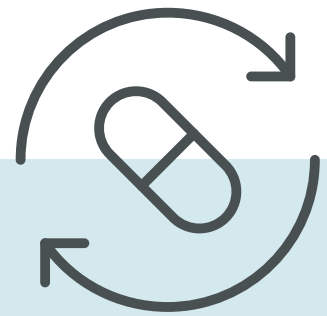
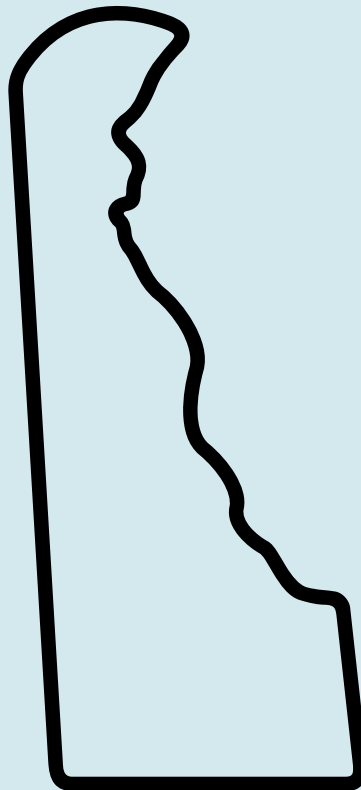


OCTOBER 2024

# PRESCRIPTION DRUG TRENDS



IN DELAWARE WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
2012-2022



**DCRB**  
**DELAWARE**  
Compensation Rating Bureau, Inc.



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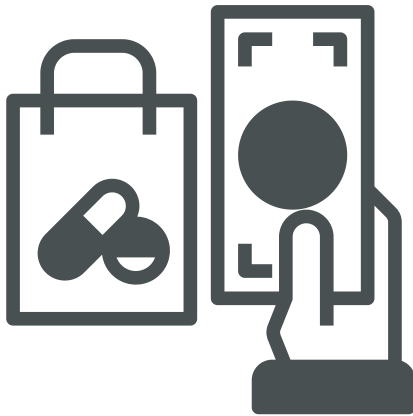


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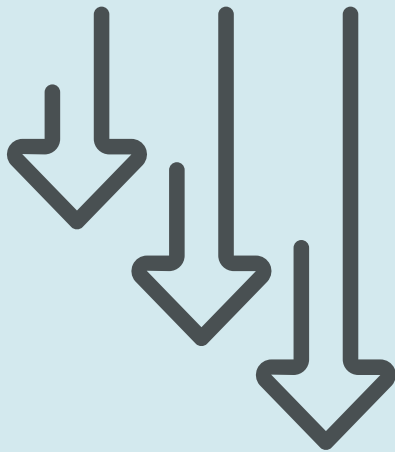


# INTRODUCTION



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report investigates trends in workers' compensation prescription drug payments in the state of Delaware between 2012 and 2022. Costs related to prescription drugs in the workers' compensation system are of significant concern for employers, insurers, and policymakers in Delaware. This report aims to investigate the current patterns in prescription drug usage among workers' compensation claims in Delaware. Graphics and charts within refer to data from the Delaware Medical Data Call.



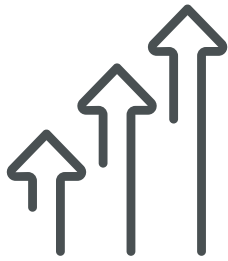
## TREND: OVERALL DECREASE

This report reveals a noticeable overall decrease in claims involving a drug prescription. Opioid claims (any claim that resulted in at least one opioid prescription) were an important contributor to this decrease. Opioids are an extremely effective pain reliever often prescribed following serious injury or operation, but they have been found to be extremely addictive.

Through the course of this report's study period, the Delaware Health and Social Services Division of Public acknowledged an "opioid epidemic." This acknowledgement came in 2015 following five years of overdose deaths exceeding motor vehicle deaths in Delaware.

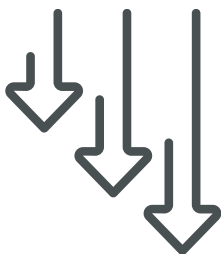


## TREND: INCREASE AMONG GENERICS



Delaware workers' compensation claims saw an increase in the prescription of generic drugs. Generic drugs tend to be more affordable than their brand-named counterparts; however, they are expected to be just as safe and effective because they undergo the same testing by the FDA.

## TREND: DECREASE IN OVERALL DRUG PAYMENTS



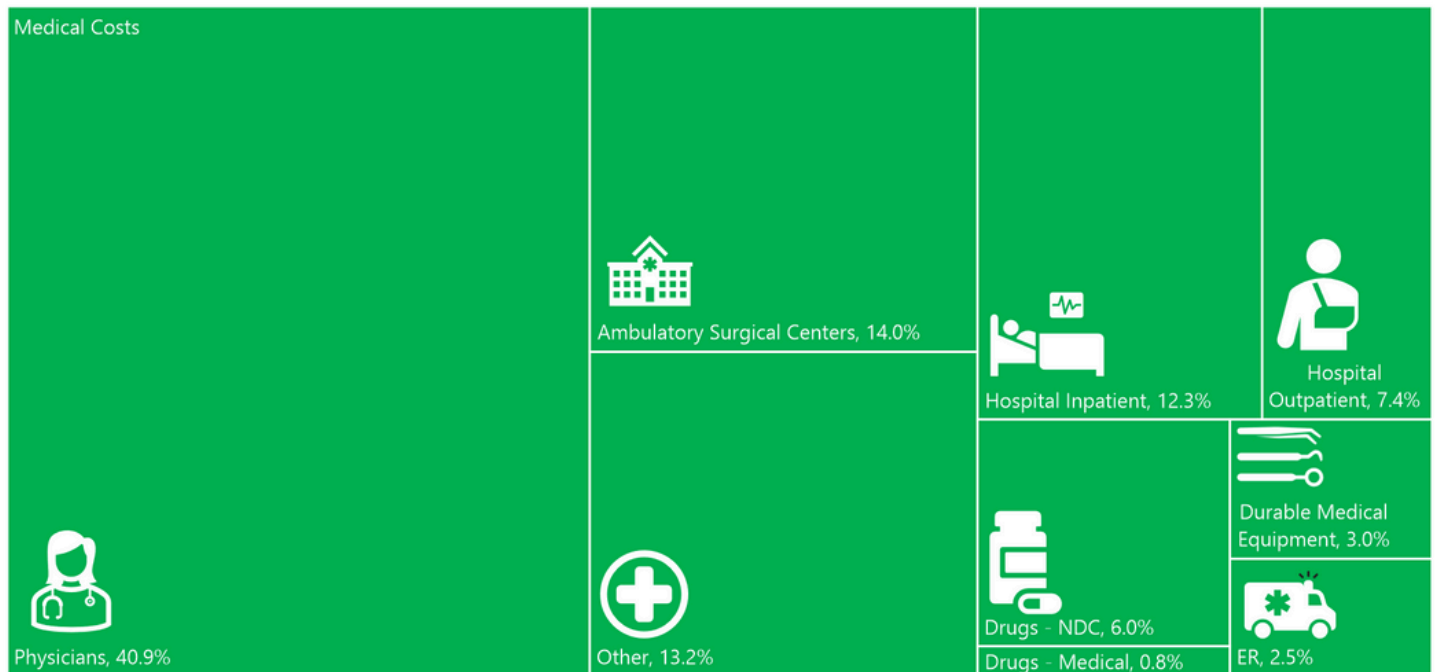
Delaware workers' compensation claims saw a general decrease in drugs paid on medical claims. This was likely contributed to by House Bills 175 in 2013 and 373 in 2014. Both bills added controls on the amount that could be charged for prescription drugs on a workers' compensation claim that would be phased in over the course of a few years.



# USAGE & COST

## DE MEDICAL COST DISTRIBUTION - 2022

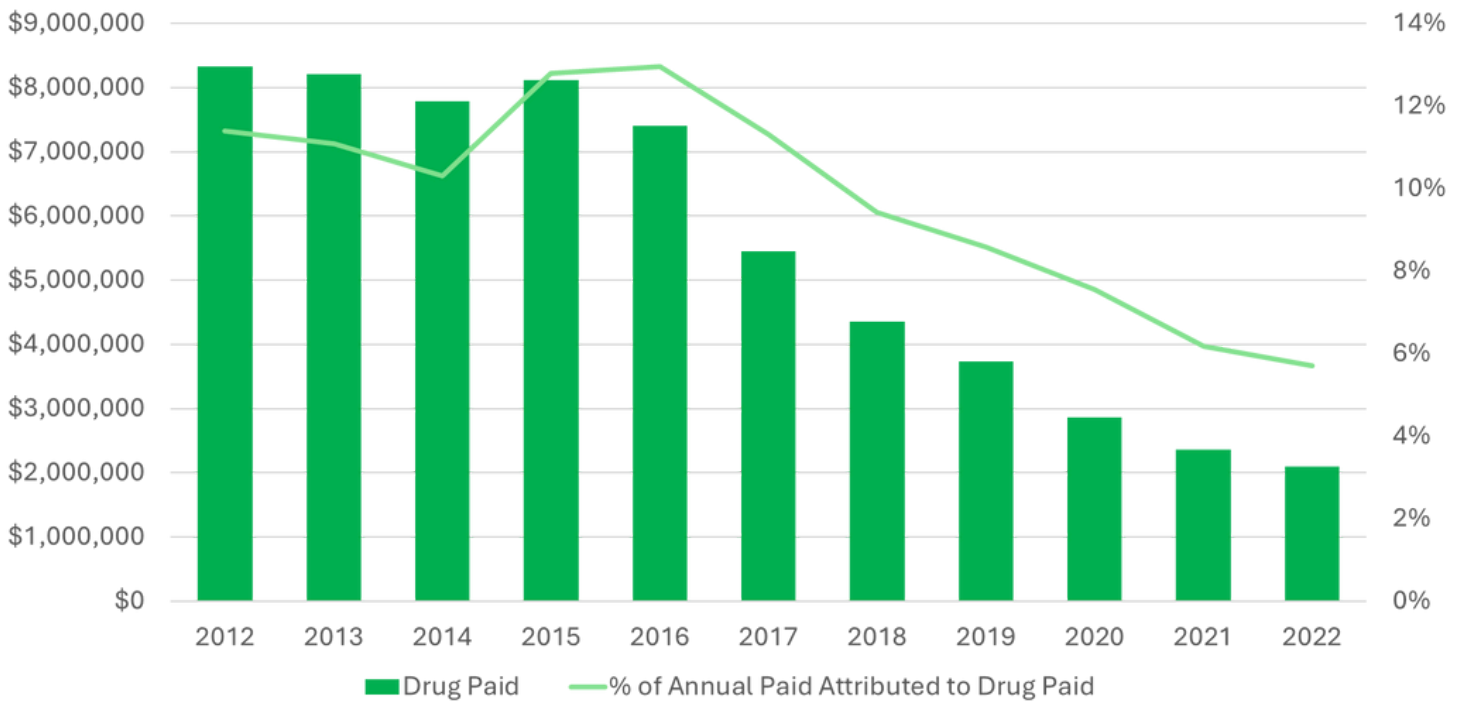
This figure displays the distribution of all workers compensation medical expenses in PA during 2022.





# PRESCRIPTION DRUG PAYMENT AS A % OF ALL MEDICAL PAYMENTS

The percentage of annual medical paid attributed to prescription drugs has been on a steady decline since 2016.

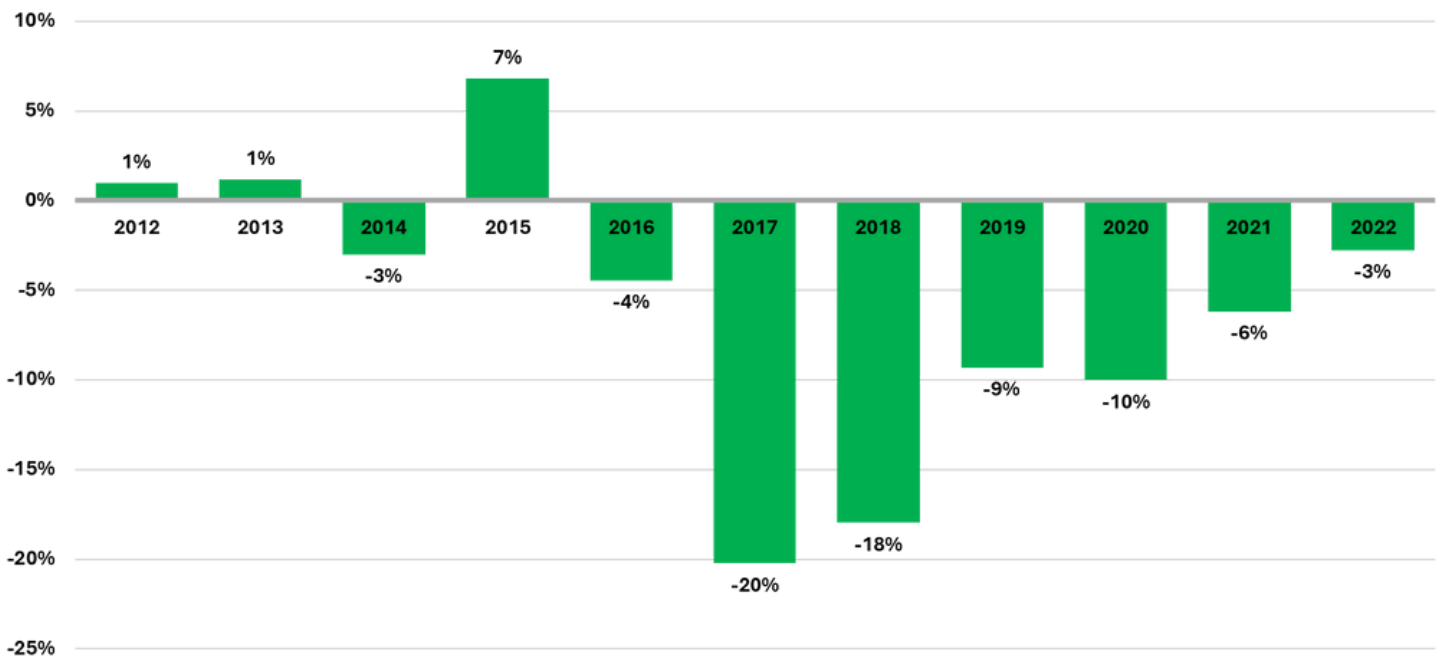


For service year 2022, there was \$36.8 million in medical paid in DE workers comp, of which \$2.1M was drugs. Drug costs make up roughly 6.8% of total cost with medical drugs (drugs billed without an NDC code) accounting for only 0.8%. Prescription drugs are uniquely identified by a national drug code (NDC). This report provides greater detail on payments for prescription drugs reported with an NDC, whether the drugs were provided in a pharmacy, physician's office, hospital, or other place of service. Payments are categorized as drugs if the code reported on the transaction is an NDC. Payments for drugs can also be reported using codes other than NDCs, such as revenue codes, HCPCS codes, and other state-specific procedure codes. We refer to these payments as medical drugs. The results in this report moving forward are based only on payments reported with an NDC.



# CHANGE IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PAYMENTS - % CHANGE YEAR OVER YEAR

Several policy changes contributed to the large reductions in prescription payments and utilization in Delaware between 2016 and 2020.



Delaware House Bill 373 was phased in between 2015 and 2017. This bill adjusted workers' compensation payments in DE. Over three years, this bill lowered medical costs by 33%. As part of this legislation, caps were placed on workers compensation medical procedures based upon Medicare reimbursement levels.

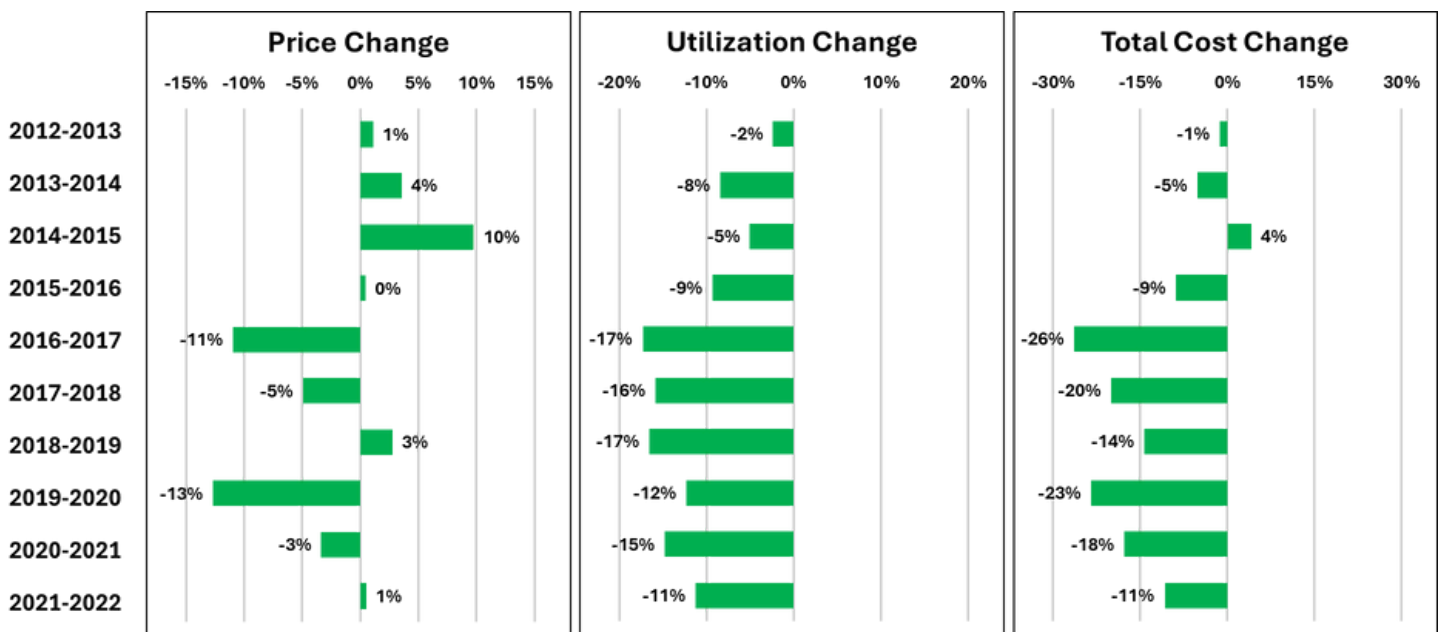


# PRICE, UTILIZATION & TOTAL COST CHANGE

The decrease in **price** after 2016 is likely contributed to by House Bill 373 as well as an increased access to generic drug prescriptions.

**Utilization** has been in constant decline since 2012. Doctors are prescribing less drugs in general over the past decade due to medical treatment shifts to non-drug options, such as physical therapy.

**Total cost** began falling after 2014. This is the year we see several commonly prescribed name brand drugs becoming available in a generic form. Additionally, Delaware House Bill 175 was passed in 2013 stating that pharmaceuticals could not be repriced after repackaging and would be priced with a mandated discount from average wholesale price.







# DRUGS PAID PER CLAIM

Delaware House Bill 175 would have an impact beginning in 2014 and House Bill 373 in 2015.



# PERCENT OF TOTAL DRUGS PAID

	Quarterly Rx Payments for All Rx per Claim with Any Medical Payment			Percentage of all Medical Claims with Any Rx			Quarterly Rx Payments for All Rx per Claim with Rx		
	2018Q4	2022Q4	% Change	2018Q4	2022Q4	% Change	2018Q4	2022Q4	% Change
DCRB	\$251	\$156	-38%	35%	26%	-9%	\$711	\$590	-17%

Data includes all prescription drug transactions reported for all Accident Dates and Service Dates from 4th quarter 2018 and 4th quarter 2022.



# TOP 30 DRUGS FOR SERVICE YEAR 2022

Paid Share Service Year	Drug Name	AHFS Therapeutic Class	Brand/Generic Status	Change in Rank 2022	Rank By Service Year				
					2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7.7%	Percocet	Opiate Agonists	Brand	+1	1	2	3	8	7
6.5%	Pregabalin	Central Nervous System Agents	Generic for Lyrica	+1	2	3	2	n/a	n/a
4.2%	Gabapentin	Anticonvulsants	Generic for Neurontin	+1	3	4	4	4	4
4.0%	Oxycontin	Opiate Agonists	Brand	-3	4	1	1	1	1
3.6%	Lidocaine	Skin & Mucous Membrane Agents	Generic for Xylocaine	-	5	5	5	6	6
2.9%	Oxycodone HCL-Acetaminophen	Opiate Agonists	Generic for Percocet	+2	6	8	7	5	5
2.9%	Oxycodone HCL	Opiate Agonists	Generic for Oxycontin (if extended release)	-	7	7	6	3	3
2.7%	Duloxetine HCL	Antidepressants	Generic for Cymbalta	-2	8	6	9	14	10
2.6%	Xtampza ER	Analgesics/Antipyretics	Brand	+9	9	18	35	48	58
2.5%	Belbuca	Opiate Partial Agonists	Brand	+1	10	11	18	46	73
2.2%	Nurtec ODT	Central Nervous System Agents	Brand	-	11	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.1%	Dupixent	Immunosuppressants	Brand	-	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.7%	Lidopro Patch	Skin & Mucous Membrane Agents	Brand	-4	13	9	11	27	23
1.7%	Tizanidine HCL	Muscle Relaxants, Skeletal	Generic for Zanaflex	-2	14	12	13	15	12
1.6%	Lidoderm	Skin & Mucous Membrane Agents	Brand	-2	15	13	15	22	26
1.6%	Cyclobenzaprine HCL	Muscle Relaxants, Skeletal	Generic for Flexeril	-2	16	14	10	11	9
1.5%	Diclofenac Sodium	Central Nervous System Agents (79%) Skin & Mucous Membrane Agents (21%)	Generic for Voltaren, Pennsaid	-7	17	10	8	7	8
1.4%	Lyrica	Central Nervous System Agents	Brand	-2	18	16	19	2	2
1.4%	Morphine Sulfate	Opiate Agonists	Generic for Avinza, Kadian, Ms Contin	-	19	19	21	19	13
1.3%	Trokendi XR	Anticonvulsants	Brand for Topiramate	+4	20	24	28	26	n/a
1.2%	Nucynta	Opiate Agonists	Brand	-4	21	17	16	16	15
1.2%	Meloxicam	Non-Steroid/Anti-Inflam. Agent	Generic for Mobic, Vivlodex	-7	22	15	17	17	16
1.2%	Nucynta ER	Opiate Agonists	Brand	+5	23	28	40	34	29
1.1%	Eliquis	Coagulants & Anticoagulants	Brand	-	24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.0%	Botox	Serums, Toxoids, Vaccines	Brand	-	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.0%	Celebrex	Analgesics/Antipyretics	Brand	+3	26	29	29	n/a	n/a
0.9%	Baclofen	Muscle Relaxants, Skeletal	Generic for Lioresal, Gablofen	-4	27	23	24	29	28
0.9%	Movantik	Gastrointestinal Drugs	Brand	-	28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
0.8%	Isentress	Antivirals	Brand	-	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
0.8%	Tramadol HCL	Analgesics/Antipyretics	Generic for Ultram	-5	30	25	25	n/a	n/a

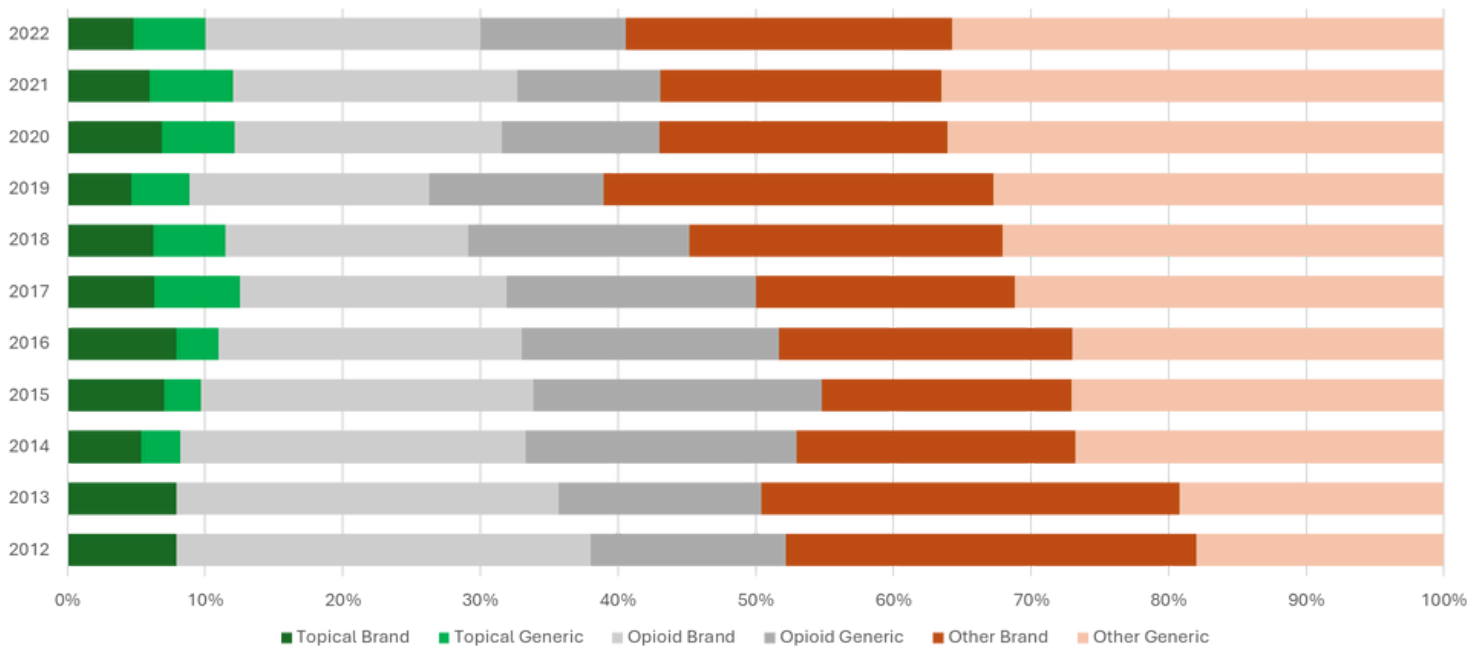
In 2020, Lyrica's generic form, Pregabalin, was made available. That year, Lyrica's rank dropped from #2 to #19 while Pregabalin rose to #2.



# GENERICS

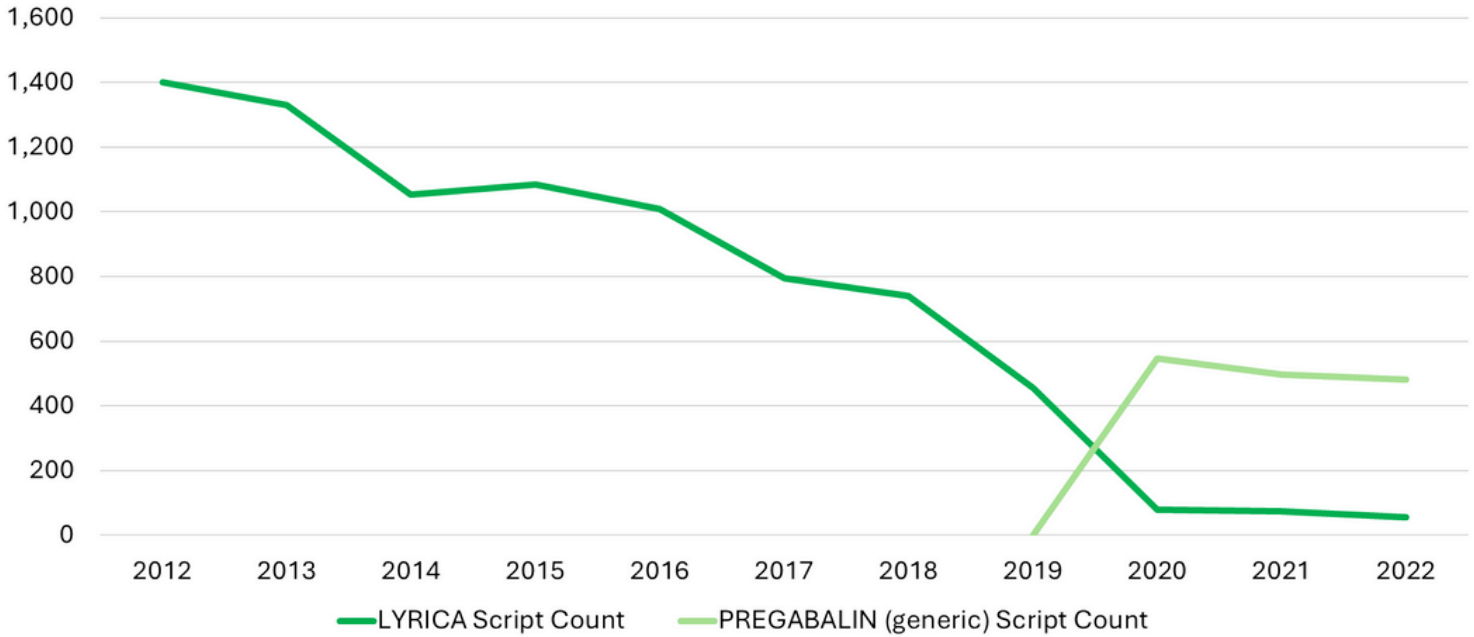
## BRAND VS GENERIC PAID AMOUNTS BY DRUG TYPE

Over the past decade generic drugs took 15% of the market from brand drugs.



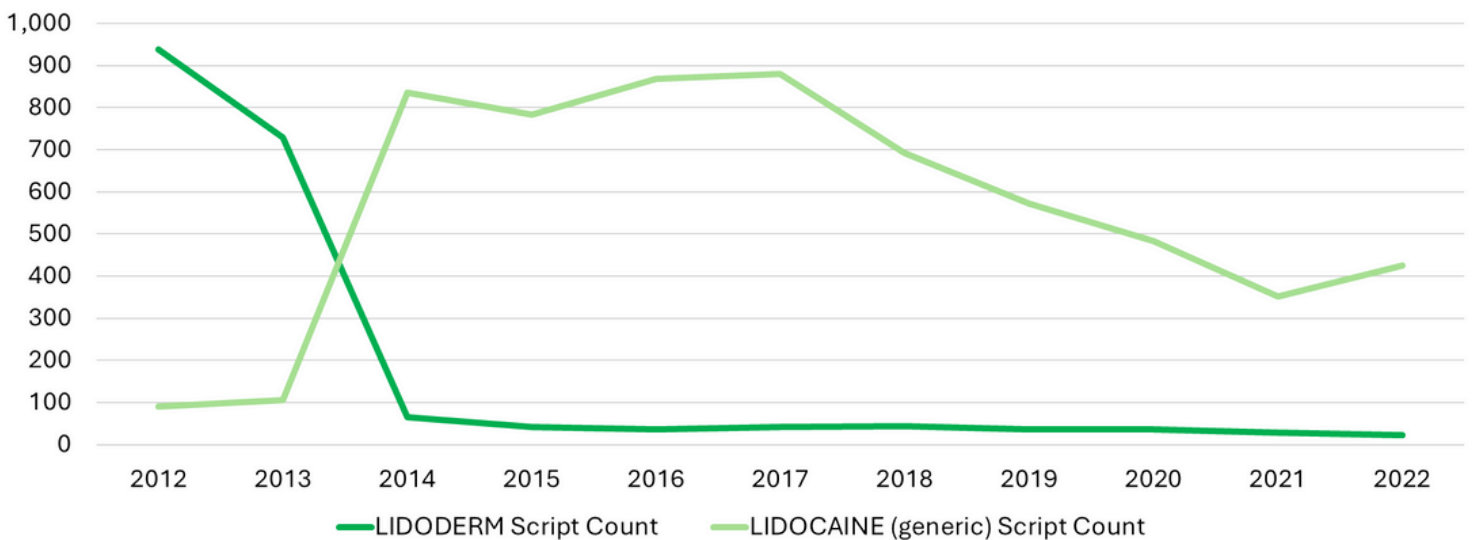


# LYRICA® AND PREGABALIN PRESCRIPTION COUNT



Lyrica went off patent in 2019 and its generic version Pregabalin began to be prescribed. Lyrica is an anticonvulsant used to treat nerve pain.

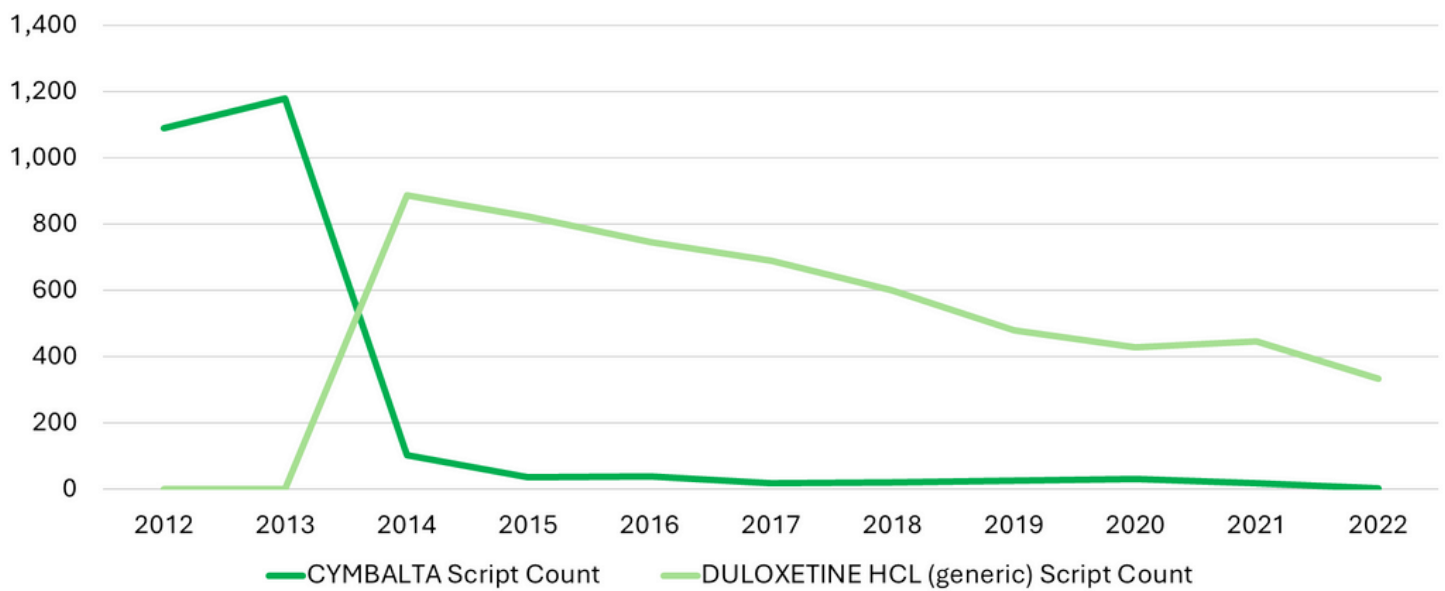
# LIDODERM® AND LIDOCAINE PRESCRIPTION COUNT



Lidoderm went off patent in 2013 and its generic version Lidocaine began to be prescribed. Lidoderm is a local anesthetic used to reduce itching and pain caused by inflammatory skin conditions.



# CYMBALTA® AND DULOXETINE HCL PRESCRIPTION COUNT



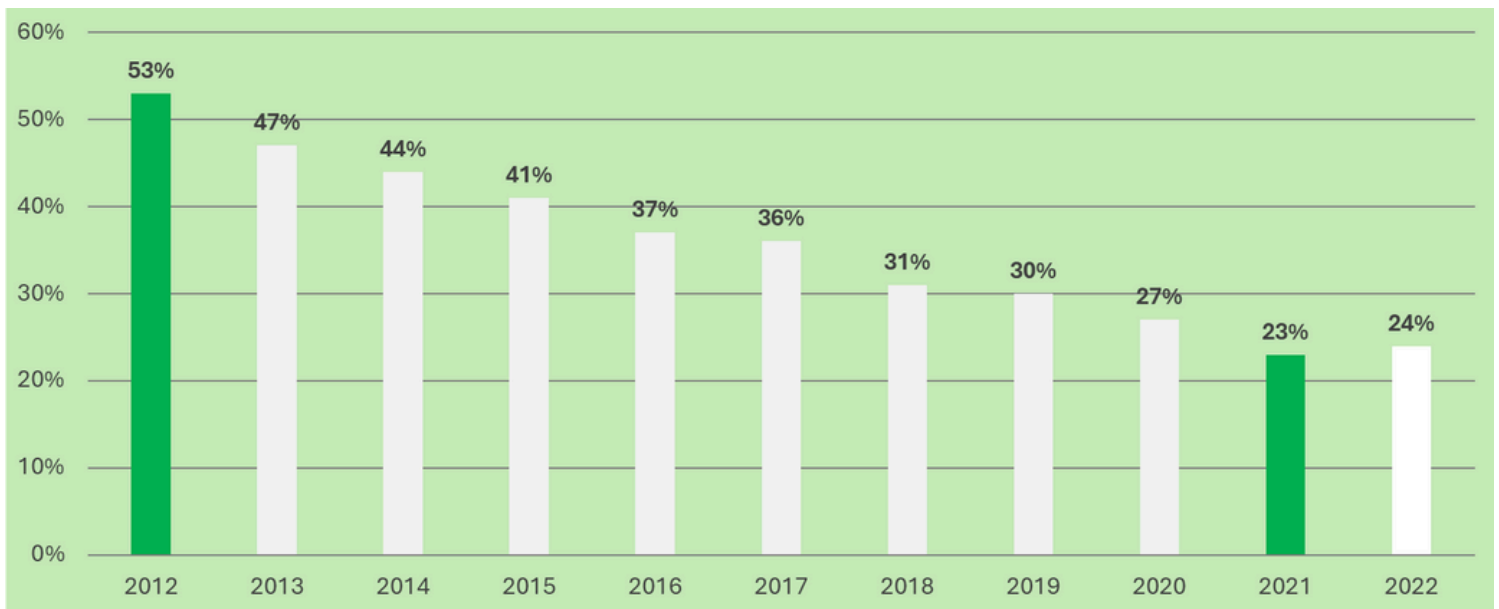
Cymbalta went off patent in 2014 and its generic version Duloxetine began to be prescribed. It is commonly used to treat depression and can alleviate nerve pain.



# OPIOIDS

## SHARE OF DRUG CLAIMS WITH AT LEAST ONE OPIOID PRESCRIPTION

In this decade, the gross number of prescriptions in workers comp claims per year fell to less than half of where it started. While prescription counts were decreasing, opioids specifically became 30% less commonly prescribed.

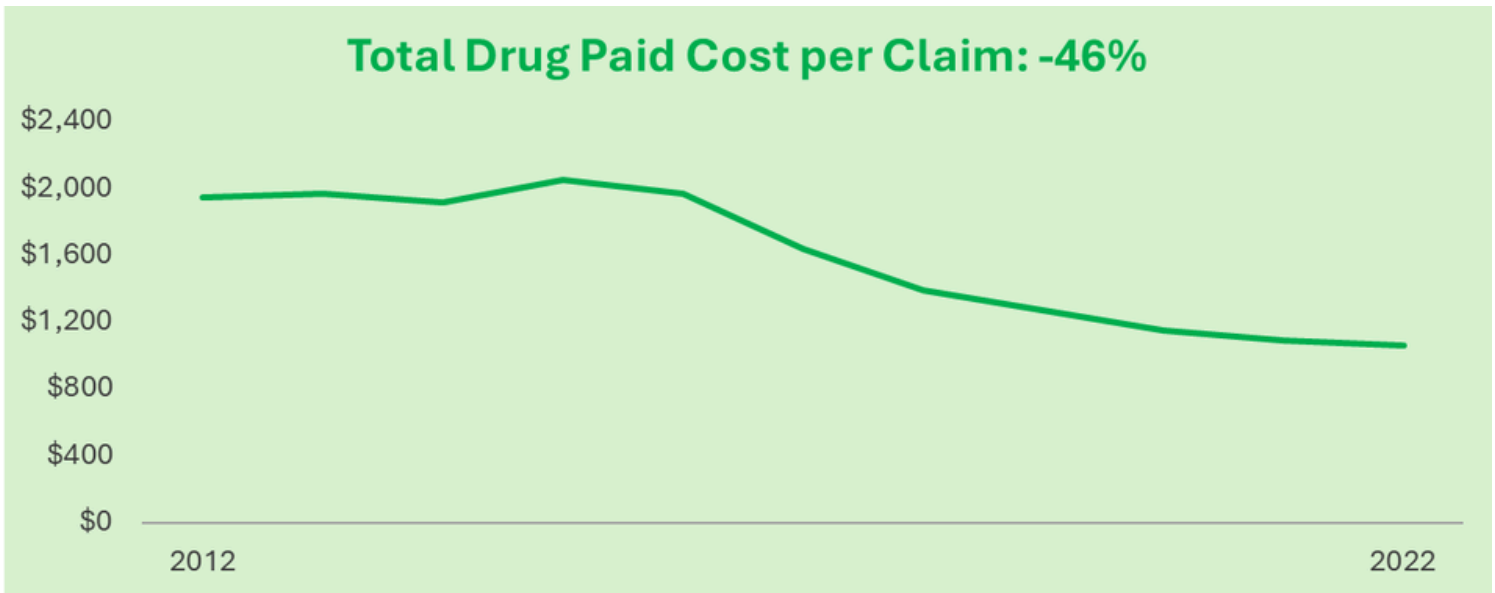




# OPIOID USAGE IN WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Opioids are being prescribed less frequently, as 1 in 5 claims received an opioid prescription in 2012, while 1 in 16 claims received an opioid prescription in 2022.

Since 2012, cost per claim for non-opioid drugs decreased 59%. The opioid cost per claim since 2012 decreased 13%.

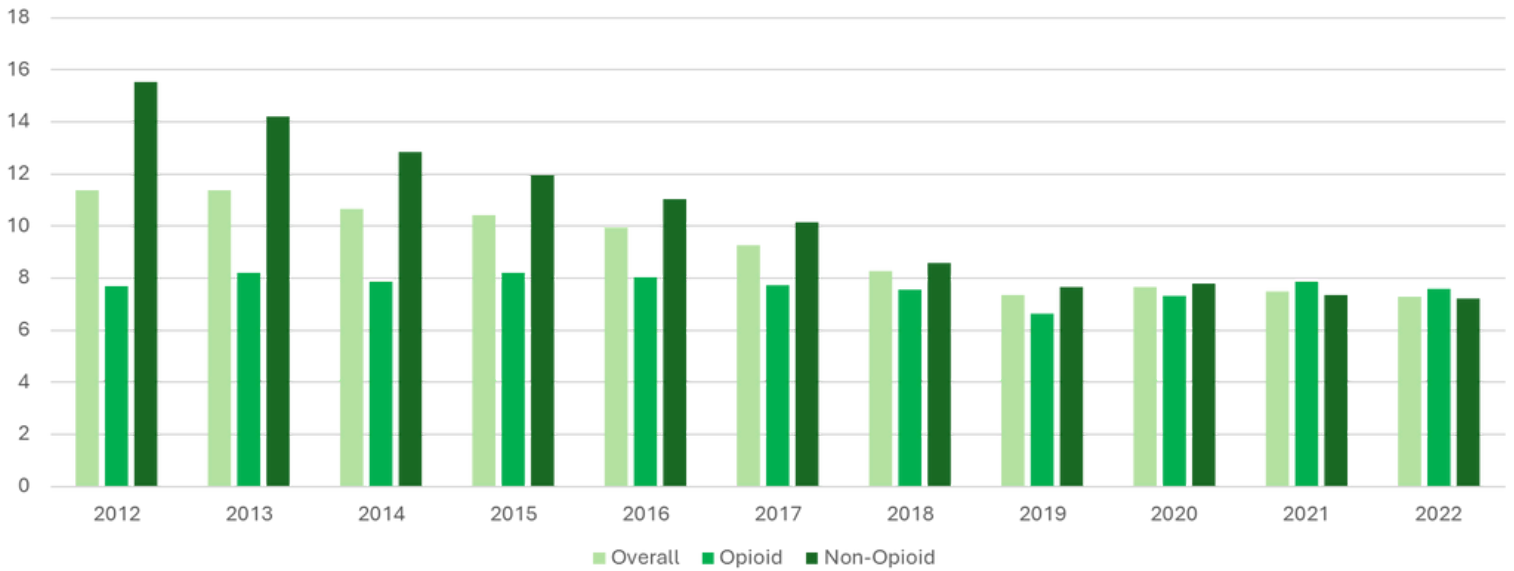




# NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS PER CLAIM

Claims across the board saw a decrease in script count per claim, but this break down shows that the change was contributed to by non-opioid claims as opioid script count stayed flat over the past decade.

We observed a 52.7% decrease in the number of pills per prescription since 2012 and the average pills per prescription has remained around 67 pills since 2014.







## ABOUT

Founded in 1917, the Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau, Inc. (DCRB) is a nonprofit data collection organization serving as a trusted, essential, and objective resource that supports a healthy workers' compensation system for Delaware. DCRB provides data-driven products and services that anticipate and respond to marketplace conditions and identify emerging trends, including accurate and valuable statistical and actuarially-based information, marketplace knowledge, and rating plans. DCRB also conducts innovative research, provides educational services, and engages in outreach that delivers knowledge to empower actionable decisions.



## CONTACT

Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau, Inc.  
30 S. 17th Street, Suite 1500  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
302-654-1435

[www.dcrb.com](http://www.dcrb.com)