National and State-level Opioid Prescribing Analysis

Most Recent Opioid Prescribing Data Yield Key Insights

- Continuing an ongoing nationwide trend, **22.2% fewer opioid prescriptions** were filled in 2017 than had been filled in 2013.

- Every state in the nation has shown a significant reduction in opioid analgesic prescriptions since 2013, and every state showed a decline in the last year.

- In 2017, a total of **196,001,292 opioid prescriptions** were filled in the USA, representing an **8.9% decrease** from the prior year – the sharpest 1-year decrease we have observed.

- Differences between high-use and low-use states are far less stark than had been observed in prior years, as illustrated by the map below.

- Many states with the most profound opioid abuse problems have exhibited the greatest decline in opioid prescribing. Five states have shown decreases of over 30% since 2013.

- **The attached data table** contains precise counts of state level prescribing of opioids for 2013 through 2017, in pdf format.

Opioid Analgesic Prescribing Rates by State, 2017

Source: Xponent, IQVIA, Danbury, CT, Accessed March 2018
At the national level, roughly one-half of opioid prescriptions were paid by commercial plans. Another one-third were paid by Medicare Part D. The remainder was split almost evenly between Medicaid and cash.

This proportion was not uniform across the country, as the maps below illustrate.