

# Opioid Prescription Monitoring

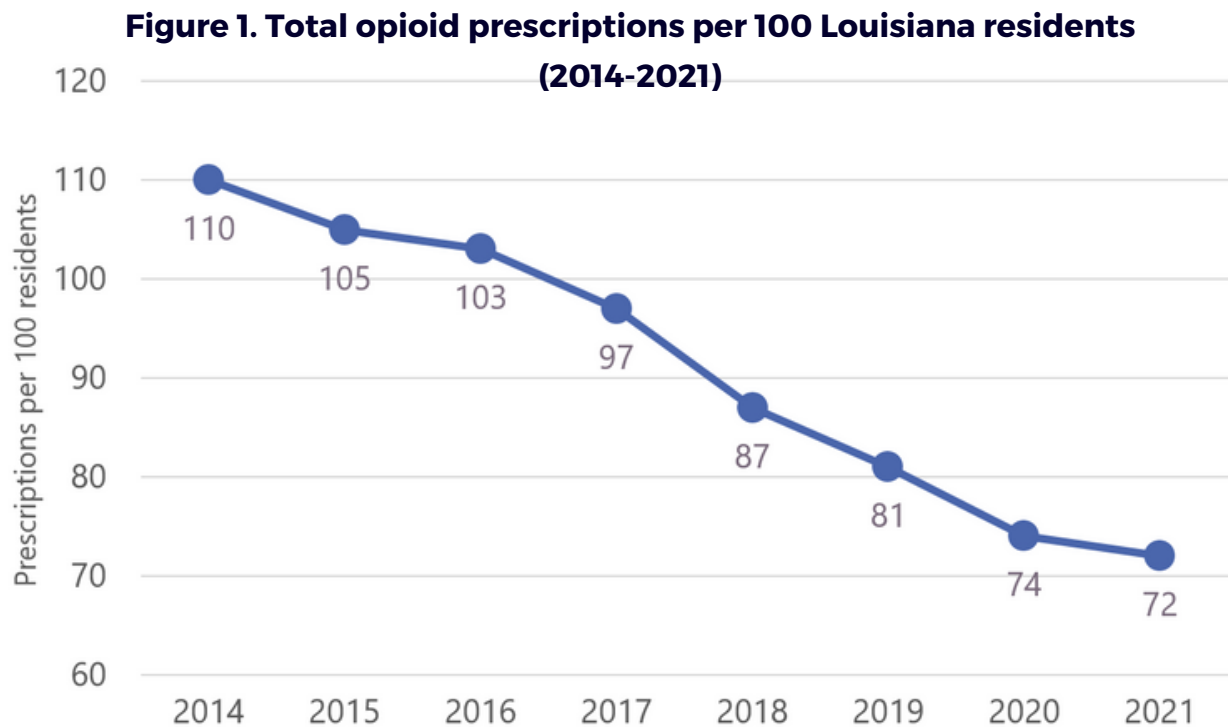
Bureau of Health Informatics  
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## LA OPIOID PRESCRIPTION MONITORING REPORT

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is the statewide electronic database housed under the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy (<http://www.pharmacy.la.gov/>) that tracks the number and type of controlled prescription medicines filled by pharmacists. Prescribers, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals use this system to ensure that opioids are appropriately prescribed and not misused. This fact sheet provides information on opioid prescriptions in totals, by demographics, and changes over time. The information is displayed in “rates,” which show the number of prescriptions in relation to the number of people in Louisiana. In this fact sheet, the number of prescriptions per 100 Louisiana residents is used. The data are presented by the parish where the prescription was prescribed.

The PMP started tracking prescriptions in 2010. Prescribing has continued to decreased since 2014, dropping to **72 opioid prescriptions per 100** people in 2021. The rates in Figure 1 below were calculated using raw count prescription count data from the PMP and the most recent population estimates data from the US Census Bureau.



The graph has been magnified to 60-120 to better display the trend.

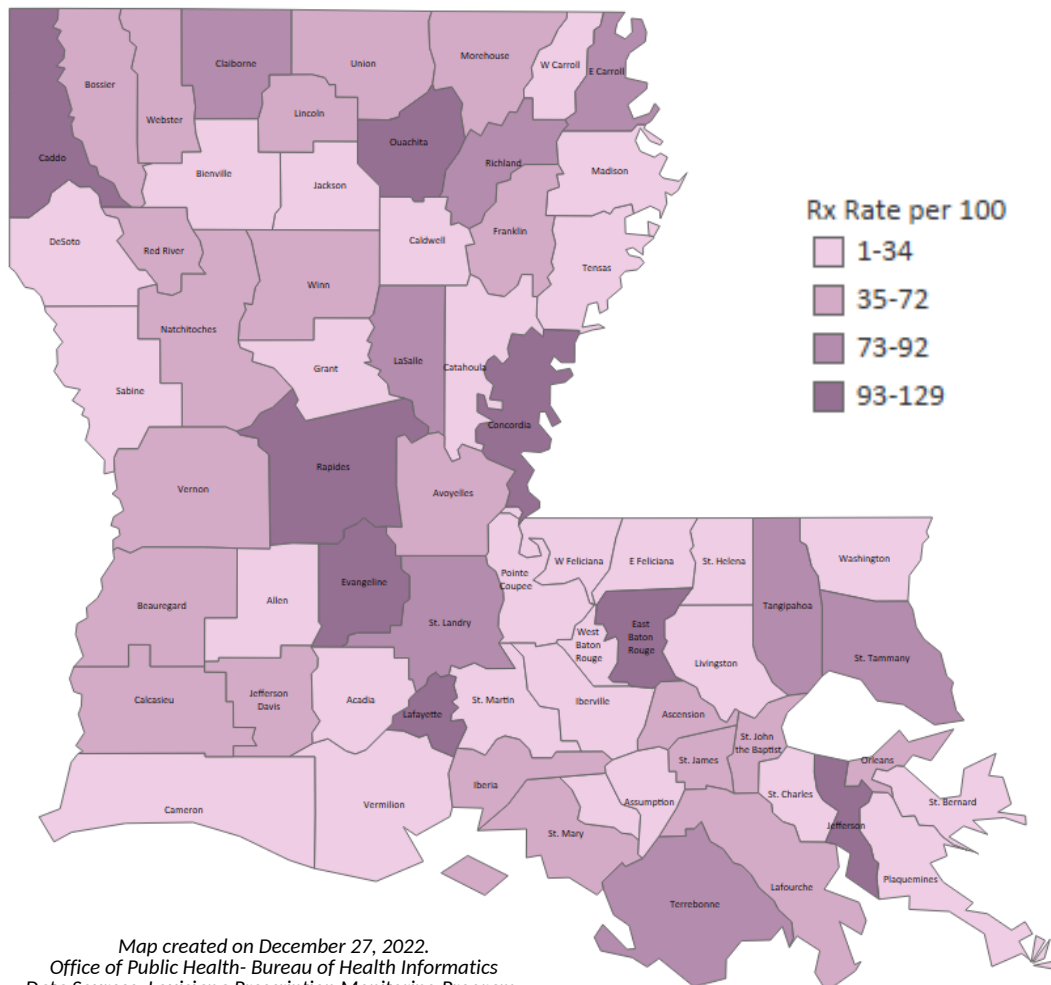
Data shows that between 2017 to 2021, there has been a **25.5%** decrease in the number of opioid analgesic prescriptions dispensed in Louisiana. Opioid prescriptions were also examined at the Parish-level for 2021. The number of opioid prescriptions issued were found to be highest in the parishes listed below.

In 2021, each of these parishes had more prescriptions issued than people residing in the parish.

- Caddo (129 prescriptions issued per 100 residents, **down from 138 prescriptions issued in 2020**)
- Rapides (127 prescriptions issued per 100 residents, **down from 143 prescriptions issued in 2020**)
- Lafayette (112 prescriptions issued per 100 residents, **down from 114 prescriptions issued in 2020**)
- East Baton Rouge (110 prescriptions issued per 100 residents, **down from 109 prescriptions in 2020**)
- Evangeline (99 prescriptions issued per 100 residents, **down from 106 prescriptions issued in 2020**)

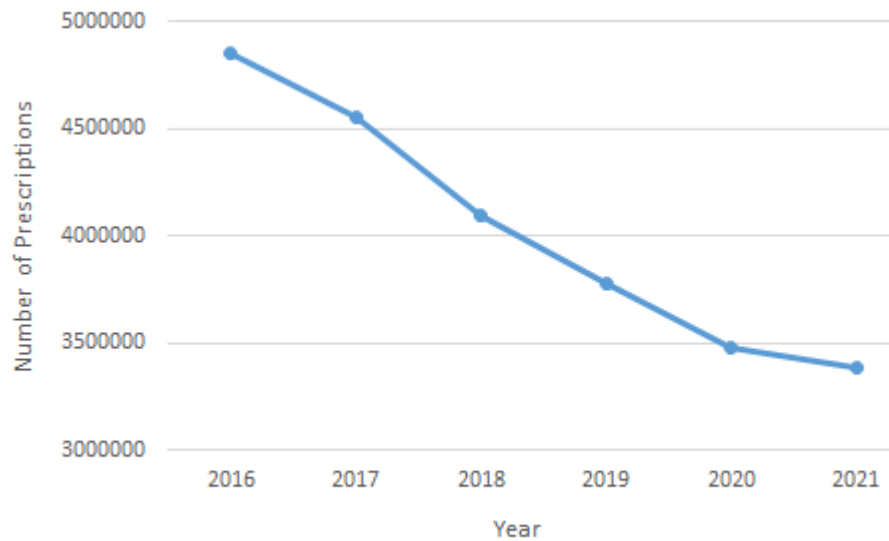
A comparison of rates from 2020 highlights a clear shift in Rapides parish in their prescription rate of reduction of 16 prescriptions issued per 100 residents. Figure 2 highlights the opioids prescriptions for 2021 by parish.

**Figure 2. Louisiana Opioid Prescriptions, 2021 Rates per 100**



## LA PRESCRIPTION COUNT BY YEAR

Opioid prescription counts have continued to decrease from 4,901,895 in 2015 to 3,385,231 in 2021.



## OPIOID ANALGESIC PRESCRIPTION BY REGION 2021

Regions 1, 2, 4, 7, and 9 have dispensed 378,095 or more prescriptions in 2021.

Regions 3, 5, 6, and 8 have dispensed 248,601 prescriptions or less for 2021.

### LA OPIOID ANALGESIC PRESCRIPTION CRUDE RATES BY REGION 2021

Louisiana: 72 per 100 people  
Region 7: 86 per 100 people  
Region 2: 82 per 100 people  
Region 6: 80 per 100 people  
Region 4: 78 per 100 people  
Region 1: 72 per 100 people  
Region 8: 71 per 100 people  
Region 9: 63 per 100 people  
Region 5: 59 per 100 people  
Region 3: 50 per 100 people

### PARISHES WITH HIGHEST STIMULANT PRESCRIPTION CRUDE RATES IN 2021

Louisiana: 48 per 100 people  
Calcasieu: 76 per 100 people  
Evangeline: 79 per 100 people  
St. Tammany: 76 per 100 people  
Jefferson Davis: 89 per 100 people  
Lafayette: 77 per 100 people

### PARISHES WITH HIGHEST BENZODIAZEPINE PRESCRIPTION CRUDE RATES IN 2021

Louisiana: 61 per 100 people  
Rapides: 125 per 100 people  
LaSalle: 131 per 100 people  
Lafayette: 96 per 100 people  
Evangeline: 90 per 100 people  
Richland: 88 per 100 people

## LA PRESCRIPTION COUNT BY AGE GROUP AND YEAR

When opioid prescriptions are broken into age groups, people aged 55-64 are prescribed the most opioids every year compared to every other age group. The age group with the second most number of opioid prescriptions is the 65-74 group. These numbers are unsurprising given that older people tend to have health conditions that may require more opioid prescriptions, such as chronic pain, cancer treatments, and palliative care.

Age Band (Ag..	Year								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Ages 1 To 17	72,905	71,976	75,823	72,970	62,122	52,481	37,677	44,635	
Ages 18 To 24	112,351	116,769	125,434	125,236	112,784	96,881	84,124	86,853	
Ages 25 To 34	399,454	391,351	401,539	372,244	322,211	264,778	229,023	224,025	
Ages 35 To 44	684,441	641,762	636,107	590,026	509,099	442,364	395,835	382,088	
Ages 45 To 54	849,958	803,959	808,583	772,671	695,108	613,487	552,807	535,611	
Ages 55 To 64	1,267,359	1,200,394	1,195,822	1,141,320	1,042,126	956,830	876,204	835,362	
Ages 65 To 74	963,039	933,872	912,585	859,369	787,835	786,713	761,161	719,125	
Ages 75+	846,146	752,238	699,452	625,030	547,164	538,565	509,352	449,293	

## LA AVERAGE DAYS' SUPPLY OF NEW OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS

The days' supply of a prescription is defined by the number of days the prescription is meant to be taken. The average days' supply was calculated by adding the total days' supply for all new opioid prescriptions and dividing by the total number of patients with new opioid prescriptions each year. In 2021, the average days' supply of new opioid prescriptions was 51.49 days.

Prescriber ..	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
LA	43.13	46.81	51.82	60.41	60.50	58.82	57.43	55.92	57.59	51.49

## TOP 10 PRESCRIPTIONS IN LA BY DRUG TYPE (2021)

Drug Type	Number of Prescriptions
OPIATE AGONISTS	3,331,403
ANTICONVULSANTS, MISCELLANEOUS	1,709,100
BENZODIAZEPINES (ANXIOLYTIC, SEDATIV/HYP)	1,636,964
AMPHETAMINES	1,618,816
ANXIOLYTICS, SEDATIVES, AND HYPNOTICS, MISC	657,943
BENZODIAZEPINES (ANTICONVULSANTS)	557,598
ANTITUSSIVES	428,742
RESPIRATORY AND CNS STIMULANTS	354,335
OPIATE PARTIAL AGONISTS	293,737
ANDROGENS	261,971

