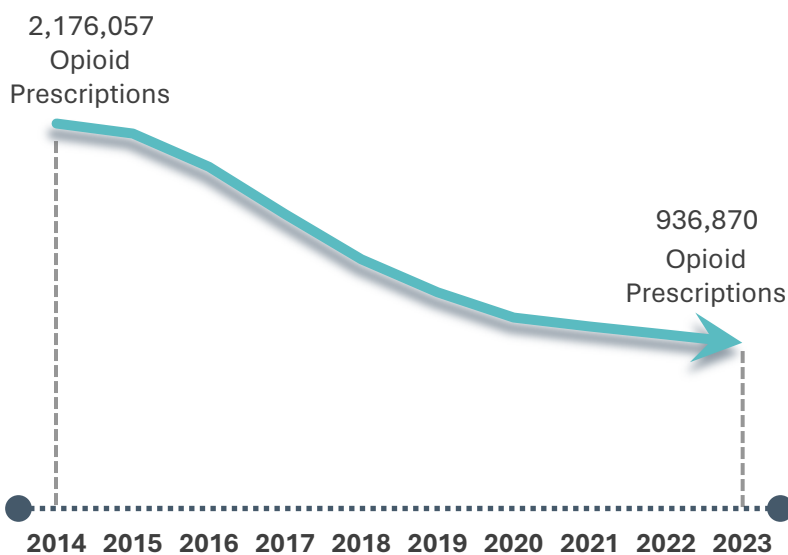


# West Virginia Board of Pharmacy Prescription Opioid Indicators Report

## 2023 County Profiles Executive Summary

Despite West Virginia being at the forefront of the opioid epidemic, opioid prescribing in the state has improved from 2014-2023, as shown below. However, not all counties in the state follow the same trend. Understanding where West Virginia counties stand in comparison to the state is vital in combating the opioid epidemic at the local level. Data from the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy’s Controlled Substance Monitoring Program (CSMP) was analyzed to calculate rates or percentages for the indicators below.

The following are aggregate data for the State of West Virginia based on opioid prescribing indicators required for reporting for the prior Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement, Prevention for States (PFS) cooperative agreement during 2016-2019. The purpose of these indicators is to gain an understanding of the prescription opioid burden in the state and to identify high-risk areas.

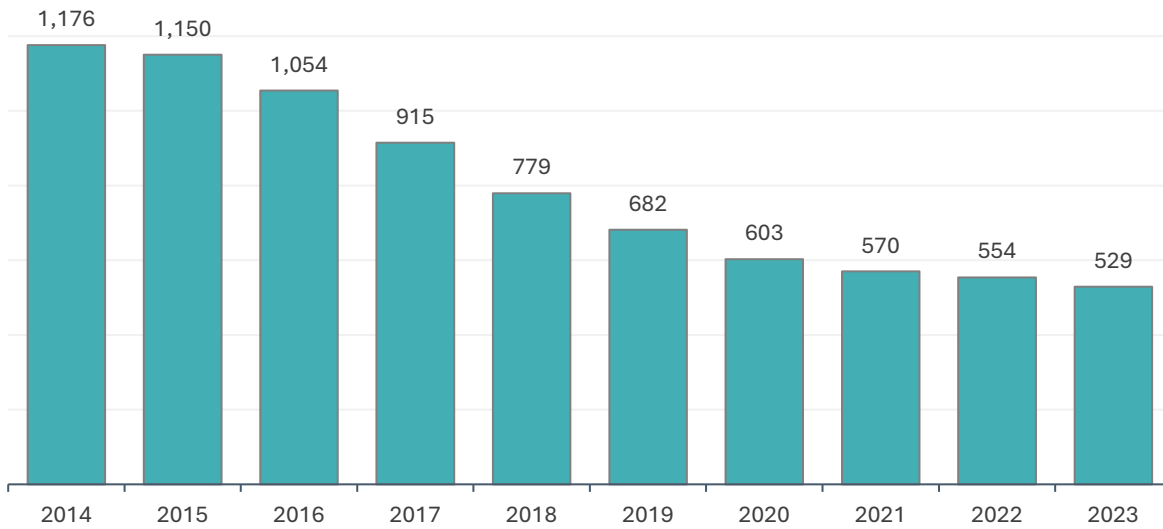


Source: West Virginia Controlled Substance Monitoring Program

Since 2014, there has been a **57% decrease** in the number of opioids dispensed in West Virginia.

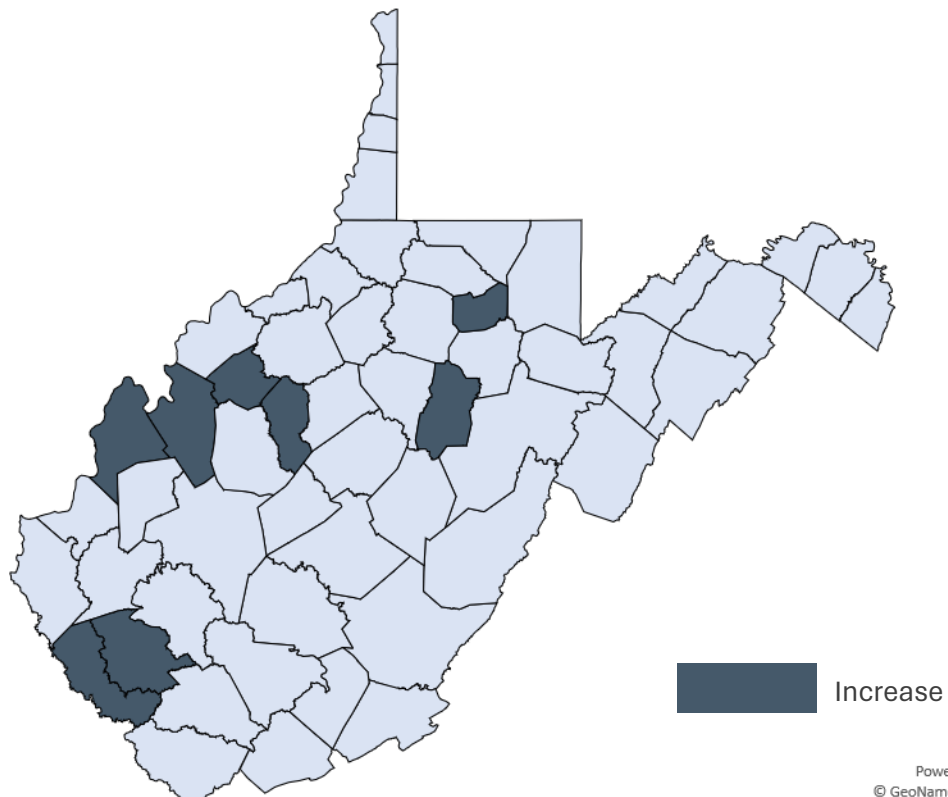
Nearly **5 million** fewer doses were dispensed in 2023 than in 2014.

Indicator 1: Rate of opioid analgesic prescriptions per 1,000 state residents, West Virginia, 2014-2023

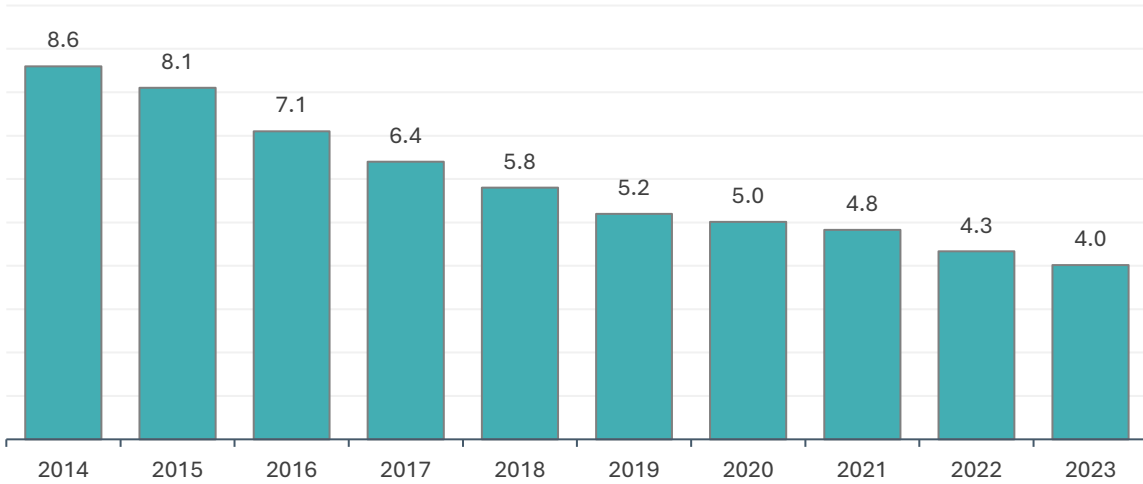


This indicator includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as either II, III, IV or V in the state.

Counties with an increase in rate of opioid analgesic prescriptions from 2022 to 2023



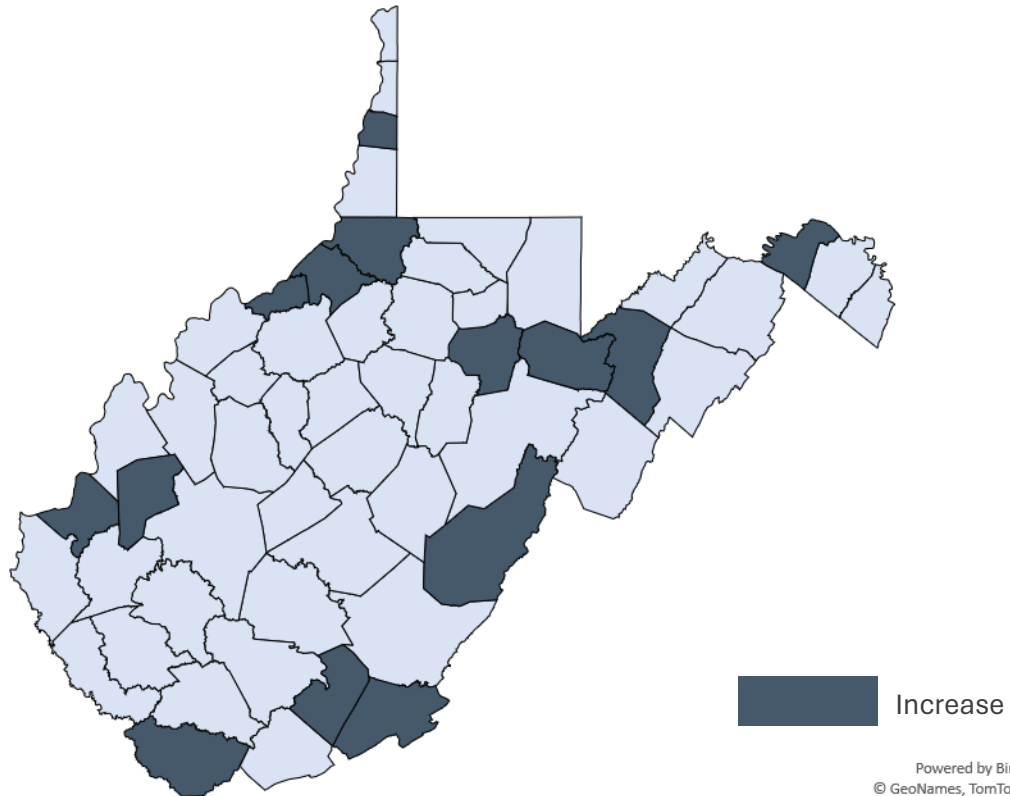
Indicator 2: Percent of patients receiving more than an average daily dose of 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) , West Virginia, 2014-2023



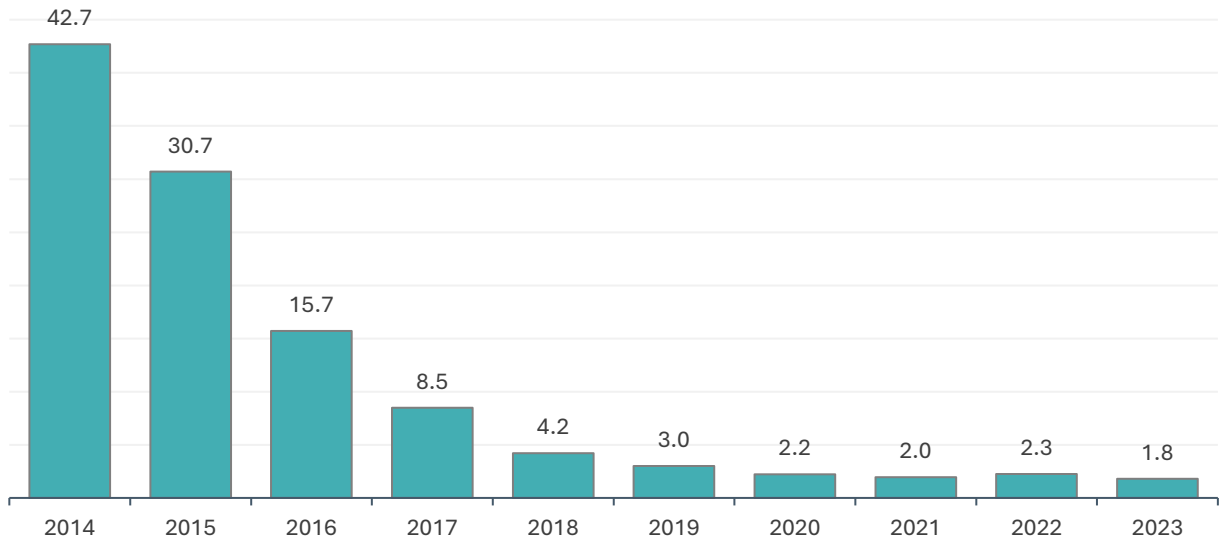
This indicator shows the percentage of patients with an MME greater than 90. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as II, III, IV or V. MMEs are used as a measure to describe the potency of an opioid. Calculating MMEs is important to determine which patients may be at risk for an overdose.

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

Counties with an increase in the percent of patients receiving more than an average daily dose of 90 MME from 2022 to 2023

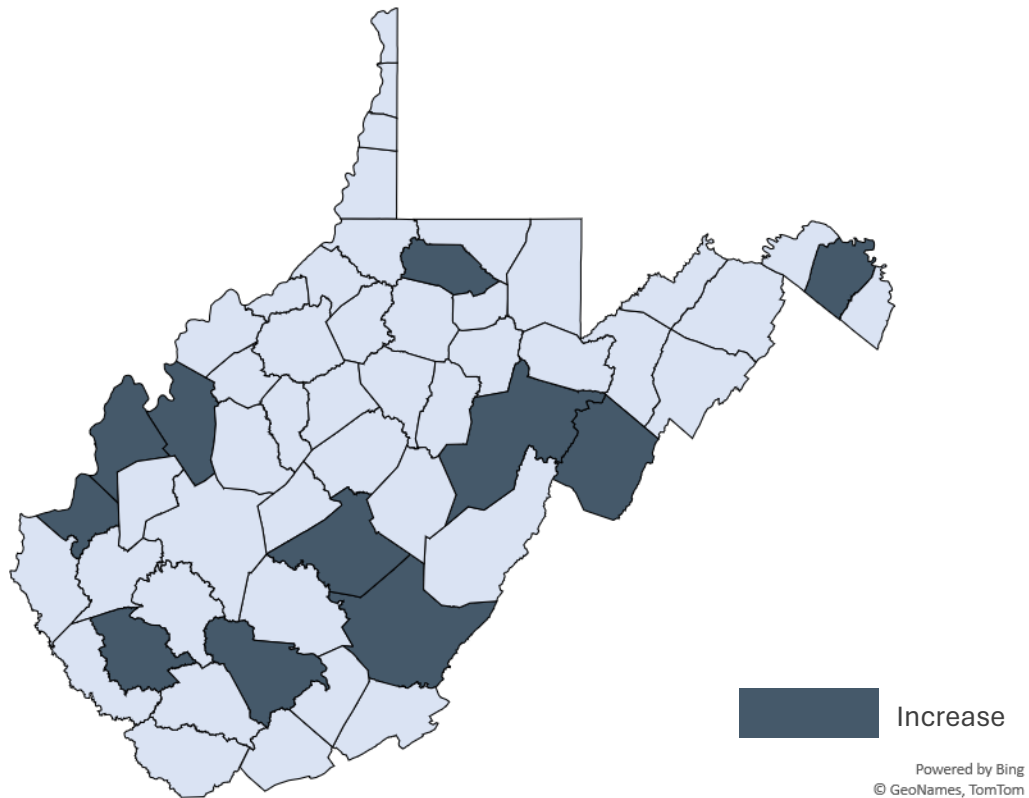


Indicator 3: Rate of multiple provider episodes for prescription opioids  
(5 or more prescribers and 5 or more pharmacies in a 6-month period)  
per 100,000 residents, West Virginia, 2014-2023

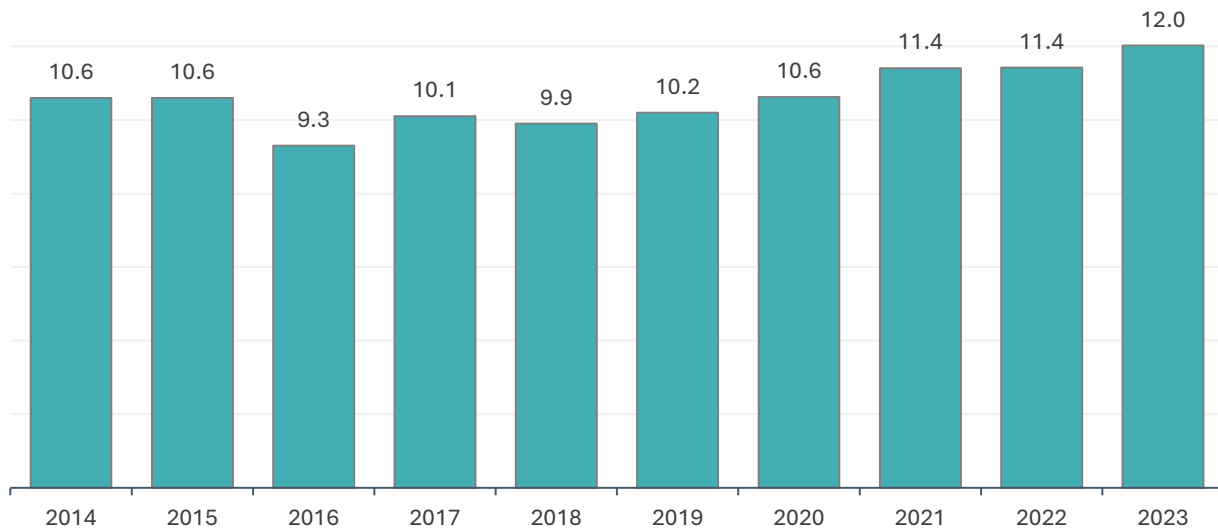


This indicator shows the rate of patients who went to five or more prescribers and five or more pharmacies within a 6-month period, or multiple provider episode (MPE). The rate is calculated per 100,000 population. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as II, III, IV or V.

Counties with an increase in the rate of multiple provider episodes for prescription opioids from 2022 to 2023

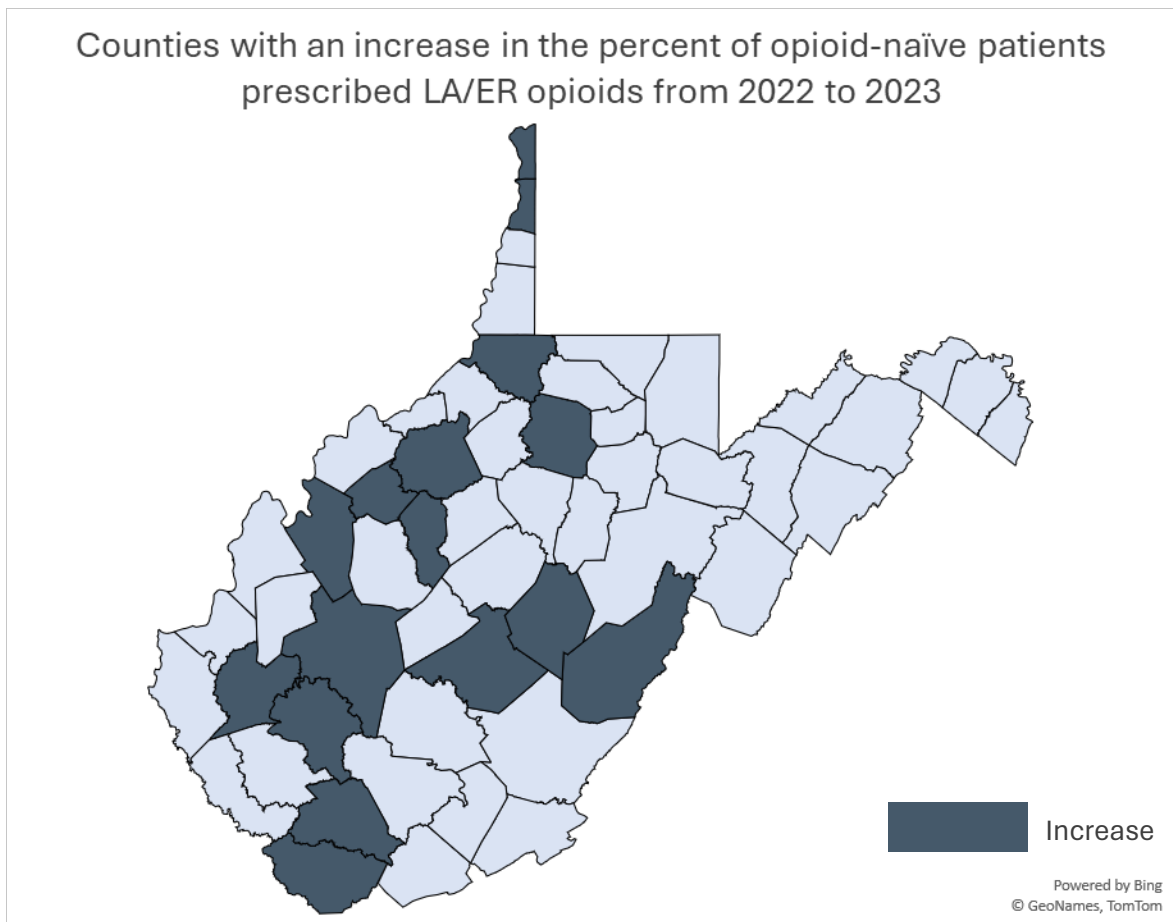


Indicator 4: Percent of opioid naive patients among patients prescribed long-acting/extended release opioids, West Virginia, 2014-2023



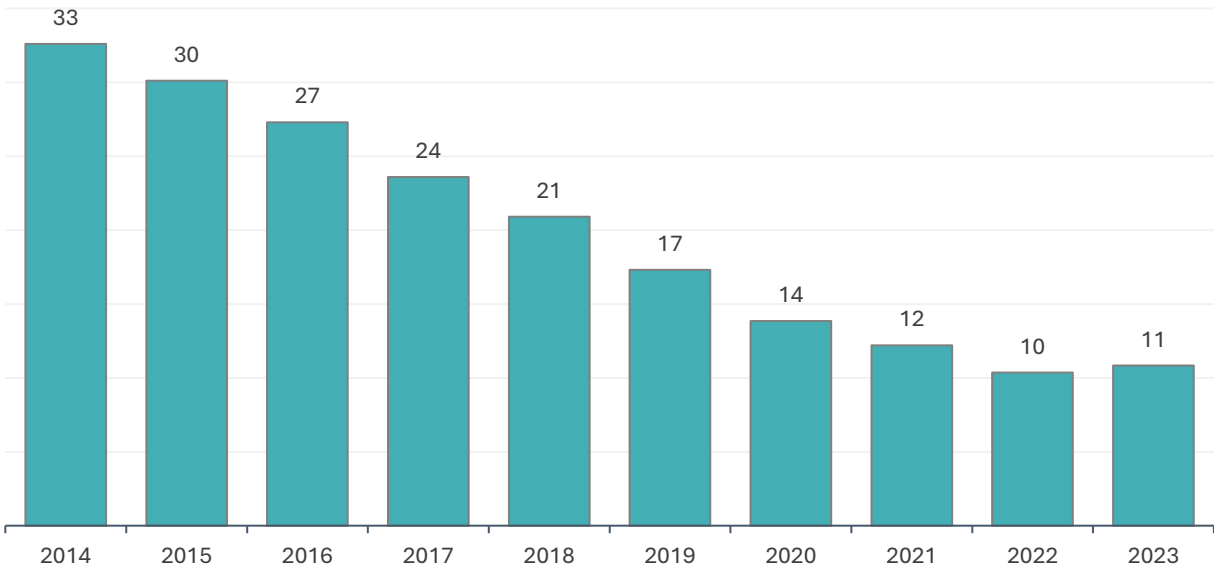
This indicator represents the percentage of patients with no prescribed opioid prescriptions in the previous 60 days (changed to 45 days in 2017) who were prescribed at least one long acting/extended release (LA/ER) opioid, among all patients with LA/ER opioid prescriptions. It includes all opioid prescriptions that are classified as II, III, IV or V. This is the only indicator that increased at the state level for 2021.

Counties with an increase in the percent of opioid-naïve patients prescribed LA/ER opioids from 2022 to 2023



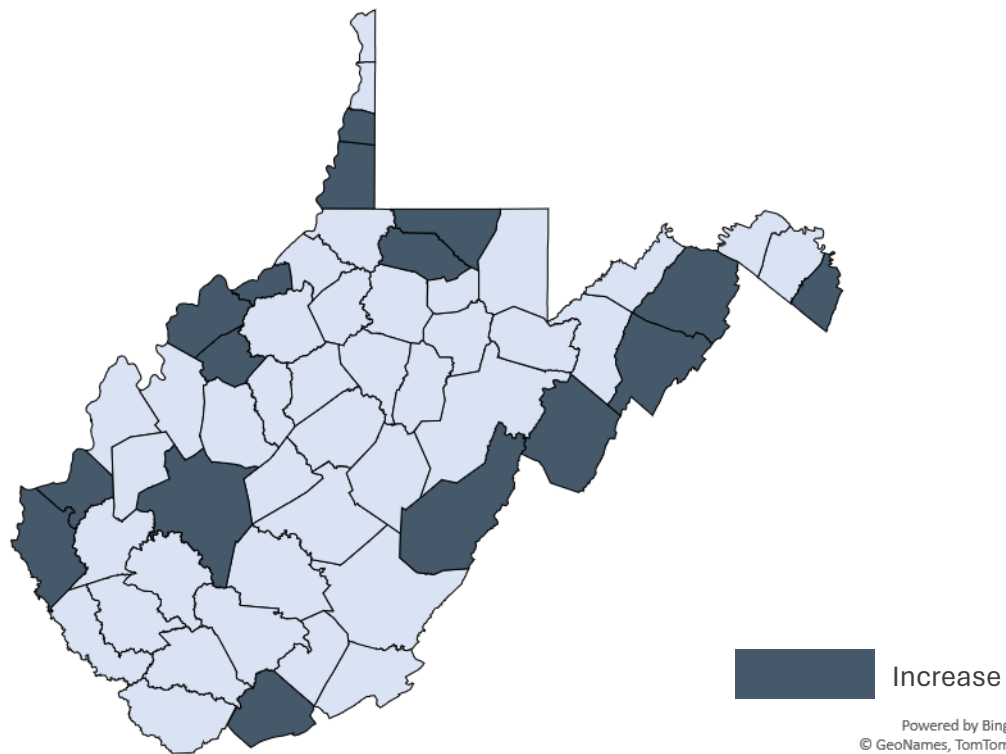


Indicator 6: Percent of patient prescriptions days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions, West Virginia, 2014-2023



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

Counties with an increase in the percent of patient prescription days with overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions from 2022 to 2023



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 [here](#).

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