AMA
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Opioid prescriptions decrease for 10th consecutive year

More Americans than ever are dying from a drug-related overdose

While the nation's prescription opioid supply has decreased for the 10th consecutive year, 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 2011-2020. Every state also saw large decreases in dosage strength, measured in morphine milligram equivalents (MME) during the same time period.

The nation's policymakers must pivot to 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 has decreased by more than 44% between 2011–2020

State TRx	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2011–2020	% Change 2019–2020
AK	557,967	546,396	532,174	510,399	478,056	454,444	400,699	333,751	278,725	265,516	-52.4%	-4.7%
AL	6,459,489	6,799,812	6,810,195	6,482,594	5,926,378	5,718,047	5,170,871	4,658,828	4,253,960	4,029,020	-37.6%	-5.3%
AR	3,301,708	3,502,615	3,486,488	3,572,478	3,348,152	3,291,992	3,067,038	2,713,125	2,526,993	2,380,420	-27.9%	-5.8%
AZ	5,733,883	5,616,265	5,362,706	5,372,257	5,132,391	4,827,490	4,263,792	3,624,933	3,327,191	3,090,787	-46.1%	-7.1%
CA	21,984,054	22,302,532	21,612,793	21,016,834	19,050,290	17,828,349	15,874,675	14,061,254	12,483,679	11,377,636	-48.2%	-8.9%
CO	4,085,141	4,135,158	4,035,263	3,959,838	3,738,556	3,459,557	3,047,458	2,633,543	2,379,103	2,248,080	-45.0%	-5.5%
CT	2,495,451	2,502,412	2,415,581	2,374,760	2,218,705	1,975,953	1,718,081	1,536,618	1,398,993	1,283,757	-48.6%	-8.2%
DC	412,993	413,636	400,467	387,706	349,121	318,812	288,637	260,221	209,691	174,089	-57.8%	-17.0%
DE	896,008	850,678	851,969	843,611	793,145	748,902	644,098	578,886	498,150	452,812	-49.5%	-9.1%
FL	16,730,886	15,506,359	15,182,741	14,836,798	14,030,815	14,094,215	13,095,533	11,467,243	10,295,688	9,921,669	-40.7%	-3.6%
GA	8,979,299	9,187,711	8,911,135	8,635,223	8,249,393	8,178,329	7,572,753	6,758,229	6,350,123	5,997,137	-33.2%	-5.6%
HI	804,750	806,673	787,969	745,388	685,844	641,683	572,890	491,718	431,809	385,473	-52.1%	-10.7%
IA	1,965,929	2,254,951	2,193,050	2,185,894	2,067,585	1,945,087	1,724,694	1,511,788	1,348,251	1,247,761	-36.5%	-7.5%
ID	1,486,855	1,534,052	1,507,231	1,487,800	1,413,087	1,348,373	1,239,429	1,107,310	1,048,985	996,157	-33.0%	-5.0%
IL	7,985,511	8,262,798	8,020,564	7,813,175	7,406,234	7,174,721	6,493,511	5,698,396	5,268,571	4,928,925	-38.3%	-6.4%
IN	7,020,556	7,286,915	6,998,099	6,408,311	5,967,652	5,685,451	5,102,958	4,431,736	4,096,346	3,882,980	-44.7%	-5.2%
KS	2,585,776	2,675,020	2,622,534	2,587,229	2,418,736	2,328,673	2,158,349	1,980,488	1,828,244	1,715,352	-33.7%	-6.2%
KY	5,787,060	5,417,705	4,797,820	4,694,396	4,334,957	4,133,758	3,769,469	3,447,088	3,262,360	3,107,822	-46.3%	-4.7%
LA	5,247,215	5,340,915	5,334,699	5,155,565	4,735,748	4,638,147	4,243,715	3,793,001	3,459,683	3,156,063	-39.9%	-8.8%
MA	4,407,762	4,442,800	4,323,636	4,150,284	3,798,257	3,371,548	2,896,451	2,566,450	2,344,557	2,193,355	-50.2%	-6.4%
MD	4,293,671	4,281,442	4,113,042	4,056,572	3,798,321	3,585,532	3,186,401	2,779,464	2,577,951	2,408,020	-43.9%	-6.6%
ME	1,251,743	1,208,513	1,148,091	1,099,640	1,018,375	895,539	744,721	646,215	599,680	545,244	-56.4%	-9.1%
MI	9,763,369	9,937,060	9,751,048	9,660,121	8,925,472	8,418,965	7,538,420	6,287,542	5,574,756	5,246,027	-46.3%	-5.9%
MN	3,237,135	3,273,932	3,162,439	3,095,115	2,857,460	2,566,787	2,193,055	1,932,342	1,707,278	1,596,497	-50.7%	-6.5%
MO	5,595,530	5,838,931	5,621,821	5,465,068	5,086,741	4,869,716	4,404,238	3,884,641	3,566,783	3,345,808	-40.2%	-6.2%
MS	3,315,214	3,451,664	3,405,426	3,311,668	3,145,009	3,015,336	2,673,451	2,188,032	1,938,338	1,845,910	-44.3%	-4.8%
MT	962,622	996,284	957,554	902,721	827,638	792,552	685,496	595,741	558,491	526,554	-45.3%	-5.7%
NC	9,417,059	9,989,197	9,863,960	9,582,300	8,981,503	8,474,340	7,483,144	6,436,341	6,048,245	5,697,142	-39.5%	-5.8%
ND	494,817	507,690	506,935	496,083	458,352	423,178	370,262	325,372	292,226	273,699	-44.7%	-6.3%
NE	1,309,068	1,404,728	1,394,266	1,368,283	1,269,126	1,231,337	1,113,380	1,014,662	926,832	877,622	-33.0%	-5.3%
NH	1,067,807	1,086,670	1,055,906	1,017,778	958,788	832,221	682,320	614,477	548,120	506,928	-52.5%	-7.5%
NJ	5,383,373	5,297,251	5,186,754	5,110,383	4,923,734	4,612,063	3,921,094	3,415,966	3,133,954	2,859,055	-46.9%	-8.8%
NM	1,674,080	1,564,606	1,455,772	1,454,741	1,420,771	1,324,919	1,157,281	1,008,363	925,928	858,225	-48.7%	-7.3%
NV	2,776,070	2,772,556	2,558,528	2,554,118	2,441,071	2,343,315	2,165,920	1,686,604	1,565,064	1,525,141	-45.1%	-2.6%
NY	10,860,289	10,974,036	9,926,365	9,309,091	9,125,851	8,628,646	7,711,760	6,822,592	6,248,559	5,704,869	-47.5%	-8.7%
OH	11,580,771	11,126,391	10,634,213	10,238,946	9,454,746	8,670,857	7,423,787	6,243,137	5,712,547	5,330,070	-54.0%	-6.7%
OK	4,556,061	4,815,024	4,692,914	4,246,162	3,993,156	3,803,067	3,452,207	3,115,771	2,643,980	2,409,747	-47.1%	-8.9%
OR	3,994,332	3,933,642	3,803,435	3,720,690	3,409,838	3,115,759	2,705,506	2,387,688	2,215,562	2,076,460	-48.0%	-6.3%
PA	10,446,328	10,573,480	10,344,963	10,091,704	9,539,732	8,826,630	7,447,248	6,380,748	5,699,370	5,199,714	-50.2%	-8.8%
RI	853,730	868,158	797,057	743,805	653,773	601,936	515,485	434,250	398,495	366,357	-57.1%	-8.1%
SC	4,621,384	4,974,806	4,951,963	4,870,399	4,542,490	4,307,251	3,912,693	3,446,686	3,132,131	2,951,170	-36.1%	-5.8%
SD	527,850	576,086	575,192	585,047	568,971	529,373	479,644	422,619	381,632	362,766	-31.3%	-4.9%
TN	9,254,227	9,123,434	8,556,084	8,234,764	7,813,039	7,393,620	6,629,074	5,725,802	5,149,444	4,771,221	-48.4%	-7.3%
TX	19,645,366	20,169,265	19,516,996	18,934,584	16,805,856	16,337,795	14,978,124	13,705,957	12,902,238	11,701,471	-40.4%	-9.3%
UT	2,477,180	2,493,000	2,467,276	2,396,190	2,268,731	2,196,371	2,024,134	1,855,298	1,718,349	1,643,132	-33.7%	-4.4%
VA	6,208,215	6,490,494	6,318,917	6,077,315	5,614,391	5,248,774	4,430,238	3,769,850	3,500,538	3,251,937	-47.6%	-7.1%
VT	439,831	446,794	428,557	422,468	400,537	362,626	315,598	259,887	228,934	212,207	-51.8%	-7.3%
WA	5,711,352	5,584,327	5,404,867	5,389,101	5,108,537	4,788,329	4,284,442	3,739,353	3,354,672	3,126,429	-45.3%	-6.8%
WI	4,268,149	4,379,080	4,216,898	4,126,766	3,886,349	3,583,119	2,967,994	2,584,485	2,308,939	2,136,600	-49.9%	-7.5%
WV	2,566,449	2,516,781	2,338,899	2,266,420	1,962,710	1,671,252	1,401,655	1,184,585	1,034,257	927,123	-63.9%	-10.4%
WY	419,592	426,148	429,385	439,169	406,781	385,632	351,634	310,326	283,944	272,995	-34.9%	-3.9%
All States	**257,900,957**	**260,466,873**	**251,772,637**	**244,487,752**	**227,810,951**	**216,000,368**	**192,695,507**	**168,859,402**	**153,968,339**	**143,390,951**	**-44.4%**	**-6.9%**

Total MME has decreased by more than 55% between 2011–2020

State MME	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Cumulative % Change 2011–2020	% Change 2019–2020
AK	606,099,036	552,002,482	561,014,415	517,607,365	512,699,407	491,921,952	449,113,121	358,102,703	247,073,675	231,427,187	-61.8%	-6.3%
AL	5,077,281,202	5,304,796,615	5,486,296,437	5,441,768,470	5,066,546,752	4,688,064,184	4,001,460,791	3,373,703,255	2,892,321,992	2,668,151,582	-47.4%	-7.8%
AR	2,365,819,142	2,467,964,188	2,535,123,892	2,687,103,753	2,638,810,167	2,527,497,002	2,275,584,066	1,879,534,343	1,582,352,873	1,447,008,724	-38.8%	-8.6%
AZ	6,607,974,558	6,528,774,790	6,179,260,735	6,026,624,928	5,749,630,183	5,336,481,967	4,448,048,646	3,454,954,688	2,924,915,229	2,656,483,366	-59.8%	-9.2%
CA	22,638,480,395	22,681,544,782	21,687,976,824	20,473,989,849	18,947,162,111	17,115,275,643	14,557,033,006	12,119,980,598	9,910,146,754	8,713,792,783	-61.5%	-12.1%
CO	4,035,748,593	3,996,444,223	3,717,295,557	3,464,230,866	3,352,866,487	3,010,429,624	2,516,789,427	2,068,045,605	1,763,772,174	1,627,761,951	-59.7%	-7.7%
CT	2,633,678,116	2,712,841,568	2,619,262,994	2,547,870,448	2,335,797,981	2,032,250,633	1,677,047,528	1,447,223,547	1,282,742,770	1,170,780,067	-55.5%	-8.7%
DC	395,610,291	324,704,941	272,173,942	247,542,762	238,021,089	219,880,220	207,112,519	165,537,366	118,792,583	90,961,938	-77.0%	-23.4%
DE	1,321,062,857	1,169,859,515	1,098,242,775	1,047,349,881	976,800,636	954,052,818	783,916,396	682,675,308	537,966,191	460,099,843	-65.2%	-14.5%
FL	23,767,400,182	18,153,463,068	15,984,674,774	15,334,083,257	14,320,198,674	14,521,787,282	13,557,637,676	11,554,212,129	9,983,466,541	9,524,589,442	-59.9%	-4.6%
GA	7,264,174,100	7,147,888,470	6,769,559,604	6,683,435,032	6,615,221,767	6,615,061,144	6,195,246,156	5,340,411,589	4,728,174,230	4,376,337,754	-39.8%	-7.4%
HI	933,327,295	905,640,841	848,955,083	735,598,970	671,747,872	616,548,720	543,744,007	449,334,816	366,498,501	313,686,318	-66.4%	-14.4%
IA	1,586,606,643	1,676,872,920	1,577,115,621	1,566,096,924	1,535,606,007	1,410,196,051	1,209,663,145	1,015,683,622	839,542,744	758,529,967	-52.2%	-9.6%
ID	1,306,401,760	1,353,599,487	1,379,328,450	1,404,628,963	1,391,074,947	1,298,328,067	1,164,615,442	999,355,052	887,002,874	809,903,751	-38.0%	-8.7%
IL	5,381,361,280	5,583,034,473	5,484,011,798	5,416,207,549	5,447,071,283	5,301,088,736	4,675,018,981	3,887,318,606	3,332,952,620	3,048,246,277	-43.4%	-8.5%
IN	6,624,500,798	6,845,976,143	6,493,163,221	5,765,163,270	5,432,526,981	5,029,920,717	4,251,865,930	3,500,938,820	3,071,710,842	2,906,146,292	-56.1%	-5.4%
KS	2,279,933,364	2,274,276,217	2,261,978,113	2,270,650,242	2,224,703,071	2,140,083,012	1,930,265,818	1,664,450,642	1,417,133,557	1,314,679,860	-42.3%	-7.2%
KY	4,841,482,691	4,601,879,632	4,138,812,600	3,942,856,462	3,647,784,168	3,467,311,060	3,096,220,402	2,769,258,292	2,500,150,115	2,347,546,982	-51.5%	-6.1%
LA	3,558,012,050	3,557,625,548	3,552,404,470	3,448,114,626	3,251,144,025	3,425,594,993	3,009,365,575	2,575,848,615	2,213,046,444	1,979,355,458	-44.4%	-10.6%
MA	3,998,645,443	4,062,892,046	4,008,501,304	3,767,450,852	3,467,276,246	3,063,049,339	2,580,607,843	2,209,388,147	1,937,024,746	1,805,967,925	-54.8%	-6.8%
MD	4,865,714,851	4,478,210,834	4,182,346,390	4,143,738,861	3,981,813,638	3,870,945,524	3,389,303,533	2,732,440,132	2,376,585,180	2,175,293,526	-55.3%	-8.5%
ME	1,351,278,999	1,277,003,900	1,194,020,130	1,166,727,429	1,129,786,283	974,096,171	665,223,897	561,693,008	505,797,591	458,013,831	-66.1%	-9.4%
MI	9,000,280,938	9,050,839,805	8,817,541,282	8,925,546,998	8,538,319,801	7,860,423,155	6,729,836,867	5,283,238,514	4,370,344,069	3,984,373,484	-55.7%	-8.8%
MN	2,460,772,711	2,433,900,823	2,308,844,606	2,302,975,355	2,180,789,533	1,945,752,967	1,624,976,994	1,357,763,165	1,099,143,671	986,192,185	-59.9%	-10.3%
MO	4,828,319,444	4,980,893,546	4,649,479,709	4,603,766,743	4,550,211,019	4,488,450,839	4,010,247,295	3,293,779,531	2,710,596,794	2,441,555,063	-49.4%	-9.9%
MS	2,147,270,298	2,167,408,618	2,176,097,007	2,183,766,117	2,122,291,415	2,084,692,445	1,838,892,372	1,416,605,965	1,187,789,546	1,118,745,111	-47.9%	-5.8%
MT	978,024,706	989,689,890	976,318,072	901,813,322	851,871,806	773,349,284	595,470,825	467,702,385	409,218,348	379,350,988	-61.2%	-7.3%
NC	8,375,510,090	8,762,778,565	8,797,155,336	8,619,164,215	8,246,380,758	7,935,104,615	6,714,230,894	5,496,325,742	4,985,820,556	4,760,598,257	-43.2%	-4.5%
ND	370,257,877	369,335,964	385,402,542	385,205,792	365,380,870	328,249,709	268,462,551	223,913,087	181,238,189	160,951,360	-56.5%	-11.2%
NE	913,109,325	923,014,276	913,715,221	902,180,231	867,460,300	849,596,678	766,855,393	677,479,289	579,380,882	535,292,930	-41.4%	-7.6%
NH	1,112,842,670	1,096,801,157	1,081,547,933	1,080,625,884	1,006,361,815	865,744,495	726,137,166	624,549,239	520,455,609	478,418,780	-57.0%	-8.1%
NJ	6,356,512,252	6,162,171,249	6,066,499,669	5,923,591,009	5,767,644,844	5,360,214,236	4,459,732,528	3,639,955,101	3,132,167,834	2,822,195,196	-55.6%	-9.9%
NM	1,732,291,951	1,545,846,151	1,380,850,610	1,354,086,220	1,340,549,140	1,228,580,040	1,010,260,686	840,120,848	728,389,295	669,223,355	-61.4%	-8.1%
NV	3,856,992,782	3,822,986,245	3,246,204,316	3,043,536,602	2,924,417,414	2,763,282,855	2,412,136,096	1,890,615,225	1,643,730,349	1,565,141,842	-59.4%	-4.8%
NY	12,974,346,222	12,788,022,734	11,915,876,443	11,253,610,178	10,902,519,566	10,161,610,608	8,657,399,946	7,089,671,334	6,102,635,116	5,493,938,951	-57.7%	-10.0%
OH	9,726,630,904	9,062,410,690	8,516,860,895	7,971,188,458	7,397,944,957	6,804,585,481	5,717,061,429	4,599,557,551	3,912,974,021	3,532,347,047	-63.7%	-9.7%
OK	4,439,314,590	4,468,709,011	4,492,894,393	4,244,487,670	3,963,525,476	3,719,340,005	3,300,781,582	2,680,219,955	2,067,145,861	1,907,914,456	-57.0%	-7.7%
OR	4,148,836,833	3,980,455,682	3,790,622,191	3,571,839,843	3,209,059,336	2,776,914,672	2,269,536,273	1,904,533,305	1,642,600,211	1,509,478,902	-63.6%	-8.1%
PA	11,207,764,672	11,110,519,442	10,822,761,988	10,514,949,805	10,034,947,409	9,263,430,431	7,811,681,218	6,289,136,072	5,207,952,325	4,587,168,189	-59.1%	-11.9%
RI	715,909,496	738,577,827	673,110,890	600,608,482	544,172,620	495,585,193	413,590,960	346,104,521	308,725,832	284,448,167	-60.3%	-7.9%
SC	3,864,615,662	4,120,759,095	4,147,534,904	4,131,578,059	3,948,841,573	3,806,520,200	3,398,118,200	2,827,364,775	2,394,772,783	2,192,915,722	-43.3%	-8.4%
SD	382,543,853	415,729,876	420,854,561	427,636,960	435,553,289	390,075,685	342,814,303	284,028,329	237,417,492	219,610,750	-42.6%	-7.5%
TN	9,031,063,413	9,154,348,059	8,540,895,035	8,120,966,794	7,422,881,544	6,900,535,975	5,941,706,671	4,918,777,676	4,148,622,060	3,723,780,903	-58.8%	-10.2%
TX	13,738,959,883	13,684,708,233	13,424,615,872	13,149,202,664	12,106,255,000	11,762,825,052	10,576,753,984	9,012,974,785	7,750,077,192	7,038,471,440	-48.8%	-9.2%
UT	2,551,443,237	2,482,001,951	2,537,699,045	2,510,892,779	2,421,876,554	2,375,687,047	2,097,792,781	1,818,046,906	1,610,172,905	1,495,260,529	-41.4%	-7.1%
VA	5,267,942,096	5,309,292,206	5,268,925,494	5,135,327,200	4,804,819,171	4,480,664,928	3,678,823,455	3,048,843,306	2,712,189,567	2,529,037,227	-52.0%	-6.8%
VT	424,375,599	431,651,065	412,614,857	428,103,584	418,318,004	383,488,458	344,777,232	280,811,072	238,656,723	218,238,117	-48.6%	-8.6%
WA	5,392,302,665	5,042,089,130	4,870,753,485	4,773,961,315	4,593,557,713	4,235,823,375	3,641,007,594	3,013,912,439	2,598,453,527	2,397,052,991	-55.5%	-7.8%
WI	4,255,202,757	4,197,115,299	3,965,490,470	3,847,833,245	3,697,265,592	3,343,538,588	2,615,909,136	2,056,587,580	1,661,086,050	1,467,926,510	-65.5%	-11.6%
WV	2,170,151,978	2,144,829,755	1,955,847,295	1,918,771,619	1,702,020,766	1,376,771,730	1,078,724,722	882,005,927	707,642,150	619,498,509	-71.5%	-12.5%
WY	306,067,175	305,391,958	321,904,614	357,160,864	354,559,016	347,151,900	299,222,026	248,092,599	211,058,223	204,582,738	-33.2%	-3.1%
All States	**246,170,249,725**	**239,399,574,985**	**228,910,437,864**	**221,283,218,766**	**209,654,086,076**	**197,217,855,505**	**170,527,825,084**	**141,322,807,106**	**120,479,627,406**	**110,208,474,523**	**-55.2%**	**-8.5%**

Data source: IQVIA Xponent limited to retail pharmacy dispensed prescriptions

Definition: USC 02200 Analgesic Narcotics, this includes methadone and buprenorphine (when indicated for pain management)

For more information, please review the IQVIA Institute Prescription Opioid Trends in the United States (Dec. 16, 2020), available here: https://www.iqvia.com/en/insights/the-iqvia-institute/reports/prescription-opioid-trends-in-the-united-states

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