



Opioid prescriptions down 46.4% since 2012

More Americans than ever are dying from illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs.

While the nation's prescription opioid supply has decreased every year for the past decade, more Americans than ever are dying from drug-related overdose—primarily illicitly manufactured fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, methamphetamine and cocaine. Overdose and death related to heroin and prescription opioids still remains too high. New national data from leading health data clearinghouse IQVIA show that every state in the nation saw a large decrease of prescription opioids dispensed from retail pharmacies between 2012–2021. Every state also saw large decreases in dosage strength, measured in morphine milligram equivalents, during the same time period.

The American Medical Association continues to urge the nation's policymakers to change course and focus on increasing access to evidence-based care for patients with a substance use disorder, co-occurring mental illness and for patients with pain, including opioid therapy when clinically indicated. Public health interventions, including overdose prevention efforts and harm reduction strategies must also be a focus moving forward. Failure to take these actions will cause the drug-related overdose and death epidemic to continue.

Total opioid prescriptions dispensed decreased from 260.5 million in 2012 to 139.6 million in 2021.



Every state has seen a significant decrease.

State	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% decrease 2012-2021	% decrease 2020-2021
AK	535,968	523,003	503,910	476,905	449,875	393,489	336,944	282,296	269,295	260,489	51.4%	3.3%
AL	6,766,965	6,769,646	6,450,157	5,897,883	5,680,731	5,127,981	4,644,775	4,241,021	4,017,099	3,954,116	41.6%	1.6%
AR	3,499,409	3,479,097	3,562,670	3,341,435	3,272,822	3,040,791	2,694,564	2,511,058	2,364,920	2,359,319	32.6%	0.2%
AZ	5,644,367	5,389,370	5,404,585	5,160,721	4,863,342	4,284,865	3,632,438	3,337,095	3,095,698	2,999,646	46.9%	3.1%
CA	22,308,925	21,617,465	21,017,951	19,057,900	17,843,551	15,895,810	14,041,568	12,456,258	11,365,077	10,897,692	51.2%	4.1%
CO	4,130,049	4,041,412	3,969,988	3,751,410	3,460,458	3,053,535	2,639,832	2,383,881	2,246,162	2,188,012	47.0%	2.6%
CT	2,505,443	2,418,542	2,377,003	2,216,908	1,979,727	1,721,231	1,546,943	1,406,701	1,289,960	1,260,905	49.7%	2.3%
DC	410,900	399,121	386,926	351,205	322,004	291,873	263,238	213,065	177,846	171,148	58.3%	3.8%
DE	859,334	860,791	850,403	799,240	746,853	639,941	572,238	491,918	451,175	443,667	48.4%	1.7%
FL	15,719,316	15,422,054	15,060,443	14,224,642	14,297,281	13,295,782	11,570,816	10,415,353	10,036,732	9,861,497	37.3%	1.7%
GA	9,187,619	8,905,829	8,654,377	8,280,320	8,217,688	8,217,688	7,612,110	6,357,543	6,002,955	5,856,573	36.3%	2.4%
HI	815,551	794,191	752,869	696,032	656,331	587,981	514,066	446,445	402,664	375,052	54.0%	6.9%
IA	2,244,754	2,182,802	2,175,405	2,060,434	1,935,390	1,717,967	1,512,150	1,350,363	1,257,433	1,233,288	45.1%	1.9%
ID	1,556,531	1,531,196	1,512,089	1,441,175	1,376,827	1,266,182	1,126,376	1,065,720	1,008,829	995,847	36.0%	1.3%
IL	8,209,840	7,964,906	7,751,153	7,325,652	7,085,794	6,397,059	5,647,188	5,217,411	4,882,045	4,831,755	41.1%	1.0%
IN	7,234,004	6,945,667	6,354,107	5,909,416	5,614,684	5,031,711	4,405,413	4,067,011	3,835,933	3,739,891	48.3%	2.5%
KS	2,666,625	2,615,728	2,582,757	2,417,387	2,327,823	2,153,318	1,976,384	1,826,489	1,714,048	1,676,854	37.1%	2.2%
KY	5,429,438	4,817,123	4,710,788	4,352,410	4,145,126	3,775,681	3,456,142	3,276,182	3,118,280	3,017,849	44.4%	3.2%
LA	5,371,441	5,367,328	5,183,782	4,776,148	4,667,879	4,264,618	3,784,308	3,458,208	3,155,721	3,090,750	42.5%	2.1%
MA	4,422,833	4,302,489	4,131,609	3,785,936	3,365,652	2,886,129	2,566,287	2,345,324	2,185,258	2,171,001	50.9%	0.7%
MD	4,281,835	4,106,395	4,041,418	3,785,026	3,574,783	3,175,615	2,769,370	2,561,214	2,388,317	2,315,431	45.9%	3.1%
ME	1,216,432	1,160,248	1,110,254	1,025,613	897,566	744,931	646,645	598,300	546,187	525,231	56.8%	3.8%
MI	9,909,555	9,723,696	9,629,833	8,903,256	8,400,499	7,515,234	6,289,430	5,580,018	5,253,232	5,147,051	48.1%	2.0%
MN	3,261,072	3,148,140	3,078,534	2,844,019	2,555,999	2,202,415	1,945,329	1,722,044	1,614,425	1,574,783	51.7%	2.5%
MO	5,809,033	5,595,521	5,438,347	5,049,357	4,832,855	4,375,015	3,869,493	3,551,902	3,328,635	3,245,380	44.1%	2.5%
MS	3,428,037	3,378,940	3,284,027	3,107,098	2,977,050	2,635,448	2,171,123	1,927,844	1,838,028	1,854,199	45.9%	-0.9%
MT	1,002,596	966,218	918,510	845,788	810,069	697,847	601,280	562,623	531,404	523,097	47.8%	1.6%
NC	10,009,304	9,872,012	9,563,877	8,967,063	8,459,987	7,466,960	6,436,425	6,046,187	5,706,057	5,550,172	44.5%	2.7%
ND	521,658	519,068	507,754	467,684	433,605	379,490	325,579	291,775	273,222	272,216	47.8%	0.4%
NE	1,405,278	1,393,406	1,368,797	1,269,798	1,234,269	1,113,535	1,015,554	928,036	877,738	859,370	38.8%	2.1%
NH	1,093,316	1,059,901	1,028,348	965,874	837,748	693,333	617,370	550,094	516,658	495,803	54.7%	4.0%
NJ	5,264,269	5,145,062	5,073,989	4,891,663	4,589,911	3,918,084	3,404,615	3,120,003	2,851,584	2,769,910	47.4%	2.9%
NM	1,577,571	1,467,348	1,457,670	1,421,373	1,329,194	1,162,236	1,010,656	928,827	859,907	825,147	47.7%	4.0%
NV	2,773,915	2,557,389	2,555,291	2,437,968	2,332,499	2,146,894	1,659,914	1,532,653	1,490,243	1,456,839	47.5%	2.2%
NY	10,949,516	9,908,583	9,291,858	9,103,860	8,604,928	7,675,984	6,790,992	6,217,084	5,670,971	5,525,964	49.5%	2.6%
OH	11,105,666	10,605,533	10,211,622	9,427,063	8,645,839	7,406,679	6,239,742	5,712,841	5,327,882	5,187,393	53.3%	2.6%
OK	4,815,302	4,689,843	4,243,348	4,002,626	3,811,129	3,460,540	3,118,775	2,635,684	2,393,880	2,384,866	50.5%	0.4%
OR	3,965,503	3,825,110	3,739,158	3,438,520	3,143,631	2,726,603	2,385,659	2,206,758	2,071,780	2,013,559	49.2%	2.8%
PA	10,517,618	10,297,026	10,042,872	9,486,319	8,764,513	7,390,706	6,382,073	5,698,485	5,197,314	5,045,903	52.0%	2.9%
RI	863,404	790,260	735,771	648,141	596,817	511,263	434,041	398,785	365,394	347,075	59.8%	5.0%
SC	4,962,140	4,944,732	4,867,993	4,552,708	4,323,952	3,925,358	3,452,647	3,137,065	2,950,658	2,877,724	42.0%	2.5%
SD	585,425	582,759	594,781	580,856	544,210	493,919	428,410	386,407	367,223	363,917	37.8%	0.9%
TN	9,131,546	8,562,356	8,235,269	7,785,619	7,376,491	6,628,751	5,728,506	5,142,701	4,766,539	4,610,724	49.5%	3.3%
TX	20,175,186	19,514,085	18,939,633	16,813,491	16,357,887	14,986,901	13,710,681	12,927,131	11,726,836	11,107,046	44.9%	5.3%
UT	2,484,745	2,464,249	2,403,678	2,273,104	2,202,405	2,033,495	1,867,834	1,734,084	1,655,324	1,662,583	33.1%	-0.4%
VA	6,507,993	6,348,337	6,111,747	5,635,595	5,251,151	4,443,799	3,773,994	3,500,660	3,239,061	3,160,771	51.4%	2.4%
VT	449,145	430,017	423,113	400,370	364,591	317,273	262,360	232,579	223,501	211,303	53.0%	5.5%
WA	5,576,087	5,398,674	5,376,281	5,092,049	4,778,316	4,290,154	3,743,745	3,351,540	3,125,722	3,063,979	45.1%	2.0%
WI	4,375,816	4,210,817	4,124,703	3,889,390	3,590,560	2,979,890	2,581,086	2,308,948	2,141,812	2,082,868	52.4%	2.8%
WV	2,496,367	2,324,152	2,250,780	1,958,112	1,670,282	1,399,766	1,181,605	1,037,648	937,611	902,884	63.8%	3.7%
WY	430,093	433,126	441,863	414,794	396,079	360,018	316,010	287,699	275,079	268,930	37.5%	2.2%
U.S. total	260,464,735	251,770,763	244,484,091	227,807,356	215,998,653	192,696,190	168,858,135	153,966,961	143,389,354	139,617,469	46.4%	2.6%

Data source: IQVIA Xponent limited to retail pharmacy dispensed prescriptions.

Market definition: Opioids = USC O2200 (analgesic narcotics)

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