



# Physicians' progress to reverse the nation's opioid epidemic



**AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OPIOID TASK FORCE**

[end-opioid-epidemic.org](http://end-opioid-epidemic.org)

## Opioid prescriptions continue to decline nationwide

Between 2012 and 2016, the number of opioid prescriptions decreased by more than **43 million**—a **16.9 percent decrease** nationally. Every state saw a decrease in opioid prescriptions during this time period.<sup>1</sup>



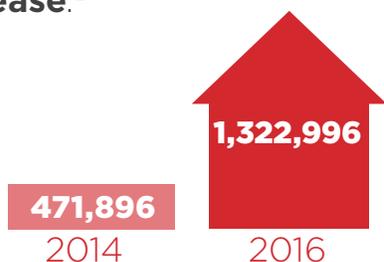
TOTAL OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS  
(IN MILLIONS)



Sources: CDC, Quintiles IMS

## America's physicians and health care professionals are using state PDMPs more than ever

Physicians' and other health care professionals' registrations with state-based prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) grew from **471,896** in 2014 to **1,322,996** in 2016—marking a **180 percent increase**.<sup>2</sup>



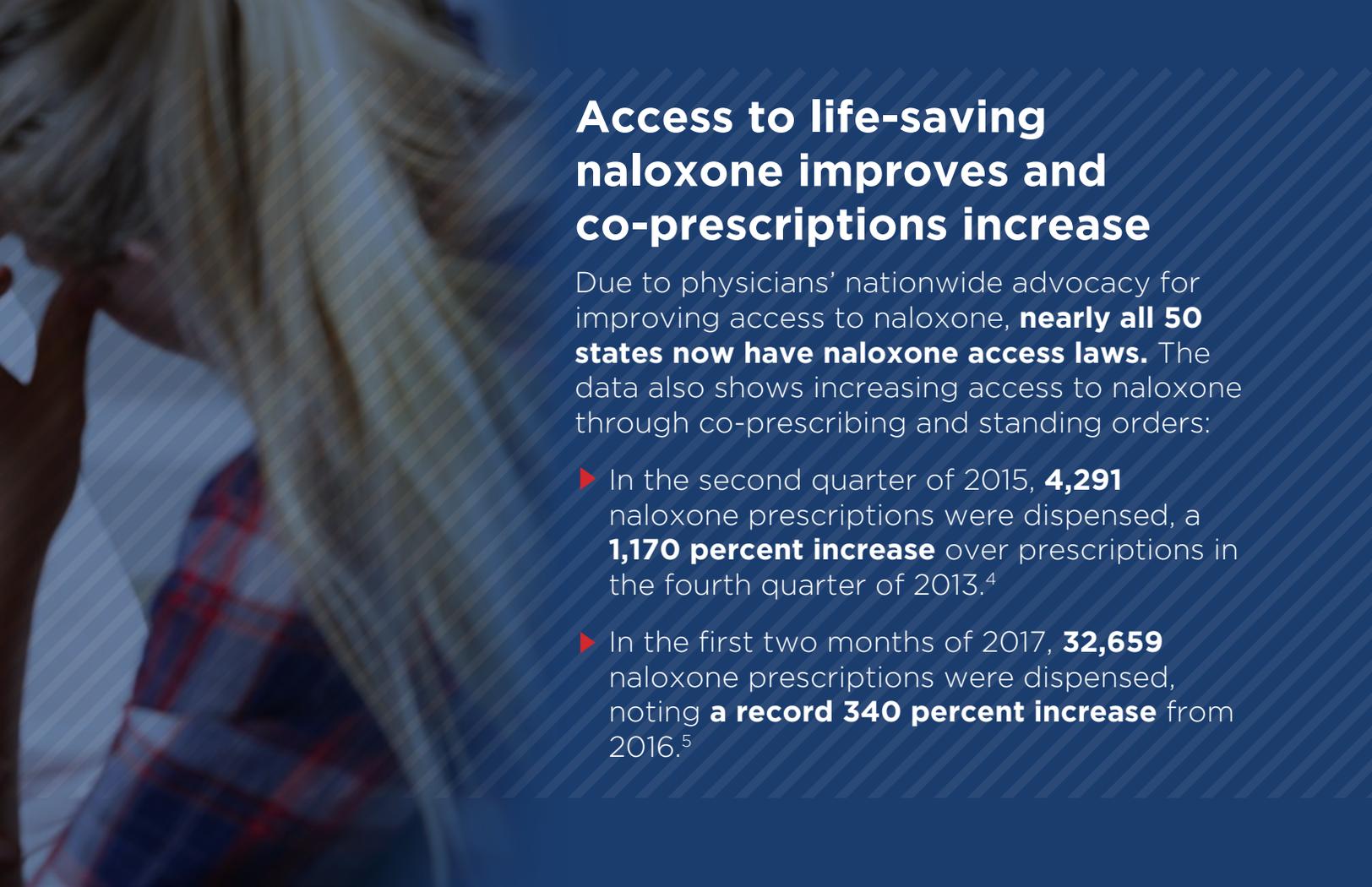
Physicians and other health care professionals used state PDMPs more than **136.1 million times** in 2016—a **121 percent increase** from 2014.<sup>3</sup>



1. Xponent, QuintilesIMS, Danbury, CT Copyright 2017

2. Based on AMA survey and responses from 45 state PDMP administrators. Figures will be adjusted as new information becomes available.

3. Based on AMA survey and responses from 44 state PDMP administrators. Figures will be adjusted as new information becomes available.



## Access to life-saving naloxone improves and co-prescriptions increase

Due to physicians' nationwide advocacy for improving access to naloxone, **nearly all 50 states now have naloxone access laws.** The data also shows increasing access to naloxone through co-prescribing and standing orders:

- ▶ In the second quarter of 2015, **4,291** naloxone prescriptions were dispensed, a **1,170 percent increase** over prescriptions in the fourth quarter of 2013.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ In the first two months of 2017, **32,659** naloxone prescriptions were dispensed, noting **a record 340 percent increase** from 2016.<sup>5</sup>

## More physicians are educated on safe opioid prescribing and treatment than ever before

Recognizing the need to enhance their education, more than **118,550** physicians accessed, attended or completed continuing medical education and other courses offered by the AMA, state and specialty societies on opioid prescribing, pain management, addiction and related areas in 2015 and 2016.<sup>6</sup>

# 118,550

PHYSICIANS COMPLETED COURSES  
**ON OPIOID PRESCRIBING,**  
PAIN MANAGEMENT, ADDICTION,  
AND OTHER RELATED AREAS IN 2015 AND 2016

4. Am J Public Health. 2016 Apr;106(4):689-90. Jones et al. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2016.303062. Epub 2016 Feb 18.

5. Symphony Health Solutions – 2016/17 Practitioner Level Data.

6. Based on AMA survey and responses from 50 state and medical society representatives.

# Number of physicians certified to provide office-based medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders rises

There are now **37,637** physicians—a **27 percent increase** in the past 12 months—certified to provide office-based medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders across all 50 states.<sup>7</sup> To help ensure patients receive care, however, health insurance companies, Medicaid, and other payers must now remove administrative barriers, such as prior authorization for medication-assisted treatment.

In just the past year, more than 10,000 physicians have become certified to provide office-based medication-assisted treatment to their patients who have an opioid use disorder.

Time frame	30 Cert	%	100 Cert	%	275 Cert	%	TOTAL
Past 30 days	588	79	83	11	78	10	<b>749</b>
Past 60 days	968	71	210	15	177	13	<b>1,355</b>
Past 90 days	1,421	69	335	16	298	15	<b>2,054</b>
Last year	5,289	53	1,708	17	3,025	30	<b>10,022</b>
Current	25,345	67	9,277	25	3,025	8	<b>37,647</b>

7. SAMHSA, as of April 2017

“*These are good signs of progress, but to truly reverse the nation’s opioid epidemic, we all have much more work to do. That’s why the AMA Opioid Task Force urges physicians to increase their efforts and use PDMPs, enhance their education, help prevent overdose deaths by co-prescribing naloxone, and improve access to the best treatment options available.*”

—Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA

America’s medical community continues to focus on ways to prevent overdoses, and the AMA Opioid Task Force recently issued recommendations encouraging physicians to:

- 1 Talk** to your patients about proper use of opioid analgesics
- 2 Remind** your patients to safely store medicines away from children and never share prescriptions
- 3 Urge** your patients to safely dispose of expired, unwanted, and unused medications, utilizing pharmacy and law enforcement “Take Back” resources



[end-opioid-epidemic.org](http://end-opioid-epidemic.org)