



Opioid prescriptions are down 51.7% since 2012.

Drug-related overdose has slightly decreased, but nearly 100,000 Americans are still dying from illicitly manufactured fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine.

New national data from leading health data clearinghouse IQVIA show that every state in the nation has seen a significant decrease of prescription opioids dispensed from retail pharmacies between 2012–2023. Every state also saw large decreases in dosage strength, measured in morphine milligram equivalents, during the same time period.

The AMA continues to urge the nation’s policymakers to change course and focus on increasing access to evidence-based care for patients with pain, including non-opioid and non-pharmacologic interventions when appropriate and opioid therapy when clinically indicated. The AMA further encourages medical boards to adopt updated, 2024 guidelines from the Federation of State Medical Boards as well as state legislatures, payers and pharmacy chains to remove arbitrary policies based on outdated 2016 guidelines from the CDC.

