

THE 50 MOST COMMONLY PRESCRIBED DRUGS

IN THE UNITED STATES



DRUG CATEGORIES

CARDIOVASCULAR

- Statin
- ACE inhibitors
- Calcium channel blockers
- Alpha blockers
- Beta blockers
- Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)
- Antiplatelet medications
- Anticoagulants

ANTIDIABETICS

- Insulins

HORMONES

- Corticosteroids

RESPIRATORY

- Bronchodilators
- Leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRAs)
- Antihistamines

DIGESTIVE

- Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs)
- Xanthine oxidase inhibitors (XOIs)

BRAIN AND MOOD

- Anticonvulsants
- Antidepressants
- CNS stimulants
- Benzodiazepines
- Diuretics

PAIN

- Narcotics
- Muscle relaxants
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

ELECTROLYTE SUPPLEMENTS

VITAMIN D ANALOGS

ANTIBIOTICS

	Total patients	Total prescriptions
1 ATORVASTATIN (<i>Lipitor</i>) High cholesterol, heart disease prevention — Intended for	28,111,470	116,702,335
2 METFORMIN (<i>Glucophage, Fortamet</i>) High blood sugar levels, Type 2 diabetes treatment (prevents production of glucose in liver)	19,883,763	91,151,043
3 LEVOTHYROXINE (<i>Synthroid</i>) Hypothyroidism, goiters, and thyroid cancers	19,064,382	89,309,050
4 LISINOPRIL (<i>Zestril, Qbrelis</i>) High blood pressure and heart failure	20,475,892	88,272,557
5 AMLODIPINE (<i>Norvasc</i>) Lowers blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels	17,734,288	73,569,606
6 METOPROLOL (<i>Lopressor</i>) Lowers blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels, treats angina	15,535,072	65,529,551
7 ALBUTEROL (<i>ProAir</i>) Breathing issues caused by lung diseases such as asthma and COPD	18,070,429	61,469,064
8 LOSARTAN (<i>Cozaar</i>) High blood pressure and kidney disease in diabetes patients	13,363,279	55,245,074
9 OMEPRAZOLE (<i>Prilosec</i>) Reduces stomach acid production	13,900,115	54,561,969
10 GABAPENTIN (<i>Gralise</i>) Seizures and pain caused by nervous system conditions	10,697,239	47,125,973
11 SERTRALINE (<i>Zoloft</i>) Depression, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), and other mood/mental disorders	8,478,900	39,206,397
12 HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE (<i>Microzide</i>) Fluid retention and high blood pressure	9,665,980	39,038,822
13 ROSUVASTATIN (<i>Crestor</i>) High cholesterol, heart disease risks such as heart attack and stroke	8,006,428	32,632,145
14 MONTELUKAST (<i>Singulair</i>) Allergies and asthma attacks	7,119,519	30,996,712
15 ESCITALOPRAM (<i>Lexapro</i>) Depression and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD)	6,499,379	30,505,719
16 SIMVASTATIN (<i>FloLipid</i>) High cholesterol, heart disease risks such as heart attack and stroke	7,839,909	30,492,289
17 DEXTROAMPHETAMINE; AMPHETAMINE (<i>Adderall</i>) Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy	3,990,803	30,371,088
18 BUPROPION (<i>Wellbutrin</i>) Depression, smoking cessation, seasonal affective disorder (SAD)	6,412,363	29,099,445
19 PANTOPRAZOLE (<i>Protonix</i>) Stomach acid production, heartburn, acid reflux, and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	7,310,342	27,347,488
20 ACETAMINOPHEN; HYDROCODONE (<i>Vicodin</i>) Moderate to severe pain, cough	8,616,204	26,599,439
21 FUROSEMIDE Fluid retention and swelling caused by heart, liver, and kidney diseases	6,473,988	26,376,404
22 TRAZODONE Major depressive disorders, anxiety, sleeping difficulties	5,322,910	26,310,083
23 FLUTICASONE (<i>Flovent</i>) Asthma, allergic rhinitis, emphysema, atopic dermatitis	7,859,173	25,283,015
24 TAMSULOSIN (<i>Flomax</i>) Enlarged prostate (benign prostatic hyperplasia)	6,474,672	23,540,060
25 FLUOXETINE (<i>Prozac</i>) Depression, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), bulimia nervosa, panic disorders	4,764,311	22,686,838
26 CARVEDILOL (<i>Coreg</i>) High blood pressure and heart failure	5,039,099	21,782,177
27 DULOXETINE (<i>Cymbalta</i>) Depression, anxiety, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and chronic pain	4,444,533	20,012,841
28 PREDNISONE Decreases immune system response to reduce inflammation symptoms	8,660,906	19,898,457
29 INSULIN GLARGINE (<i>Lantus Solostar</i>) Synthetic insulin used to treat type 1 and type 2 diabetes	3,901,230	19,873,255
30 POTASSIUM CHLORIDE Treats low potassium levels (hypokalemia)	4,479,822	18,543,551
31 CITALOPRAM (<i>Celexa</i>) Depression	4,126,597	18,444,405
32 MELOXICAM (<i>Mobic</i>) Arthritis pain, swelling, and stiffness (osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis)	5,819,321	18,226,904
33 APIXABAN (<i>Eliquis</i>) Treat and prevent blood clots, heart attack, stroke	4,021,147	17,933,195
34 ASPIRIN Pain, fever, swelling	5,286,487	17,686,612
35 ERGOCALCIFEROL (<i>Vitamin D₃</i>) Prevent and treat vitamin D deficiency	5,191,630	17,179,725
36 IBUPROFEN (<i>Advil</i>) Pain, fever, swelling	8,701,817	17,043,550
37 CLOPIDOGREL (<i>Plavix</i>) Blood thinner to prevent stroke, heart attack, and other heart diseases	4,187,295	16,723,608
38 AMOXICILLIN (<i>Amoxil, Larotid</i>) Infections and stomach ulcers	13,130,571	16,657,138
39 PRAVASTATIN (<i>Pravachol</i>) High cholesterol, heart attack and stroke prevention	3,917,270	15,936,065
40 ALLOPURINOL (<i>Alopurin</i>) Uric acid reducer, gout and kidney stones	3,768,723	15,706,780
41 TRAMADOL (<i>Ultram</i>) Moderate to severe pain	5,026,719	15,446,495
42 ALPRAZOLAM (<i>Xanax</i>) Anxiety and panic disorders	3,325,555	15,380,320
43 METHYLPHENIDATE (<i>Daytrana</i>) ADHD and narcolepsy	2,440,779	15,282,088
44 VENLAFAXINE (<i>Effexor</i>) Depression, anxiety disorders, panic disorders	3,008,776	15,122,966
45 CYCLOBENZAPRINE (<i>Fexmid</i>) Pain and stiffness caused by muscle spasms	5,107,046	14,426,039
46 CLONAZEPAM (<i>Klonopin</i>) Panic disorders, epilepsy, seizures, anxiety	2,352,995	14,197,547
47 ATENOLOL (<i>Tenormin</i>) High blood pressure, arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) and angina (chest pain)	3,384,297	14,107,487
48 GLIPIZIDE (<i>Glucotrol</i>) Stimulates pancreas to produce insulin (for type 2 diabetes treatment)	3,402,458	13,998,178
49 CETIRIZINE (<i>Zyrtec</i>) Hay fever, allergy symptoms, hives, itching	4,000,093	13,929,421
50 LAMOTRIGINE (<i>Lamictal</i>) Epilepsy, seizures, bipolar disorder	1,957,025	13,244,443

SOURCES:
clincalc.com/DrugStats
[Medical Expenditure Panel Survey \(https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb\)](http://MedicalExpenditurePanelSurvey (https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb))

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