

Data Brief 347. Prescription Drug Use Among Adults Aged 40–79 in the United States and Canada

Data table for Figure 1. Use of one or more and five or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days among adults aged 40–79: United States, 2015–2016, and Canada, 2016–2017

Number of prescription drugs	United States	Canada
	Percent (standard error)	
One or more	69.0 (1.2)	65.5 (2.4)
Five or more	22.4 (1.2)	18.8 (1.6)

SOURCES: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016, and Statistics Canada, Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2016–2017.

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Data table for Figure 2. Use of one or more and five or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days among adults aged 40–79, by sex: United States, 2015–2016, and Canada, 2016–2017

Number of prescription drugs	United States	Canada
	Percent (standard error)	
One or more		
Men	65.2 (2.0)	61.7 (2.7)
Women	72.4 (1.5)	69.3 (3.2)
Five or more		
Men	21.1 (1.5)	18.1 (2.2)
Women	23.5 (1.4)	19.5 (1.7)

SOURCES: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016, and Statistics Canada, Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2016–2017.

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Data table for Figure 3. Use of one or more and five or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days among adults aged 40–79, by age group: United States, 2015–2016, and Canada, 2016–2017

Number of prescription drugs	United States	Canada
	Percent (standard error)	
One or more		
40–59	59.5 (1.7)	53.3 (4.0)
60–79	83.6 (1.3)	83.3 (1.7)
Five or more		
40–59	14.5 (1.1)	10.4 (1.6)
60–79	34.5 (1.8)	30.9 (2.0)

SOURCES: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016, and Statistics Canada, Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2016–2017.

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Data table for Figure 4. Use in the past 30 days of the most common prescription drug types among adults aged 40–79, by age group: United States, 2015–2016, and Canada, 2016–2017

Country and age	Percent (standard error)
United States	
40–59 years	
Antidiabetic agents	8.8 (0.9)
Analgesics (pain relief)	11.1 (1.2)
ACE inhibitors (high blood pressure)	11.4 (1.4)
Lipid-lowering drugs (high cholesterol)	13.9 (1.3)
Antidepressants	15.4 (1.4)
60–79 years	
Proton pump inhibitors (reduce stomach acid)	16.9 (1.0)
ACE inhibitors (high blood pressure)	21.3 (1.6)
Beta blockers (high blood pressure, heart disease)	22.3 (1.2)
Antidiabetic agents	23.6 (1.9)
Lipid-lowering drugs (high cholesterol)	45.0 (1.5)
Canada	
40–59 years ¹	
Antidiabetic agents	6.6 (1.1)
Proton pump inhibitors (reduce stomach acid)	7.2 (2.1)
Lipid-lowering drugs (high cholesterol)	8.1 (1.5)
Antidepressants	8.8 (1.9)
Analgesics (pain relief)	10.4 (1.8)
60–79 years	
Antidiabetic agents	14.8 (1.3)
ACE inhibitors (high blood pressure)	16.4 (2.0)
Proton pump inhibitors (reduce stomach acid)	18.3 (1.6)
Analgesics (pain relief)	19.0 (1.5)
Lipid-lowering drugs (high cholesterol)	34.3 (2.1)

¹Estimates for Canadian adults aged 40–59 may be unreliable and should be used with caution.

NOTES: Primary indication for the use of the drug class is in parentheses. ACE is angiotensin converting enzyme.

SOURCES: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016, and Statistics Canada, Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2016–2017.