



**Board of
Pharmacy**

Virtual Morning Coffee Break Series on Gabapentin Misuse

Part 2: Deep Dive into Gabapentin Misuse in Ohio

August 2024



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze gabapentin prescription drug trends in the state of Ohio.
2. Describe gabapentin prescription misuse in Ohio.
3. Identify risk factors of gabapentin misuse in Ohio.

GABAPENTINOIDS



Gabapentinoids are FDA-approved to treat a variety of conditions including partial seizures and nerve pain from spinal cord injury, shingles, and diabetes.



Other approved uses include fibromyalgia and restless legs syndrome.



Gabapentin was first approved in 1993 and pregabalin was first approved in 2004.

GABAPENTINOIDS

Gabapentin is marketed under the brand names Neurontin and Gralise, and also as generics.

Gabapentin enacarbil is marketed under the brand name Horizant.

Pregabalin is marketed under the brand names Lyrica and Lyrica CR, and also as generics.

Pregabalin is a Schedule V controlled substance.

Gabapentin is available as a tablet, capsule, solution, and extended-release tablet.

Max daily dose is 3600 mg.

Pregabalin is available as a capsule, solution, and extended-release tablet.

GABAPENTINOIDS



Common side effects of gabapentinoids include drowsiness, dizziness, blurry or double vision, difficulty with coordination and concentration, and swelling of the hands, legs, and feet.



FDA is warning that serious breathing difficulties may occur when gabapentin (Neurontin, Gralise, Horizant) or pregabalin (Lyrica, Lyrica CR) is taken with other medicines that depress the central nervous system (CNS) such as opioids, in those patients who have underlying respiratory problems, or in the elderly.

GABAPENTIN AND ITS SCHEDULING



Gabapentin is a controlled substance (schedule V) in 8 states:

Kentucky (2017), West Virginia (2018), Tennessee (2018), Michigan (2019), Alabama (2019), Virginia (2019), and North Dakota (2019), Utah (2024).



Outpatient prescriptions dispensed for gabapentin are reported to OARRS (effective 12/1/2016).

other states that track in PDMP= Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin, Wyoming.



Nationally: FDA denied a petition to initiate proceedings to schedule gabapentin in January 2023.

OARRS DATA NOTES

- OARRS PDMP Interactive data tool can be utilized by all, including those without an OARRS account.
 - www.ohiopmp.gov/Stats
- Data are from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which collects all Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled substance prescriptions and two non-controlled drugs (gabapentin and naltrexone) dispensed by Ohio pharmacies and personally furnished by Ohio prescribers.
- This presentation contains preliminary OARRS statistics or aggregate data. This data has not been verified for accuracy and is subject to revision. The data has not received final approval by the Director of OARRS and is provided on the condition that it is used for discussion purposes only and shall not be otherwise publicly released.

OARRS DATA NOTES

Measures:

- County/ZIP Code Data: County or ZIP Code data are reported based on the residence of the patient (as reported by the dispensing pharmacy or prescriber) and not the county or Zip Code where the drug was dispensed or personally furnished. (Ex. A patient from Franklin County that goes to a pharmacy in Delaware County will be reported in the Franklin County data).
- Doses: Doses are reported as solid dosage units only (i.e. tablets, capsules and patches). Liquids and powders are not included.
- Prescriptions: Prescriptions only include the prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies or those personally furnished by prescribers. It does not include prescriptions that were issued but were never dispensed.

OHIO TRENDS

Ohio Opioid Patients by Year with 1-Year Moving Average

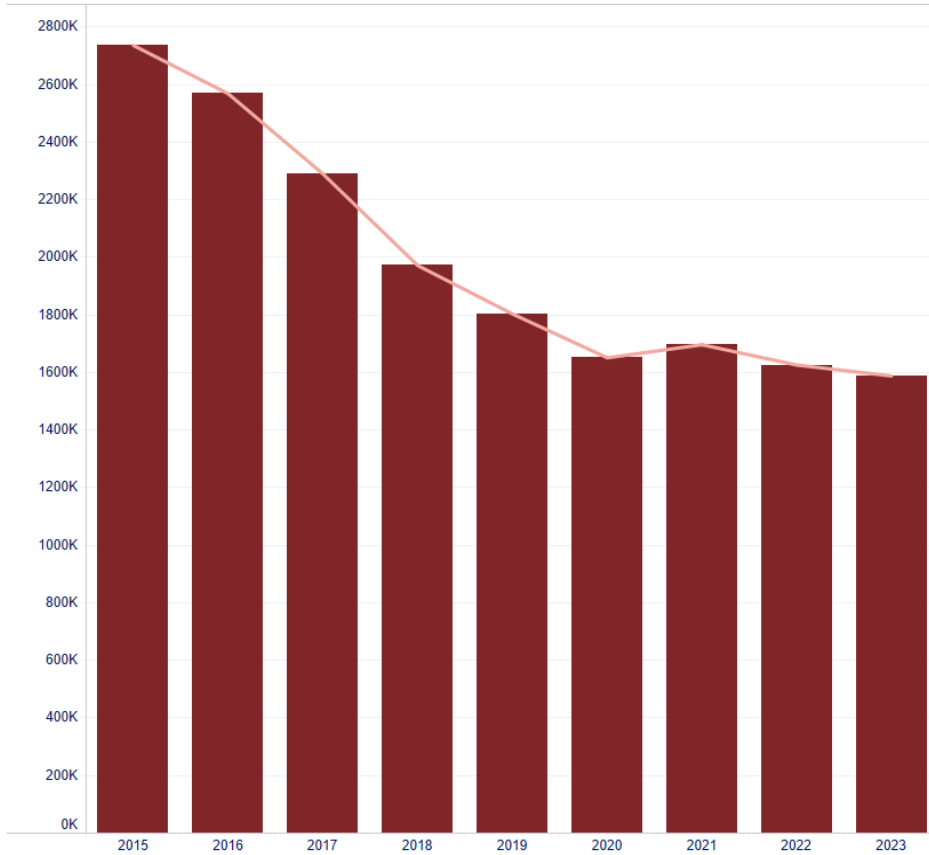
Select Drug Category
Opioid

Select Measure
Patients

Select County
Ohio

Select Date Level
Year

Select Moving Average L..
1



Ohio Gabapentin Patients by Year with 1-Year Moving Average

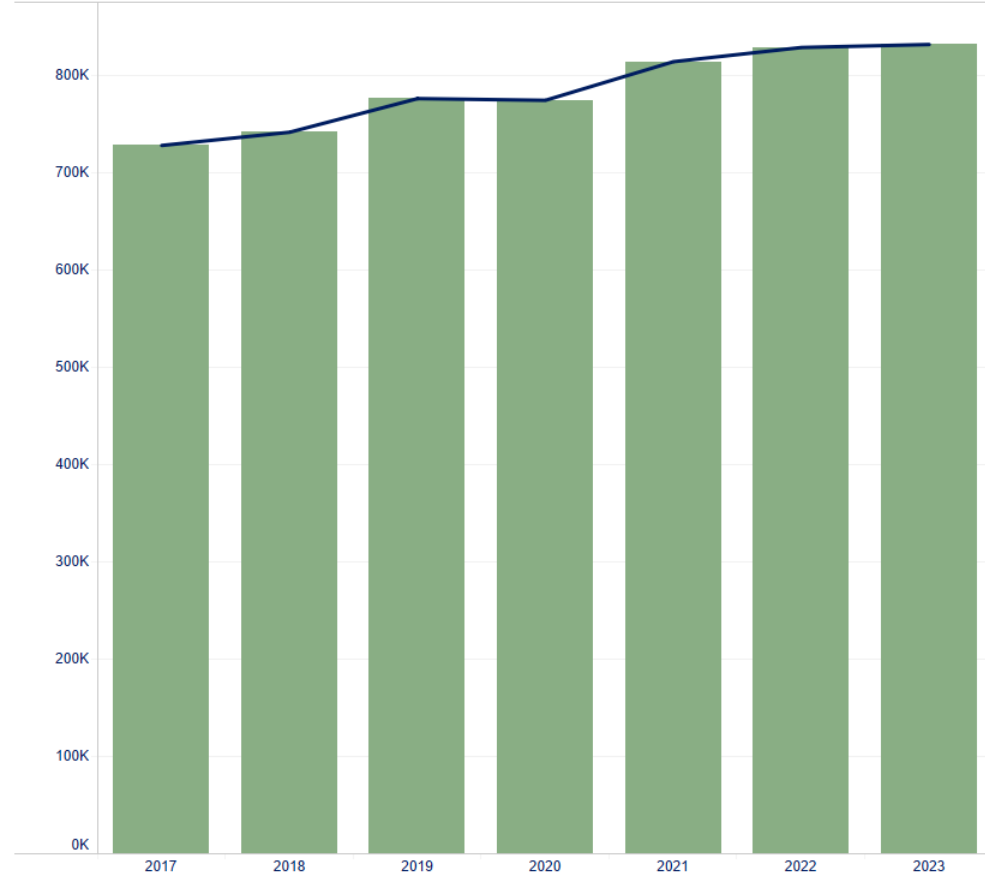
Select Drug Category
Gabapentin

Select Measure
Patients

Select County
Ohio

Select Date Level
Year

Select Moving Average L..
1



Ohio Population = 11.79 Million (2023 US census Bureau)



OHIO TRENDS

Ohio Opioid Doses by Year with 1-Year Moving Average

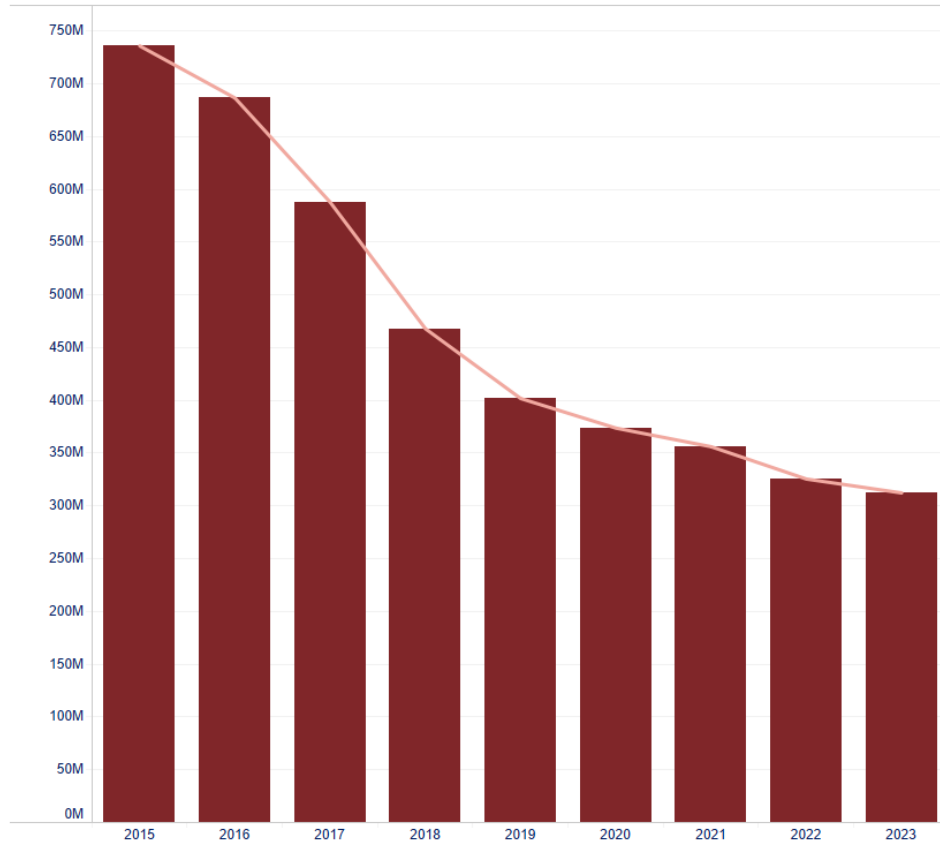
Select Drug Category
Opioid

Select Measure
Doses

Select County
Ohio

Select Date Level
Year

Select Moving Average L...
1



Ohio Gabapentin Doses by Year with 1-Year Moving Average

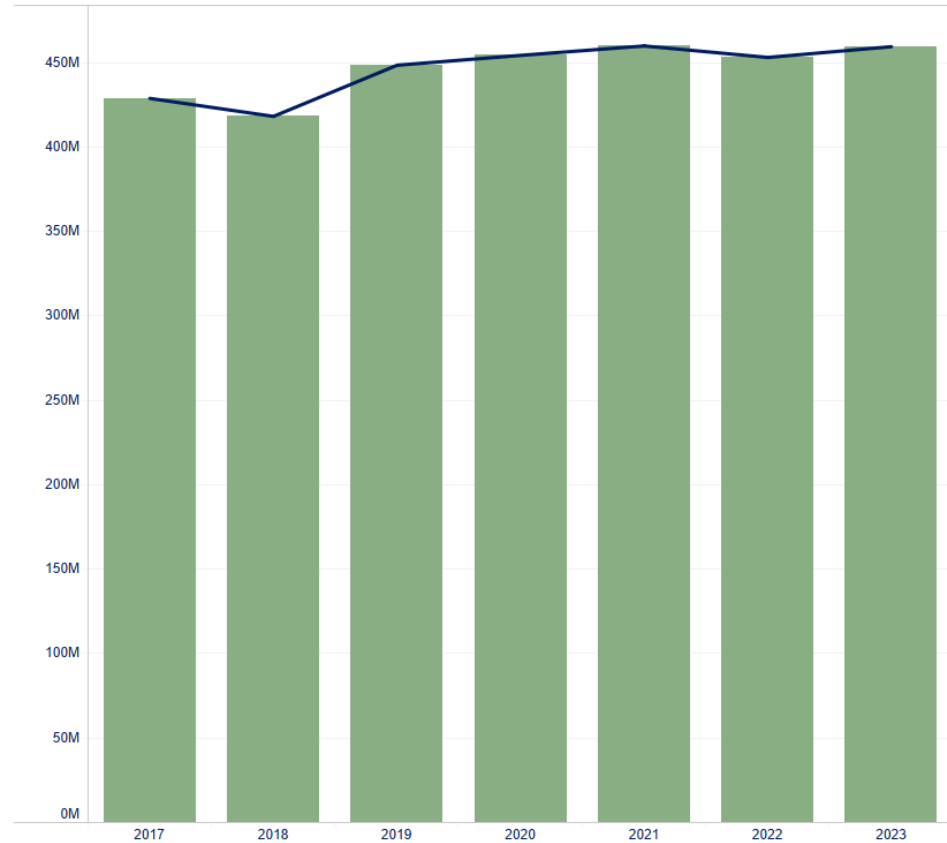
Select Drug Category
Gabapentin

Select Measure
Doses

Select County
Ohio

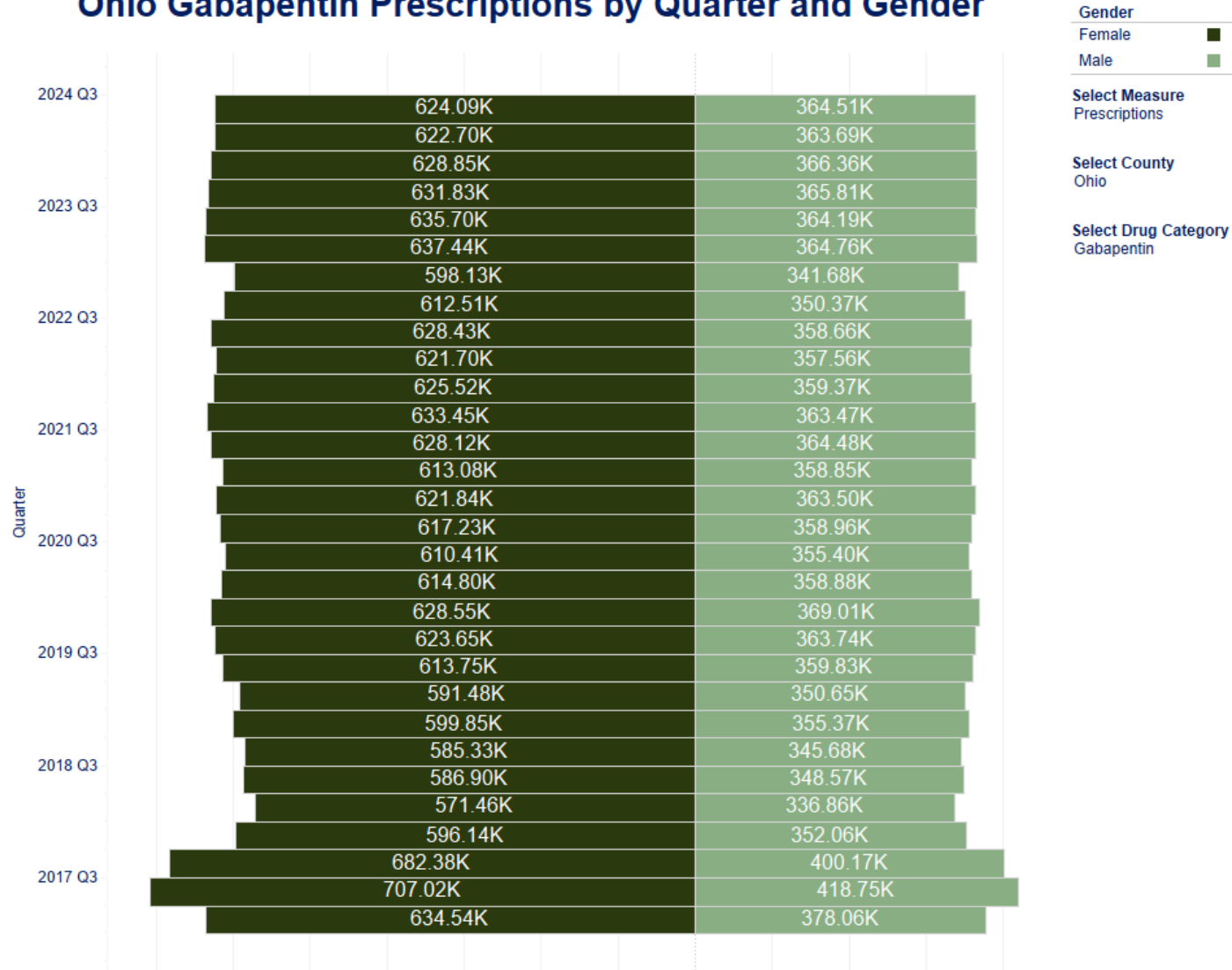
Select Date Level
Year

Select Moving Average L...
1



OHIO TRENDS

Ohio Gabapentin Prescriptions by Quarter and Gender



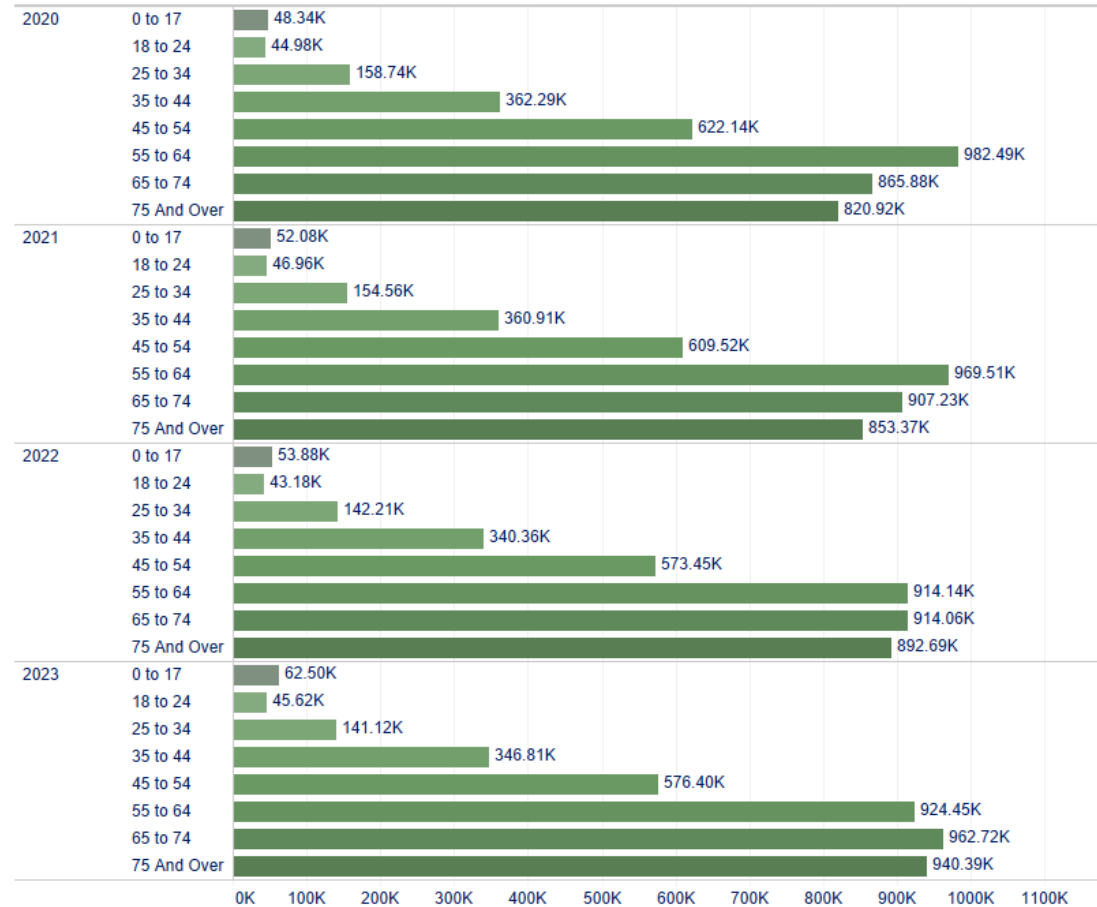
OHIO TRENDS

Ohio Gabapentin Prescriptions by Year and Patient Age

Select County
Ohio

Select Drug Category
Gabapentin

Select Measure
Prescriptions

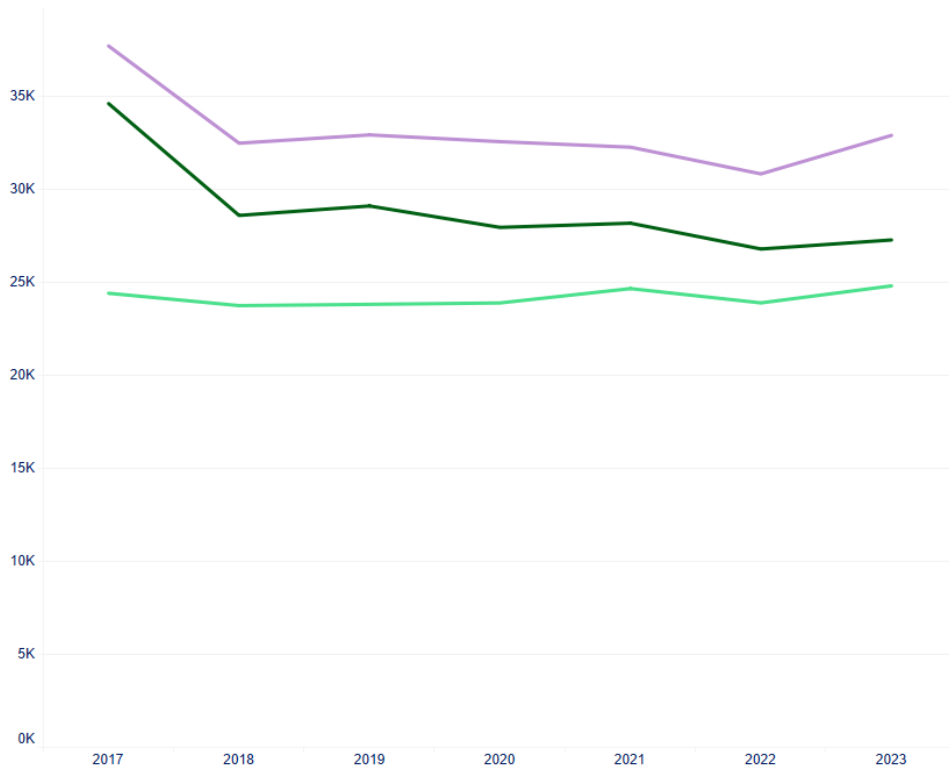


OHIO TRENDS

Gabapentin Prescriptions per 100K Residents by Year

Counties: FRANKLIN, CUYAHOGA, HAMILTON

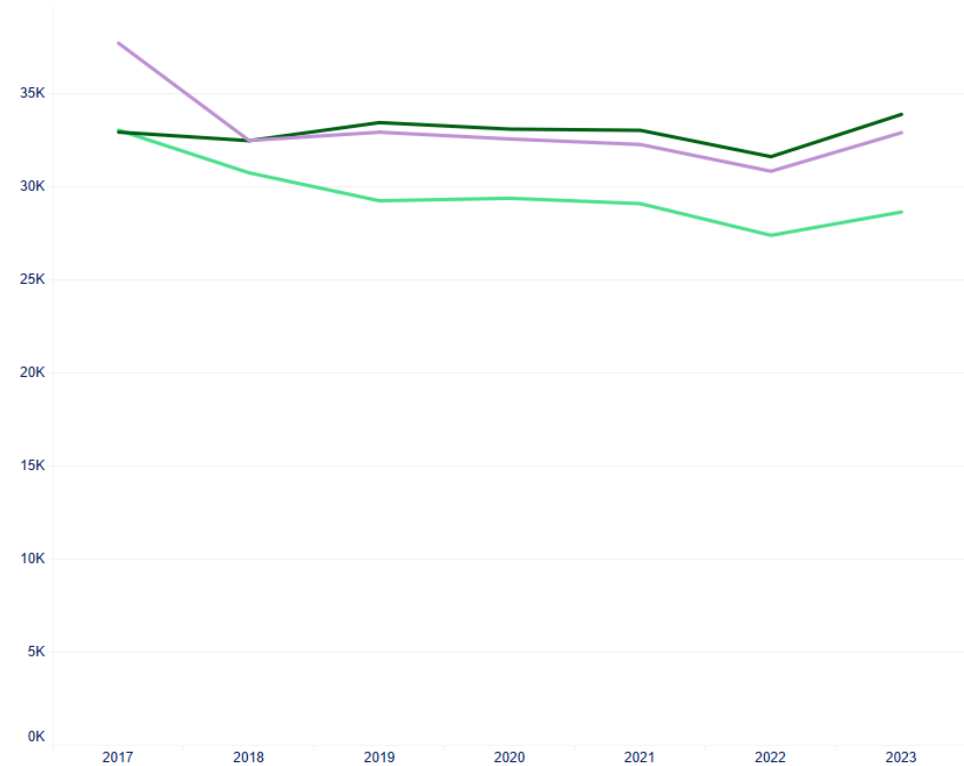
- Cuyahoga ■
 - Franklin ■
 - Hamilton ■
- Select Drug Category
Gabapentin
- Select Date Level
Year
- Select County 1
FRANKLIN
- Select County 2
CUYAHOGA
- Select County 3
HAMILTON
- Select a Measure
Prescriptions per 100K
Residents



Gabapentin Prescriptions per 100K Residents by Year

Counties: FRANKLIN, FAIRFIELD, ATHENS

- Athens ■
 - Fairfield ■
 - Franklin ■
- Select Drug Category
Gabapentin
- Select Date Level
Year
- Select County 1
FRANKLIN
- Select County 2
FAIRFIELD
- Select County 3
ATHENS
- Select a Measure
Prescriptions per 100K
Residents



WHY ARE PEOPLE LIKELY ABUSING GABAPENTIN?

The Perfect Drug

“I've experienced quite a few drugs in my time...But if I could choose a drug that I could label 'The Perfect Drug' Gabapentin would be my first choice.”

<https://erowid.org/experiences/exp.php?ID=79845>

Taking From a Family Member

“After thoroughly [sic] searching our cabinet, I found 5 full bottles of gabapentin. A close family member receives this for nerve pain, but won't take anything expired (go figure!)”

“I have plenty of it, and a steady supply. I plan to take this as a recreational as long as I have it.”

<https://erowid.org/experiences/exp.php?ID=90503>

Comparable to MDMA

“I am opiate tolerant and this was a good substitute.” This individual went on to compare the high he achieved from gabapentin with that of MDMA.

<https://erowid.org/experiences/exp.php?ID=66493>

Hallucinations: Comparable to Adderall & Mushrooms

“I'd say that the initial effects were somewhat similar to very woozy slow adderall, and the later effects more like an opiate (I've only tried dilaudid) or mushroom trip.”

<https://erowid.org/experiences/exp.php?ID=83751>

WHY ARE PEOPLE LIKELY ABUSING GABAPENTIN?

<https://erowid.org/experiences/exp.php?ID=100496>

- Really long high
- Best of hydrocodone, Xanax/alcohol, and Ritalin combined
- Zero comedown
- Increased sex drive
- Better socialization skills-A lot of euphoria and motivation
- Energy but the ability to sleep if needed
- Anxiety is eliminated
- Minor color enhancements
- Not scheduled
- Cannot tell you are high
- Almost impossible to overdose

OHIO ILLICIT USE DATA

<https://mha.ohio.gov/research-and-data/data-and-reports/osam/03-drug-trend-reports>

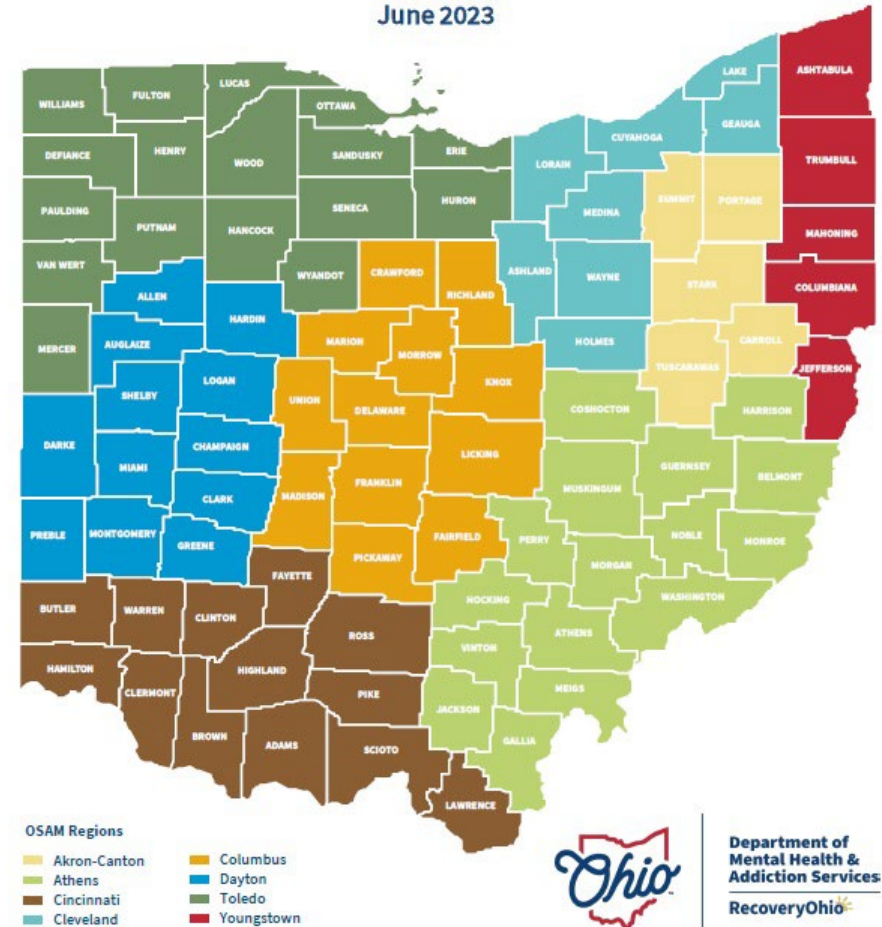
According to the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network's (OSAM) January 2023 report, street availability of gabapentin has remained consistent, or in some cases increased, in most Ohio regions.

Previously OSAM's June 2020, and 2021 report showed significant increases its availability.

Community professionals agreed a prescription for gabapentin is easy to obtain and the drug is illicitly used most often as a replacement for opioids.



Surveillance of Drug Use Trends in the State of Ohio June 2023



Ohio
Department of
Mental Health &
Addiction Services
RecoveryOhio

OHIO ILLICIT USE DATA

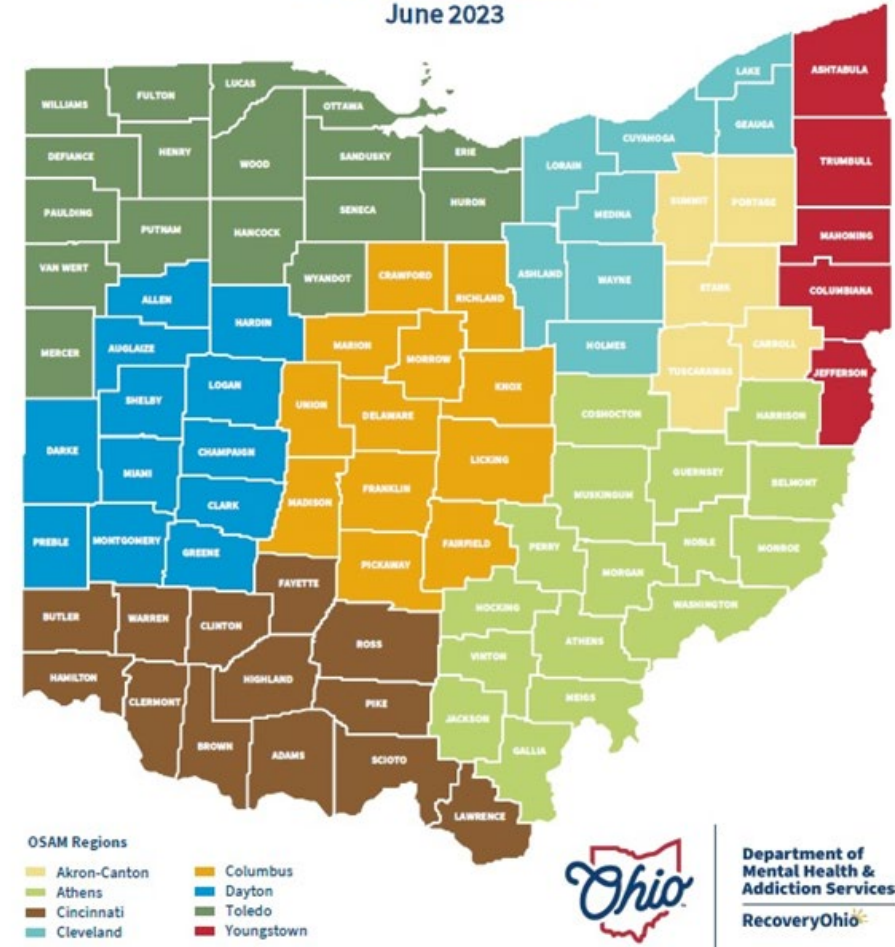
Respondents associated illicit gabapentin use with people who use opioids, primarily heroin/fentanyl, for the potentiating effect and/or “boost,” and to help prevent or alleviate experiencing opioid withdrawal symptoms.

A treatment provider in the Columbus region shared, “I have had a lot of clients, and I mean a lot of clients, tell me that they seek [gabapentin] because it helps with [opioid] withdrawal[symptoms].”

A consumer in Cincinnati offered, “[Gabapentin is] huge with opiate use. It ‘boosts’ [the opioid high].”

A member of law enforcement in the Akron-Canton region observed, “I know on our heroin or opiate overdoses, probably 20% of the time, you'll find a couple of [gabapentin] pills [in their possession].”

Surveillance of Drug Use Trends in the State of Ohio June 2023



NATIONAL ILLICIT USE DATA

- Gabapentin has been encountered in postmortem toxicology reports as indicated by data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).
- According to the 2020 annual report of AAPCC's National Poison Data System (NPDS):
 - Gabapentin was detected in a total of 135 fatalities in 2020 alone, compared to 168 total fatalities between 2012 and 2016 combined. Of those cases, gabapentin was the primary cause of death in 23 individuals.
 - According to this report, gabapentin was amongst one of the most frequent analytes detected in 1,547 tissue samples. Of the 154 analytes detected, gabapentin accounted for 25 samples.
 - Total exposure calls as a result of gabapentin stayed largely the same between 2017 and 2020 with 22,088 calls made in 2017 and 21,423 in 2020. Among cases classified as single substance pharmaceutical exposures (AAPCC defines single exposures as the number of human exposure cases that identified only one substance), gabapentin was identified as a single substance in 7,214 cases in 2020.
 - With respect to medical outcomes associated with gabapentin calls to poison control centers in 2020, gabapentin was associated with 7 deaths, 178 outcomes classified as "major", 832 outcomes classified as "moderate", and 1,441 outcomes classified as "minor".

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DATA NOTES

Data Notes

- Ohio State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section.
- Includes Ohio residents who died in Ohio due to unintentional drug overdose with at least one overdose-specific circumstance field documented between 2017-2023 (N=31,989).
- *SUDORS data for 2023 is not yet finalized and is subject to change.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DATA NOTES

Definitions:

Gabapentin Detected in Postmortem Toxicology:

Gabapentin was detected in postmortem toxicology testing; however, this does not indicate the substance caused or contributed to the death.

Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death:

Gabapentin was included as a cause of death on the death certificate or coroner/medical examiner report.

- Multiple substances are often listed as a cause of death for a fatal drug overdose.
- The “Cause of Death” variable captures any substance that caused or contributed to the drug overdose death.
- In the absence of a viable specimen for postmortem toxicology, a coroner or medical examiner can determine a substance as a cause of death based on other factors, such as scene evidence.

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Gabapentin, Ohio, 2017-2023

County of Residence	2020				2021				2022				2023*							
	Total Overdose Deaths	Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Detected in Post-Mortem Toxicology		Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death		Total Overdose Deaths	Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Detected in Post-Mortem Toxicology		Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death		Total Overdose Deaths	Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Detected in Post-Mortem Toxicology		Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death						
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent			
Adams	16	0	0%	0	0%	20	0	0%	0	0%	18	1	6%	0	0%	16	0	0%	0	0%
Allen	29	2	7%	1	3%	30	1	3%	0	0%	45	0	0%	0	0%	29	0	0%	0	0%
Ashland	12	1	8%	0	0%	5	1	20%	1	20%	3	0	0%	0	0%	9	0	0%	0	0%
Ashtabula	40	4	10%	0	0%	35	9	26%	5	14%	37	10	27%	4	11%	40	6	15%	2	5%
Athens	16	3	19%	1	6%	29	8	28%	6	21%	28	3	11%	2	7%	20	2	10%	0	0%
Auglaize	4	0	0%	0	0%	8	1	13%	1	13%	5	0	0%	0	0%	4	0	0%	0	0%
Belmont	17	0	0%	1	6%	16	1	6%	1	6%	24	0	0%	0	0%	24	0	0%	0	0%
Brown	17	2	12%	1	6%	23	1	4%	1	4%	24	5	21%	4	17%	24	4	17%	1	4%
Butler	204	29	14%	12	6%	188	2	1%	0	0%	193	5	3%	1	1%	143	5	3%	3	2%
Carroll	8	1	13%	1	13%	0	0	0%	0	0%	4	0	0%	0	0%	5	0	0%	0	0%
Champaign	16	2	13%	1	6%	11	0	0%	0	0%	7	3	43%	0	0%	7	2	29%	1	14%
Clark	57	5	9%	3	5%	80	3	4%	2	3%	67	11	16%	2	3%	54	6	11%	1	2%
Clermont	75	2	3%	2	3%	89	2	2%	2	2%	72	7	10%	5	7%	56	10	18%	6	11%
Clinton	25	3	12%	1	4%	22	3	14%	1	5%	20	6	30%	2	10%	19	2	11%	0	0%
Columbiana	38	9	24%	9	24%	46	6	13%	3	7%	31	4	13%	4	13%	39	2	5%	2	5%
Coshocton	14	0	0%	0	0%	12	1	8%	1	8%	6	0	0%	0	0%	9	2	22%	2	22%
Crawford	16	2	13%	1	6%	10	1	10%	0	0%	10	0	0%	0	0%	15	0	0%	0	0%
Cuyahoga	484	79	16%	71	15%	594	111	19%	86	14%	553	67	12%	55	10%	564	79	14%	72	13%
Darke	19	1	5%	1	5%	14	2	14%	0	0%	15	1	7%	1	7%	9	3	33%	1	11%
Defiance	10	0	0%	0	0%	10	0	0%	0	0%	11	1	9%	1	9%	5	1	20%	0	0%
Delaware	30	2	7%	1	3%	40	3	8%	1	3%	32	5	16%	0	0%	21	2	10%	0	0%
Erie	36	4	11%	0	0%	21	1	5%	1	5%	31	0	0%	0	0%	17	1	6%	1	6%
Fairfield	54	8	15%	4	7%	59	4	7%	1	2%	59	17	29%	7	12%	44	9	20%	2	5%
Fayette	13	2	15%	0	0%	12	2	17%	0	0%	16	2	13%	0	0%	7	2	29%	1	14%



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		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Franklin	802	114	14%	4	0%	792	108	14%	17	2%	766	63	8%	16	2%	715	66	9%	33	5%
Fulton	14	0	0%	0	0%	7	0	0%	0	0%	12	0	0%	0	0%	9	0	0%	0	0%
Gallia	28	6	21%	4	14%	17	2	12%	2	12%	18	1	6%	2	11%	12	5	42%	4	33%
Geauga	11	0	0%	1	9%	15	3	20%	4	27%	10	0	0%	0	0%	13	3	23%	3	23%
Greene	45	3	7%	2	4%	52	7	13%	1	2%	46	14	30%	4	9%	40	6	15%	3	8%
Guernsey	17	1	6%	1	6%	20	2	10%	4	20%	18	4	22%	5	28%	16	4	25%	3	19%
Hamilton	383	17	4%	11	3%	419	14	3%	6	1%	355	37	10%	13	4%	329	45	14%	19	6%
Hancock	19	2	11%	0	0%	21	0	0%	0	0%	30	1	3%	0	0%	16	1	6%	1	6%
Hardin	9	0	0%	0	0%	17	1	6%	0	0%	11	1	9%	0	0%	5	2	40%	1	20%
Harrison	3	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	3	1	33%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Henry	4	0	0%	0	0%	8	1	13%	1	13%	6	0	0%	0	0%	8	2	25%	1	13%
Highland	11	1	9%	1	9%	16	0	0%	0	0%	20	0	0%	0	0%	7	0	0%	0	0%
Hocking	4	0	0%	0	0%	19	2	11%	2	11%	16	1	6%	0	0%	17	3	18%	2	12%
Holmes	4	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%	2	1	50%	0	0%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Huron	35	1	3%	0	0%	26	2	8%	1	4%	18	2	11%	2	11%	16	0	0%	0	0%
Jackson	15	7	47%	5	33%	23	6	26%	4	17%	22	7	32%	5	23%	19	5	26%	5	26%
Jefferson	27	1	4%	1	4%	33	1	3%	0	0%	39	1	3%	0	0%	26	0	0%	0	0%
Knox	9	0	0%	0	0%	12	1	8%	0	0%	6	0	0%	0	0%	13	2	15%	3	23%
Lake	84	8	10%	5	6%	76	12	16%	11	14%	87	12	14%	10	11%	53	6	11%	5	9%
Lawrence	21	10	48%	10	48%	47	13	28%	13	28%	21	7	33%	6	29%	25	3	12%	8	32%
Licking	55	9	16%	7	13%	62	3	5%	0	0%	61	10	16%	2	3%	45	4	9%	1	2%
Logan	12	1	8%	0	0%	5	1	20%	0	0%	12	1	8%	0	0%	7	0	0%	0	0%
Lorain	137	24	18%	17	12%	146	30	21%	24	16%	134	24	18%	19	14%	120	19	16%	18	15%
Lucas	253	12	5%	3	1%	230	5	2%	2	1%	231	1	0%	0	0%	232	2	1%	0	0%



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		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent					
Madison	11	2	18%	1	9%	15	2	13%	1	7%	11	0	0%	0	0%	10	2	20%	0	0%
Mahoning	127	18	14%	5	4%	147	15	10%	5	3%	145	11	8%	8	6%	142	14	10%	11	8%
Marion	38	4	11%	0	0%	34	0	0%	0	0%	37	0	0%	0	0%	44	0	0%	0	0%
Medina	36	4	11%	4	11%	39	4	10%	4	10%	22	2	9%	3	14%	24	1	4%	0	0%
Meigs	19	4	21%	4	21%	12	2	17%	4	33%	20	2	10%	2	10%	12	5	42%	4	33%
Mercer	7	0	0%	0	0%	3	0	0%	0	0%	3	1	33%	0	0%	6	0	0%	0	0%
Miami	37	0	0%	0	0%	24	3	13%	1	4%	24	1	4%	0	0%	23	5	22%	1	4%
Monroe	0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Montgomery	302	31	10%	11	4%	302	22	7%	4	1%	276	28	10%	8	3%	266	37	14%	11	4%
Morgan	7	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%	4	1	25%	0	0%	5	0	0%	0	0%
Morrow	13	4	31%	3	23%	10	0	0%	0	0%	7	0	0%	0	0%	7	0	0%	2	29%
Muskingum	41	2	5%	1	2%	32	5	16%	3	9%	28	2	7%	1	4%	25	3	12%	1	4%
Noble	1	0	0%	0	0%	4	0	0%	0	0%	4	1	25%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Ottawa	10	1	10%	0	0%	11	0	0%	0	0%	15	2	13%	2	13%	6	0	0%	0	0%
Paulding	2	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	4	0	0%	0	0%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Perry	17	6	35%	2	12%	22	2	9%	0	0%	14	2	14%	0	0%	15	1	7%	0	0%
Pickaway	30	4	13%	1	3%	19	1	5%	0	0%	30	3	10%	2	7%	20	4	20%	1	5%
Pike	20	2	10%	2	10%	16	0	0%	0	0%	19	1	5%	0	0%	18	3	17%	1	6%
Portage	36	2	6%	2	6%	45	0	0%	0	0%	42	0	0%	0	0%	37	2	5%	1	3%
Preble	17	1	6%	1	6%	11	0	0%	0	0%	17	2	12%	1	6%	12	1	8%	1	8%
Putnam	2	1	50%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	1	0	0%	0	0%
Richland	63	2	3%	2	3%	86	5	6%	2	2%	63	5	8%	4	6%	39	1	3%	0	0%



Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Gabapentin, Ohio, 2017-2023

County of Residence	2020				2021				2022				2023*							
	Total Overdose Deaths	Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Detected in Post-Mortem Toxicology		Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death		Total Overdose Deaths	Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Detected in Post-Mortem Toxicology		Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death		Total Overdose Deaths	Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Detected in Post-Mortem Toxicology		Overdose Deaths with Gabapentin Listed as a Cause of Death						
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent					
Ross	54	6	11%	3	6%	57	7	12%	2	4%	63	8	13%	2	3%	45	9	20%	1	2%
Sandusky	12	1	8%	1	8%	22	1	5%	0	0%	26	0	0%	0	0%	18	0	0%	0	0%
Scioto	105	6	6%	2	2%	79	3	4%	1	1%	81	13	16%	5	6%	79	9	11%	2	3%
Seneca	25	1	4%	1	4%	19	0	0%	0	0%	18	1	6%	0	0%	17	0	0%	0	0%
Shelby	17	0	0%	0	0%	14	2	14%	0	0%	10	2	20%	0	0%	13	2	15%	1	8%
Stark	115	6	5%	1	1%	141	4	3%	1	1%	141	4	3%	2	1%	151	18	12%	4	3%
Summit	214	2	1%	2	1%	218	0	0%	0	0%	239	7	3%	2	1%	227	4	2%	2	1%
Trumbull	124	2	2%	1	1%	117	1	1%	0	0%	115	0	0%	0	0%	119	6	5%	5	4%
Tuscarawas	26	0	0%	0	0%	28	0	0%	0	0%	22	0	0%	0	0%	21	3	14%	1	5%
Union	12	3	25%	1	8%	6	0	0%	0	0%	10	1	10%	1	10%	5	0	0%	0	0%
Van Wert	6	0	0%	0	0%	5	0	0%	0	0%	10	0	0%	0	0%	4	0	0%	0	0%
Vinton	10	5	50%	3	30%	13	2	15%	1	8%	18	5	28%	3	17%	9	1	11%	1	11%
Warren	53	5	9%	2	4%	65	1	2%	0	0%	41	3	7%	1	2%	33	2	6%	1	3%
Washington	13	2	15%	0	0%	16	1	6%	1	6%	20	5	25%	1	5%	15	1	7%	0	0%
Wayne	27	0	0%	0	0%	39	4	10%	1	3%	32	1	3%	0	0%	21	1	5%	1	5%
Williams	7	0	0%	0	0%	8	0	0%	0	0%	5	0	0%	0	0%	8	0	0%	0	0%
Wood	28	1	4%	0	0%	32	0	0%	0	0%	18	0	0%	0	0%	16	1	6%	0	0%
Wyandot	5	0	0%	0	0%	9	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
Total**	4943	506	10%	239	5%	5174	465	9%	237	5%	4916	452	9%	221	4%	4454	452	10%	258	6%

**Total deaths may not equal column totals due to missing county of residence for a small number of decedents.

RISK FACTORS

- **Addiction:** Gabapentin can lead to dependence and cravings, making it habit-forming.
- **Health Risks:** Misusing gabapentin can result in respiratory depression, seizures, and organ damage.
- **Negative Interactions:** Combining gabapentin with other substances like opioids or alcohol can have perilous consequences, increasing the risk of overdose.
- **Psychological Impact:** Prolonged gabapentin misuse can adversely affect mental health, leading to mood disorders, anxiety, and cognitive impairment.

RISK FACTORS IN OHIO

- Ohio prescribers are not currently required to review OARRS before prescribing gabapentin. (OAC 4731-11-11)
- Increased long-term prescribing of gabapentin for opioid substance use treatment as a “comfort med” alongside buprenorphine.
- Combination prescribing of gabapentin with other medications, especially a combination coined by the DEA as the gabapentin trinity (opioid, benzodiazepine, gabapentin) which can cause a Euphoric high.
- Patients and prescribers who view gabapentin as “safe,” due to its non-controlled status.

QUESTIONS?

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