

**What's the Cost?
A Blue Cross Perspective**

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Chronic Opioid Use
“Chronic Use”

Non-cancer patients who fill **4 or more** opioid prescriptions in a year

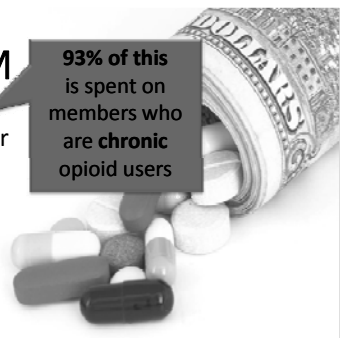


58,414 Blue Cross Members met this criteria

Medication Cost

We spend **\$36.2 M** on opioid medication per year.


93% of this is spent on members who are chronic opioid users



Chronic Opioid Use

26% of all members who fill an opioid prescription are CHRONIC users. (1 in 4)

For every 4 prescriptions written for opioids...



...1 goes to a **chronic** user.

Associated Costs

The economic impact is much more than just the cost of the medication

- ❖ Emergency Department Visits
- ❖ Inpatient Admissions



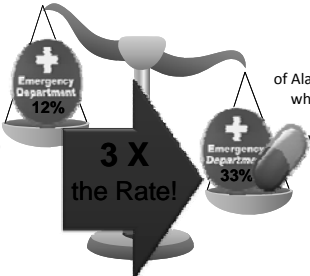
Emergency Department

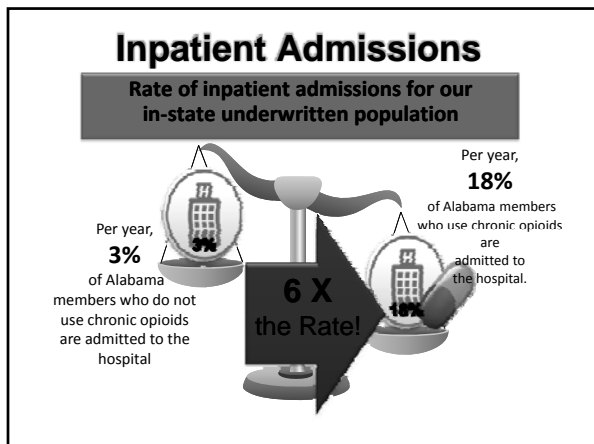
ER visits for members of our in-state underwritten population

Per year, **12%** of Alabama members who do not use chronic opioids visit the ED

Per year, **33%** of Alabama members who use chronic opioids visit the ED

3 X the Rate!

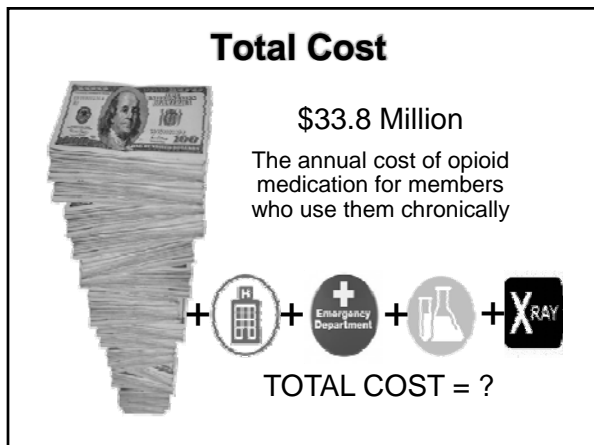




Risk

40% of our members who take chronic opioids are also prescribed chronic benzodiazepines

1/3 of opioid overdose deaths in the U.S. involve this drug combination



Our "Prescription" for The Problem

❖ Supporting treatment for SUD, including Medication Assisted Treatment

- ✓ **\$22.6M** for inpatient and outpatient SUD treatment
- ✓ **\$14M** for buprenorphine prescriptions
- ✓ **\$532,800** for Vivitrol prescriptions

Our "Prescription" for The Problem

- ❖ Eliminating the methadone MAT exclusion
- ❖ Supporting CDC guidelines
- ❖ Provider education
- ❖ Partnerships with behavioral health and pharmacy
- ❖ BCBSA initiatives