

Opioids and Workers' Compensation in Colorado

PINNACOL
ASSURANCE

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Committee on Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders

Injured workers who are prescribed even **one opioid** have average total claim costs

4X
GREATER

than similar claims from workers who were not prescribed opioids

Receiving more than a

1 WEEK SUPPLY

of opioids soon after an injury doubles a worker's risk of disability **1 year later**

44.9%

Pinnacol injured workers in 2017 who received a prescription received an opioid

17.4%

of all Rx in CO
Worker's Compensation
Oxycontin,
Percocet, Vicodin

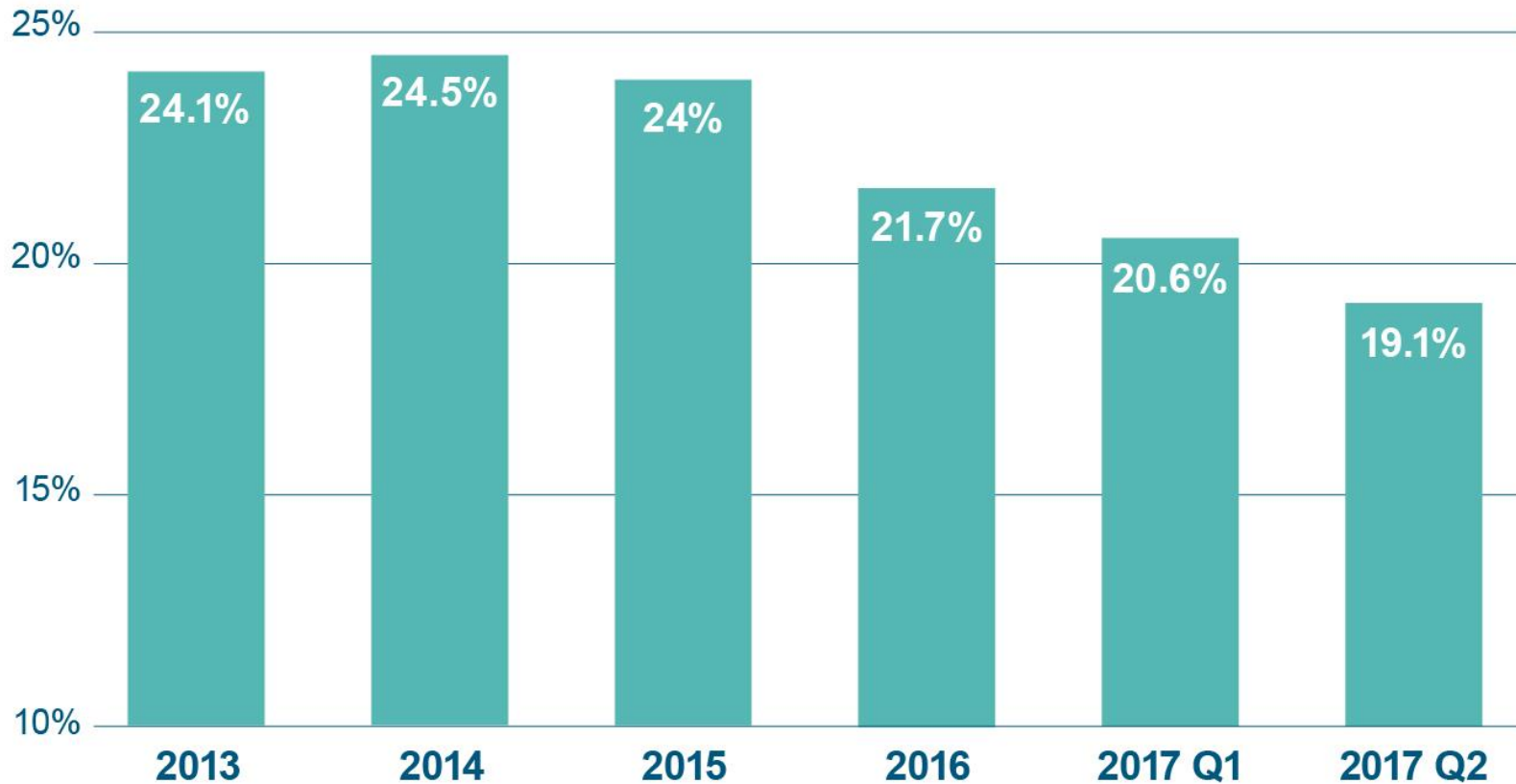
Source: National Safety Council. www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/prescription-painkillers-for-employers.aspx

Source: Internal Pinnacol data on opioid prescribing; compiled August 2017

Source: NCCI presentation titled: By the Numbers: Opioid Use in Colorado, presented April 19th, 2017 by Raji Chadarevian and Susan Schulte

Pinnacol percentage of Rx spend on opioids

(as part of overall pharmacy spend)



Source: Internal Pinnacol data on opioid prescribing; compiled August 2017

DOWC Strategies

- Medical Treatment Guidelines
- Optional Financial Incentive
- Education
- Advocating for PDMP use

Pinnacol tactics to reduce inappropriate opioid use

Pinnacol Promotion of DOWC Medical Treatment Guidelines and Quality Improvement programs

Pharmacy benefits manager

- Clinical alerts for treatment that falls outside of recommended guidelines
- Targeted letters to medical providers

Provider education

- Opioid-prescribing scorecards
- Mandatory opioid webinar

Patient education

- Mailed materials

Helpful, but mostly voluntary and of variable effectiveness

Pinnacol recommendations

1. Mandatory initial and periodic PDMP use
2. Mandatory provider education
3. Legislation to limit initial opioid prescriptions for acute pain
 - Tip of the spear for reducing the amount of opioids prescribed
 - Provides foundation for providers to prescribe appropriately

Thank you