

February 13, 2025

For Immediate Release

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Ohio Board of Pharmacy Launches Dashboard Tracking Pharmacy Trends Across State

Dashboard provides data on pharmacy openings, closures, and highlights areas at risk of becoming “pharmacy deserts”

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt today announced the launch of a new dashboard to track the status of pharmacies across the state and identify trends.

The Ohio Pharmacy Access dashboard utilizes Board of Pharmacy licensing data to provide users with a visualization of where pharmacy openings and closures are occurring and offers insights into how closures are impacting access to pharmacy services in Ohio.

Last year, 191 pharmacies closed in Ohio. All of them were large chain locations. As a result, the total number of pharmacies in Ohio decreased by 7 percent from 2,009 to 1,869 in 2024. It is the first time the state has been under 2,000 pharmacies in more than a decade.

“Having a pharmacy nearby is critical to the health and safety of Ohioans, especially those who depend on prescription medications every day,” said Director Schierholt. “As the pharmacy market evolves in Ohio, it is imperative that we have a tool to help policymakers and local community leaders alike stay up to speed and even get ahead of emerging trends.”

“This new dashboard is a convenient tool that aims to provide insights into where gaps may exist, with the ultimate goal of improving access to pharmacies to as many Ohioans as possible,” Director Schierholt added.

The new dashboard – available at Pharmacy.Ohio.gov/Trends – allows users to view data on pharmacy access around the state including:

- **Pharmacy Trends:** Provides an analysis of openings and closings of pharmacies by type (e.g., independent, small chain, large chain).
- **Pharmacy Closure Comparisons:** Analyzes pharmacy closures based upon certain characteristics (urban/rural, pharmacy type, social vulnerability indexⁱ).
- **Pharmacy Deserts:** Provides a geographic visualization of areas that lack access to pharmacy services (sometimes referred to as “pharmacy deserts”) by census blocks.
 - For census blocks that are rural, this means not having a pharmacy within 10 miles.
 - For census blocks that are urban, this means not having a pharmacy within one mile.

The dashboard will be updated monthly. It was created through a partnership between the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, the InnovateOhio Platform, and the Ohio Department of Health.

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ⁱ Social vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors that contribute to communities being more adversely affected by external hazards and stressors that cause disease and injury. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) uses U.S. Census data to assign a risk score to communities. These data are grouped into four themes that cover four major areas of social vulnerability (household characteristics, house type & transportation, racial & ethnic minority status, and socioeconomic status) and then combined into a single measure of overall social vulnerability. The overall SVI score ranges from 0 (least vulnerable) to 1 (most vulnerable).