

PRESCRIPTION OPIOID DEATH RATES ARE GREATER FOR FEMALES THAN MALES



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Disclosures

- Most manufacturers of prescription opioids or stimulants subscribe to RADARS System.
- RADARS System is the property of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado.
- Subscribers receive information, but do not participate in developing the System, data collection, or analysis of the data. They do not have access to the raw data.
- Employees are prohibited from personal financial relationships with any company.

Background

- **Women more likely to be prescribed rx opioids than men**
- **Women more likely to use rx opioids chronically than men**
- **Women more likely to receive rx for higher doses of opioids**
- **Women more likely to receive rx for opioids in combination with sedatives**

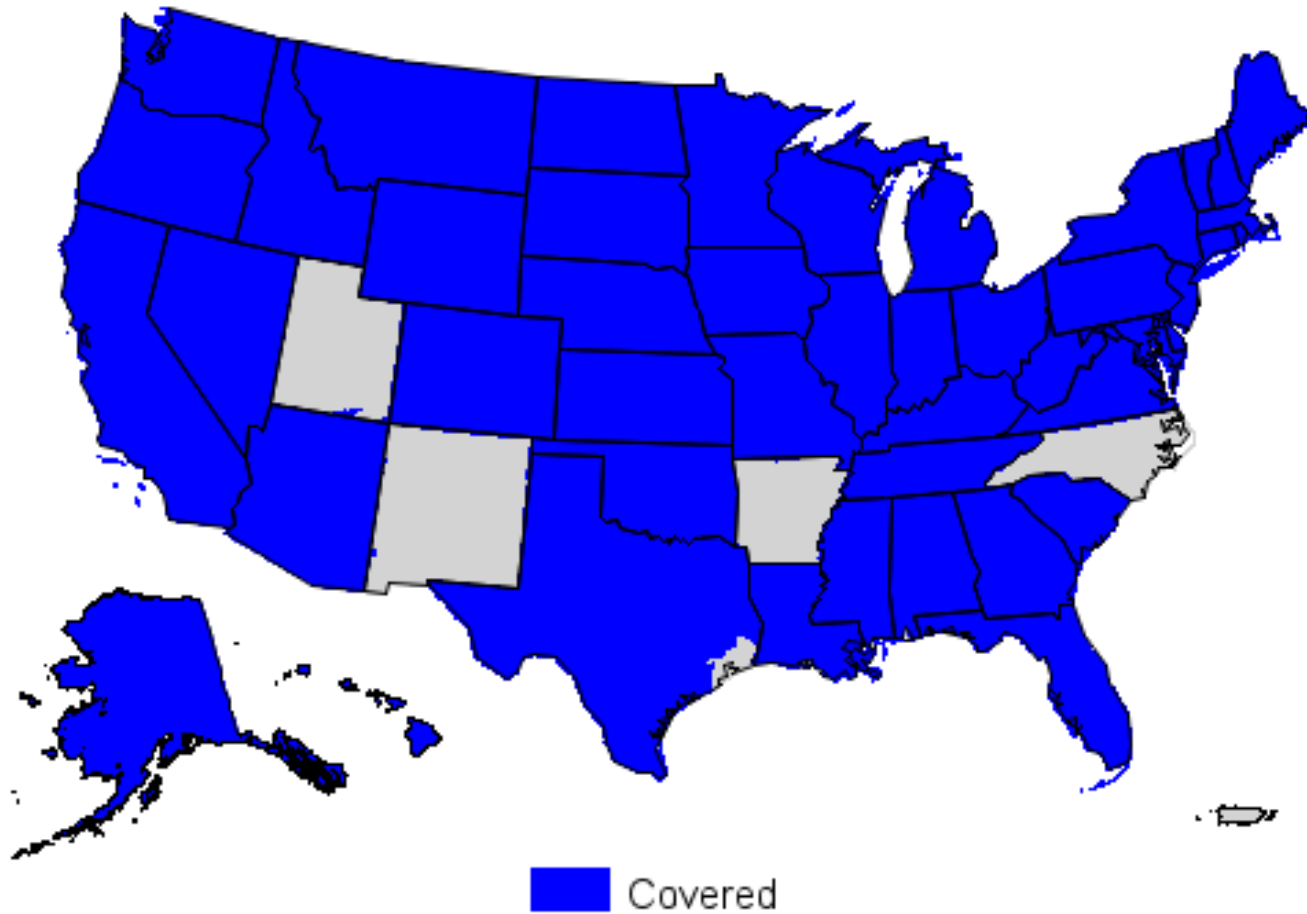
Aims

- **In July 2013, CDC showed rx opioid deaths rising more rapidly for women than men**
- **We examined data from the RADARS® System Poison Center Program for similar trends**

Methods

- **RADARS® System Poison Center Program**
 - 49 poison centers across US
 - Adult deaths
 - Mention oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, hydromorphone, morphine, oxymorphone, tapentadol, tramadol
 - January 2006- June 2014

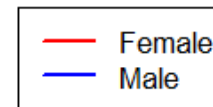
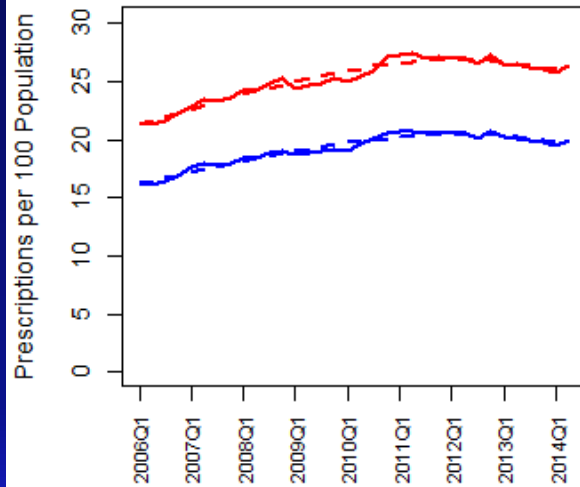
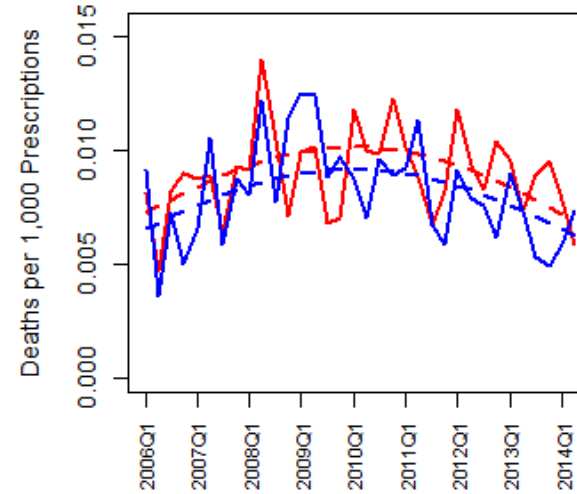
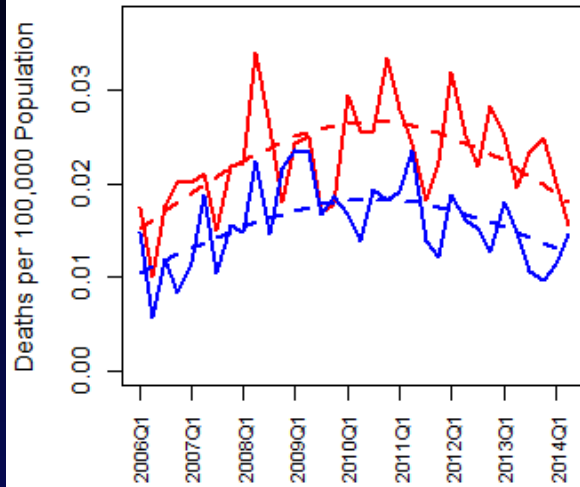
Methods



Methods

- **Average quarterly changes in the prescriptions per population compared between genders**
- **Poisson regression for death rates**
 - **Adjusted for gender-specific population, prescriptions dispensed**
 - **Covariates**
- **Polynomial regression**
 - **Trend in number of prescriptions per population by gender**

Results



Discussion

- **Similar patterns to CDC data through 2010**
 - **While magnitudes of mortality rates differ between CDC and PC data, trends are consistent**
 - **RADARS data are more timely**
- **Trends in opioid prescribing show rising rates that have leveled off since 2011**

Discussion

- Trends in rx opioid deaths were similar between genders
- BUT both population adjusted and prescription adjusted rates were higher for women than men
- Higher death rates for women may be due to greater drug availability

Acknowledgements

- **Coauthors:**
 - **Marie-Claire Le Lait, Geoff Severtson, Becki Bucher-Bartelson, Richard Dart**

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Questions?

