

From: [Peterson, Brian](#)
To: [Lee, Chris](#)
Subject: National decrease in opioid prescriptions - new data
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 11:43:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IQVIA Opioids Rx by State 2013-2017final.pdf](#)
[IQVIA Opioid state and payer views 2017 FINAL.PDF](#)

Good news for distribution to the task force:

From: Terri Marchiori <Terri.Marchiori@ama-assn.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:29 AM
Subject: National decrease in opioid prescriptions - new data

As the American Medical Association(AMA) has done in previous years, we are pleased to share with you new data from health information company, IQVIA, showing a continued decrease in opioid prescriptions dispensed. A statement from the Chair of the AMA Opioid Task Force, Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, is below [and also online](#), and we have attached the relevant files for your information. Given that this information was released nationally by IQVIA this morning, it is possible that you may receive media calls.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen directly at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 18, 2018

AMA Sees Progress in Declining Opioid Prescriptions, Urges Continued Focus on Evidence-Based Treatment

Twenty-two percent decline in opioid prescriptions over four years announced by IQVIA

Statement attributed to: Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, chair of the AMA Opioid Task Force

“A 22-percent decrease in opioid prescriptions nationally between 2013 and 2017 reflects the fact that physicians and other health care professionals are increasingly judicious when prescribing opioids. It is notable that every state has experienced a decrease, but this is tempered by the fact that deaths related to heroin and illicit fentanyl are increasing at a staggering rate, and deaths related to prescription opioids also continue to rise. These statistics again prove that simply decreasing prescription opioid supplies will not end the epidemic. We need well-designed initiatives that bring together public and private insurers, policymakers, public health infrastructure, and communities with the shared goal to improve access and coverage for comprehensive pain management and treatment for substance use disorders.

“Additionally, it is a sign of progress that IQVIA reported an increase in new treatment starts for medication assisted treatment (MAT) for patients with opioid use disorder, nearly doubling from 44,000 in December 2015 to 82,000 in December 2017. This evidence-based treatment can slow and even stop this epidemic. Physicians and other stakeholders accept that bold action is needed. We go where the evidence leads us. We all must take care that policies

and practices don't restrict access to one alternative for pain relief without increasing access to comprehensive, multidisciplinary pain care, including non-opioid-based options."

In 2015, the AMA launched the AMA Opioid Task Force and continues to work with state medical societies to address legislation and regulation ranging from developing effective prescription drug monitoring programs, continuing medical education, restrictions on treatment for opioid use disorder as well as enactment of naloxone access and Good Samaritan overdose protections.

To learn more about AMA efforts to end the opioid epidemic, visit end-opioid-epidemic.org and [AMA Wire](#).

###

Media Contact:

Jack Deutsch

AMA Media & Editorial

Phone: (202) 789-7442

Email: jack.deutsch@ama-assn.org



Terri Marchiori

Director, Federation Relations

330 N Wabash

Chicago, IL 60611

P: (312) 464-5271

terri.marchiori@ama-assn.org

This message is intended for the sole use of the individual and entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended addressee, nor authorized to receive for the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this message in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete the message.