

Aggregate Data of Outlier Part D Prescribers of Opioids and Benzodiazepines

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed a methodology for determining outlier Part D prescribers who concurrently prescribe benzodiazepines and opioid medications, consistent with section 1860D-4(c)(4)(D) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as added by section 6065 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act). Based on this analysis, CMS sent annual letters to notify these Part D prescribers that they fell within an established percentile when compared to all Part D prescribers in their same specialty and state.

Individuals who take benzodiazepines and opioids together are at a higher risk for adverse events and overdose. As a collaborative partner, CMS strives to provide meaningful and informative data and believes that sharing this data, along with current prescribing guidelines, will help Part D prescribers provide the best possible care to prevent and relieve pain and maximize function for patients with pain.

As required by Section 6065 of the SUPPORT Act, CMS is making this aggregate Part D outlier prescriber information available on the CMS website. This effort is part of our data-driven efforts to combat the nation's opioid crisis. Included below are aggregated outlier prescriber data by state for each year the analysis was conducted to date.

Note: CMS has updated its oversight approach for inappropriate prescribing patterns to better align with current prescribing standards and practices. Therefore, for calendar year 2024, CMS has defined outliers as the highest 25th percentile of Part D prescribers in their specialty and state, compared to the highest 10th percentile in 2020 - 2023.

Link to opioid prescribing and SUPPORT Act Section 6065 methodology:

go.cms.gov/prescribing-opioids

Annual Aggregate Outlier Data by State:

State	2020 Outliers	2021 Outliers	2022 Outliers	2023 Outliers	2024 Outliers
AK	1	0	0	1	0
AL	18	12	6	5	26
AR	9	7	6	6	13
AZ	8	2	1	1	3
CA	54	32	26	23	63
CO	8	5	2	2	5
CT	4	5	1	2	3
DE	2	0	1	0	1
FL	77	44	32	21	63

State	2020 Outliers	2021 Outliers	2022 Outliers	2023 Outliers	2024 Outliers
GA	31	14	16	10	24
HI	2	2	0	0	0
IA	5	1	2	2	4
ID	1	2	1	0	3
IL	19	16	13	11	30
IN	15	8	14	10	30
KS	8	6	2	4	10
KY	4	9	5	7	25
LA	21	10	5	3	9
MA	5	7	6	7	8
MD	8	0	2	1	5
ME	2	1	1	1	2
MI	27	16	16	17	47
MN	2	3	2	0	4
MO	14	16	10	7	36
MS	3	2	3	1	5
MT	2	0	1	1	3
NC	25	25	15	9	35
ND	1	2	0	0	0
NE	2	3	1	0	3
NH	2	1	1	0	2
NJ	13	8	7	3	10
NM	4	2	3	1	2
NV	7	3	2	2	6
NY	31	21	10	16	20
OH	13	9	11	8	23
OK	8	6	4	3	8
OR	4	4	2	2	3
PA	26	14	16	10	31
PR	6	0	0	1	2
RI	1	2	1	7	2
SC	16	6	8	0	18
SD	1	1	1	1	0
TN	30	16	16	6	27
TX	47	35	29	22	44
UT	8	4	2	4	5
VA	13	12	4	3	14
VT	1	0	0	1	1
WA	8	6	8	4	9
WI	7	4	4	1	2

State	2020 Outliers	2021 Outliers	2022 Outliers	2023 Outliers	2024 Outliers
WV	4	1	2	0	7
WY	0	1	1	0	0
Total	628	406	322	247	696