

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Georgia, 2016-2017

These data describe opioid prescribing patterns in Georgia during 2016–2017. Prescription data from the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) were analyzed by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Epidemiology Program Drug Overdose 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-overdose-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 2016–2017

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. Rate is calculated per 1,000 population (Georgia residents).

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).

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 6-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 2017 prescription data were missing sex and age (<2% missing), therefore the race and age data represents only prescriptions for which sex and age were completed.

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, 2016–2017			
Rank	Opioid drug	No. prescriptions 2016	No. prescriptions 2017
1	Hydrocodone SA*	3,300,114	2,913,553
2	Oxycodone SA	1,893,115	1,847,378
3	Tramadol SA	1,730,785	1,675,260
4	Codeine	474,798	470,132
5	Buprenorphine	279,592	287,696
6	Morphine LA*	204,310	192,654
7	Fentanyl LA	158,802	140,721
8	Methadone	105,608	99,393
9	Oxycodone LA	100,775	91,746
10	Morphine SA	80,515	82,086

*SA: short-acting, LA: long-acting

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Registrations and Patient Queries, Georgia, 2016–2017					
PDMP user type	No. registered as of 7/1/2017	No. registered as of 12/21/2017	No. registered as of 8/17/2018	No. patient queries 2016	No. patient queries 2017
Dentist	4,065	2,751	4,065	2,747	7,060
Dispensing Physician	26	8	26	0	0
Medical Resident	1,899	967	1,899	102	1,365
Midwife	97	46	97	1	70
Nurse Practitioner	4,642	3,118	4,642	82,767	224,834
Optometrist	754	640	754	4	0
Out-of-State Pharmacist	30	0	30	0	0
Out-of-State Prescriber	91	29	91	0	53
Pharmacist	10,274	9,762	10,274	534,351	1,237,358
Pharmacist's Delegate	275	201	275	1,736	17,413
Physician (MD, DO)	22,419	17,339	22,419	476,850	1,388,172
Physician Assistant	2,512	2,092	2,512	39,886	114,629
Podiatrist	382	248	382	463	1,596
Prescriber Delegate	2,216	177	2,216	179	7,395
Veterans Affairs Prescriber	78	47	78	0	53
TOTAL	20,416	37,431	49,760	1,139,086	2,999,998

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Indicators, Georgia, 2016–2017

See Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators table for description of indicators below

Indicator description	2016					2017				
	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
No. opioid prescriptions	8,589,707	2,200,818	2,122,596	2,127,140	2,139,153	8,001,050	2,093,949	2,073,768	1,942,493	1,890,840
No. stimulant prescriptions	2,424,989	628,753	567,854	604,029	624,353	2,261,285	617,005	547,395	538,580	558,305
No. benzodiazepine prescriptions	3,886,369	996,669	964,033	972,388	953,279	3,584,637	921,796	913,215	871,978	877,648
Opioid Rx/ 1,000 population	833.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	767.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
No. opioid patients	2,331,269	1,027,451	994,989	991,178	990,614	2,177,640	979,143	962,603	913,093	897,725
Opioid patients/ 1,000 population	226.1	99.7	96.5	96.1	96.1	208.8	93.9	92.3	87.6	86.1
Days/ opioid prescription	17.8	17.7	17.9	17.8	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.1	18.1	18.1
% Patients receiving avg. daily dose \geq 90 morphine milligram equivalents	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.7
Multiple provider episodes/ 100,000 population	30.8	32.5		29.1		20.3	23.8		16.8	
% Opioid naïve patients receiving long acting opioids	12.8	17.3	10.8	12.6	10.5	10.3	10.7	10.2	10.0	10.5
% Patient days with overlapping opioid prescriptions	18.3	17.8	18.5	18.4	18.6	17.7	17.6	18.1	18.3	17.0
% Patient days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions	15.1	14.9	15.3	15.3	15.0	14.0	13.9	14.3	13.9	13.8

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Indicators by Age and Sex, Georgia, 2017

See Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators table for description of indicators below

	Indicator						
	No. opioid prescriptions	No. stimulant prescriptions	No. benzodiazepine prescriptions	Opioid prescriptions/ 1,000 population	No. opioid patients	Opioid patients/ 1,000 population	Days/ opioid prescription
Age Group							
<1 year	885	8	393	6.8	668	5.1	12.8
1-4 years	7,426	592	3,819	14.0	6,214	11.7	9.1
5 -14 years	52,784	126,968	13,839	37.3	39,695	28.0	8.8
15-24 years	298,367	80,397	34,970	206.9	197,436	136.9	6.4
25-34 years	751,408	51,139	78,048	517.0	307,834	211.8	10.6
35-44 years	1,110,468	40,957	116,211	812.1	330,732	241.9	15.2
45-54 years	1,568,651	32,593	148,775	1105.4	381,361	268.7	18.6
55-64 years	1,978,235	18,109	161,137	1565.6	401,825	318.0	20.8
65-74 years	1,404,320	6,090	127,172	1612.5	308,261	354.0	21.2
75-84 years	613,163	1,092	66,308	1554.9	147,925	375.1	21.0
85+ years	215,343	236	30,294	1510.2	55,689	390.5	20.2
Sex							
Male	3,304,324	192,013	261,317	651.0	898,328	177.0	18.3
Female	4,689,364	166,021	517,595	875.9	1,276,966	238.5	17.9

**Opioid Prescription Rates, by Age and Sex, Georgia,
2016–2017**

	2016	2017	
Age Group	Opioid prescriptions/ 1,000 population	Opioid prescriptions/ 1,000 population	Percent change
<1 year	8.2	6.8	-17.6%
1-4 years	17.6	14.0	-20.5%
5 -14 years	43.8	37.3	-14.8%
15-24 years	242.5	206.9	-14.7%
25-34 years	599.8	517.0	-13.8%
35-44 years	899.4	812.1	-9.7%
45-54 years	1225.3	1105.4	-9.8%
55-64 years	1683.3	1565.6	-7.0%
65-74 years	1699.4	1612.5	-5.1%
75-84 years	1650.0	1554.9	-5.8%
85+ years	1608.8	1510.2	-6.1%
Sex			
Male	704.9	651.0	-7.6%
Female	953.4	875.9	-8.1%

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Indicators by County, Georgia, 2017

See Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Indicators table for description of indicators below

	Opioid prescriptions/ 1000 population	Average days per opioid prescription	% Patient days with overlapping opioid prescriptions	% Patient days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions
County				
Appling	1353.4	20.7	19.5	20.3
Atkinson	1646.4	22.4	15.1	25.0
Bacon	1836.8	23.2	16.4	30.5
Baker	845.0	17.8	15.9	11.0
Baldwin	804.3	19.0	13.0	11.3
Banks	1003.4	19.9	17.0	14.9
Barrow	1070.3	18.7	20.2	15.2
Bartow	1158.5	19.5	19.5	17.4
Ben Hill	1530.7	20.5	17.5	17.3
Berrien	1431.5	20.9	21.2	18.5
Bibb	1010.1	19.3	14.3	14.8
Bleckley	1142.5	18.6	17.5	16.0
Brantley	1251.5	21.4	18.6	20.9
Brooks	1103.9	21.5	16.2	15.1
Bryan	1031.9	18.8	19.8	15.6
Bulloch	695.2	17.5	16.9	13.2
Burke	914.2	18.2	13.0	13.2
Butts	1260.7	19.9	16.4	19.4
Calhoun	634.7	17.8	12.8	8.4
Camden	761.7	19.0	17.3	14.6
Candler	1440.8	17.6	16.1	16.3
Carroll	1203.0	19.4	20.8	17.4
Catoosa	566.0	19.4	13.5	14.4
Charlton	875.3	22.7	17.8	21.4
Chatham	737.4	16.4	17.7	11.9
Chattahoochee	310.1	21.2	21.6	14.9
Chattooga	1497.5	20.9	13.1	15.5
Cherokee	721.6	17.2	21.9	12.7
Clarke	702.8	18.1	17.9	9.5
Clay	716.1	19.9	12.6	9.7

Clayton	544.8	15.7	15.4	11.4
Clinch	1849.4	22.1	15.8	21.4
Cobb	581.1	16.1	19.4	11.2
Coffee	1544.9	22.0	18.6	26.9
Colquitt	936.7	18.9	15.9	13.2
Columbia	577.8	17.2	16.8	12.1
Cook	1308.9	19.7	20.0	13.7
Coweta	773.7	17.4	20.2	13.5
Crawford	926.1	20.5	15.0	14.8
Crisp	1205.0	21.0	13.3	15.6
Dade	477.1	19.9	13.5	11.9
Dawson	1127.1	18.6	19.5	14.8
Decatur	1050.2	17.4	14.0	15.1
DeKalb	436.4	15.1	16.3	8.1
Dodge	1269.9	21.1	21.3	21.8
Dooly	879.0	20.3	11.6	12.8
Dougherty	820.0	16.8	15.1	9.4
Douglas	785.7	17.6	19.9	13.5
Early	1066.7	19.8	14.3	14.7
Echols	612.6	19.3	25.8	15.0
Effingham	1003.9	18.1	21.2	14.9
Elbert	1751.2	20.6	17.2	15.6
Emanuel	1192.6	19.9	14.2	15.1
Evans	1231.2	20.5	13.9	17.5
Fannin	1131.4	20.9	19.8	16.0
Fayette	635.4	16.2	17.5	10.3
Floyd	1262.9	20.7	14.0	18.1
Forsyth	487.9	16.4	20.0	12.2
Franklin	1424.1	21.6	15.9	16.7
Fulton	468.5	14.5	16.3	8.5
Gilmer	1188.5	21.0	22.3	18.9
Glascok	1021.2	19.7	17.6	16.6
Glynn	928.6	16.9	15.4	11.4
Gordon	1042.7	19.2	17.2	16.3
Grady	835.1	17.5	16.4	11.8
Greene	1227.5	19.5	13.3	12.7
Gwinnett	499.2	16.4	19.3	10.9

Habersham	1021.8	20.0	18.8	13.1
Hall	865.5	18.4	19.0	13.7
Hancock	866.3	18.2	14.2	9.0
Haralson	1504.3	20.7	18.6	21.0
Harris	639.5	18.8	18.9	13.6
Hart	1036.6	21.5	15.9	16.7
Heard	997.8	19.3	19.3	17.2
Henry	721.1	17.0	17.8	12.7
Houston	832.6	19.0	14.1	14.1
Irwin	1295.7	21.4	21.1	18.2
Jackson	1204.3	18.8	18.3	15.5
Jasper	1108.6	20.7	15.1	14.3
Jeff Davis	1754.1	19.5	20.6	27.6
Jefferson	937.3	19.4	13.7	11.1
Jenkins	1217.7	19.0	15.1	15.3
Johnson	930.6	21.3	18.0	13.8
Jones	877.6	19.7	14.4	16.6
Lamar	1000.1	19.1	17.9	15.7
Lanier	846.0	20.3	19.7	16.2
Laurens	1150.6	20.5	18.7	13.3
Lee	816.3	17.1	15.6	10.2
Liberty	599.7	17.9	19.0	12.3
Lincoln	1216.8	18.3	16.1	16.6
Long	499.5	18.4	20.3	12.5
Lowndes	837.5	18.7	22.7	12.6
Lumpkin	924.8	18.7	20.0	15.4
Macon	437.4	21.7	13.1	16.9
Madison	2772.8	20.5	17.3	15.0
Marion	377.5	19.6	16.6	17.4
McDuffie	830.2	18.4	15.6	13.4
McIntosh	1627.5	18.7	19.4	17.4
Meriwether	1093.4	20.0	15.4	16.4
Miller	1061.8	16.6	11.2	13.2
Mitchell	999.6	17.9	14.3	10.5
Monroe	1002.0	18.9	15.7	17.6
Montgomery	1001.3	19.9	17.3	18.4
Morgan	956.8	18.5	17.0	12.4

Murray	1108.9	19.4	14.5	17.8
Muscogee	737.4	18.4	17.1	14.5
Newton	867.9	17.8	18.4	12.2
Oconee	733.6	17.3	16.7	11.0
Oglethorpe	989.0	19.9	16.6	10.8
Paulding	749.9	18.2	21.0	14.9
Peach	1231.2	19.9	14.7	14.5
Pickens	1240.8	19.3	22.4	16.0
Pierce	1551.8	21.7	16.9	21.3
Pike	1000.6	18.6	16.7	15.9
Polk	1612.6	21.8	16.2	20.5
Pulaski	985.4	20.5	15.1	15.0
Putnam	1008.8	18.1	17.2	12.6
Quitman	205.3	20.9	14.7	9.8
Rabun	1236.9	21.4	17.0	16.6
Randolph	844.4	16.4	11.9	10.4
Richmond	914.2	17.6	15.4	13.3
Rockdale	722.2	17.1	18.1	12.3
Schley	822.9	19.2	9.9	16.8
Screven	970.6	18.3	15.6	12.0
Seminole	1536.5	16.2	12.6	16.3
Spalding	1174.2	18.9	16.2	15.1
Stephens	1419.9	21.5	17.0	13.3
Stewart	639.9	20.9	14.3	11.6
Sumter	959.6	18.3	13.2	13.4
Talbot	1152.3	20.0	17.5	16.7
Taliaferro	1205.2	19.6	15.5	14.5
Tattnall	1153.7	20.8	18.1	18.3
Taylor	1214.3	19.7	15.7	16.2
Telfair	968.8	20.8	19.2	22.9
Terrell	525.7	17.3	14.5	7.6
Thomas	1056.8	17.6	17.3	11.8
Tift	1096.6	19.8	20.4	13.4
Toombs	1145.4	20.1	17.0	16.9
Towns	1097.3	21.6	16.0	15.4
Treutlen	1261.9	18.7	18.0	14.9
Troup	894.0	18.6	15.9	15.4

Turner	1509.6	19.5	18.7	11.8
Twiggs	1262.8	21.2	13.9	16.2
Union	1016.8	20.3	17.6	13.9
Upton	1387.4	18.0	16.4	18.6
Walker	880.1	20.4	14.4	15.9
Walton	882.7	18.5	21.2	13.7
Ware	1542.9	21.9	17.5	21.8
Warren	1054.3	18.6	14.4	9.7
Washington	864.9	19.6	16.0	10.9
Wayne	1267.8	20.1	21.6	15.3
Webster	611.5	19.5	11.7	10.7
Wheeler	889.7	20.6	19.4	20.1
White	1114.2	20.0	20.3	11.8
Whitfield	823.0	17.8	13.5	14.4
Wilcox	1271.0	21.7	16.0	19.8
Wilkes	1134.0	20.4	15.6	14.8
Wilkinson	1441.5	20.4	15.4	13.9
Worth	1126.8	19.0	18.3	14.0