

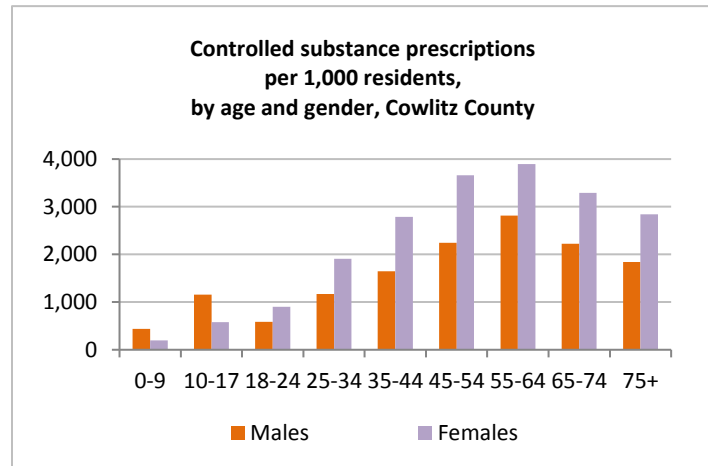
# Opioids in Cowlitz County – Opioid prescriptions

This report summarizes findings from drug prescription data, including opioid prescriptions, for Cowlitz County and Washington State. All data are for calendar year 2014.

## Controlled substance prescriptions and patients

Controlled substance prescriptions per 1,000 residents are displayed by age and gender for Cowlitz County. For most age groups, females appear to have higher rates of controlled substance prescriptions than males. Controlled substance prescriptions appear to peak in the 55-64-year-old age group for both genders.

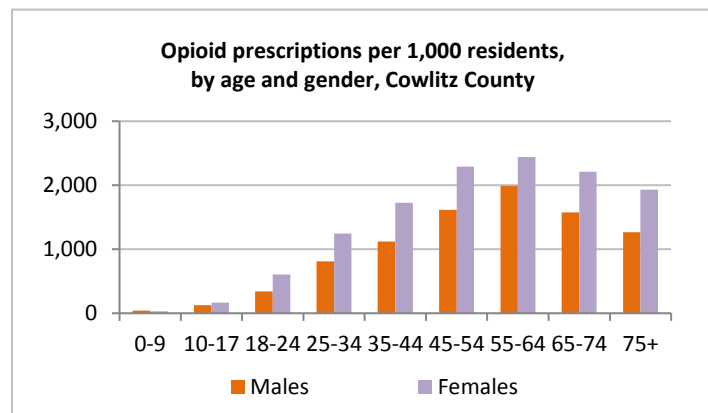
**Cowlitz County has more controlled substance patients** per resident than Washington State, at 338 vs. 296 per 1,000 residents (data not shown; adjusted for age and gender). Put another way, over one-third (34%) of Cowlitz County residents were prescribed a controlled substance at least once in 2014, compared with 30% of Washington State residents.



## Opioid prescriptions

Opioid prescriptions per 1,000 residents are displayed by age and gender for Cowlitz County. Females appear to have higher rates of opioid prescriptions than males for all age groups. Opioid prescription rates appear to peak in the 55-64-year-old age group for both males and females.

**Cowlitz County has more opioid prescriptions** per resident than Washington State, at 1,121 vs. 831 per 1,000 residents. Put another way, there were more opioid prescriptions filled in Cowlitz County in 2014 than residents of the county.

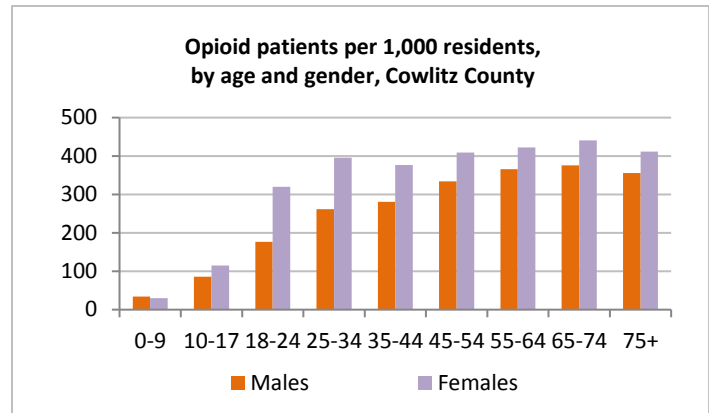


Hydrocodone is the most commonly prescribed opioid in Cowlitz County, with 52,599 prescriptions being filled for 17,607 patients in 2014. Oxycodone is the second most common, with 40,674 prescriptions filled for 10,441 patients.

## Opioid patients

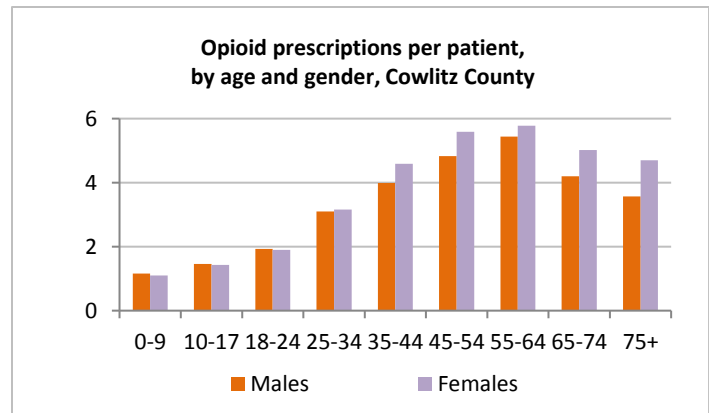
Opioid patients per 1,000 residents are displayed by age and gender for Cowlitz County. More females appear to be opioid patients than males for most age groups. For males, being an opioid patient appears to rise steadily until rates peak in the 65-74-year-old age group. For females, rates appear to rise steeply between the 10-17 and 18-24-year-old age groups, and rise gradually thereafter.

**Cowlitz County has more opioid patients** per resident than Washington State, at 273 vs. 232 per 1,000 residents. Put another way, 27% of Cowlitz County residents were prescribed an opioid at least once in 2014, compared with 23% of Washington State residents.



## Opioid prescriptions per patient

Opioid prescriptions per patient are displayed by age and gender for Cowlitz County. Female patients appear to fill similar or slightly more prescriptions than males. For males and females, the number of prescriptions filled per patient peaks in the 55-64-year-old age group.



### Technical notes, color coding, and data sources

When calculated by WA DOH, statistical significance is reported for Cowlitz County compared to Washington State. Color coding is used as well, with **red bold font** indicating that Cowlitz was higher than Washington State.

Statistical comparisons were not done for gender analysis within Cowlitz County.

Washington State Prescription Monitoring Program Statewide Tables and Maps and County Profiles, 2014. Available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionalsandFacilities/PrescriptionMonitoringProgramPMP/CountyProfiles>