



**STATE OF  
OHIO**  
BOARD OF PHARMACY

For Immediate Release  
Cameron McNamee, 614-466-7322  
[Media.Relations@pharmacy.ohio.gov](mailto:Media.Relations@pharmacy.ohio.gov)

## **Opioid Prescribing in Ohio Down 378 Million Doses Report Shows Number of Opioids Dispensed to Ohioans Nearly Cut in Half**

April 3, 2020 – Columbus, Ohio – The number of prescription opioids dispensed to Ohioans declined for the seventh consecutive year in 2019, according to a [newly released report](#) from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).

Data from OARRS finds the total doses of opioids decreased from a high of 793 million in 2012 to 415 million in 2019, a 48 percent decrease. During the same period, the total number of opioid prescriptions issued to Ohioans decreased by 5 million.

The report also finds Ohio healthcare providers are utilizing OARRS at record levels. In 2019, more than 240 million patient reports were requested by prescribers and pharmacists. With such expanded use of the system, the number of Ohioans engaging in doctor shopping behavior continued to remain near an all-time low.

"Ohio has cut the number of opioids in circulation by nearly half from its peak in 2012," said State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt. "Ohio's commitment to working with our prescriber community to encourage safe opioid prescribing is clearly having an impact that will hopefully prevent individuals from misusing these medications in the first place."

Established in 2006, OARRS collects information on all outpatient prescriptions for controlled substances and two non-controlled substances (gabapentin and naltrexone) dispensed by Ohio-licensed pharmacies and personally furnished by Ohio prescribers. OARRS data is available to prescribers when they treat patients, pharmacists when presented with prescriptions from patients, and law enforcement officers and regulatory agencies during active investigations.

The complete 2019 OARRS Annual Report can be accessed by visiting:  
[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OARRS2019](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OARRS2019)

Updated county level data for 2019 can be accessed by visiting:  
[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/county](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/county)

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77 South High Street, 17th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

