid prescription data rates for Lander County and Pershing County, despite high volumes of opioids shipments between 2006 - 2012 (see Table 1), is discussed in the next section.

**TABLE 4: POPULATION, SHIPMENT AND PRESCRIPTION RATE DATA
EXTRAPOLATION FOR NEVADA OPIOIDS**

County	2010 Census Population	2006-2012 County Prescription Rates Per <u>100</u> Persons	2006-2012 County Prescription Rates Per <u>1</u> Person	Average Prescriptions Written Per Year	Average Pills Delivered <u>Yearly</u>	Average Opioids Per Prescription Per Year
Pershing	6,753	4.09	0.04	276	21,264	76.98**
Nye	43,946	126.50	1.27	55,592	4,222,549	75.95
Clark	1,951,269	92.56	0.93	1,806,095	106,444,420	58.94
White Pine	10,030	141.84	1.42	14,227	762,751	53.61
Mineral	4,772	130.34	1.30	6,220	310,730	49.96
Lincoln	5,345	88.81	0.89	4,747	228,941	48.23
Lyon	51,980	87.61	0.88	45,540	2,192,808	48.15
Douglas	46,997	108.00	1.08	50,757	2,413,284	47.55
Humboldt	16,528	81.61	0.82	13,489	637,306	47.25
Churchill	24,877	117.38	1.17	29,201	1,344,709	46.05
Washoe	421,407	98.88	0.99	416,687	19,059,400	45.74
Carson City	55,274	142.75	1.43	78,904	3,586,455	45.45
Elko	48,818	80.65	0.81	39,372	1,726,574	43.85

****Denotes incomplete data; Pershing County does not have prescription rate data prior to 2012.**

The CDC *U.S. Opioid Prescribing Rate Maps* does not include prescription data rates for Lander County between 2006 - 2012. During these seven years, over 1.5M opioids were shipped to Lander County, an area of only 5,775 residents.

Opioid prescription rate data for Pershing County prior to 2012 (the last year in the *Washington Post's* shipment database) is not available. This is despite the fact that approximately 150,000 opioid pills were shipped to Pershing County (population 6,753) between 2006 - 2012.

The average annual amount of pills delivered per Lander County resident between 2006 - 2012 was one of the lowest in Nevada at 38. Pershing County was the lowest in Nevada for all counties with data (3 opioid pills per resident annually). Based on aggregate data, it may seem as though small quantities of opioids were delivered to Lander County and Pershing County during the seven-year time frame.

In viewing Nye County and Clark County delivery data (see Table 1), Lander County and Pershing County pale in comparison to the amount of opioids per each resident. However, the fact that inadequate or no data is available for prescriptions for these two counties is a cause for concern, despite the relatively low delivery rate of opioids per resident.

**TABLE 5: 2006-2012 PERSHING COUNTY AND LANDER COUNTY
SHIPMENTS AND 2010 CENSUS POPULATION**

County	2010 Census Population	Total Number of Pills Delivered, 2006-2012	Average Number of Pills Delivered, Yearly	Average Number of Pills Delivered, Daily	Average Pills Delivered Per Person <u>Yearly</u>
Lander	5,775	1,548,710	221,244	606	38
Pershing	6,753	148,850	21,264	58	3