

# Montgomery sues opioid manufacturers

Melissa Brown, Montgomery Advertiser Published 4:44 p.m. CT April 9, 2018 | Updated 5:02 p.m. CT April 9, 2018



(Photo: smartstock, Getty Images/iStockphoto)

The city of Montgomery on Monday filed a lawsuit against the manufacturers of OxyContin and other opioids.

The lawsuit alleges Montgomery sustained economic damages in terms of medical care costs, including overdoses and deaths, for "patients suffering from opioid-related addiction or disease." The lawsuit also claims the city has incurred "costs associated with providing care for children whose parents suffer from opioid-related disability or incapacitation."

Montgomery law firm Beasley Allen filed the suit on behalf of Montgomery. The firm has previously filed similar lawsuits for other Alabama cities and government entities.

"The problem of opioid addiction has become a national crisis and Alabama is one of the states that has been heading in the wrong direction," attorney Jere Beasley said in a news release. "Alabama has four cities in the top 15 in the nation with the highest rates of opioid abuse, including our capital city. It is hard to fathom the number of people who are affected by this disaster that started because people were greedy. Opioid manufacturers and distributors were well aware of how addictive these drugs are, still they flooded the market and lied to the people of Alabama and across the country."

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, Alabama maintained a prescribing rate of 121 per 100 persons in 2016, the highest prescribing rate in the country.

Montgomery County had a [2016 opioid prescribing rate \(https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxcounty2016.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxcounty2016.html) of 88 per 100 persons.

In February, Alabama became the latest state in the country to file a lawsuit against opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma and others.

The lawsuit alleges Purdue's marketing strategy was deceptive and led to prescriptions for low-grade, long-term pain instead of for severe issues.

John Puskar, director of public affairs for Purdue Pharma L.P., said the company vigorously denies the allegations in the state's lawsuit, [according to an Associated Press report. \(https://apnews.com/c9e8e3aa51354d24a2ef1cadad472ad0/Alabama-files-lawsuit-against-opioid-manufacturer\)](https://apnews.com/c9e8e3aa51354d24a2ef1cadad472ad0/Alabama-files-lawsuit-against-opioid-manufacturer)

In a statement, Puskar said Purdue is "deeply troubled" by the opioid abuse crisis.

He also said the company developed three of the first four FDA-approved opioid medications with abuse-deterrent properties and has partnered with law enforcement to ensure access to naloxone, a drug that reverses overdoses.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

Read or Share this story: <https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/crime/2018/04/09/montgomery-sues-opioid-manufacturers/500832002/>