

PRESCRIPTION INDICATORS

Indicator group	Opioid Prescriptions												
Indicator names	a. Opioid Prescriptions <i>b. Crude Rate of opioid prescriptions – in development</i>												
Indicator definition	Opioid prescriptions dispensed in the state of Louisiana. The indicator counts any drug included in two American Hospital Formulary System (AHFS) classes: opiate agonists and antitussives (all antitussives prescribed in the first two quarters of 2018 contain opioids). These two classes include opioids in schedules 2-5.												
Numerator	Any opiate agonist or antitussive prescription dispensed in the state of Louisiana.												
Denominator	<i>Annual population estimate for state, region, or parish of interest.</i>												
Measures of Frequency	Annual count of prescriptions; <i>Annual incidence of prescriptions (crude rate per 100 Louisiana residents)</i>												
Data Resource	Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program from the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy												
Period for case definition	Calendar year (1 January – 31 December) based on date of dispensing												
Geography/Demographic Group Variations													
Race	White			Black			Other			All Races		Age Groups	Total
Gender	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	All Males	All Females		
Geography													
State												√	
Region												√	
Parish												√	
Limitations of indicator	Currently this indicator is only available in totals, and not by demographic groups. This indicator does not include the AHFS class of partial opiate agonists, as the majority of these are used for treatment, not pain management (e.g. suboxone and buprenorphine). Under 5% of partial opiate agonists prescribed in the first two quarters of 2018 are drugs designed for pain management only, so this class was intentionally excluded from the indicator.												
Limitations of data resource	The data is geographically defined by prescriber, not patient, parish. This masks the geographic distribution of individuals receiving opioid prescriptions. The vendor (APPRISS Health) states that an update to provide data by patient parish is in the works, but a release date for that feature is unavailable at this time. The data also does not include prescriptions dispensed to Louisiana residents in another state. It does however, include prescriptions from mail order pharmacies outside of the state sent to Louisiana residents. It is also possible that not all prescriptions are reported into the Prescription Monitoring Program database, though measures are being taken to audit and improve reporting.												

Text in italics indicates additional indicators that are in development

Indicator group	Benzodiazepine Prescriptions												
Indicator names	a. Benzodiazepine Prescriptions b. <i>Crude Rate of benzodiazepine prescriptions – in development</i>												
Indicator definition	Benzodiazepine prescriptions dispensed in the state of Louisiana. The indicator counts any drug included in three American Hospital Formulary System (AHSF) classes: benzodiazepine (anticonvulsants), benzodiazepine (anxiolytic, sedative, hypnotic), and anxiolytics, sedatives, & hypnotics, miscellaneous. The anxiolytics, sedatives, & hypnotics, miscellaneous class was included because 98% of this class that was prescribed in the first two quarters of 2018 are considered “benzodiazepine-related”.												
Numerator	Any benzodiazepine or related prescription dispensed in the state of Louisiana.												
Denominator	<i>Annual population estimate for the demographic group and state, region, or parish of interest.</i>												
Measures of Frequency	Annual count of prescriptions; <i>Annual incidence of prescriptions (crude rate per 100 Louisiana residents)</i>												
Data Resource	Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program from the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy												
Period for case definition	Calendar year (1 January – 31 December) based on date of dispensing												
Geography/Demographic Group Variations													
Race	White			Black			Other			All Races		Age Groups	Total
Gender	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	All Males	All Females		
Geography													
State													√
Region													√
Parish													√
Limitations of indicator	Currently this indicator is only available in totals, and not by demographic groups. This indicator includes a few prescriptions that are not benzodiazepines, but these represent less than 0.5% of all prescriptions in this indicator.												
Limitations of data resource	The data is geographically defined by prescriber, not patient, parish. This masks the geographic distribution of individuals receiving opioid prescriptions. The vendor (APPRISS Health) states that an update to provide data by patient parish is in the works, but a release date for that feature is unavailable at this time. The data also does not include prescriptions dispensed to Louisiana residents in another state. It does however, include prescriptions from mail order pharmacies outside of the state sent to Louisiana residents. It is also possible that not all prescriptions are reported into the Prescription Monitoring Program database, though measures are being taken to audit and improve reporting.												

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