The Opioid Epidemic continues to grow with an estimated 70,237 drug overdose deaths nationwide in 2017.

In 2017, Missouri was one of 20 states with an age-adjusted drug overdose death rate higher than the US average.

In 2017, Missouri had 951 opioid-related deaths. That equates to 1 out of every 65 deaths were due to opioid overdose.

Facts about the Opioid Epidemic

- A prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions in a state. PDMPs can provide health authorities timely information about prescribing and patient behaviors that contribute to the epidemic and facilitate a nimble and targeted response.
- State PDMPs are considered one of the most promising state-level interventions to improve opioid prescribing, inform clinical practice, and protect patients at risk.
- State PDMPs are one of the CDC’s core recommendations in the 2016 opioid prescribing guidelines.
- State PDMPs are the most powerful tool to identify doctor shopping, overlapping prescriptions, and dangerous drug interactions.
- State PDMPs do not infringe on legitimate prescribing but can identify early patients who are developing concerning use.

What is a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

- Missouri remains the ONLY state without a state-run PDMP.
- The St. Louis County-run PDMP provides point of care access for providers and dispensers.
- The St. Louis County PDMP went live in April 2017 and has grown to 72 jurisdictions covering 84% of Missouri’s population and 94% of healthcare providers.
- Healthcare providers are performing approximately 6,000 patient searches per day.
- The opioid prescription rate of the total system was 635 prescriptions per 1,000 population. This is greater than the national opioid prescription rate of 587 opioid prescriptions per 1,000 population.

Status of Missouri’s PDMP

We urge legislators to model any future statewide PDMP on the already successful St. Louis County PDMP which allows for point of care access for prescribers and dispensers. Please support HB 188, the Narcotics Control Act.
Missouri Rates of Opioid Prescribing Remain High

Many of the counties with the highest rates of prescribing have not joined the St. Louis County PDMP.

Sources:
CDC.gov: https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxrate-maps.html
St. Louis County PDMP: https://www.stlouisco.com/pdmp