Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and robust responses to the opioid epidemic in the country. The 2017 OARRS Annual Report demonstrates that the state’s efforts to address the overprescribing and diversion of prescription drugs are paying off. By reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances, fewer Ohioans will be presented with opportunities to misuse these potentially addictive medications.

The total doses of opioids dispensed decreased from a high of 793 million in 2012 to 568 million in 2017, a 28.4 percent decrease. The total doses of benzodiazepines dispensed decreased from a high of 297 million in 2012 to 233 million in 2017, a 21.5 percent decrease.

The number of queries for patient information in OARRS increased from 1.78 million in 2011 to 88.96 million in 2017, a 4,900 percent increase.

Ohio has made significant progress in promoting integration of OARRS into electronic health records and pharmacy dispensing systems. 20,000 pharmacists and prescribers now have direct access to OARRS as part of their workflow.

The number of individuals engaged in doctor shopping behavior decreased from 2,205 in 2011 to 273 in 2017, a decrease of 88 percent.

Looking forward to 2018, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy plans to continue its efforts to ensure OARRS remains one of the best prescription monitoring programs in the country. For more information, please find our full report at pharmacy.ohio.gov/OARRS2017