

Opioid Prescribing Rates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) is a United States federal agency founded to combat threats to health, safety, and security by researching and disseminating health information. The CDC also offers a wealth of vital public data such as population, death rates, and disease prevalence at multiple administrative levels from states to counties.

One of the areas of research at the CDC concerns tracking opioid [prescribing](#) rates. We pulled county- and state-level rates of estimated prescriptions for opioids per 100 people for the years 2014 (when [county name/boundary changes](#) started to settle) through 2017 (the most recent year available).

Each of the "county" datasets has a rate variable for each year and a binary indicator for whether (1) or not (0) the county had a rate listed for that year. Different versions of the dataset have been created, depending on how missing county rates were filled (or not). About 200 counties (out of ~3150) are missing a rate from at least one year, with all but ~30 counties missing rates from all years. Missing rates are indicated by empty cells in the csv file.

County_PrescribingRates_NoneFilled.csv

- No filling of missing county rates with state rate.

County_PrescribingRates_PartFilled.csv

- Missing county rates filled by state rates only if all 4 years are missing.

County_PrescribingRates_FullFilled.csv

- Any missing rates for the county rates filled by the state rate.

The CSV files contain the following fields (except that "FIPS" and "county" are not included in the state rate dataset):

Variable Name	Type	Description
FIPS	Integer	4 or 5 digit FIPS county code (leading zeros stripped).
county	String	County name.
state	String	State name.
postal	String	2 letter state abbreviation.
PrescribingRate_[year]	Decimal	Estimated rate per 100 people of opioid prescriptions.
HasCountyRate_[year]	Binary Indicator	Binary Indicator for if a county rate exists for [year].