

# Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP): Responding to an Epidemic



## Facts about the Opioid Epidemic

The Opioid Epidemic continues to grow with an estimated 64,000 drug overdose deaths nationwide in 2016.

From 2000 to 2015 more than a half million Americans died from drug overdoses.

Missouri had the 16<sup>th</sup> highest overdose rate in the country in 2016.

Governments at all levels are working to develop comprehensive strategies to address this epidemic.

Missouri remains the ONLY state without a state run PDMP.

## What is a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

PDMP is an electronic database that collects data on controlled substance prescriptions dispensed within a state.

State PDMPs are a powerful tool for reducing abuse, addiction, and diversion of prescription drugs and are one of the CDC's core recommendations in their 2016 opioid prescribing guidelines.

Can be used to intervene in the early stages of prescription drug abuse as well as to assist prescribers in preventing drug abuse.

Acts as an early warning system for prescribers to avoid dangerous drug interactions and to ensure quality patient care.

Does not infringe on legitimate prescribing of a controlled substance by a practitioner.

## Status of Missouri PDMPs

The St. Louis County PDMP which provides point of care access for providers and dispensers went live in April of 2017 and continues to add counties. This PDMP currently covers 79% of Missouri's population and has been well-received and without security issues to date.

The PDMP created by Governor Greitens' July 2017 executive order has yet to be created and will only identify the few physicians who are prescribing far beyond their peers. Similar past efforts focusing on outliers have yielded little effect on the larger problem.

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. Data should be kept for two years since addiction can be a recurring illness.

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