Texas, and the nation as a whole, continues to deal with a very real and debilitating crisis caused by the misuse of opioids. Texas physicians, other prescribers, and pharmacies are increasing their use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Increasingly, it is becoming a routine and effective clinical tool.

**Data Points**

Nationally, the crisis continues. But prescribing rates for opioids vary by almost threefold across different states. Health issues that cause people pain do not vary much from place to place and do not explain this variability in prescribing.¹


In 2012²:
- Prescribing rates in Texas for both opioid pain relievers and benzodiazepine sedatives fell 10 percent and 21 percent, respectively, below the national average.
- **Texas ranked lowest** in the nation in rates of prescribing high-dose opioid pain relievers.
- Texas ranked lowest in the nation in rates of prescribing long-acting/extended release opioid pain relievers.
From 2013 to 2015, opioid prescriptions per-capita in Texas fell faster than in 48 other states.³

Texas ranks 50 out of 51 states in overdose deaths from opioids, according to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation.⁴

4. https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/opioid-overdose-deaths/?activeTab=graph&currentTimeframe=0&startTimeframe=17&selectedDistributions=opioid-overdose-deaths--all-drug-overdose-deaths--opioid-overdose-deaths-as-a-percent-of-all-drug-overdose-deaths&selectedRows=%7B%22states%22:%7B%7D%7D&sortModel=%7B%22collId%22:%22Location%22%22sortOrder%22:%22asc%22%7D