

# Opioids in Animal Health

February 11, 2019

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## Opioid Prescriptions Issued by Veterinarians That Were Dispensed by U.S. Retail Pharmacies

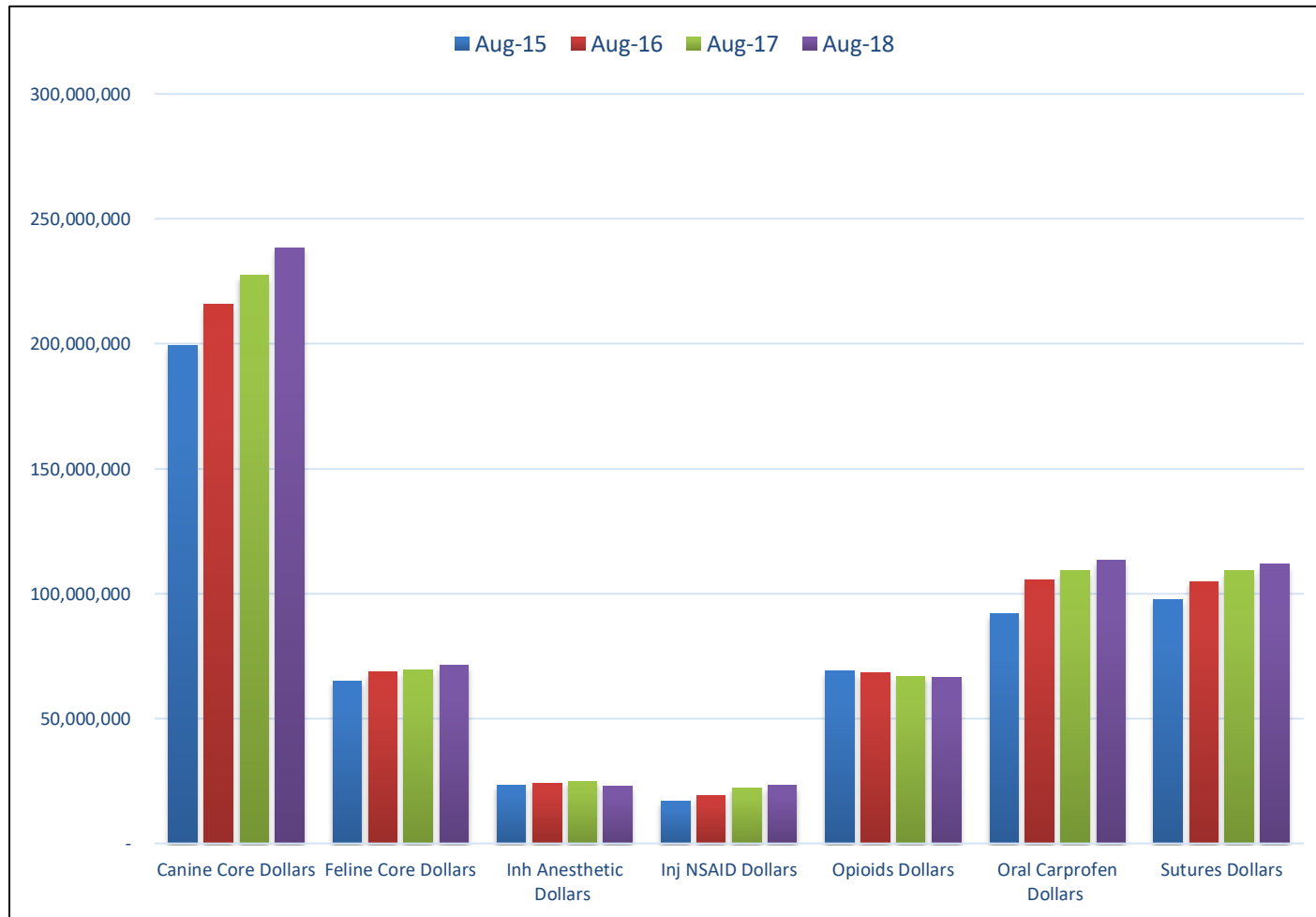
	2017
Number of prescriptions	728,223
Percent of all opioid prescriptions	0.34%

Source: IQVIA National Prescription Audit. Data Extracted January 31, 2018.

*For context, total opioid prescriptions by all prescribers are over **214 MILLION**.*

# Market Dynamics of Major Companion Animal Segments (In \$ Units)

September 2014 - August 2018



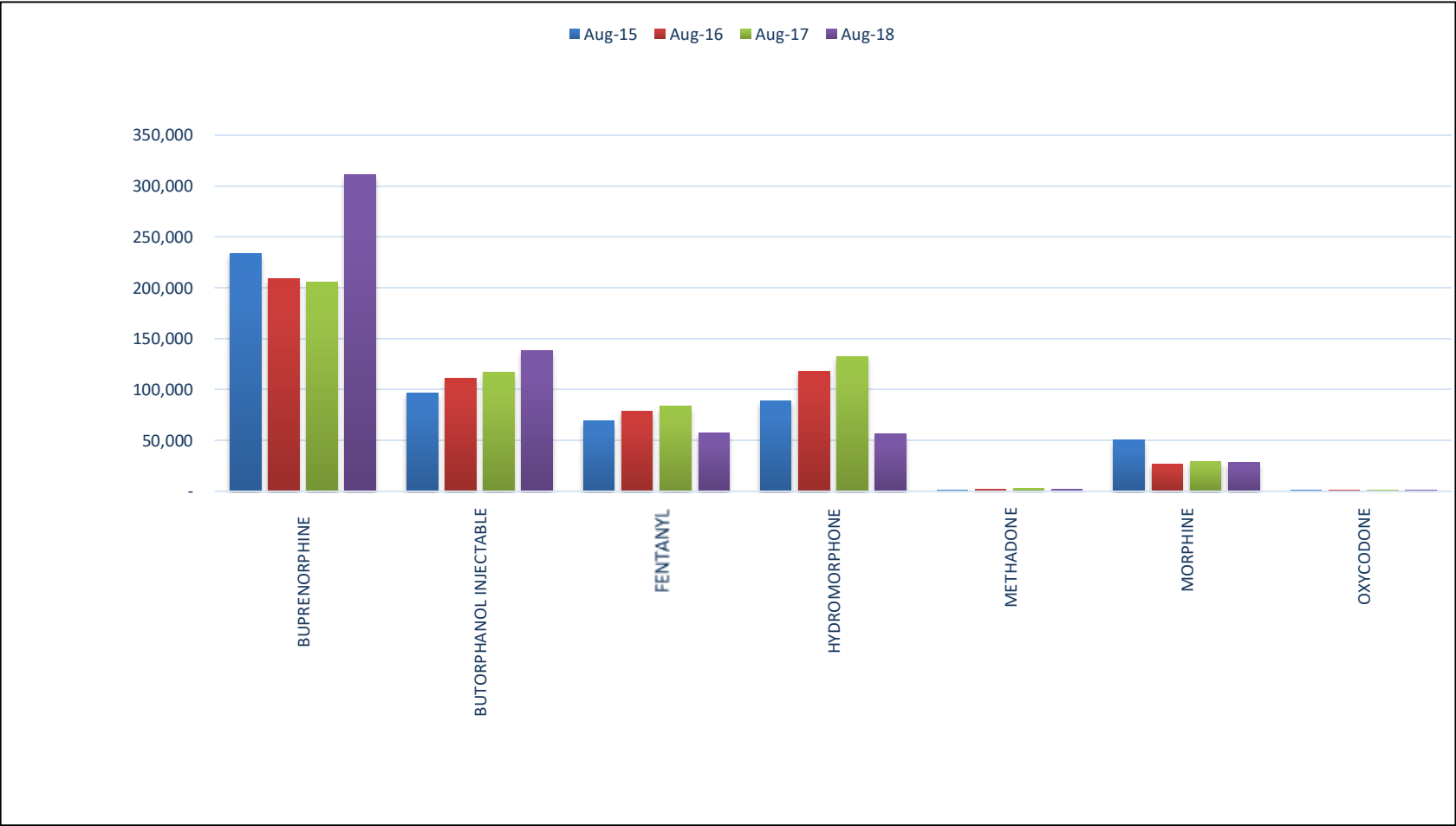
Data from Animalytix LLC with support and collaboration from the American Veterinary Distributors Association

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# Consumption Dynamics of Common Opioids Used In the Veterinary Hospital Environment (In Units)

September 2014 - August 2018



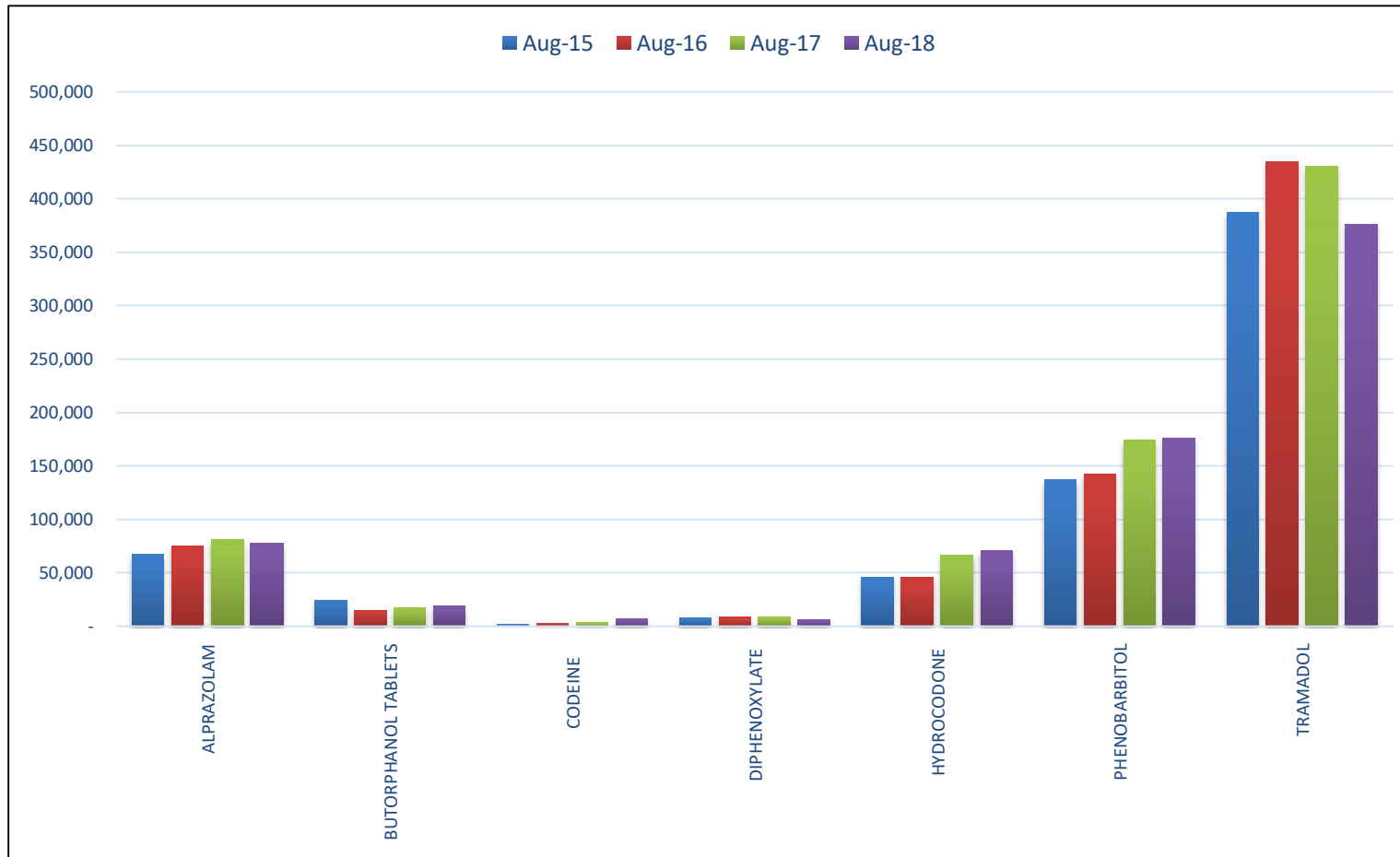
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# Consumption Dynamics of Opioids Potentially Dispensed From the Veterinary Hospital Environment (In Units)\*

September 2014 - August 2018



Data from Animalytix LLC with support and collaboration from the American Veterinary Distributors Association

\*Alprazolam and phenobarbital are not opioids but included for comparison.

# PDMPs: Challenges

- Querying the system
- Animal identification
- Owner identification
- Veterinary identifiers
- Electronic reporting
- Electronic prescribing

# Other Efforts to Respond to Epidemic

- Research
- Reporting drug shoppers
- Limitations on prescriptions
- Labeling and identification of opioids
- Take-back programs and disposal
- Taxes on opioids
- BOP involvement in veterinary practice

# What we're doing:

## vet shopping and drug diversion A GUIDE FOR VETERINARIANS

"Vet shopping" refers to the practice of soliciting multiple veterinarians under false pretenses to obtain prescriptions for controlled substances. Drug diversion is the illegal distribution or abuse of prescription drugs.

### HOW TO RECOGNIZE A VET SHOPPER

- New clients bringing in seriously injured animals with vague histories
- Old, incomplete, or missing veterinary care records
- Describing clinical signs that are inconsistent with findings on examination of the patient
- Describing clinical signs that require specific medications
- Requesting medications by name (e.g., Tramadol or Xanax)
- Refusing medications as prescribed and suggesting alternatives
- Requesting early refills of medication
- Claiming medications were lost or stolen
- Requesting refills, while missing appointments
- Uncooperative and aggressive behavior

### WAYS TO MINIMIZE DRUG DIVERSION

- Be thorough about documentation when using or prescribing narcotics
- Restrict access to prescription pads
- Maintain strict refill policies
- Remind clients to turn in unused portions of medications to a controlled substance disposal location
- Minimize the use of commonly abused drugs, if possible
- Strictly control access, and regularly check inventory
- Look for signs of animal abuse during physical exams
- Contact police if you see suspicious behavior

For more information visit:

[AVMA.org/opioids](https://avma.org/opioids)

## Opioid Resources for Veterinarians



Veterinarians are concerned that the United States is in the midst of an opioid crisis and want to contribute actively to solving this problem. AVMA members can use the resources on this page to navigate the unique challenges posed by human opioid abuse, while still providing the best possible care for our animal patients.

Veterinarians prescribe or dispense opioids for very limited uses, but know it is critical for certain animals to receive these medications. Though our animal patients are not the ones struggling with opioid addiction, concerns about diversion are top-of-mind for the veterinary profession. Veterinarians already follow thoughtful steps that promote the responsible use of opioids and aim to avoid unintended consequences. These steps include meticulous record-keeping and control of opioids, as well as a multi-modal approach to patient care that uses not only pharmaceuticals, but also other interventions to effectively manage pain.

While conveying the veterinary profession's desire to partner in an effective strategy to fight opioid abuse, the AVMA works with lawmakers and regulators to protect veterinarians' ability to access, prescribe, and dispense opioids without compromising patient care. This means ensuring that expanded restrictions and other proposed solutions to managing opioid abuse support the ability of veterinarians to appropriately care for our patients.

The following materials will support AVMA members in complying with reporting requirements, understanding continuing education needs, and preventing drug diversion. We will continue to identify and develop additional resources to assist our members.

### Opioid resources for AVMA members

**State-by-state PDMP Chart:** This chart summarizes state laws and regulations, and shows the extent to which veterinarians are required to participate in prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), including requirements for reporting and searching state PDMP databases if applicable.

**State-by-state CE Chart:** This chart summarizes state laws and regulations defining veterinary continuing education requirements, including specific provisions related to opioids or other controlled substances.

**Vet Shopping and Drug Diversion:** This printable resource can be used in the back office of your clinic to help identify "vet shoppers" and combat drug diversion.

**AVMA Policy – The Veterinary Profession's Role in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic:** This policy spells out the objectives and efforts the AVMA supports to address the national opioid epidemic.

## OPIOID ABUSE: Best Practices for your practice!

by MDVMA | Feb 7, 2018 | [CE Events](#), [News](#) |



**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Dept. of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, MD 21401  
2 CE Hours

Please join the MDVMA Forum for a panel discussion:

- The Opioid Epidemic
- Best Practices for Handling and Dispensing Controlled Substances
- The Do's and Don'ts of Drug Logs
- Heroin and Opioids 101
- Q&A

# Preventing Drug Diversion in Veterinary Hospitals

brought to you by the  
OVMA Opioid Diversion Awareness Task Force



## Opioid Minimal Anesthesia

1.5 CE Lecture

Andrea Looney, DVM, DACVAA,  
CCRP, DACVSMR



## The Prescription and Use of Opioids in Small Animal Patients

1.5 CE Lecture

Andrea Looney, DVM, DACVAA,  
CCRP, DACVSMR

