

# Women significantly more likely to be prescribed opioids, study shows

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Women are significantly more likely to receive prescriptions of opioid analgesics. Read the study, which was performed in a nationally representative sample of adults in the U.S., in *Journal of Women's Health*.

Researchers from University of California Davis School of Medicine identified three main factors driving this discrepancy. These included lower, more adverse socio-[economic status](#) among women and more adverse health status-related factors. Another factor was higher rates of overall healthcare utilization.

"Our analysis found no evidence that the treatment of pain was driving [women's](#) higher rates of prescription opioids," said Alicia Agnoli, MD and coauthors.

"Future research and [prevention efforts](#) should target these factors to help combat the growing opioid epidemic," says *Journal of Women's Health* Editor-in-Chief Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA.

**More information:** Alicia Agnoli et al, Prescription Opioids and Patient Sex: A National Cross-Sectional Study, *Journal of Women's Health* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2019.8234](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2019.8234)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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