

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology Workgroup

- ✦ Prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs or PMPs) collect prescription data on medications that are federal controlled substances. PDMPs are intended to promote public health by detecting diversion, abuse, and misuse of prescription medications.
- ✦ Drug overdose deaths in Missouri are on the rise and have now overtaken the traffic fatalities as a cause of death. Prescription drugs are the primary reason for this.¹
- ✦ Missouri is the only state without pending legislation to enact a PDMP or a PMP.²
- ✦ While PDMPs are enacted at the state level, the Department of Justice is working with states on a national database to enhance data sharing. Although this step is voluntary, it works to decrease doctor shopping across state lines for those who opt in.³
- ✦ Research shows “The presence of a PDMP reduces the per capita supply of prescription pain relievers and stimulants, reducing the probability of abuse for these drugs.”⁴
- ✦ “A 2010 study found that when PDMP data were used in an emergency room, 41% of cases had altered prescribing after the clinician reviewed PDMP data – with 61% of the patients receiving fewer or no opioid pain medications than had been originally planned by the physician prior to reviewing the PDMP data, and 39% receiving more opioid medication than previously planned because the physician was able to confirm the patient did not have a recent history of controlled substance use.”⁵
- ✦ “An analysis of poison center data from 2003 to mid-2009 found that in states with PDMPs, calls concerning intentional exposures to opioids (an indicator of opioid abuse or misuse) increased 0.2% per quarter, while in states without PDMPs these calls increased 1.9%.”⁶
- ✦ However, there is some concern that use of PDMPs may have the unintended consequence of doctors prescribing inferior, non-monitored medications out of fear of coming under scrutiny of law enforcement⁷.
- ✦ More data on effectiveness can be found by browsing to the link in footnote #6. For more information on PMPs, including funding information, interstate policy issues, and an overview of research to date see <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42593.pdf>.

¹ <http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/ada/Progs/MOBHEW/MOBHEWbrief201307.pdf>

² <http://mopdmpnow.org/>

³ <https://www.bja.gov/Programs/PMIXArchitecture.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/PDMPExecSumm.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ondcp/pdmp.pdf>

⁶ http://www.pdmpexcellence.org/sites/all/pdfs/briefing_PDMP_effectiveness_april_2013.pdf

⁷ <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42593.pdf>