



Health
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Report on the
Review of Sales Transactions
for Oxycodone-based Products
in Atlantic Canada
(Retail Pharmacies only)

Office of Controlled Substances
Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Programme
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch
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Note to Readers

The following report is based on information contained in sales transactions submitted to the Office of Controlled Substances (OCS) by Atlantic retail pharmacies. As part of this project, four levels of quality assurance were completed at the OCS to ensure completeness of information and error-free data entry. When compiling all of this information, however, the Office has not been in the position to proceed with quality control verifications on recorded data submitted by pharmacies.

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, concerns were raised with Health Canada by various stakeholders, including members of Parliament and the House of Commons Special Committee on the Non-Medical Use of Drugs, concerning the abuse of prescription drugs. Provincial governments and authorities in the Atlantic Provinces have been especially concerned with this issue, where it has been the subject of media scrutiny and linked to increases in robberies of residences and pharmacies, and domestic violence. On December 15, 2003, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the creation of a task force with the mandate to make recommendations on a comprehensive strategy for the management of OxyContin® and other related narcotics of abuse; its final report was released on June 30, 2004. In March 2004, Cape Breton Health District Authority also announced the creation of a community-based task force; its first and second interim reports were released on June 4 and September 10, 2004.

On April 6, 2004, the Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Programme (DSCSP) of the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch (HECSB) of Health Canada jointly organized with HECSB Regional Office in the Atlantic Region a meeting on the *Prescribing and Usage of Controlled Substances in the Atlantic Region*, particularly with respect to Oxycodone. The meeting was made up of provincial licensing authorities of pharmacy and medicine, as well as provincial government representatives of the Atlantic Provinces. The meeting provided a forum to discuss the potential abuse of prescription drugs, specifically oxycodone, and formed a foundation for future collaboration among stakeholders. Following the meeting, the Office of Controlled Substances (OCS) initiated a special project entitled “Review of Sales Transactions for Oxycodone-based Products in Atlantic Canada.” The purpose of the project was to establish baseline information from retail pharmacies regarding the use of oxycodone-based products in the four Atlantic Provinces.

The project consisted of collecting and reporting on the volume of sales transactions that occurred between January 1 and June 30, 2004. The project’s scope covered 21 products, four provinces, 43 “prime” medical specialties, and four professions: physician, veterinarian, dentist and pharmacist. On June 18, 2004, the OCS, through Circular Letter 906, asked 651 Atlantic retail pharmacies to provide it with customized sales transactions reports for the period concerned. All retail pharmacies submitted their report, for a total of 92,538 transactions.

The following *Report on the Review of Sales Transactions for Oxycodone-based Products in Atlantic Canada* shows the project’s findings at regional and provincial levels. For each level, to preserve objectivity, findings are presented in descending order: from the highest volume of transactions to the smallest.

2. LIMITS TO THE INTERPRETATION

Readers who wish to interpret, extrapolate or benchmark the report's findings should exercise caution. The report does not take into consideration the following variances: the variance of health profiles of populations, the variance within Pain Management Protocols, and the variance between official monographs of various products. This limits the interpretation of findings, as follows:

- The variance of health profiles of populations may have an impact on the interpretation of findings because this factor could justify what may otherwise seem, in terms of volume of transactions, as abnormal consumption and prescribing profiles.
- The variance within Pain Management Protocols limits the interpretation of the findings because it may influence the prescribing of one medication over another, which could justify what may otherwise seem, in terms of volume of transactions, as abnormal consumption and prescribing profiles.
- The variance between official monographs of various products limits the interpretation of the findings because management of the same medical condition with different oxycodone-based products will not require the same amount of tablets to achieve similar results. An example is short-acting versus long-lasting tablet formulations. This could justify what may otherwise seem, in terms of quantity of products, as abnormal consumption and prescribing profiles.

3. KEY DEFINITIONS FOR INTERPRETATION

- Contribution (Ctr):** Participation of a fraction of the whole, to the whole (Atlantic Region or a province), expressed in percentage. The report shows regional and provincial contributions based on volume of transactions or quantity of product (Reg Ctr Vol), (Reg Ctr Qty), (Prov Ctr Vol) and (Prov Ctr Qty).
- Oxycodone-based products:** Drugs listed (21) on Health Canada’s Drug Product Database for active drugs, on May 12, 2004. Each product has its own Drug Identification Number (DIN).
- Physicians:** Physicians registered with the Medical Licensing Authority of their respective province(s) in Atlantic Canada.
- Practitioner:** “Means a person who is registered and entitled under the laws of a province to practice in that province the profession of medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine, and includes any other person or class of persons prescribed as a practitioner.” (*Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*)
- Prescriber:** Practitioner who prescribed oxycodone-based products between January 1 and June 30, 2004, including practitioners without specified prime medical specialty.
- Province:** In section 4.0, it is the province of the prescriber’s main address. From section 5.0 to the end of the report, it is the province where the transaction occurred.
- Quantity of Products:** Refers to tablets and 84 suppositories, but excludes compounded products.
- Region or Regional:** Refers to Atlantic Canada and includes all four provinces.
- Specialty:** Physicians’ prime medical specialty as provided by IMS Health Canada (see Appendix 2). It is marked as “blank” for prescribers for which we were not able to identify their prime medical specialty (465). Please note that PHARM and DDS are professions (Pharmacists and Dentists).
- Transaction:** Sales transactions for Oxycodone-based products as presented in sales reports submitted by retail pharmacies of Atlantic Canada. It also includes product transfers between pharmacies, hospitals and pharmacies, or pharmacies and medical clinics. Transaction does not cover compounded products. Please note that a single prescription may generate many sales transactions.

4. DEMOGRAPHICS

4.1. Regional and provincial

This section presents highlights showing the regional and provincial distribution of health professionals covered by this project and related volume of transactions.

Table 1: Summary table of the number of practitioners, physicians and prescribers (regional and provincial)

Description	Atlantic Canada**	NB	NS	NL	PE	Other Provinces*	UA
Population***	2,344,202	751,449	938,134	516,875	137,744		
Number of Practitioners (physicians, dentists and veterinarians)	5,531	1,537	2,482	1,177	268	32	35
Number of Physicians	4,976	1,357	2,316	1,095	208	0	0
Number of Prescribers	2,867	997	1,042	588	176	31	33
Average Number of Prescribers per 100,000 Inhabitants	122	133	111	114	128		

* This refers to other Canadian provinces.

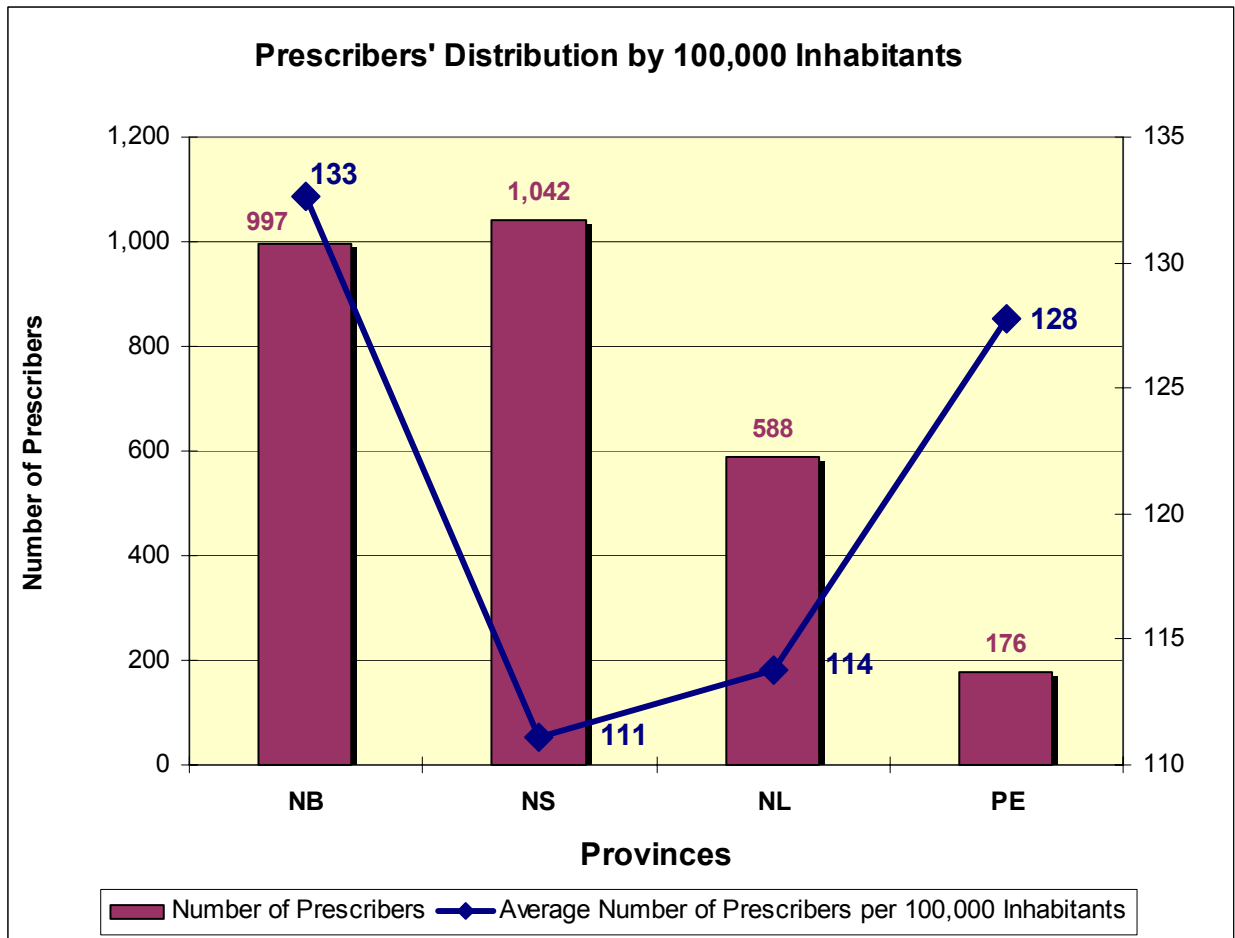
** The column titled Atlantic Canada also includes practitioners from the United States and other Canadian provinces who generated prescriptions filled in Atlantic Canada as reported in sales reports received. This group of practitioners (US and other provinces) includes 64 prescribers who generated 3,045 transactions for oxycodone-based products.

*** Statistics Canada Web site, post-census estimates, October 2004.

Figure 1 shows that:

- Nova Scotia has the highest number of prescribers at 1,042 and has the lowest number of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants at 111, which is lower than the regional average of 122.
- New Brunswick has the highest number of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants at 133.
- Prince Edward Island has the lowest number of prescribers at 176, but the second highest number of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants at 128, which is close to the Atlantic Canada average of 122.
- Newfoundland has one of the lowest numbers of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants, at 114.

Figure 1: Number of prescribers and prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants, Atlantic Canada



The project's findings confirm that General Practice (GP) and Family Medicine (FM) represent the greatest number of prescribers regionally and provincially (refer to section 6).

Table 2 shows that:

- Prince Edward Island at 68 has an average volume of transactions per prescriber, 51% greater than the regional average at 45.
- New Brunswick at 60 has an average volume of transactions per prescriber, 33% greater than the regional average at 45.
- Newfoundland is close to the average at 46.
- Nova Scotia at 30 has an average volume of transactions per prescriber, 33% less than the regional average at 45.

Table 2: Summary table of the number of prescribers for General Practice and Family Medicine, and their respective volume of transactions generated

Region and Provinces	Prime Medical Specialty	Number of Prescribers	Volume of Transactions	Avg Volume of Transactions per Prescriber
NB				
	FM	302	17,468	58
	GP	281	17,235	61
	total	583	34,703	60
NS				
	GP	446	15,851	36
	FM	258	5,567	22
	total	704	21,418	30
NL				
	GP	283	13,686	48
	FM	106	4,379	41
	total	389	18,065	46
PEI				
	FM	44	3,069	70
	GP	45	2,954	66
	total	89	6,023	68
ATL				
	GP	1,055	49,730	47
	FM	710	30,483	43
	total	1,765	80,213	45

5. VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS DISTRIBUTED BY REGION AND PROVINCE

5.1. Volume of transactions, total quantity of products, average quantity per transaction and contribution ratios

5.1.1. Regional and provincial

This section presents tables and figures showing the volume of transactions distributed geographically. This section is based on the province where the transaction occurred.

Table 3 shows that:

- New Brunswick, with 40,458 transactions, represents 44% of the regional volume of transactions (92,538) and 42% (2,824,705) of all tablets made available regionally (6,660,877).

Table 3: Summary table of findings for Atlantic Canada

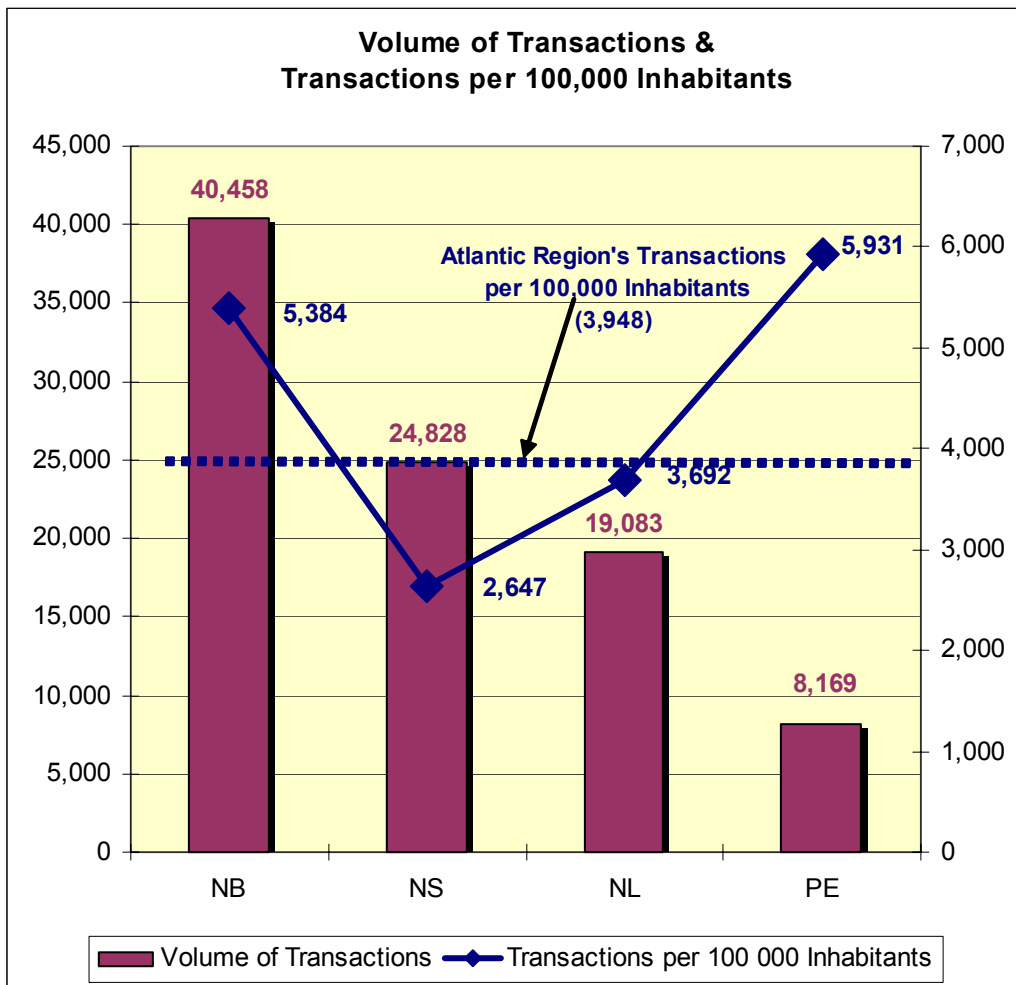
Province	Population	Volume of Transactions	Quantity of Tablets	Transactions per 100 000	Quantity per 100 000	Avg Qty per Transaction	Reg Ctr Vol (%)	Reg Ctr Qty (%)
NB	751,449	40,458	2,824,705	5,384	375,901	70	44	42
NS	938,143	24,828	2,061,199	2,647	219,713	83	27	31
NL	516,875	19,083	1,152,422	3,692	222,960	60	21	17
PE	137,744	8,169	622,551	5,931	451,962	76	9	9
ATL	2,344,202	92,538	6,660,877	3,948	284,143	72	100	100

5.1.2. Transactions per capita (based on 100,000 inhabitants) for Atlantic Canada

Figure 2 shows that:

- The average number of transactions per 100,000 inhabitants for Atlantic Canada is 3,948.
- Prince Edward Island has the highest number of transactions per 100,000 inhabitants at 5,931.
- Nova Scotia shows the lowest number of transactions per 100,000 inhabitants at 2,647.

Figure 2: Volume of transactions and transactions per 100,000 inhabitants, Atlantic Canada



6. VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS DISTRIBUTED BY PRIME MEDICAL SPECIALTY (TOP TWO PRIME MEDICAL SPECIALTIES)

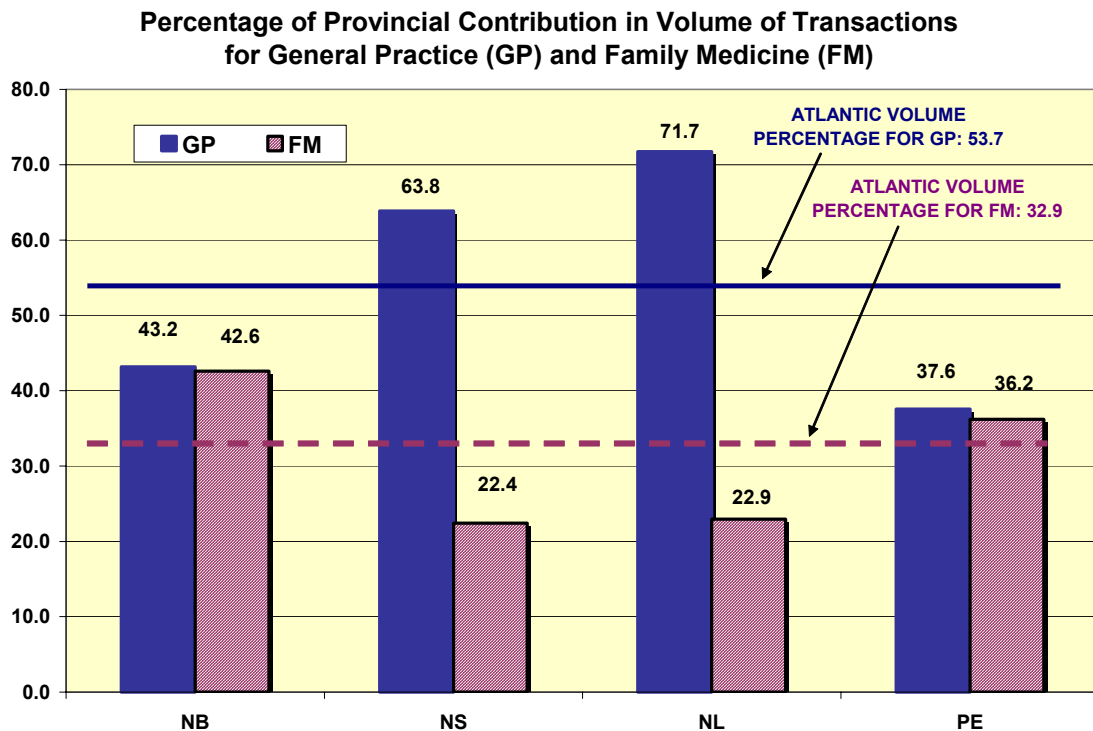
6.1. Volume of transactions, total quantity of products and contribution ratios

6.1.1. Regional and provincial

Figure 3 shows that:

- The Newfoundland and Labrador GP Prime Medical Specialty contributes the most to the provincial volume of transactions. This specialty generates 71.7% of all transactions for oxycodone-based products in the province.

Figure 3: Top two prime medical specialties’ provincial contributions in volume of transactions, General Practice and Family Medicine



Please note that the prime medical specialties of 465 prescribers were not easily identifiable; therefore, they have been excluded from the statistics presented in Figure 3.

7. VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS DISTRIBUTED BY PRODUCT**7.1. Volume of transactions by product, total quantity of products and contribution ratios****7.1.1. Regional**

This section presents a table showing the regional contributions of oxycodone-based products to the volume of transactions and quantity of products for Atlantic Canada.

Table 4: Oxycodone-based products sorted by volume of transactions, Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada						
Product	Strength (mg)	Volume of Transactions	Quantity of Products	Avg Qty of Products per Transaction	Reg Ctr Vol (%)	Reg Ctr Qty (%)
Endocet	5	40,406	2,976,218	74	43.7	44.7
Ratio-Oxycocet	5	10,734	792,212	74	11.6	11.9
Percocet	5	8,879	562,108	63	9.6	8.4
Oxycontin-Srt	20	8,649	590,250	68	9.3	8.9
Oxycontin-Srt	40	6,190	416,581	67	6.7	6.3
Oxycontin-Srt	10	5,850	379,607	65	6.3	5.7
Pms-Oxy-Aceta	5	2,536	162,974	64	2.7	2.4
Oxycontin-Srt	80	2,457	195,127	79	2.7	2.9
Oxy-Ir	10	1,596	136,402	85	1.7	2.0
Oxy-Ir	5	1,186	88,328	74	1.3	1.3
Oxy-Ir	20	1,067	105,336	99	1.2	1.6
Endodan	5	993	75,820	76	1.1	1.1
Percocet-Demi	2.5	875	44,504	51	0.9	0.7
Supeudol	10	450	78,348	174	0.5	1.2
Percodan	5	298	21,979	74	0.3	0.3
Ratio-Oxycodan	5	200	20,953	105	0.2	0.3
Supeudol	5	168	13,906	83	0.2	0.2
Percodan-Demi	2.5	3	140	47	0.0	0.0
Supeudol Supp	10	1	84	84		
Total		92,538	6,660,877	72	100	100

7.1.2. Provincial

This section presents tables showing regional and provincial contributions of oxycodone-based products to the volume of transactions and quantity of products for each province. Provinces are presented in descending order of volume of transactions as per Table 3.

Table 5: Oxycodone-based products sorted by volume of transactions, New Brunswick

New Brunswick								
Product	Strength	Volume of Transactions	Quantity of Tablets	Avg Qty of Tablets per Transaction	Prov Ctr Vol (%)	Prov Ctr Qty (%)	Reg Ctr Vol (%)	Reg Ctr Qty (%)
Endocet	5	25,935	1,821,748	70	64.1	64.5	28.0	27.3
Oxycontin-Srt	20	3,579	244,294	68	8.8	8.6	3.9	3.7
Oxycontin-Srt	10	2,707	173,310	64	6.7	6.1	2.9	2.6
Oxycontin-Srt	40	2,569	174,938	68	6.3	6.2	2.8	2.6
Ratio-Oxycocet	5	1,801	113,357	63	4.5	4.0	1.9	1.7
Oxycontin-Srt	80	1,082	77,508	72	2.7	2.7	1.2	1.2
Oxy-Ir	10	615	52,408	85	1.5	1.9	0.7	0.8
Oxy-Ir	5	555	41,072	74	1.4	1.5	0.6	0.6
Percocet	5	445	36,407	82	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.5
Percocet-Demi	2.5	443	18,929	43	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3
Oxy-Ir	20	297	32,663	110	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.5
Endodan	5	282	20,303	72	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3
Supeudol	10	48	7,801	163	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
Ratio-Oxycodan	5	46	4,755	103	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Supeudol	5	27	2,589	96	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Percodan	5	23	1,973	86	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Pms-Oxy-Aceta	5	2	530	265	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percodan-Demi	2.5	2	120	60	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		40,458	2,824,705	70	100	100	43.7	42.4

Table 6: Oxycodone-based products sorted by volume of transactions, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia								
Product	Strength	Volume of Transactions	Quantity of Tablets	Avg Qty of Tablets per Transaction	Prov Ctr Vol (%)	Prov Ctr Qty (%)	Reg Ctr Vol (%)	Reg Ctr Qty (%)
Endocet	5	14,246	1,138,518	80	57.4	55.2	15.4	17.1
Oxycontin-Srt	20	2,264	180,229	80	9.1	8.7	2.4	2.7
Oxycontin-Srt	40	1,675	130,900	78	6.7	6.4	1.8	2.0
Oxycontin-Srt	10	1,545	125,260	81	6.2	6.1	1.7	1.9
Ratio-Oxycocet	5	1,057	97,179	92	4.3	4.7	1.1	1.5
Endodan	5	711	55,517	78	2.9	2.7	0.8	0.8
Oxy-Ir	10	636	58,531	92	2.6	2.8	0.7	0.9
Percocet	5	557	53,319	96	2.2	2.6	0.6	0.8
Oxycontin-Srt	80	455	43,486	96	1.8	2.1	0.5	0.7
Oxy-Ir	5	408	32,785	80	1.6	1.6	0.4	0.5
Percocet-Demi	2.5	406	24,473	60	1.6	1.2	0.4	0.4
Oxy-Ir	20	368	39,687	108	1.5	1.9	0.4	0.6
Supeudol	10	301	60,420	201	1.2	2.9	0.3	0.9
Supeudol	5	92	10,242	111	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2
Percodan	5	63	6,281	100	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
Ratio-Oxycodan	5	44	4,372	99	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
Total		24,828	2,061,199	83	100	100	26.8	30.9

Table 7: Oxycodone-based products sorted by volume of transactions, Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador								
Product	Strength	Volume of Transactions	Quantity of Tablets	Avg Qty of Tablets per Transaction	Prov Ctr Vol (%)	Prov Ctr Qty (%)	Reg Ctr Vol (%)	Reg Ctr Qty (%)
Percocet	5	7,805	468,080	60	40.9	40.6	8.4	7.0
Pms-Oxy-Aceta	5	2,534	162,444	64	13.3	14.1	2.7	2.4
Oxycontin-Srt	20	1,964	98,590	50	10.3	8.6	2.1	1.5
Ratio-Oxycocet	5	1,836	126,895	69	9.6	11.0	2.0	1.9
Oxycontin-Srt	40	1,685	90,741	54	8.8	7.9	1.8	1.4
Oxycontin-Srt	10	1,178	48,953	42	6.2	4.2	1.3	0.7
Oxycontin-Srt	80	804	63,322	79	4.2	5.5	0.9	1.0
Oxy-Ir	20	399	32,546	82	2.1	2.8	0.4	0.5
Oxy-Ir	10	299	21,565	72	1.6	1.9	0.3	0.3
Percodan	5	208	13,325	64	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.2
Oxy-Ir	5	168	10,491	62	0.9	0.9	0.2	0.2
Supeudol	10	99	9,527	96	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1
Supeudol	5	48	1,045	22	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Percocet-Demi	2.5	22	1,018	46	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Ratio-Oxycodan	5	21	2,292	109	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Endocet	5	11	1,484	135	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Supeudol	10	1	84	84	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percodan-Demi	2.5	1	20	20	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		19,083	1,152,422	60	100	100	20.6	17.3

Table 8: Oxycodone-based products sorted by volume of transactions, Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island								
Product	Strength	Volume of Transactions	Quantity of Tablets	Avg Qty of Tablets per Transaction	Prov Ctr Vol (%)	Prov Ctr Qty (%)	Reg Ctr Vol (%)	Reg Ctr Qty (%)
Ratio-Oxycocet	5	6,040	454,781	75.29	73.9	73.1	6.5	6.8
Oxycontin-Srt	20	842	67,137	79.74	10.3	10.8	0.9	1.0
Oxycontin-Srt	10	420	32,084	76.39	5.1	5.2	0.5	0.5
Oxycontin-Srt	40	261	20,002	76.64	3.2	3.2	0.3	0.3
Endocet	5	214	14,468	67.61	2.6	2.3	0.2	0.2
Oxycontin-Srt	80	116	10,811	93.2	1.4	1.7	0.1	0.2
Ratio-Oxycodan	5	89	9,534	107.12	1.1	1.5	0.1	0.1
Percocet	5	72	4,302	59.75	0.9	0.7	0.1	0.1
Oxy-Ir	5	55	3,980	72.36	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1
Oxy-Ir	10	46	3,898	84.74	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.1
Percocet-Demi	2.5	4	84	21	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percodan	5	4	400	100	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Oxy-Ir	20	3	440	146.67	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Supeudol	10	2	600	300	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Supeudol	5	1	30	30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		8,169	622,551	76	100	100	8.8	9.3

7.2. Volume of transactions of products by prime medical specialty

7.2.1. Regional

This section presents a table showing transactions by product for those prime medical specialties that generate 95% of the regional volume of transactions as presented in Table 3. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the meaning of prime medical specialty acronyms.

Table 9: Volume of transactions of products by prime medical specialty, Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada																				
Rank	P. SPC	Endocet	Percocet	Ratio-Oxycocet	Oxycontin-Srt 20	Oxycontin-Srt 40	Oxycontin-Srt 10	P ms-Oxy-Acet	Oxycontin-Srt 80	Oxy-Ir 10	Oxy-Ir 20	Oxy-Ir 5	Endodan	Percocet-Demi	Supeudol 10	Percodan	Ratio-Oxycodan	Supeudol 5	Percodan-Demi	Total
1	GP	19,582	6,274	4,934	4,629	3,500	3,244	1,868	1,303	929	792	683	619	503	367	251	151	100	1	49,730
2	FM	14,534	1,942	3,653	3,099	2,011	2,025	506	1,019	510	230	333	224	221	74	26	21	54	1	30,483
3	Blank	1,628	183	586	142	153	102	37	64	7	5	19	54	45	10	10				3,045
4	ORS	1,392	85	338	159	25	98	20	5	8	1	43		5						2,179
5	ANE	657	38	15	357	345	145	5	11	99	11	40	43	5		7			1	1,779
6	DDS	437	33	417	1	1	28	15					21	67		2				1,022
	Total	38,230	8,555	9,943	8,387	6,035	5,642	2,451	2,402	1,553	1,039	1,118	961	846	441	296	182	154	3	88,238

7.2.2. Provincial

This section presents tables showing transactions by product for those prime medical specialties that generate 95% of the provincial volume of transactions as presented in Table 3.

Table 10: Volume of transactions of products by prime medical specialty, New Brunswick

New Brunswick																				
Rank	P. SPC	Endocet	Oxycontin-Srt 20	Oxycontin-Srt 10	Oxycontin-Srt 40	Ratio-Oxycocet	Oxycontin-Srt 80	Oxy-Ir 10	Oxy-Ir 5	Percocet-Demi	Percocet	Oxy-Ir 20	Endodan	Supeudol 10	Ratio-Oxycodan	Supeudol 5	Percodan	Percodan-Demi	P ms-Oxy-Acet	Total
1	FM	11,164	1,634	1,200	1,139	809	522	260	191	177	167	93	73	16	11	9	1	1	1	17,468
2	GP	10,448	1,614	1,200	1,208	796	505	316	271	200	231	203	152	28	27	14	21	1		17,235
3	Blank	1,204	88	58	131	69	33	5	11	21	21		29		1		1			1,672
4	ORS	1,303	77	64	17	34		8	40	5	11									1,559
5	RES	247	16	3	15	3	1		2	4	1									292
6	GSU	248	1	12	1	8				5	1									276
	Total	24,614	3,430	2,537	2,511	1,719	1,061	589	515	412	432	296	254	44	39	23	23	2	1	38,502

Table 11: Volume of transactions of products by prime medical specialty, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia																		
Rank	P. SPC	Endocet	Oxycontin-Srt 20	Oxycontin-Srt 40	Oxycontin-Srt 10	Ratio-Oxycocet	Endodan	Percocet	Oxy-Ir 10	Oxycontin-Srt 80	Oxy-Ir 20	Percocet-Demi	Supeudol 10	Oxy-Ir 5	Supeudol 5	Percodan	Ratio-Oxycodan	Total
1	GP	9,047	1,309	990	982	716	467	407	367	328	290	282	256	247	77	44	42	15,851
2	FM	3,304	545	296	386	257	151	103	166	104	55	44	41	102	10	3		5,567
3	ANE	604	334	330	100	13	43	24	91	8	10	5		34		6		1,602
4	Blank	397	12	5	14	29	25	5	1	1	1	21		5		8	2	526
	total	13,352	2,200	1,621	1,482	1,015	686	539	625	441	356	352	297	388	87	61	44	23,546

Table 12: Volume of transactions of products by prime medical specialty, Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador																			
Rank	P. SPC	Percocet	Pms-Oxyc-Acet	Oxycontin-Srt 20	Ratio-Oxycocet	Oxycontin-Srt 40	Oxycontin-Srt 10	Oxycontin-Srt 80	Oxy-Ir 20	Oxy-Ir 10	Percodan	Oxy-Ir 5	Supeudol 10	Percocet-Demi	Ratio-Oxycodan	Supeudol 5	Endocet	Percodan-Demi	Total
1	GP	5,605	1,868	1,401	1,300	1,195	896	447	298	220	186	139	81	21	17	8	4		13,686
2	FM	1,654	505	519	451	441	238	320	82	72	18	18	17		2	35	7		4,379
	Total	7,259	2,373	1,920	1,751	1,636	1,134	767	380	292	204	157	98	21	19	43	11	0	18,065

Table 13: Volume of transactions of products by prime medical specialty, Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island																	
Rank	P. SPC	Ratio-Oxycocet	Oxycontin-Srt 20	Oxycontin-Srt 10	Oxycontin-Srt 40	Oxycontin-Srt 80	Endocet	Oxy-Ir 5	Percocet	Oxy-Ir 10	Ratio-Oxycodan	Percodan	Supeudol 10	Supeudol 5	Oxy-Ir 20	Percocet-Demi	Total
1	FM	2,136	401	201	135	73	59	22	18	12	8	4					3,069
2	GP	2,122	305	166	107	23	83	26	31	26	65		2	1	1		2,958
3	Blank	459	32	22	10	14	27	1	5	1	5					3	579
4	IM	522	20				6			1	8						557
5	DDS	405					21		8							1	435
6	ORS	292	71	12	6	4	11	1	7								404
	Total	5,936	829	401	258	114	207	50	69	40	86	4	2	1	1	4	8,002

8. MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

Based on the overall chart listed below, the following are key features:

New Brunswick at 44% contributes the most to the volume of transactions in Atlantic Canada (92,538). It has the highest number of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants (133) who generate the highest volume of transactions (40,458) with a high average number of transactions per prescriber (41).

Prince Edward Island, with the smallest population, contributes to 9% (8,169) of the volume of transactions in Atlantic Canada. The province has the highest number of transactions per prescriber (46) and the second highest number of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants at 128.

Newfoundland contributes to 21% of the volume of transactions in Atlantic Canada; this comes almost uniquely from GP and FM physicians who generate 94.6% of the province's volume of transactions.

Nova Scotia, with the largest population and number of prescribers (1,042), contributes to 27% of the volume of transactions in Atlantic Canada. This may be related to the fact that the province has the smallest number of prescribers per 100,000 inhabitants (111), the lowest number of transactions per 100,000 inhabitants (2,647) and the lowest average number of transactions per prescriber (24).

Items	ATL	NB	NS	NL	PEI
Population	2,344,202	751,449	938,134	516,875	137,744
Total Number of Prescribers	2,867	997	1,042	588	176
General Practice	1,055 (36.7%)	281(28%)	446 (43%)	283 (48%)	45 (26%)
Family Medicine	710 (25%)	302 (30%)	258 (25%)	106 (18%)	44 (25%)
	61.6%	58.0%	68.0%	66.0%	51.0%
Number of Prescribers per 100,000 Inhabitants	122	133	111	114	128
Total Volume of Transactions	92,538	40,458	24,828	19,083	8,169
General Practice	49,730 (53.7%)	17,468 (43.1%)	15,851 (63.8%)	13,686 (71.7%)	2,954 (37.6%)
Family Medicine	30,483 (32.9%)	17,235 (42.6%)	5,567 (22.4%)	4,378 (22.9%)	3,069 (36.2%)
	86.6%	85.7%	86.2%	94.6%	73.8%
Average Number of Transactions per Prescriber	32	41	24	32	46
General Practice	47	61	36	48	66
Family Medicine	43	58	22	41	70
Volume of Transactions per 100,000 Inhabitants	3,948	5,384	2,647	3,692	5,931
Regional Contribution(in terms of volume)	N/A	44%	27%	21%	9%

9. CONCLUSION

This project is successful in providing stakeholders with accurate data on the volume of sales transactions for oxycodone-based products in Atlantic Canada. Sales reports from 651 retail pharmacies were provided to the Office of Controlled Substances. Reports show a volume of transactions of 92,538, for the first six months of 2004, for Atlantic Canada. Most (86.6%) of the transactions were generated by two prime medical specialties: General Practice (53.7%) and Family Medicine (32.9%). New Brunswick generated 44% of this volume, Nova Scotia 27%, Newfoundland 21% and Prince Edward Island 9%. Prince Edward Island has the highest volume of transactions per 100,000 inhabitants at 5,931, New Brunswick the second at 5,384, then Newfoundland at 3,692 and Nova Scotia at 2,647 transactions per 100,000 inhabitants. This report does not draw any conclusions on the volume of transactions related to products, in order to keep its objectivity and avoid the creation of any apparent bias.

The outcome of this review of sales transactions cannot be used on its own to determine definitive actions. Its purpose was to provide stakeholders with factual information to contribute to their efforts.

Nonetheless, Health Canada is advancing other projects, such as the preparation of a guide for health professionals on the diversion and abuse of narcotic and controlled drugs; a research initiative on the characterization of OxyContin® abusers, which will assist in formulating prevention and treatment actions; and the development of a “problematics paper” on the use and abuse of pharmaceutical products which will be used to identify research priorities. Other projects under Canada’s Drug Strategy include the development of national prevention and research agendas on substance use, the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and the work of a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Substance Use and Abuse.

Appendix 1: List of Oxycodone-based Products

1. PMS-OXYCODONE - ACETAMINOPHEN (DIN:02245758)
2. RIVACOCET (02242468)
3. OXY-IR 5MG (02231934)
4. OXY-IR 10MG (02240131)
5. OXY-IR 20M (02240132)
6. OXYCONTIN - SRT 10MG (02202441)
7. OXYCONTIN - SRT 20MG (02202468)
8. OXYCONTIN - SRT 40MG (02202476)
9. OXYCONTIN - SRT 80MG (02202484)
10. SUPEUDOL TABLET 5MG (00789739)
11. SUPEUDOL TAB 10MG (00443948)
12. SUPEUDOL SUP 10MG (00392480)
13. SUPEUDOL SUP 20MG (00392472)
14. RATIO-OXYCOCET (00608165)
15. RATIO-OXYCODAN (00608157)
16. PERCOCET (01916475)
17. PERCOCET-DEMI (01916491)
18. ENDOCET (01916548)
19. PERCODAN (01916572)
20. PERCODAN-DEMI (01916556)
21. ENDODAN (01916483)

Appendix 2: List of Prime Medical Specialty Acronyms

Specialty Codes (English)	Specialty Code Descriptions (English)	Specialty Code Descriptions (French)
ANE	Anesthesia	Anesthésie
FM	Family Medicine	Médecine de famille
GP	General Practice	Omnipratique
GSU	General Surgery	Chirurgie générale
IM	Internal Medicine	Médecine interne
ORS	Orthopedic Surgery	Chirurgie Orthopédique
RES	Resident	Résident

Source: Intercontinental Marketing Services (IMS), Health Canada

Blank: Group of unclassified prescribers in terms of Prime Medical Specialty

DDS: Dentists-Prescribers

PHARM: Pharmacists (product requested by a pharmacist)