



PDMP in Practice: A Clinical Tool for Safer Prescribing

Rachel Kiefer, PharmD
Pharmacy Division
Alabama Department of Public Health

1



Financial Disclosures

I have no relevant financial
relationships to disclose.

2



Meet the Team

Alabama PDMP
Email address: pdmp@adph.state.al.us
Phone: **334-290-6707**
Website: alabamapublichealth.gov/pdmp

Pharmacy Division Team:
Rachel Kiefer, PharmD, Pharmacy Director and PDMP Director
Brittany Stewart, CPhT, PDMP Administrator
Vicki Walker, CPhT, PDMP Pharmacy Compliance Coordinator
Anna Bishop, RN, Overdose Data to Action Program Manager

3



Objectives

- Describe the current opioid landscape and opioid prescribing trends
- Understand laws and rules regarding access to the Alabama PDMP
- Explain specific features of the Alabama PDMP and how they can be used as a clinical tool

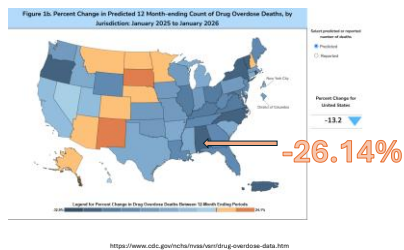
4



5



CDC's Provisional Count of Drug Overdose Deaths in U.S.

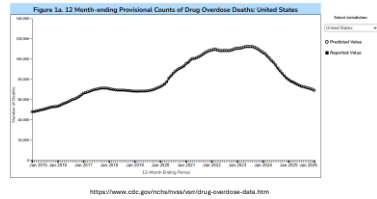


6

CDC's Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths in U.S.

12 Month-Ending Provisional Number and Percent Change of Drug Overdose Deaths

Based on data available for analysis on: June 7, 2026

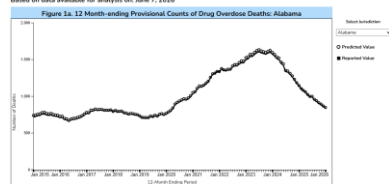


<https://www.cdc.gov/ncha/mvss/vsm/drug-overdose-data.htm>

CDC's Provisional Count of Drug Overdose Deaths in Alabama

12 Month-Ending Provisional Number and Percent Change of Drug Overdose Deaths

Based on data available for analysis on: June 7, 2026



<https://www.cdc.gov/ncha/nvss/vsr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

12 Month-Ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class

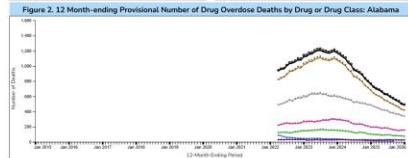
Based on data available for analysis on: June 7, 2026

After opening the **drug class** dropdown, click the top of the dropdown menu again to make the checkboxes disappear.

Solvent (arbitrary units) Solvent (arbitrary units or mass class)

Select Jurisdiction

Select drug class



Legend for Drug or Drug Class

Continued (Table 1)

Therapy (T40-1)

```

square(1:10)

```

© 2006 The Authors
Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

synthetic speech, and methadone [10].

90.2

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncha/mnha/vars/drug-ov>

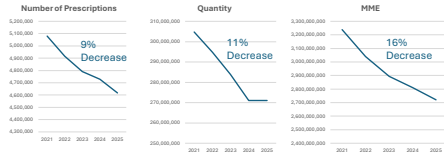
Reported Value

Predicted Value

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncha/mvss/vsn/drug-overdose-data.htm>



PDMP Data - Opioids: Number of Prescriptions, Quantity, and Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME)

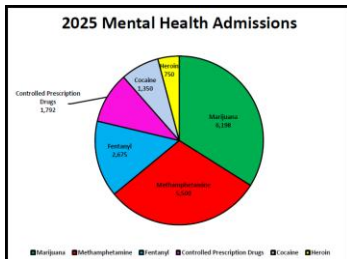


10



2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment

11

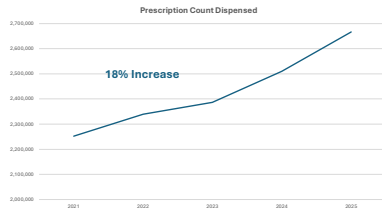


2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment

12



PDMP Data – Prescription Stimulants

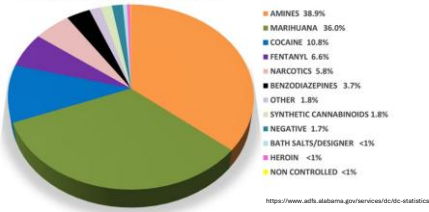


13



Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences Drug Chemistry Statistics

DC Reported Results FY25



14



Alabama PDMP Controlled Substance Database

<https://alabama.pmpaware.net/login>



15



Alabama Legislative Act 2004-443 Effective August 1, 2004

- Authorizes ADPH to establish a controlled substance database for the collection of controlled substances prescription data.
- All information in the database is declared privileged and confidential and not public record.
- Not subject to subpoena or discovery in civil proceedings.
- Database includes dispensed medications in Schedules II, III, IV, and V, per the **Alabama** Controlled Substance List.
 - Gabapentin, butalbital, codeine cough syrups
 - Not (Medical) Cannabis

16



Basics of the Alabama PDMP

- Pharmacies and dispensing prescribers are required to submit dispensations within 24 hours of dispensing (daily on business days)
- Alabama data shares with 41 states (all surrounding states), the District of Columbia, the Military Health System, and Puerto Rico
- Contains 5 years plus the current year of prescription information

17



Gateway Integration



18

PDMP Report Disclaimer

ADPH makes no claims, promises, or guarantees the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of the Recipient Query Report, and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents. The records herein are based on information submitted by pharmacies and dispensing health care practitioners. **Records on this report should be verified before any clinical decisions are made or actions taken.**



19

Appropriate Use of PDMP Data

- Any person who **intentionally makes an unauthorized disclosure** of information contained in the controlled substances prescription database shall be guilty of a **Class A misdemeanor**.
- Any person or entity who **intentionally obtains unauthorized access to or who alters or destroys information** contained in the controlled substances database shall be guilty of a **Class C felony**. (Act 2004-443, p. 781, § 7)



20

Appropriate Use of PDMP Data

- The reports generated from the controlled substances database contain confidential information, including patient identifiers, and are **not public records**. The information is considered clinical in nature, **subject to medical interpretation**. The information should not be provided to any other persons or entity. (Ala. Code § 20-2-215)
 - Investigatory or evidentiary purposes
 - Regulatory activities of licensing or regulatory boards
 - Informing pharmacists and practitioners in prescribing and dispensing
 - Bona fide statistical, research, or educational purposes (de-identified information)



21

Best Practices for Providers

- PDMP reports should not be placed in the patient's medical record (paper or electronic).
- PDMP information is not subject to subpoena or discovery in civil proceedings.
- The prescriber/pharmacist can state in the medical record that a PDMP report was reviewed.
- The patient's prescriber/pharmacist can discuss PDMP results with the patient's other prescribers/pharmacists.

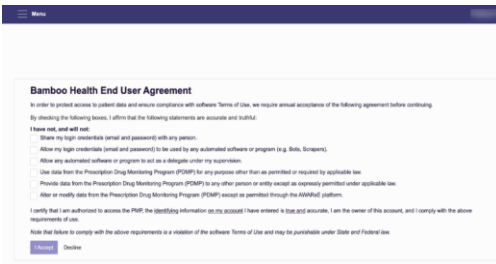
22

PDMP Access

- Code of Ala. § 20-2-214: Limited Access to Database
 - Certifying boards
 - A licensed practitioner who has authority to prescribe, dispense, or administer controlled substances.
 - Up to two employees designated by a licensed physician
 - A licensed certified nurse practitioner or a licensed certified nurse midwife with a QACSC
 - A licensed assistant to physician with a QACSC
- Must have active AL DEA registration and AL controlled substance certificate (ACSC or QACSC)

23

PDMP Access



24



25

Delegates



26

Delegate: Registration

- A delegate is a role that has the capability to perform patient searches on behalf of another registered user (the "supervisor").
- Create an account and verify email address.

<https://alabama.pmpaware.net>

Registration Process

Select your User Roles

- ☒ Healthcare Professional
- ☐ Nurse Practitioner-Clinical Nurse Specialist
- ☐ Physician Assistant
- ☐ Podiatrist (DPM)
- ☐ Optometrist
- ☐ Veterinarian
- ☐ Medical Intern
- ☐ Medical Resident
- ☐ Military Practitioner
- ☐ Pharmacy Technician
- ☐ Pharmacist, Delegate - Unlicensed
- ☐ Pharmacist in Charge
- ☐ Pharmacist
- ☐ Physician (MD, DO)
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Dispensing Physician
- ☐ Prescriber without DEA



27

Delegate: Registration

Account Registration

Professional Details

Personal Information

First Name: Last Name:

Date of Birth: Last 4 Digits of SSN:

Primary Contact Person: Mobile Phone Number:

Delegate

First Name: Last Name:

Mobile Number:



28

Delegate: Registration

A delegate will not be able to perform patient searches until
 1) The supervising physician approves the delegate, and
 2) The PDMP Administrator approves the account.



29

Delegate: Delegate Management

- Delegates can be approved in two ways:

Via an email sent to the supervisor

Supervisor logs into PDMP account and adds/approves



30

Delegate: Delegate Management

- Approval via email to the supervisor

First	Last	Role	Delegate Status	Date Requested
		Prescriber Delegate - Unlicensed	Pending	10/13/2017
		Prescriber Delegate - Unlicensed	Approved	10/13/2017

Jordan Delegate		Verify Status	Reject
Role: Prescriber Delegate - Unlicensed	Delegate (pending)	1 Supervisor	
Phone: 5555	Delegated license (invalid)	(pending)	
Email: @drinc.com (Unverified)		@drinc.com	
Address: Lyndon, KY 40223			
Date of Birth: 1980			



Delegates: Delegate Management

- Supervisor logs into PDMP account to add/approve delegate

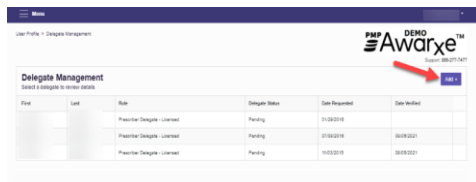


31



Delegates: Delegate Management

- Supervisor logs into PDMP account to add/approve delegate



32



Delegate Annual Reverification

- For the month of February:
 - All supervising physicians/dentists must approve delegates (delegate-unlicensed, delegate-licensed, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwife, Physician Assistant)
 - Communication sent to supervising physician/dentist and delegate
- By March 2:
 - If the supervising physician/dentist does not reverify (approve) his/her delegate, all delegate accounts will go into "Pending" status

33



Program Features

- Prescribers can search for prescriptions dispensed under his/her DEA number (MyRx).
- Quarterly Prescriber Reports.
- Overdose risk scores provided for all patients.
- EHR Integration: Allows prescribers to access PDMP directly from the EHR.

34



MyRx Report

35



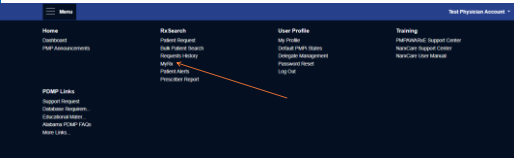
MyRx Report

Patient Name	DOB	Status	Request Date	Delegate
MARSHYCE PENCE TEST PATIENT	09/11/1972	Complete	8/12/2025 10:30 AM	

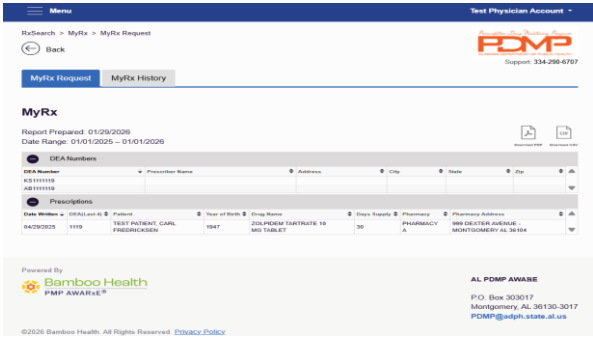
36



MyRx Report



37



38



Prescriber Report



39

Prescriber Report

Disclaimer: The Prescriber Report is strictly informational and is provided in support of the Department of Public Health Prescription Drug Monitoring Program's mission to promote, preserve, and protect public health and safety. **No action is required in response to the PDMP Prescriber Report.** Comparisons with peer groups are meant to give prescribers a point of reference. The PDMP recognizes that no two practice settings are identical. The report should not be used to impede the appropriate prescribing of controlled substances for legitimate medical purposes. Furthermore, the Prescriber Report is not intended to indicate any wrongdoing of the prescriber or their patients.



40

Prescriber Reports

- Prescriber reports are issued quarterly to all who have prescribed at least one controlled substance in the previous 6 months.
- Can be accessed when the user logs into his/her PDMP account (via Aware).
- Reports are now interactive with features that allow the prescriber to drill down to see specific patient information.



41

Prescriber Report

Patient Name	DOB	Status	Request Date	Delegate
WARRICK, PRINCE TEST PATIENT	09/11/1972	Complete	8/12/2024 10:35 AM	

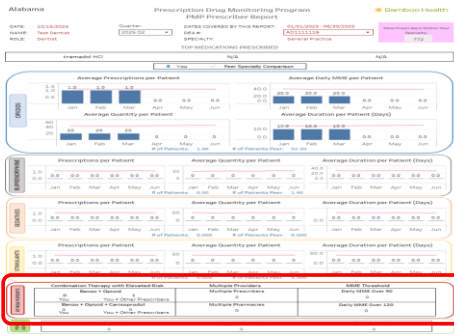


42

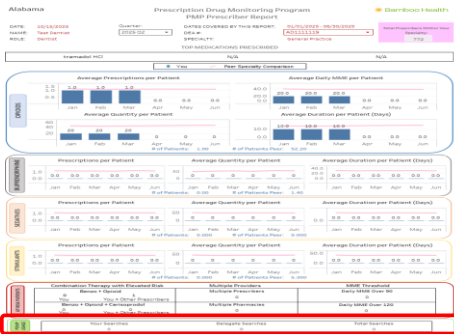
46

47

48



49



50

NarxCare

Caution/Important Reminder: NarxCare is an application that provides a set of data, visualization, and analytics to support prescribers' and dispensers' review of controlled substance data from government-managed and regulated PDMPs. NarxCare is intended to aid, not replace, medical decision-making. None of the information presented in the NarxCare application should be used as the sole justification for providing or not providing medications.



51





53



- Ranges from 000 to 999
- Relational summary score obtained from PDMP data
 - Evaluates 10 different variables

54

- [illegible]

Narx Scores Overview



- Narx Scores are calculated for narcotics, sedatives, and stimulants
- Each score consists of three digits ranging from 000-999
- Distribution of scores will vary by state; generally, less than 1% of scores will be >650, and over 78% < 200.



55

Narx Scores Overview



Scores correspond to the prevalence and timing of literature-based exposures in the PDMP data for that specific patient.

- The number of controlled substance prescribers
- The number of pharmacies visited where controlled substance prescriptions were filled
- The total dosage of dispensations (opioids and sedatives only); the number of days supply for the dispensations (stimulants only)
- The number of overlapping days for each drug type



56

Narx Scores Overview

- Narx Scores were designed such that:
 - Patients exposed to small amounts of controlled substances with limited provider and pharmacy usage will have **lower scores (i.e., scores below 199)**
 - Patients who are exposed to large amounts of controlled substances in accordance with recommended guidelines (single provider, single pharmacy, etc.) will have **mid-range scores (i.e., scores between 200 to 500)**
 - Patients who are exposed to large amounts of controlled substances while using many providers and pharmacies, and with frequently overlapping dispensations, will have **higher scores (i.e., scores above 500)**



57



Narx Scores Overview



58



Electronic Health Record (EHR) Integration

https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/pdmp/ehr_integration.html



59



EHR Integration

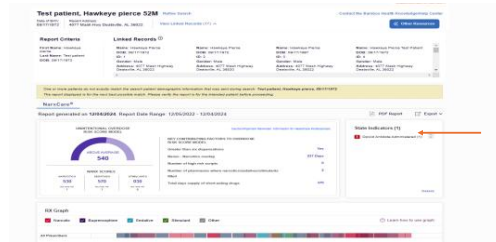
- Searches include Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, and others as requested by the entity. Must access through Aware for other states. Hopefully, Tennessee will be added soon.
- The other state's PDMP must approve each entity for data sharing via EHR access. Let PDMP staff know if GA, MS, FL, and/or LA have not approved EHR request.

60



61

New Feature: State Indicator





62

New Feature: State Indicator

- Notification: Patient was administered an opioid overdose reversal agent (naloxone or nalmeferne) by EMS on [date].
- Disclaimer: Does not necessarily indicate an overdose occurred.
- Is not used in overdose risk score calculation.



63

PDMP Continuing Education Opportunities

2026 Substance Misuse Summit

Dates & Locations

- August 28, 2026 — Mobile, AL at The Grounds
- August 29, 2026 — Huntsville, AL at Jackson Center

*The same programming will be offered at both locations.

Program Details

- Check-in begins: 8:30 AM
- All-day program
- This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Featured Speakers

- Jon Robertson
- Tom Farley
- Laura Slack
- And other national and regional speakers

Registration Links

Mobile — <https://summittracker.net/USAL/Publisher?page=pubOpen&eventID=124247>

Huntsville — <https://summittracker.net/USAL/Publisher?page=pubOpen&eventID=124248>

Questions

Please contact us at ceach@audu.edu for additional information or assistance.

<https://www.alahope.org/>



Welcome to the Alabama Health Professionals' Opioid and Pain Management Education, known as ALAHOPE. ALAHOPE is a product of the Prescribers and Dispensers Committee of the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council. This work has been a collaboration of the Jefferson County Department of Health, the Department of Health Services Administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Professions and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

Free continuing education credit is available for AIA/CES courses. Please see the individual course for additional information.

[illegible]

Harm Reduction and Prevention Efforts in Alabama



<https://www.jcdh.org/SitePages/Programs-Services/CommunityHealth/SubstanceUseandAddiction/NaloxoneFentanylTraining.aspx>

[illegible]

Connect Alabama Mobile App

[illegible]

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do if I find a prescription filled under my DEA that I did not write?

- The pharmacy that dispensed the prescription can correct information in the PDMP database.
- Contact the dispensing pharmacy and request that they pull the "hard copy" of the prescription to verify the information was entered correctly. If the prescription was entered incorrectly, the dispensing pharmacy should make those corrections and resubmit to the PDMP.
- If the prescription does show your information and you are still concerned that you did not write the prescription, request the dispensing pharmacy to send you a copy for further verification. If you believe there may be fraudulent activity associated with your DEA Number, contact your local police department and notify the Alabama Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medical Examiners.



67

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I change my password?

- Password has not expired-Login to your PDMP Account, click on Menu, and under User Profile, click on Password Reset. Enter your current password, then enter a new password.
- Password has expired or cannot be recalled. On the login screen, enter your email address and click on Reset Password. You will receive an email with a link to reset your password. If you do not receive the password reset link, please contact PDMP Support at 334-290-6707. It is recommended that you enter a mobile phone number on your PDMP account to receive a text message in case your employer has a firewall that prevents you from receiving the reset password links. **Mobile phone numbers are never shared and are only for this purpose.**
- Passwords must contain a minimum of eight (8) characters, one uppercase alphabet letter, one lowercase alphabet letter, one number character and one special symbol (example: +, \$, % !, etc.).



68

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I change my email address?

- Login to your PDMP account with old email address and password. When you are logged in click on Menu and under User Profile, select My Profile, scroll down to Contact information and enter the new email address twice and Save Changes.
- If you do not have access to the old email address, call PDMP staff at 334-290-6707 or email pdmp@adph.state.al.us.

How do I change my address in the PDMP?

- The address that shows on your PDMP reports comes from your DEA registration.
- If your address is incorrect on your PDMP reports, it must be changed with the DEA to correct the PDMP reports. Go to <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/> and select Make Changes to my DEA Registration.



69

Frequently Asked Questions

Why can't I find prescriptions that I know have been written and/or filled?

There could be several reasons for this:

- The dispensing pharmacy is not properly reporting its prescription data to us. If you think that is the situation, please let us know so we can contact the particular pharmacy.
- There may be a difference in the spelling of the patient's name, or the pharmacy may have entered it under a nickname. For example, a prescription could have been written for a patient with the first name of "Jennifer", but the pharmacy filled it as "Jenifer or Jenny." Enter the first few defining letters of the name up to the point where ambiguity may begin. For example, enter "Jen" as the patient's first name.
- If the prescription had been written and/or filled in the last week, it may take a couple of days to be reflected in the PDMP. All pharmacies with a controlled substance permit issued by the Alabama Board of Pharmacy are required to report dispensed prescriptions daily.

70

Contact Information

Alabama PDMP

Email address: pdmp@adph.state.al.us

Phone: 334-290-6707

Website: alabamapublichealth.gov/pdmp

Pharmacy Division Team:

Rachel Kiefer, PharmD, Pharmacy Director and PDMP Director

Brittany Stewart, CPhT, PDMP Administrator

Vicki Walker, CPhT, PDMP Pharmacy Compliance Coordinator

Anna Bishop, RN, Overdose Data to Action Program Manager

71