

Older adults employ high-risk methods to obtain opioids

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"These findings illustrate the importance of strengthening prescription drug monitoring programs to reduce high-risk use of [prescription drugs](#) in older adults by alerting doctors and pharmacists to potential prescription drug misuse and interactions," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—About 15 percent of older adults use high-risk methods for obtaining prescription opioids, according to a study published online Aug. 26 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Sarah L. Gold, M.S.W., from the State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick, and colleagues analyzed cross-sectional survey data from the New Jersey Older Adult Survey on Drug Use and Health for 725 adults aged 60 years and older. The authors examined ways in which [older adults](#) obtain [prescription opioids](#). High-risk methods included obtaining prescriptions for the same drug from more than one doctor and/or stealing prescription drugs.

The researchers found that high-risk methods for obtaining prescription opioids were used by nearly 15 percent of the sample. The risk of high-risk obtainment of prescription opioids was increased three-fold for adults who previously used a prescription opioid recreationally.

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