



# Opioid prescriptions down 49.4% since 2012

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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 2012–2022. 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.



