

OHIO



Number of Independent Community Pharmacies

607

Total Sales	\$2,187,878,691
Front end sales for fiscal year 2008:	\$157,724,094
Pharmacy sales for fiscal year 2008	\$2,030,154,597
Number of full time employees	6,859
Number of full time pharmacists	1,578
Number of prescriptions filled in the state	37,058,564
Number of prescriptions filled by independents for Medicaid and Medicare	14,452,840

For more information please contact NCPA Government Affairs

Importance of Independent Community Pharmacy in Ohio

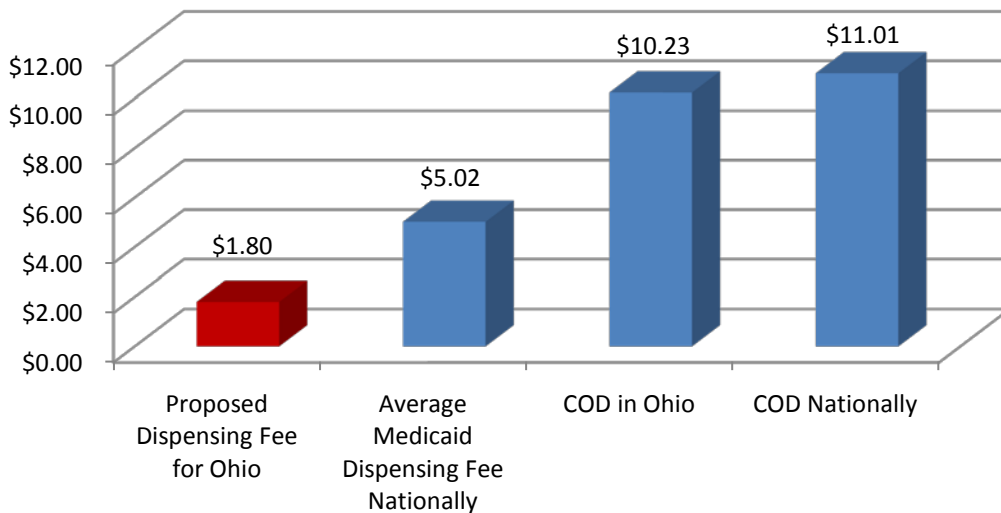
Independent community pharmacies play a vital role in the health care of patients in Ohio. There are currently 607 independent community pharmacies, operating as locally owned small businesses providing jobs for over 6,500 employees in the state of Ohio.

Independent community pharmacies are an accessible health care point that provides very valuable services to their patients. These independents are far more likely to be located in rural and traditionally underserved areas than their chain counterparts. As an example, in the rural areas of Idaho, there are 66 pharmacies operating as the only retail pharmacy in their neighborhood. Of these sole providers, 59 are independents operating as the most accessible pharmacy for a population of over 260,000 people.¹

Cost of Dispensing:

The cost of dispensing (COD) is a measurement of the direct and indirect costs associated with dispensing a prescription drug. Currently, it costs the average community pharmacy \$10.89 to dispense a prescription drug to a patient. This means that a community pharmacy must be paid \$10.89 plus the cost of acquiring the drug in order to break even.

Currently, Ohio has one of the lowest dispensing fees in the nation under Medicaid.²



Pharmacists Create Value for Ohio:

Independent community pharmacists help to promote the optimal use of prescription drugs, thus lowering health care costs by reducing the incidence of much more costly forms of treatment such as hospitalizations and emergency room visits that can occur due to inadequate drug use and adverse drug events. The success of such medication therapy management programs have also been shown to raise productivity by reducing the number of sick days taken by these patients.

¹ Based upon National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) analysis of National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Data, and Rural Urban Commuting Area Codes and Census Data.

² National COD of \$11.01 from the 2009 NCPA Digest, sponsored by Cardinal Health. COD in Ohio based upon the 2007 Grant Thornton Cost of Dispensing Study, and average Medicaid dispensing fee of \$5.02 based upon an internal analysis by NCPA of dispensing fees in each state weighted by prescription volume in each state under Medicaid.