

Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program System

Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention

The Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDMP) System operates within the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention (ODSMP). The ODSMP aims to improve the health of Pennsylvanians by promoting the appropriate use of controlled substances and ensuring that they are always prescribed and dispensed safely and responsibly in the commonwealth.

What is a PDMP System and what information is collected?

A PDMP System is an electronic database that collects information on all filled controlled substance prescriptions. Prescription opioids such as hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (OxyContin), benzodiazepines such as diazepam (Valium), and alprazolam (Xanax) are controlled substances. Controlled substances have the potential for misuse and dependence, which may increase risk for substance use disorder. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency assigns a schedule to every controlled substance, ranging from one to five. State legislation may assign drug scheduling as well. The lower the schedule number, the greater the possible risks.

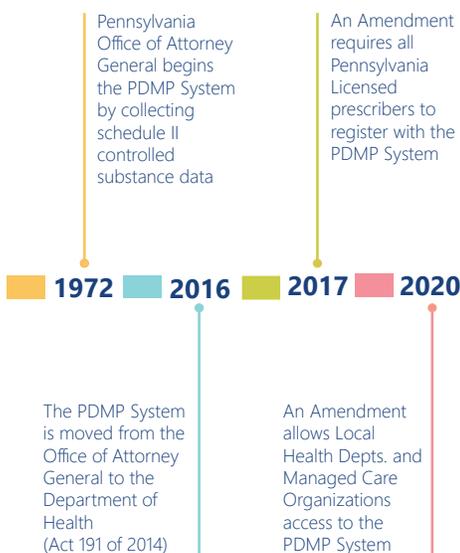
What is the goal of the Pennsylvania PDMP System?

The PDMP System prevents prescription drug misuse and empowers healthcare providers to make informed decisions about prescribing and treatment for their patients. The PDMP System is also a vital public health tool, providing critical data for surveillance, planning, resource allocation, and evaluation efforts related to the opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania.

Who can access the Pennsylvania PDMP System?

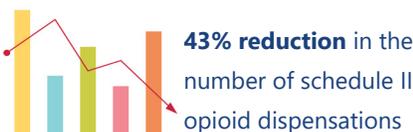
The PDMP System is a tool for healthcare providers and pharmacists to help them make safe prescribing or dispensing decisions for their patients and identify potential substance use disorder. The PDMP System also aids public safety, licensing, and fraud and abuse efforts by providing access to commonwealth agencies including the Office of Attorney General, Department of State, Department of Human Services, and Managed Care Organizations. County and Municipal Health Departments, designated commonwealth personnel, county coroners, and medical examiners may also access the PDMP System for public health initiatives and death investigations.

PDMP System Timeline



Accomplishments Since 2016

38% reduction in the number of opioid dispensations



95% reduction in the number of patients with Multiple Provider Episodes, which is known as "Doctor Shopping." Doctor Shopping is the practice of seeing 5 (or more) prescribers and 5 (or more) dispensers to fill controlled substance prescriptions.

25% reduction in the number of benzodiazepine dispensations

58% reduction in the number of patients receiving a high dosage of opioids (over 90 MMEs)

53% reduction in the number of patients with 30 days of overlapping opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions; a potentially dangerous combination of medications.