Interactive Data Report: PDMP Data Technical Notes

Data Sources
Data for this report is from the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which collects all Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in Pennsylvania. The current PDMP system started collecting dispensations in June 2016.

Data Updates
Data is updated quarterly with a quarter lag time.

Measures
Rates and Denominators: Rate measures are calculated using county populations as denominators. Dispensations counts are assigned to the dispenser’s location. Rates are not age-adjusted.

Controlled Substance Scheduling and Rescheduling: Certain drugs are considered controlled substances by the DEA and are categorized into schedules based upon medically accepted use and the potential for abuse and dependence. Occasionally, drugs are rescheduled such that they then become reportable to the PDMP causing an increase that is due to a change in reporting rather than a true increase. As of November 2017, this has not affected data submitted to the PDMP since the PDMP system started collecting dispensations on June 24, 2017.

Defining Drug Classes:
- Opioids (all schedules) include full opioid agonist and partial opioid agonist classes.
- Benzodiazepines include those with anti-convulsant, anxiolytic, and sedative-hypnotic effects.
- Amphetamines include central nervous system stimulants
- Amphetamine derivatives are a class of compounds formed by replacing one or more hydrogen atoms in the amphetamine structure with other atom(s) (e.g. phentermine HCl)

Consistency with other reports
Differences with other published reports may occur due to differing case definitions or time lags. The PDMP system relies on pharmacies to report accurate and timely information. They can correct or submit post-dated data at any time. Therefore, PDMP data changes as pharmacies correct, amend, or resubmit data. The current report represents a snapshot in time.

Disclaimer
The PDMP Office is continuously working to improve the quality and timeliness of the data. The interactive data report represents a snapshot of PDMP data as of 1/13/2018 and is subject to change.