

# InfoByte: Antibiotic Prescriptions in Wisconsin

Courtesy of the Wisconsin Health Information Organization  
May 2022

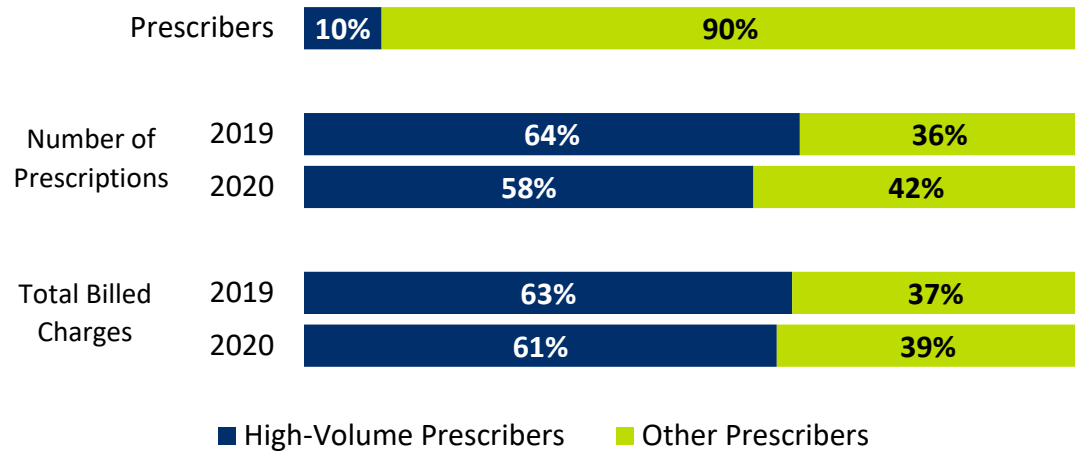


A recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report<sup>1</sup> from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that in 2019 the top 10% of antibiotic prescribers based on prescription volume ("high-volume prescribers") were responsible for 41% of antibiotic prescriptions for Medicare Part D beneficiaries. They also found that the prescribing rate among high-volume prescribers was 60% higher than their peers.

The WHIO used the CDC report instructions for the graphs on this page so that Wisconsin's high-volume prescriber rate can be compared to the Medicare rate. In Wisconsin, 64% of antibiotic prescriptions were written by high-volume prescribers in 2019. This data was not adjusted for patient volume per prescriber.

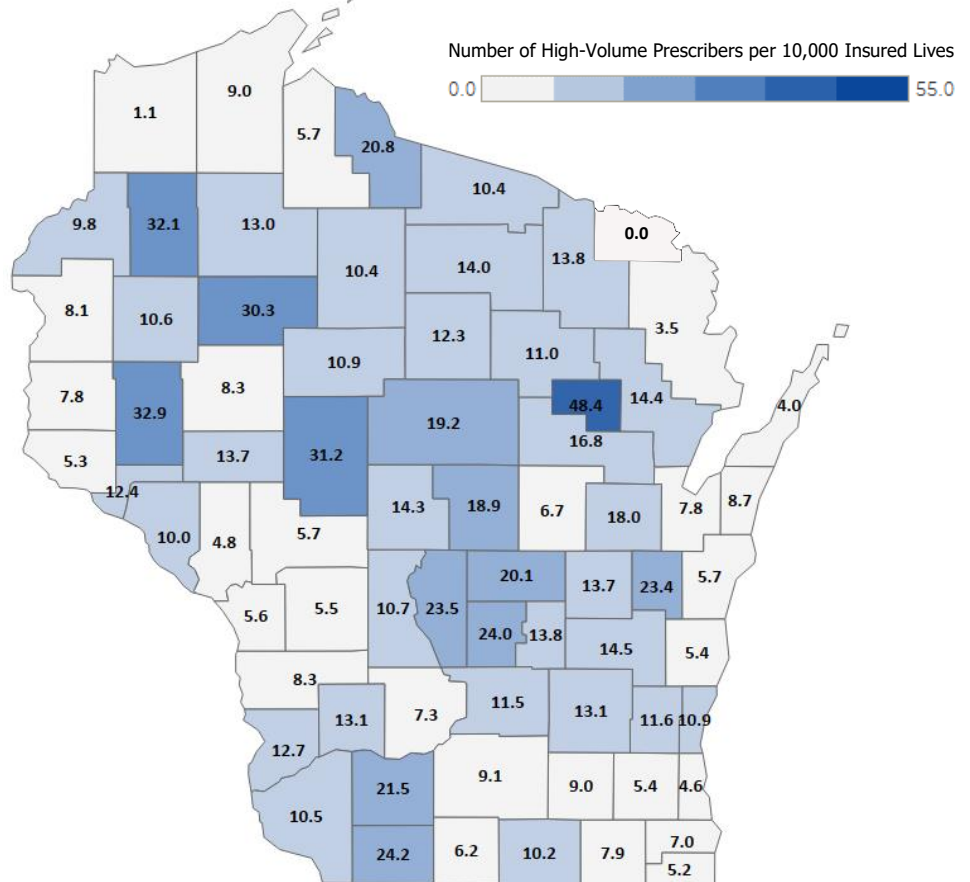
<sup>1</sup>Gouin KA, Fleming-Dutra KE, Tsay S, Bizune D, Hicks LA, Kabbani S. Identifying Higher-Volume Antibiotic Outpatient Prescribers Using Publicly Available Medicare Part D Data — United States, 2019. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:202–205.

## WI High-Volume Antibiotic Prescribers



In a related analysis by the WHIO, family medicine physicians had the highest percentage of high-volume prescribers in Wisconsin.

## High-Volume Antibiotic Prescribers by WI County, 2019



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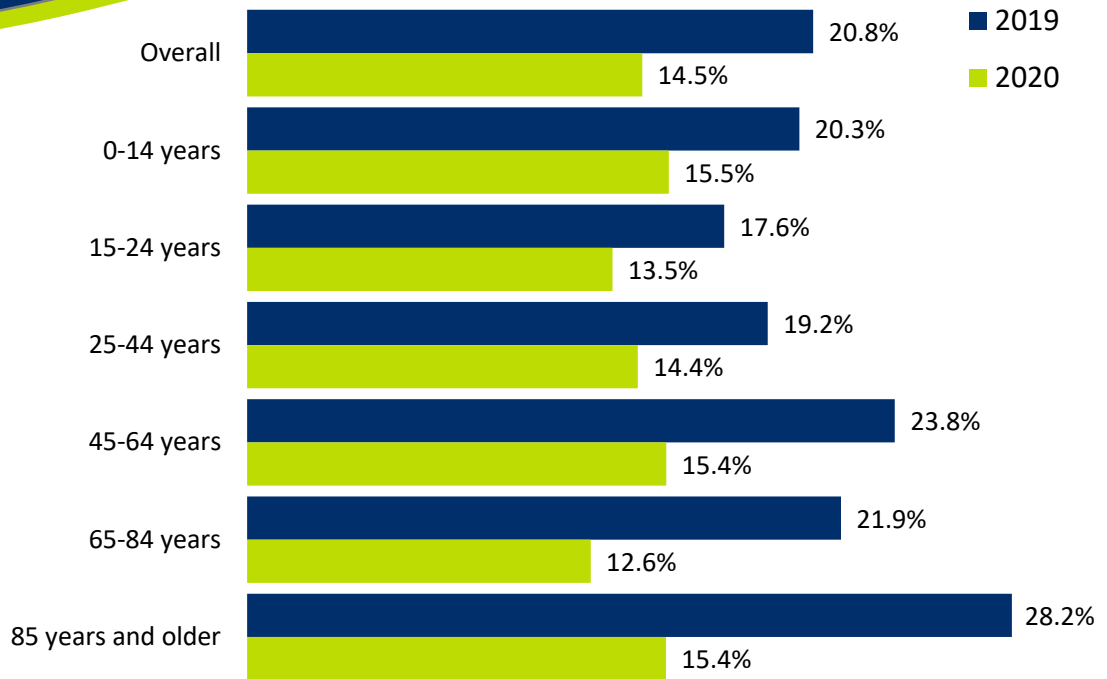
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Tracking and reporting antibiotic use is needed to understand prescribing patterns and to guide changes in practice, known as antibiotic stewardship.

The WHIO is partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Antibiotic Stewardship Program to provide antibiotic use reports. The antibiotic use reports will help to identify areas for improvement and to monitor the impact of stewardship interventions over time. These reports will focus on antibiotic prescribing in the outpatient and dental care settings.

For additional information please contact the WHIO at [info@whio.org](mailto:info@whio.org).

## WI Antibiotic Prescriptions by Age Group



All age groups showed a decrease in the percentage of people who received an antibiotic prescription in 2020 compared to 2019. More people in the 85 and older age group received an antibiotic prescription in 2019, followed by the largest decrease in 2020.

## WI Average Billed Charge and Paid Amount for Antibiotic Prescriptions

