



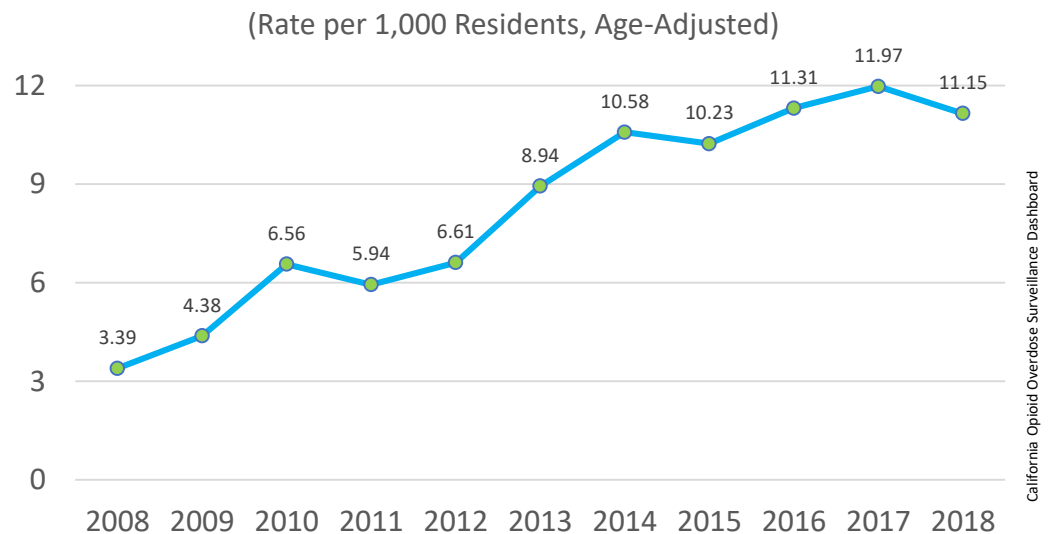
“Thank you for being to first person to actually listen and be nice to me...”

Jon came into the ER because he heard he could get help. For the last 12 years, he had been prescribed opioids for his chronic pain after hurting his back and neck on-the-job as a mail carrier. Recently, his doctor’s pain management clinic had been shut down. Other doctors refused to continue prescribing him opioids. After experiencing uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms, Jon turned to “street bupe.” He didn’t like purchasing from a dealer, but it was the only relief he could find. One Saturday evening, Jon made his way to the Emergency Department at Highland Hospital because his fishing buddy told him that he could go there anytime, no questions asked.

In the ER, Jon was evaluated and started on buprenorphine. He was also given a prescription of buprenorphine to last him through the weekend. On Monday, he met with a substance use navigator who could help connect him to a primary care team that would maintain his prescription. Jon kept saying over and over again how this was the first time that a healthcare professional had listened to his story and treated him nicely.

The East Bay Safe Prescribing Coalition’s focused efforts on safe prescribing have decreased high-dose opioid rates in Alameda County. The coalition is also committed to making sure that patients who have developed an opioid use disorder have timely access to treatment when they want it, without stigma.

The rate of **buprenorphine prescriptions in Alameda County continues to increase** - a good indicator for the expansion of medication-assisted treatment for patients with opioid use disorder.



For more information, visit <http://www.accma.org/Safe-Prescribing> or email Renee.Yun@acgov.org

