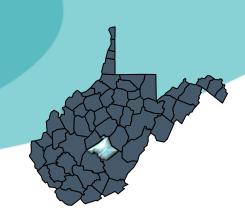
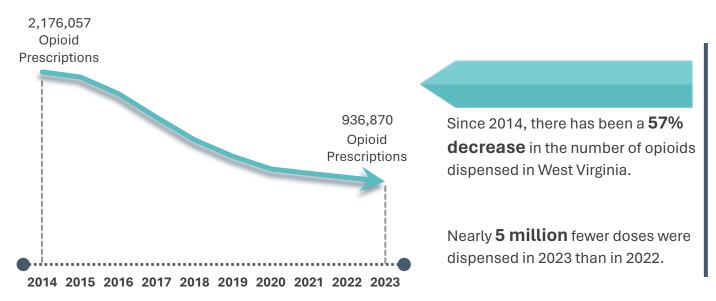
## West Virginia Board of Pharmacy Prescription Opioid Indicators Report

## Nicholas County 2023



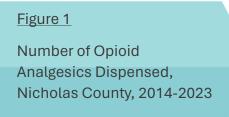
Within the West Virginia Department of Health (DH) Bureau for Public Health, the West Virginia Violence and Injury Prevention Program (WV VIPP), in collaboration with the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, under the direction of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), continues to work to address prescription drug misuse, diversion, and overdose within the state of West Virginia. Prescription drug overdose continues to be a major issue in West Virginia. Preliminary data from DH's Heath Statistics Center shows that in 2022, more than 1,400 people died in association with drug misuse (including prescription and illicit drugs) with a rate of 86.1 per 100,000 population. This is over two and a half times the national average. To help combat this epidemic, CDC provided specific opioid prescribing indicators to identify high-risk areas within the state to allow for intervention and community education.



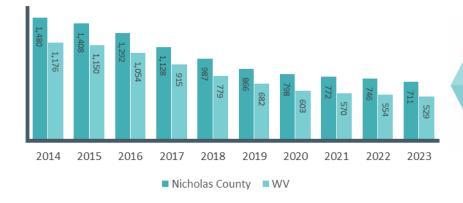
Source: West Virginia Controlled Substance Monitoring Program

#### Indicator 1: Number and rate of opioid analgesics per 1,000 state residents

This indicator includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as Schedule II, III, IV, or V. The figures below show the total number of opioid prescriptions for Nicholas County and the rate per 1,000 population compared to the state. Population estimates were obtained from US Census data.







# Figure 2 Rate of Opioid Analgesics per 1,000 Population in Nicholas County and West Virginia, 2014-2023

## What does this mean?

This indicator is important because it provides information about prescription opioid use for each county. This data will help determine areas where high prescribing/dispensing are occurring around the state and allow for education on responsible opioid prescribing. High rates of opioid dispensing mean there are large quantities of opioids that are out in the community. Positively, there was an overall decrease in both the rate and number of opioids being prescribed in Nicholas County and in West Virginia from 2014-2023.

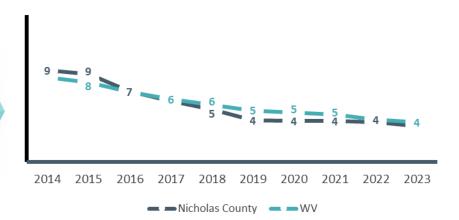
## Indicator 2: Percent of patients receiving more than an average daily dose of 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME)

This indicator shows the total average daily dose of MMEs that a patient is taking. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as Schedule II, III, IV, or V. MMEs are used as a measure to describe the potency of an opioid. Calculating MMEs is important to determine which patients may be at risk for an overdose. The figure below shows the percentage of patients with greater than an average daily dose of 90 MMEs in Nicholas County compared to the state during 2014-2023.

\*Note that the MME conversion factors for fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, and tramadol were updated in the 2022 Opioid Prescribing Guidelines in November 2022.

Figure 3

Percent of Patients Receiving More than an Average Daily Dose of 90 MME, Nicholas County and WV, 2014-2023

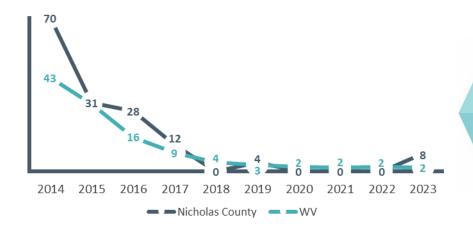


#### What does this mean?

This indicator is important because it provides information for prescribers about how much morphine equivalent drug the patient is receiving. MMEs help determine the amount of morphine an opioid dose is equal to when prescribed, often used as a gauge of the misuse and overdose potential of the amount of opioid that is being given at a particular time. It is also a useful tool to identify high-burden areas in the state, which is important for public health surveillance at the county level. From 2014-2023, Nicholas County's percentage of patients receiving more than an average daily dose of 90 MMEs is slightly lower but nearly equivalent to the state average and has decreased over this time.

## Indicator 3: Rate of multiple provider episodes for prescription opioids (5 or more prescribers and 5 or more pharmacies in a 6-month period) per 100,000 residents

This indicator shows the rate of patients who went to five or more prescribers and five or more pharmacies within a six-month period, or multiple provider episode (MPE). The rate is calculated per 100,000 population. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as Schedule II, III, IV, or V.



#### Figure 4

Rate of Multiple Provider
Episodes (MPE) for
Prescription Opioids per
100,000 Population, Nicholas
County and WV, 2014-2023

#### What does this mean?

This indicator is important because it provides valuable information on prescription filling behaviors. Patients who receive prescriptions from more than five doctors and who fill at more than five pharmacies are at greater risk of drug overdose. This indicator helps determine patients who may have drug-seeking habits (i.e., "doctor shopping"). From 2014-2023, West Virginia and Nicholas County have had a considerable decrease in the rate of patients who qualified as having an MPE. Nicholas County has had no cases of MPEs during four of the last six years.

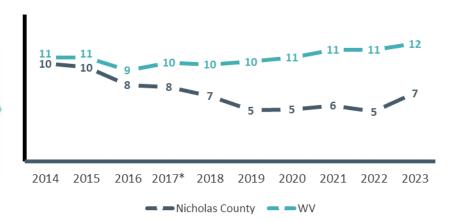
## Indicator 4: Percent of patients prescribed long-acting/extended-release opioids who were opioid-naïve

This indicator represents the percentage of patients with no prescribed opioid prescriptions in the previous 45 days\* who were prescribed at least one long acting/extended release (LA/ER) opioid, among all patients with LA/ER opioid prescriptions. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as Schedule II, III, IV, or V.

\*Note that CDC changed the definition of "opioid-naïve" from 60 days to 45 days in 2017.

#### Figure 5

Percent of Opioid-Naive
Patients among Patients
Prescribed LA/ER Opioids,
Nicholas County, 2014-2023



## What does this mean?

This indicator is important to understand because it provides information about individuals who are not accustomed to opioid medications, which may potentially increase the risk of opioid dependence, misuse, or overdose. CDC opioid prescribing guidelines recommend using immediate release (IR) opioids before taking long acting or extended-release opioids. From 2014-2023, Nicholas County had an overall decrease in patients who were opioid-naïve and prescribed LA/ER opioids.

## Indicator 5: Percent of patient prescription days with overlapping opioid prescriptions

This indicator shows the percentage of days in which more than one prescribed opioid prescription during the same period was dispensed, among all prescription days. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as Schedule II, III, IV, or V.



#### Figure 6

Percent of Patient Prescribed Days Overlap Between Opioid Analgesics, Nicholas County and WV, 2014-2023

### What does this mean?

This indicator represents patients who may potentially be using their opioid prescriptions not as prescribed or may show areas where drug diversion is occurring. Using multiple opioid prescriptions during the same period increases the risk for drug dependency and overdose. It is important to understand this because a considerable number of drug overdose deaths include more than one opioid. From 2014-2023, Nicholas County had a lower percentage of prescription overlap compared to the state average. Additionally, there has been a steady decrease at both the county and state level since 2014.

## Indicator 6: Percent of patient prescription days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions

This indicator represents the percentage of patients who had an opioid and a benzodiazepine (i.e., Alprazolam, Lorazepam, Diazepam) prescription on the same day among all opioid prescription days. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as Schedule II, III, IV, or V and benzodiazepines.

Figure 7

Percent of Patient Prescribed Opioid Days that Overlap with Benzodiazepine Prescriptions, Nicholas County and WV, 2014-2023



## What does this mean?

This indicator is important because it shows areas in the state where patients are using both opioids and benzodiazepine drugs at the same time. Taking an opioid with a benzodiazepine increases the risk for drug overdose and death, as both classes of medication depress the central nervous system. From 2014-2023, Nicholas County had a lower percentage of days where there was an overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescription than the state average. Additionally, there has been a steady decrease at both the county and state level since 2014.

## **County Rankings by Indicator**

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MCDOWELL         22         4         15         44         24         39           MERCER         33         19         15         18         25         23           MINGO         9         47         15         12         54         1           MONONGE         54         20         15         6         50         27           MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           OHIO         41         8         15         27         12         11           PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>							
MERCER         33         19         15         18         25         23           MINERAL         39         25         15         27         7         27           MINGO         9         47         15         12         54         1           MONONGE         54         20         15         6         50         27           MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15         10         12         11         11         37         NICHOLAS         10         22         15         10         52         46         11         41         11         13         37         11         14         11         11				_			
MINERAL  39  25  15  27  7  27  MINGO  9  47  15  12  54  1  MONONGALIA  55  13  15  14  15  12  MONROE  54  20  15  6  50  27  MORGAN  29  1  15  47  1  37  NICHOLAS  6  32  2  22  22  15  OHIO  41  8  15  27  12  11  PENDLETON  19  6  1  41  11  3  PLEASANTS  49  22  15  10  52  46  POCAHONTAS  38  2  15  51  26  30  PRESTON  45  7  9  27  17  48  PUTNAM  31  43  15  34  32  17  RALEIGH  32  39  10  30  42  20  RANDOLPH  25  12  5  14  49  50  RITCHIE  13  49  15  8  55  48  ROANE  20  53  15  9  28  44  SUMMERS  12  23  15  15  16  30  30  42  33  44  31  55  48  ROANE  20  53  15  9  28  44  SUMMERS  12  23  15  15  30  36  3  WESTER  47  31  15  30  40  15  40  32  WOOD  43  35  15  20  40  32  WOOD							
MINGO 9 47 15 12 54 1  MONONGALIA 55 13 15 14 15 12  MONROE 54 20 15 6 50 27  MORGAN 29 1 15 47 1 37  NICHOLAS 6 32 2 22 22 15  OHIO 41 8 15 27 12 11  PENDLETON 19 6 1 41 11 3  PLEASANTS 49 22 15 10 52 46  POCAHONTAS 38 2 15 51 26 30  PRESTON 45 7 9 27 17 48  PUTNAM 31 43 15 34 32 17  RALEIGH 32 39 10 30 42 20  RANDOLPH 25 12 5 14 49 50  RITCHIE 13 49 15 8 55 48  ROANE 20 53 15 9 28 44  SUMMERS 12 23 15 15 18 18 15  TYLER 47 31 15 3 42 33  UPSHUR 51 21 15 54 14 54  WAYNE 50 38 15 30 36 3  WEBSTER 4 16 15 38 13 39  WETZEL 23 44 15 10 47 21  WIRT 7 54 15 2 40 32  WOOD 43 35 15 9 40 32  WOOD 43 35 15 9 40 32  WOOD 43 35 15 15 30 40 15							
MONONGALIA         55         13         15         14         15         12           MONROE         54         20         15         6         50         27           MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           OHIO         41         8         15         27         12         11           PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         <							
MONROE         54         20         15         6         50         27           MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           OHIO         41         8         15         27         12         11           PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15<							
MORGAN         29         1         15         47         1         37           NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           OHIO         41         8         15         27         12         11           PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RITCHIE         13         49							
NICHOLAS         6         32         2         22         22         15           OHIO         41         8         15         27         12         11           PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15         9         28         44           SUMMERS         12         23         15         49         28         13           TAYLOR         27         41							
OHIO         41         8         15         27         12         11           PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           PUTNAM         31         43         32         17         48         92         28         14         49         50         50 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>							
PENDLETON         19         6         1         41         11         3           PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15         9         28         44           SUMMERS         12         23         15         49         28         13           TAYLOR         27         41         15         55         28         18           TYLER         47         31         15         3         42         33           UPSHUR         51         21 <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>							
PLEASANTS         49         22         15         10         52         46           POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15         9         28         44           SUMMERS         12         23         15         49         28         13           TAYLOR         27         41         15         55         28         18           TUCKER         40         18         15         18         18         55           TYLER         47         31         15         3         42         33           UPSHUR         51         21 <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>							
POCAHONTAS         38         2         15         51         26         30           PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15         9         28         44           SUMMERS         12         23         15         49         28         13           TAYLOR         27         41         15         55         28         18           TUCKER         40         18         15         18         18         55           TYLER         47         31         15         3         42         33           UPSHUR         51         21         15         54         14         54           WAYNE         50         38         15<							
PRESTON         45         7         9         27         17         48           PUTNAM         31         43         15         34         32         17           RALEIGH         32         39         10         30         42         20           RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15         9         28         44           SUMMERS         12         23         15         49         28         13           TAYLOR         27         41         15         55         28         18           TUCKER         40         18         15         18         18         55           TYLER         47         31         15         3         42         33           UPSHUR         51         21         15         54         14         54           WAYNE         50         38         15         30         36         3           WETZEL         23         44         15							
PUTNAM       31       43       15       34       32       17         RALEIGH       32       39       10       30       42       20         RANDOLPH       25       12       5       14       49       50         RITCHIE       13       49       15       8       55       48         ROANE       20       53       15       9       28       44         SUMMERS       12       23       15       49       28       13         TAYLOR       27       41       15       55       28       18         TUCKER       40       18       15       18       18       55         TYLER       47       31       15       3       42       33         UPSHUR       51       21       15       54       14       54         WAYNE       50       38       15       30       36       3         WETZEL       23       44       15       10       47       21         WIRT       7       54       15       2       40       32         WOOD       43       35       15       30							
RALEIGH       32       39       10       30       42       20         RANDOLPH       25       12       5       14       49       50         RITCHIE       13       49       15       8       55       48         ROANE       20       53       15       9       28       44         SUMMERS       12       23       15       49       28       13         TAYLOR       27       41       15       55       28       18         TUCKER       40       18       15       18       18       55         TYLER       47       31       15       3       42       33         UPSHUR       51       21       15       54       14       54         WAYNE       50       38       15       30       36       3         WEBSTER       4       16       15       38       13       39         WETZEL       23       44       15       10       47       21         WIRT       7       54       15       2       40       32         WOOD       43       35       15       30							
RANDOLPH         25         12         5         14         49         50           RITCHIE         13         49         15         8         55         48           ROANE         20         53         15         9         28         44           SUMMERS         12         23         15         49         28         13           TAYLOR         27         41         15         55         28         18           TUCKER         40         18         15         18         18         55           TYLER         47         31         15         3         42         33           UPSHUR         51         21         15         54         14         54           WAYNE         50         38         15         30         36         3           WEBSTER         4         16         15         38         13         39           WETZEL         23         44         15         10         47         21           WIRT         7         54         15         2         40         32           WOOD         43         35         15							
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ROANE       20       53       15       9       28       44         SUMMERS       12       23       15       49       28       13         TAYLOR       27       41       15       55       28       18         TUCKER       40       18       15       18       18       55         TYLER       47       31       15       3       42       33         UPSHUR       51       21       15       54       14       54         WAYNE       50       38       15       30       36       3         WEBSTER       4       16       15       38       13       39         WETZEL       23       44       15       10       47       21         WIRT       7       54       15       2       40       32         WOOD       43       35       15       30       40       15							
SUMMERS     12     23     15     49     28     13       TAYLOR     27     41     15     55     28     18       TUCKER     40     18     15     18     18     55       TYLER     47     31     15     3     42     33       UPSHUR     51     21     15     54     14     54       WAYNE     50     38     15     30     36     3       WEBSTER     4     16     15     38     13     39       WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15							
TAYLOR     27     41     15     55     28     18       TUCKER     40     18     15     18     18     55       TYLER     47     31     15     3     42     33       UPSHUR     51     21     15     54     14     54       WAYNE     50     38     15     30     36     3       WEBSTER     4     16     15     38     13     39       WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15							
TUCKER     40     18     15     18     18     55       TYLER     47     31     15     3     42     33       UPSHUR     51     21     15     54     14     54       WAYNE     50     38     15     30     36     3       WEBSTER     4     16     15     38     13     39       WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15							
TYLER     47     31     15     3     42     33       UPSHUR     51     21     15     54     14     54       WAYNE     50     38     15     30     36     3       WEBSTER     4     16     15     38     13     39       WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15							
UPSHUR         51         21         15         54         14         54           WAYNE         50         38         15         30         36         3           WEBSTER         4         16         15         38         13         39           WETZEL         23         44         15         10         47         21           WIRT         7         54         15         2         40         32           WOOD         43         35         15         30         40         15							
WAYNE     50     38     15     30     36     3       WEBSTER     4     16     15     38     13     39       WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15	TYLER						
WEBSTER     4     16     15     38     13     39       WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15							
WETZEL     23     44     15     10     47     21       WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15	WAYNE						
WIRT     7     54     15     2     40     32       WOOD     43     35     15     30     40     15	WEBSTER						
WOOD 43 35 15 30 40 15	WETZEL					47	
	WIRT	7		15	2	40	32
WYOMING 8 14 15 38 45 10	WOOD						
	WYOMING	8	14	15	38	45	10

<sup>\*</sup>Each county is ranked from 1 to 55, where a rank of 1 is assigned to the county with the highest (worst) rate or percentage and a 55 to the county with the lowest (best) rate or percentage. Counties with a ".5" in the rank had an equivalent rank as another county and the average rank was returned.

Percentage of Nicholas County residents with a controlled substance prescription

26.9%

Percentage of West Virginia residents with a controlled substance prescription

23.2%

Percentage of Nicholas County residents with an opioid prescription

17.3%

Percentage of West Virginia residents with an opioid prescription

14.3%

Percentage of Nicholas County residents with a benzodiazepine prescription

7.8%

Percentage of West Virginia residents with a benzodiazepine prescription

6.4%

To access the individual 2023 County Profile Reports, please follow the link below: https://dhhr.wv.gov/vip/county-reports/Pages/default.aspx

Also, check out the interactive county profile dashboard <u>here</u>.

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