

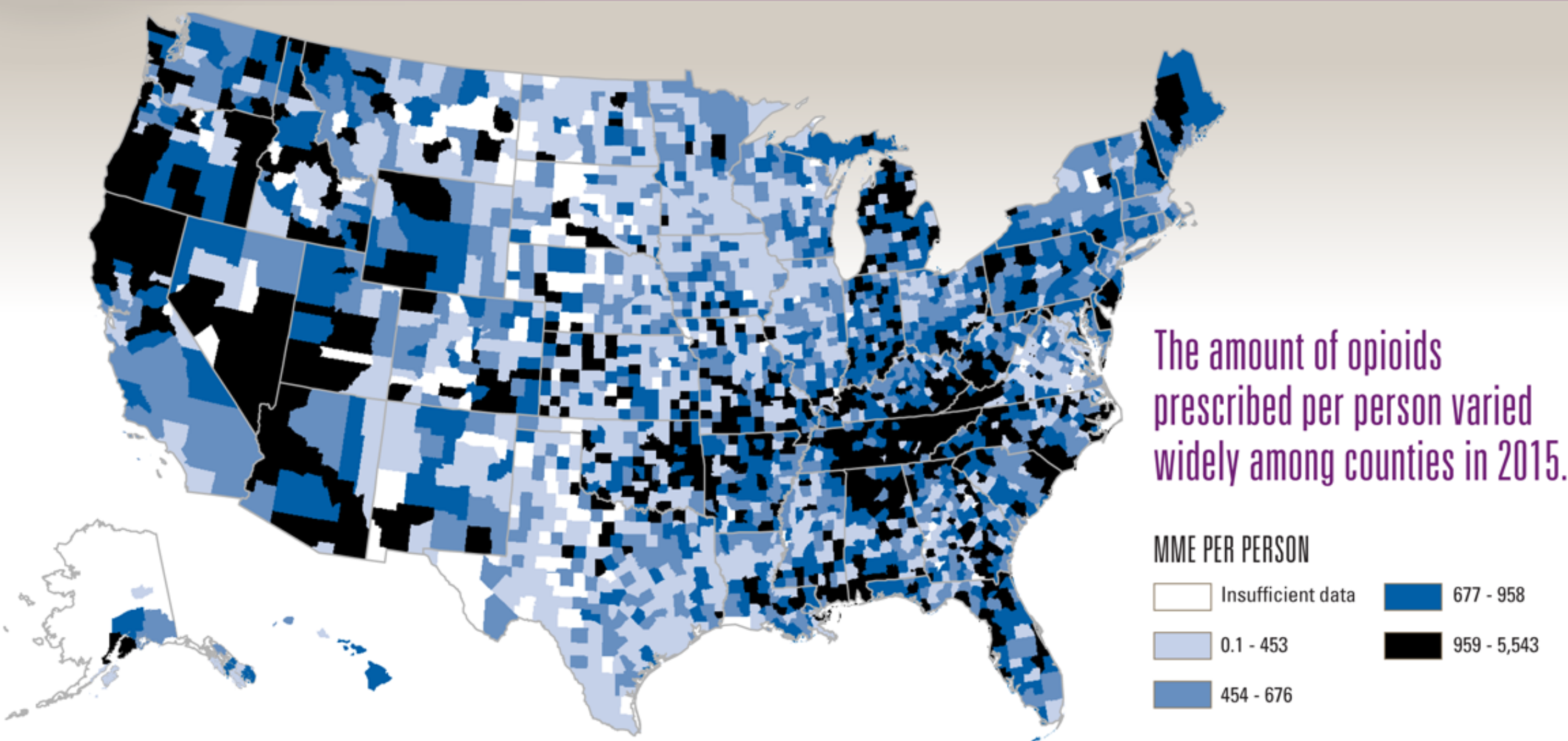
Safe Opioid Prescribing Practices

Hospitals are increasingly being called upon to play their part in stemming the opioid crisis.



The amount of opioids prescribed in 2015 was enough for every American to be **medicated around the clock for 3 weeks.**

But some Americans face a greater risk than others



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Developing and following safe prescribing practices can help minimize patient harm, and associated liabilities

What should your healthcare organization do?

STEP **1** Designate a clinical leader responsible for the oversight of pain management and opioid prescribing for the organization

STEP **2** Educate clinicians at all levels about safe opioid use

STEP **3** Develop specific guidelines for safe opioid prescribing and dosage for post-operative and chronic pain

STEP **4** Screen and assess patients upon admission using standard tools for pain or risk of pain based upon diagnosis, planned treatments, and risks for respiratory depression

STEP **5** Promote the use of multi-modal pain treatment

STEP **6** Provide written and oral education to patients on safe opioid treatment

STEP **7** Articulate realistic expectations and goals of treatment with patients

STEP **8** Draft a protocol for handling patients with drug-seeking behavior who present in the Emergency Room

STEP **9** Continuously monitor patients who receive patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) through electronic devices

STEP **10** Establish clear procedures for the prevention and detection of controlled-substance diversion

Learn more about how to establish safe opioid prescription practices at:
<https://www2.chubb.com/microsites/chubb-healthcare-solutions/>

Source: CDC Vital Signs, July 2017

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