



Did You Know:

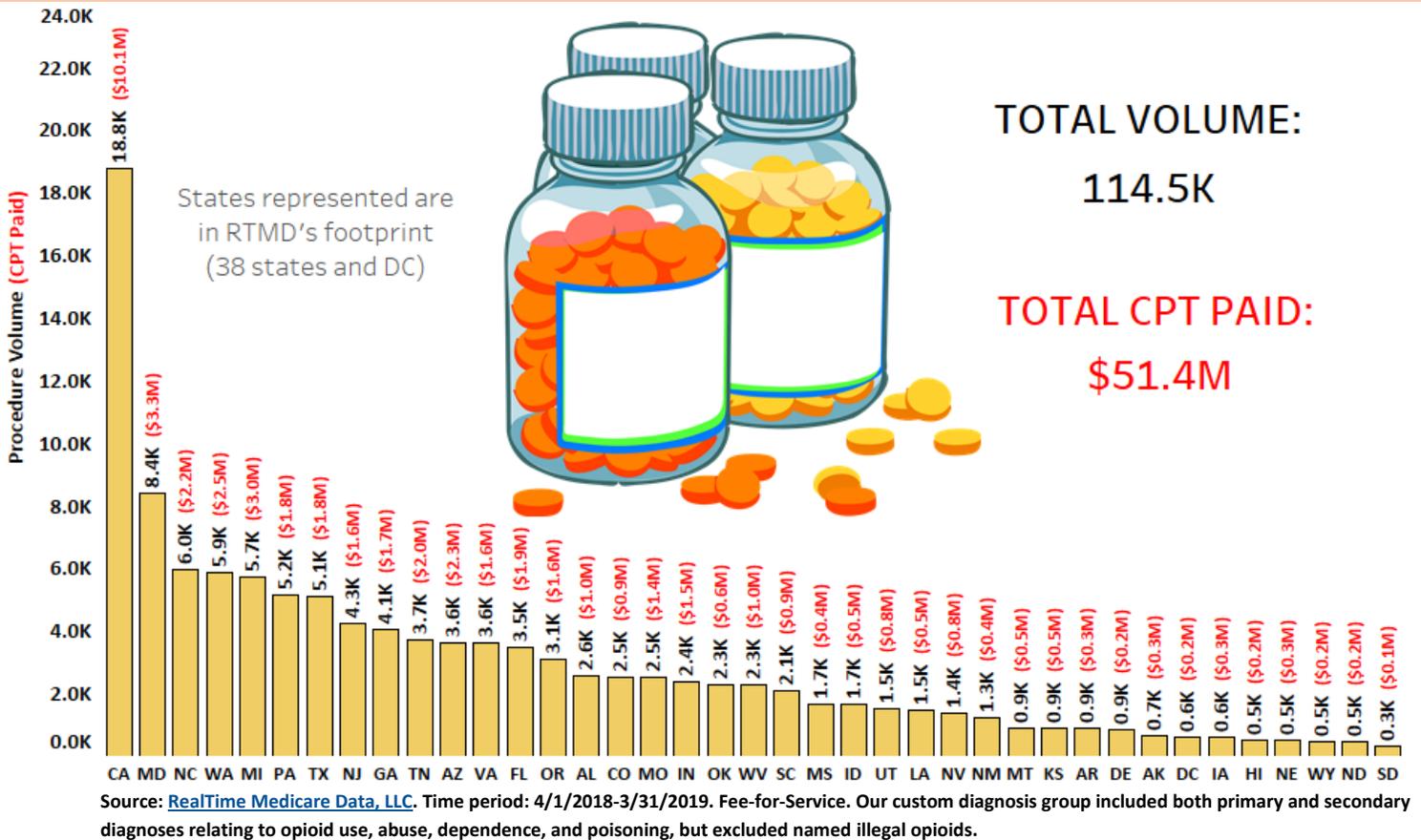
- From 1999 to 2017, almost **218,000** people died in the U.S. from overdoses related to prescription opioids
- Overdose deaths involving prescription opioids were **5x** higher in 2017 than in 1999.

Source: [CDC](#)

Opioids

According to the [CDC](#), prescription opioids can be used to help relieve moderate-to-severe pain and are often prescribed following surgery or injury, or for certain health conditions. However, these medications carry serious risks of addiction and overdose, especially with prolonged use. The use of prescription opioids can also have a number of side effects, even when taken as directed, such as constipation, nausea, sleepiness and dizziness, confusion, and depression. Among the states in RTMD's footprint, our data shows that approximately 114.5K procedures were performed annually in the ED on Medicare beneficiaries having an opioid diagnosis (see chart below). Sadly, this data is another demonstration of the magnitude of the opioid problem in the U.S. During the "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit, providers have an opportunity to pay close attention to opioid use and to assess in such cases whether other pain therapies might help that have fewer risks and side effects.

Annual Medicare Treatment Costs in the ED of Opioid Use, Abuse, Dependence, and Poisoning



OPIOIDS AND FALL RISK

Falls are a serious threat to the health and well-being of older patients. Over 1 out of 4 people age 65 and older falls each year, and over 3M are treated in EDs annually for fall injuries.

The [CDC](#) has developed materials for healthcare providers to help reduce these devastating injuries, including a framework to conduct a medication review and a fact sheet on medication management.

How are opioids impacting the Medicare Market you serve?

For a free RTMD report

based on your 5-digit Medicare Beneficiary Zip Code market, contact:

Carol Goguen, Director Client Services cgoguen@rtmd.org (205) 533-9328



BETTER DATA. FORWARD THINKING.

© RTMD

- ◆ Medicare claims data
- ◆ 90 days post date of service
- ◆ Inpatient, Outpatient, Part B
- ◆ Full census
- ◆ 8.9 billion claims & counting
- ◆ 38 states & DC

RealTime Medicare Data, LLC
 1900 20th Ave. South, Suite 220
 Birmingham, AL 35209
www.rtmd.org