



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

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Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has compiled data on the top-selling prescription drugs in Arkansas from 2020 to 2022. These data show the number of prescriptions dispensed to Arkansas residents by Arkansas prescribers, and includes all forms of the drugs (liquids, patches, tablets, capsules, and suspensions). The information is meant to help people understand the most dispensed drug classes in Arkansas.

The data show that opioids were the most dispensed drug class in all three years, followed by benzodiazepines, stimulants, sedatives/hypnotics, and muscle relaxants. While the number of opioid prescriptions decreased slightly from 2020 to 2022, the number of prescriptions for other drug classes either increased or remained relatively stable.

Top-Selling Prescription Drugs by Class – Arkansas, 2020-2022

Total Number of Prescriptions*

Drug Class	2020 Number of Prescriptions	2021 Number of Prescriptions	2022 Number of Prescriptions
Opioid	2,749,916	2,677,232	2,611,077
Benzodiazepine	1,480,161	1,434,249	1,399,576
Stimulant	933,118	1,004,916	1,072,434
Sedative/Hypnotic	508,139	499,629	495,370
Muscle Relaxant	51,875	45,341	39,359
Total	5,723,209	5,661,367	5,617,816

Data based on dispensations to only Arkansas residents by Arkansas prescribers

Buprenorphine products not removed.

**Number of prescriptions includes all dosage forms – Liquids, patches, tablets, capsules, suspensions, etc.*



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The Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has released data on the most dispensed controlled substances in Arkansas from 2020 to 2022. The data only include pills/solid dosage units and represents prescriptions dispensed to Arkansas residents by Arkansas prescribers.

The most dispensed drug classes were opioids, benzodiazepines, stimulants, sedatives/hypnotics, and muscle relaxants. The number of pills sold for opioids, benzodiazepines, sedatives/hypnotics, and muscle relaxants decreased over the three years, while the number of pills sold for stimulants slightly increased.

Top-Selling Prescription Drugs by Class – Arkansas, 2020-2022

Total Number of Pills Sold**

Drug Class	2020 Number of Pills Sold	2021 Number of Pills Sold	2022 Number of Pills Sold
Opioid	151,960,831	141,544,277	133,103,034
Benzodiazepine	76,713,983	73,637,175	67,426,050
Stimulant	36,058,725	38,754,858	40,691,718
Sedative/Hypnotic	16,537,960	16,395,112	16,289,917
Muscle Relaxant	3,485,145	3,046,754	2,667,442
Total	284,756,642	273,378,176	260,178,160

Data based on dispensations to only Arkansas residents by Arkansas prescribers

Buprenorphine not removed.

****Number of Pills Sold - only solid dosage forms, ie. capsules, tablets, etc. Does not include liquids, suspensions, patches, injections, sprays, etc.**