

# Study finds that 2015 to 2021 saw an increase in gabapentinoid use

January 24 2024, by Lori Solomon

---



Use of gabapentinoids has increased since 2015, particularly for chronic pain, according to a [study](#) published in the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

Michael E. Johansen, M.D., from OhioHealth in Columbus, and

Donovan T. Maust, M.D., from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, used the 2002–2021 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey to characterize gabapentinoid use in the [adult population](#), including the ages of users; associated medications and diagnoses; and the likelihood of starting, stopping, or continuing gabapentinoids.

The researchers found that gabapentinoid users continued to increase from 4.0 percent in 2015 to 4.7 percent in 2021. Among individuals who used other medications for [chronic pain](#), gabapentinoid use was much more likely.

Numerous chronic pain conditions were associated with gabapentinoid use, despite minimal evidence to support this off-label use. The number of new gabapentinoid users clearly outnumbered gabapentinoid stoppers between 2011–2012 and 2017–2018, although this difference declined in the most recent cohorts.

"Gabapentinoids continue to be commonly used in [conjunction](#) with other sedating medications, which is concerning in light of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's 2019 warning about coprescribing of gabapentinoids with other central nervous system depressants," the authors write.

**More information:** Michael E. Johansen et al, Update to Gabapentinoid Use in the United States, 2002-2021, *The Annals of Family Medicine* (2024). [DOI: 10.1370/afm.3052](https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.3052)

Copyright © 2024 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Study finds that 2015 to 2021 saw an increase in gabapentinoid use (2024, January 24) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-01-gabapentinoid.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.