

Opioids and dentistry



VA researchers and colleagues analyzed more than **633,000 U.S. dental visits** that occurred between 2011 and 2018 and involved a **prescription for opioids** for pain.

2.6% of visits resulted in an **adverse outcome** such as an emergency room visit, hospitalization, or new substance use disorder diagnosis.

16.6% resulted in **persistent opioid use** (at least one repeat opioid prescription fill within 90 days).

CONCLUSION

“Findings from this study demonstrate that dental prescribing of opioids was associated with adverse outcomes and persistent opioid use, even when prescriptions were concordant with guidelines. Additional efforts are required to improve analgesic [pain relief] prescribing in dentistry, especially in groups at high risk of opioid-related adverse outcomes”