Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Georgia, 2018

These data describe opioid prescribing patterns in Georgia during 2018. Prescription data from the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) were analyzed by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Epidemiology Program Drug Surveillance Unit. Certain prescribing practices are considered high-risk and may predispose patients to opioid use disorder and overdose, hence contributing to the growing opioid epidemic. These prescribing practices are presented as PDMP indicators in this document; detailed analyses of the PDMP data were conducted to measure the total number of opioid prescriptions, number of patients receiving opioids, drug type, days dispensed, and other indicators of prescribing such as overlapping opioid or opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions.

For more information:
- About the PDMP: GA PDMP Overview and FAQs
- Georgia overdose surveillance reports and county level data: https://dph.georgia.gov/drug-surveillance-unit
- Georgia overdose mortality interactive maps and statistics: https://oasis.state.ga.us/PageDirect.aspx?referer=MortalityDrugOverdoses

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators

Data Source

All schedule II-V drug prescriptions dispensed and reported to the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program during 2016-2018

PDMP Indicator Description

Opioid analgesic prescriptions
Opioid analgesic controlled substance prescriptions dispensed and reported to the PDMP. Drugs administered to patients by substance abuse treatment programs are usually excluded from PDMP files and therefore are not captured by this indicator. Additional exclusion criteria include: (1) drugs not typically used in outpatient settings or otherwise not critical for calculating dosages in morphine milligram equivalents (MME), such as cough and cold formulations including elixirs, and combination products containing antitussives, decongestants, antihistamines and expectorants; (2) all buprenorphine products. Age-adjusted rate is calculated per 1,000 population (Georgia residents).
Rate is age-adjusted except when age categories are presented.
County level prescription rates are age adjusted.

Opioid prescription patients
The number of individual patients receiving an opioid analgesic controlled substance prescription that was dispensed and reported to the PDMP. Rate is calculated per 1,000 population (Georgia residents).
Rate is age-adjusted except when age categories are presented.

Days per opioid prescriptions
The average number of days of opioid analgesics supplied per prescription.

Patients receiving avg. daily dose >= 90 morphine milligram equivalents
% of patients with an average of ≥90 MME of opioid analgesic drugs prescribed per day.
- Numerator: the number of patients with an average of ≥90 MME of opioid analgesic drugs prescribed per day
- Denominator: state residents who received an opioid analgesic prescription
- Average MME per day is calculated from total number of MMEs from all-drugs prescribed per day, inclusive of overlapping prescriptions of either the same and/ or differing drugs, divided by the total number of prescription days

Multiple provider episodes for opioids per 100,000 population
The number of patients receiving prescriptions for opioid analgesics from five or more prescribers dispensed at five or more pharmacies (reporting to the PDMP), per 100,000 population.
- Numerator: The number of instances of patients receiving prescriptions for opioid analgesics from five or more prescribers dispensed at five or more pharmacies during a six-month period
- Denominator: 100,000 population (Georgia residents)

Opioid naïve patients receiving long acting opioids
Patients with no opioid prescriptions in the previous 60 days who were prescribed at least one long acting/extended release (LA/ER) opioid, among all patients with LA/ER opioid prescriptions.
- Numerator: opioid naïve patients with at least one LA/ER opioid prescription
- Denominator: all patients with at least one LA/ER prescription

Patient days with overlapping opioid prescription
% of days that patients had more than one prescribed opioid prescription on the same day.
- Numerator: total number of days any patient had more than one opioid prescription
- Denominator: total number of opioid prescription days for state residents in the state PDMP. A prescribed day with overlapping opioid prescriptions (≥2) is only counted as one prescribed opioid day

Patient days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescription
% of days that patients had an opioid and benzodiazepine prescription on the same day.
- Numerator: total number of days any patient had an opioid and benzodiazepine prescription on the same day

•	Denominator: total number of opioid prescription days for state residents in the state PDMP. A prescribed day with overlapping opioid prescriptions (≥2) is only counted as one prescribed opioid day

Other Definitions or Limitations

Not all out-of-state pharmacies report to the Georgia PDMP, therefore some prescriptions obtained in another state, or by mail, could be missing from these data.

Rates are not age-adjusted, therefore counties with older populations (that tend to have more chronic conditions for which opioids are prescribed for pain management) may have higher opioid prescription rates due in part to the population distribution.

Some 2018 prescription data were missing sex and age (<2% missing), therefore the race and age data represent only prescriptions for which sex and age where completed.

Rate indicates the number events that occurred among Georgia residents per 1,000 population using 2017 census data as the denominator, and all rates are age-adjusted unless age category is presented.

We report on three categories of controlled substances in this report, these categories include:
- Opioids: buprenorphine, butorphanol, codeine, dezocine, dihydrocodeine, fentanyl, fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, methadone, morphine, nalbuphine, opiate agonists, oxycodone, oxymorphone, pentazocine, tapentadol, tramadol and other opioids
- Benzodiazepines: alprazolam, chlordiazepoxide, clonazepam, clorazepate, diazepam, estazolam, flurazepam, lorazepam, oxazepam, temazepam, triazolam and other benzodiazepines
- Stimulants: amphetamine, benzphetamine, desoxyephedrine, dexmethylphenidate, dextroamphetamine, lisdexamfetamine, methylphenidate and other stimulants

Top Ten Opioids Prescribed, Georgia, 2018		
Rank	**Opioid drug**	**No. prescriptions 2018**
1	Hydrocodone SA*	2,633,956
2	Oxycodone SA	1,748,749
3	Tramadol SA	1,597,438
4	Codeine	430,621
5	Buprenorphine	371,036
6	Morphine LA*	195,548
7	Fentanyl LA	127,338
8	Morphine SA	89,208
9	Methadone	88,995
10	Oxycodone LA	83,633
*SA: short-acting, LA: long-acting		

PDMP user type	No. registered as of 12/31/2017	No. registered as of 12/31/2018	No. patient queries 2017	No. patient queries 2018
Dentist	2,789	4,538	8,448	59,668
Dispensing Physician	8	30	1	3,364
Medical Resident	968	1,996	2,205	24,950
Midwife	48	105	71	595
Nurse Practitioner	3,124	4,996	242,646	638,464
Optometrist	644	826	2	38
Out-of-State Pharmacist	7	108	5	3,945
Out-of-State Prescriber	30	134	216	14,469
Pharmacist	9,738	11,169	1,291,507	2,027,187
Pharmacist's Delegate	194	289	20,064	35,329
Physician (MD, DO)	17,691	24,074	1,440,733	3,069,327
Physician Assistant	2,094	2,653	121,454	279,406
Podiatrist	251	395	1,743	8,163
Prescriber Delegate	178	2,694	14,052	450,849
Veterans Affairs Prescriber	49	91	282	2,775
TOTAL	37,813	54,098	3,143,429	6,618,529

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Registrations and Patient Queries, Georgia, 2017–2018

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Indicators, Georgia, 2017–2018
(See Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators table for description of indicators below)

Indicator description	2017					2018				
	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
No. opioid prescriptions	8,001,050	2,093,949	2,073,768	1,942,493	1,890,840	7,487,527	1,919,636	1,903,842	1,836,649	1,827,400
No. stimulant prescriptions	2,261,285	617,005	547,395	538,580	558,305	2,527,922	656,480	612,226	628,290	630,926
No. benzodiazepine prescriptions	3,584,637	921,796	913,215	871,978	877,648	3,494,764	928,883	907,315	845,145	813,421
Opioid Rx/ 1,000 population	767.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	711.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
No. opioid patients	2,177,640	979,143	962,603	913,093	897,725	2,018,390	894,898	886,179	855,654	847,979
Opioid patients/ 1,000 population	208.8	93.9	92.3	87.6	86.1	191.9	85.1	84.2	81.3	80.6
Days/ opioid prescription	18.1	18.0	18.1	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.2	18.2	18.2
% Patients receiving avg. daily dose >= 90 morphine milligram equivalents	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.7	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.0	5.9
Multiple provider episodes/ 100,000 population	20.3	23.8		16.8		12.2	14.5		9.9	
% Opioid naïve patients receiving long acting opioids	10.3	10.7	10.2	10.0	10.5	12.0	19.9	9.4	9.4	9.6
% Patient days with overlapping opioid prescriptions	17.7	17.6	18.1	18.3	17.0	17.0	16.9	17.3	16.9	16.8
% Patient days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions	14.0	13.9	14.3	13.9	13.8	13.1	13.6	13.8	12.7	12.2

	Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Indicators by Age and Sex, Georgia, 2018 (See Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators table for description of indicators below)						
	Indicator						
	No. opioid Rx	**No. stimulant Rx**	**No. benzo. Rx**	**Opioid Rx/ 1,000 population**	**No. opioid patients**	**Opioid patients/ 1,000 population**	**Avg days/ opioid Rx**
Age Group							
<1 year	627	9	431	4.9	518	4.1	13.0
1-4 years	5,851	1,708	6,737	11.0	5,051	9.5	7.7
5 -14 years	40,639	867,085	30,278	28.7	31,897	22.6	7.5
15-24 years	254,316	476,166	86,204	176.0	176,056	121.8	5.9
25-34 years	651,423	387,258	274,795	442.2	275,896	187.3	10.3
35-44 years	991,575	336,832	474,371	722.4	298,961	217.8	15.1
45-54 years	1,409,081	255,171	664,174	998.3	344,890	244.4	18.5
55-64 years	1,879,290	145,486	833,159	1461.7	378,462	294.4	20.9
65-74 years	1,398,135	49,372	643,083	1561.4	301,212	336.4	21.3
75-84 years	637,038	7,711	338,617	1522.7	150,194	359.0	21.2
85+ years	219,552	1,124	142,913	1497.3	55,253	376.8	20.2
Sex							
Male	3,094,257	1,358,894	1,187,078	604.9	832,572	162.8	18.4
Female	4,387,736	1,168,107	2,304,469	811.9	1,184,231	219.1	18.1

Opioid Prescription Rates, by Age and Sex, Georgia, 2017–2018

Age Group	2017 Opioid prescriptions/ 1,000 population	2018 Opioid prescriptions/ 1,000 population	Percent change
<1 year	6.8	4.9	-27.4
1-4 years	14.0	11.0	-21.3
5 -14 years	37.3	28.7	-22.9
15-24 years	206.9	176.0	-14.9
25-34 years	517.0	442.2	-14.5
35-44 years	812.1	722.4	-11.0
45-54 years	1105.4	998.3	-9.7
55-64 years	1565.6	1461.7	-6.6
65-74 years	1612.5	1561.4	-3.2
75-84 years	1554.9	1522.7	-2.1
85+ years	1510.2	1497.3	-0.9
Sex			
Male	651.0	604.9	-7.1
Female	875.9	811.9	-7.3

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Indicators by County, Georgia, 2018
(See Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators table for description of indicators below)

County	Age adjusted opioid prescriptions/ 1,000 population	Average days per opioid prescription	% Patient days with overlapping opioid prescriptions	% Patient days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions
Appling	1130.4	20.7	17.3	20.0
Atkinson	1608.7	22.3	15.0	25.9
Bacon	1599.0	23.2	15.5	30.2
Baker	533.4	18.0	14.8	10.5
Baldwin	696.4	19.2	12.5	11.3
Banks	683.5	19.7	15.6	13.1
Barrow	982.8	18.9	19.3	14.5
Bartow	974.7	20.0	19.1	17.3
Ben Hill	1419.0	21.3	17.5	17.4
Berrien	1156.8	21.4	22.2	16.8
Bibb	949.6	19.5	13.3	14.5
Bleckley	966.0	19.2	17.5	15.5
Brantley	991.2	21.2	16.5	19.7
Brooks	791.2	21.7	17.1	17.3
Bryan	1050.8	18.6	18.5	14.2
Bulloch	665.5	17.8	15.7	12.9
Burke	624.1	18.0	11.4	11.4
Butts	1066.2	20.0	15.0	16.1
Calhoun	612.8	17.9	12.2	9.8
Camden	679.7	19.4	16.5	11.8
Candler	1320.5	16.5	14.9	16.6
Carroll	1183.1	19.6	20.2	16.1
Catoosa	391.7	18.9	12.3	11.2
Charlton	748.5	22.9	18.0	22.2
Chatham	608.9	16.2	15.8	9.9
Chattahoochee	657.1	20.2	23.8	11.0
Chattooga	1214.5	21.1	11.3	13.9
Cherokee	683.7	17.7	22.0	12.3
Clarke	802.1	18.7	18.0	9.1
Clay	611.0	20.3	11.0	8.9

Clayton	441.1	16.0	15.7	11.4
Clinch	1672.4	22.1	14.5	21.8
Cobb	489.6	16.1	19.1	10.5
Coffee	1402.8	22.0	16.8	27.9
Colquitt	774.3	19.8	14.3	13.2
Columbia	618.3	17.7	16.3	11.7
Cook	1087.0	20.9	20.0	14.4
Coweta	677.0	17.7	21.3	13.5
Crawford	418.8	19.9	13.5	14.1
Crisp	1009.7	21.3	12.1	14.3
Dade	376.9	20.0	14.1	9.2
Dawson	984.5	18.6	19.6	14.8
Decatur	959.4	18.4	13.6	14.6
DeKalb	425.6	15.1	16.1	7.4
Dodge	908.0	21.3	21.5	18.7
Dooly	530.8	20.3	12.0	13.0
Dougherty	718.3	17.1	13.1	9.1
Douglas	696.2	17.7	19.8	12.3
Early	918.1	19.8	11.7	13.7
Echols	278.1	19.2	34.7	19.0
Effingham	977.5	18.0	19.0	13.5
Elbert	1563.2	20.3	17.3	15.1
Emanuel	1084.7	19.6	13.6	15.6
Evans	1117.0	20.7	14.3	16.9
Fannin	1110.8	21.5	21.7	18.0
Fayette	497.0	16.7	19.5	10.5
Floyd	1022.3	20.7	13.1	16.3
Forsyth	397.2	16.7	19.7	12.4
Franklin	1299.4	21.5	14.9	16.0
Fulton	415.8	14.7	16.9	7.9
Gilmer	910.0	20.4	20.6	18.0
Glascock	834.3	18.9	17.1	13.9
Glynn	767.5	16.7	14.0	10.6
Gordon	896.6	19.3	15.5	15.2
Grady	750.3	17.9	15.5	11.6
Greene	718.6	18.9	14.3	9.8
Gwinnett	418.8	16.3	19.1	10.1

Habersham	886.3	20.2	17.7	13.2
Hall	719.8	18.9	18.9	13.1
Hancock	661.0	18.8	13.7	8.0
Haralson	1199.8	20.7	18.0	20.6
Harris	603.6	18.8	19.1	12.7
Hart	683.9	21.3	14.9	16.0
Heard	731.5	20.1	19.8	17.3
Henry	661.7	17.0	17.3	12.3
Houston	714.8	19.2	12.7	13.3
Irwin	999.8	21.9	22.2	17.1
Jackson	1102.0	18.9	18.1	15.0
Jasper	1123.6	20.5	14.7	15.1
Jeff Davis	1524.6	18.6	16.9	26.5
Jefferson	767.8	19.8	12.3	10.6
Jenkins	905.2	19.6	10.8	16.5
Johnson	670.3	20.8	17.2	13.8
Jones	517.3	20.0	12.9	16.6
Lamar	862.2	19.4	16.9	16.0
Lanier	728.1	21.0	22.3	14.8
Laurens	931.9	19.9	17.2	12.2
Lee	670.0	17.5	14.0	10.8
Liberty	649.3	17.6	16.8	11.8
Lincoln	902.9	17.2	15.5	16.2
Long	415.7	17.9	20.7	13.2
Lowndes	872.1	19.3	23.1	13.1
Lumpkin	746.6	19.1	19.0	15.2
Macon	688.2	20.9	11.7	15.0
Madison	1037.3	20.3	16.9	14.1
Marion	785.4	20.0	18.2	15.8
McDuffie	885.7	18.2	14.5	12.2
McIntosh	669.1	18.7	13.6	13.3
Meriwether	869.3	20.6	16.6	16.5
Miller	1063.7	17.9	14.0	16.8
Mitchell	837.4	18.3	14.0	9.5
Monroe	686.1	19.5	13.5	15.7
Montgomery	878.1	19.3	15.7	16.9
Morgan	752.8	18.9	16.4	11.7

Murray	919.3	19.5	12.8	14.7
Muscogee	633.8	18.3	17.2	12.6
Newton	751.3	17.9	17.3	11.6
Oconee	615.3	17.4	15.5	10.5
Oglethorpe	747.3	19.9	16.9	9.8
Paulding	577.4	18.5	21.0	14.5
Peach	1235.7	19.9	13.8	15.1
Pickens	974.2	19.5	22.3	15.8
Pierce	1386.2	21.5	16.0	21.6
Pike	890.0	18.5	16.6	16.1
Polk	1429.8	21.9	15.1	20.2
Pulaski	809.2	20.4	15.3	14.5
Putnam	734.4	18.4	16.1	10.7
Quitman	144.0	22.8	12.6	17.1
Rabun	932.3	21.0	17.4	17.4
Randolph	677.9	16.6	12.9	8.9
Richmond	669.0	17.7	14.3	12.3
Rockdale	606.4	17.0	17.3	11.3
Schley	696.9	19.5	9.5	16.3
Screven	768.3	18.7	14.6	12.0
Seminole	1386.4	16.5	12.8	17.4
Spalding	986.2	19.1	16.2	14.9
Stephens	1292.3	21.2	15.3	13.1
Stewart	584.6	20.1	13.6	8.2
Sumter	861.5	17.9	12.3	12.6
Talbot	444.2	20.2	15.4	14.6
Taliaferro	953.9	20.8	15.3	12.5
Tattnall	986.2	20.7	17.7	17.3
Taylor	824.2	19.6	13.4	15.8
Telfair	815.8	19.8	16.7	21.4
Terrell	725.5	17.5	13.3	7.6
Thomas	930.2	18.1	17.2	10.7
Tift	991.6	20.4	20.7	12.0
Toombs	1045.5	19.2	16.6	14.9
Towns	955.2	21.9	15.8	15.6
Treutlen	878.2	18.5	17.9	13.0
Troup	850.8	19.5	17.7	14.8

Turner	1299.6	21.1	18.0	12.0
Twiggs	754.4	20.5	12.4	13.5
Union	801.8	20.5	18.1	14.1
Upson	1187.3	18.3	16.1	20.3
Walker	705.6	20.2	12.2	11.7
Walton	1045.1	18.4	20.8	12.5
Ware	1427.2	22.1	15.8	22.0
Warren	733.7	18.5	12.8	11.0
Washington	638.9	19.6	14.6	8.6
Wayne	1088.2	19.5	19.3	14.3
Webster	425.7	18.7	8.9	9.9
Wheeler	625.2	20.9	16.7	15.9
White	885.7	20.1	18.0	12.3
Whitfield	720.6	18.2	11.7	12.4
Wilcox	1023.5	22.3	16.7	17.7
Wilkes	964.0	19.8	15.0	13.8
Wilkinson	1145.3	20.7	12.5	14.2
Worth	764.0	20.0	14.6	13.3