

Navigating the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
Alabama Department of Public Health

Financial Disclosures

Neither Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., nor Nancy Bishop, R.Ph., has financial relationships with a commercial interest to disclose.

alabamapublichealth.gov

Objectives

- Describe opioid prescribing trends since 2018.
- Explain accessing the PDMP and how it can be used as a clinical tool.
- Explain specific features of the Alabama PDMP.

alabamapublichealth.gov

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

- Have existed in some form for over 100 years.
 - New York, 1918
 - California, 1939
- First electronic PDMP in Oklahoma, 1991.
- Most recent was Missouri, 2023.

alabamapublichealth.gov

The Basics of the Alabama PDMP

- Legislation creating the controlled substance database in Alabama was signed into law in 2004.
- Began collecting prescription information in 2006.
- Database includes Schedules II, III, IV, and V, per the Alabama Controlled Substance List
 - Not Cannabis
- There are substances scheduled in Alabama but not federally: gabapentin, all products containing butalbital, codeine cough syrups, and others.

alabamapublichealth.gov

How Substances are Scheduled in Alabama

- At the federal level, by DEA.
- Within Alabama, by the State Committee of Public Health.
- Within Alabama, by statute enacted by the Legislature.
- Within Alabama, at the request of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences.

alabamapublichealth.gov

The Basics of the Alabama PDMP (continued)

- Pharmacies and dispensing prescribers are required to submit dispensations within 24 hours of dispensing (daily on business days).
- Alabama data shares with 37 states (all surrounding states), the District of Columbia, military services, and Puerto Rico.
- Contains 5 years plus current year of prescription information.
- Most common error is incorrect Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number entered by pharmacies, such as DEA of another prescriber or a fake DEA number.

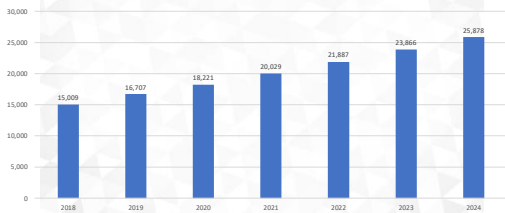
alabamapublichealth.gov

Access to Alabama's PDMP

- Prescribers and prescribing boards.
 - Physicians
 - Dentists
 - Optometrists
 - Podiatrists
 - NOT veterinarians
- Pharmacists and pharmacy boards.
- Medical examiners and coroners.
- Law enforcement agencies.
- Alabama Medicaid.
- Certain research requests.

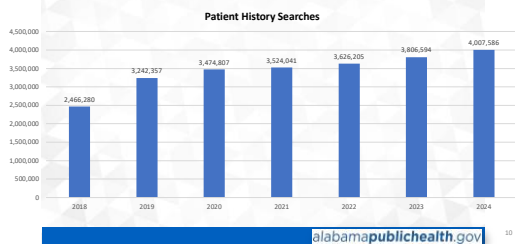
alabamapublichealth.gov

Number of AL BME Licensees with an Alabama PDMP Account: 2018 through 2024 (includes Delegates)

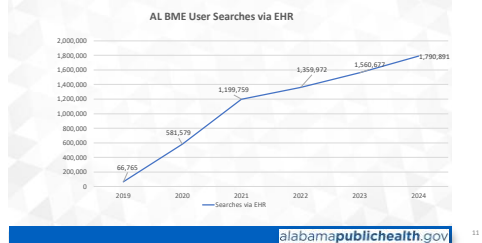


alabamapublichealth.gov

Number of Patient History Searches by AL BME Licensees 2018 through 2024 (includes Delegates)



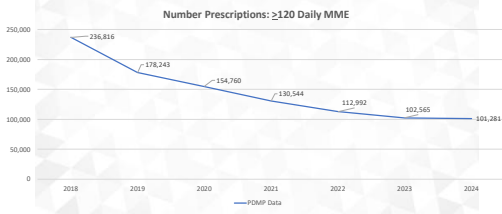
Number of Searches by AL BME licensees via Electronic Health Record (EHR)



Opioids: Number of Prescriptions, Quantity, and Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) 2018 through 2024



Number of Prescriptions: 120 or Greater Daily Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME)



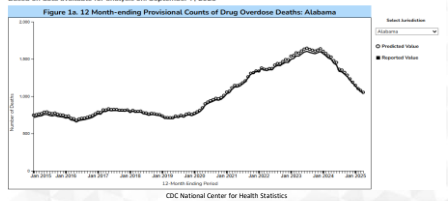
alabamapublichealth.gov

13

Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts

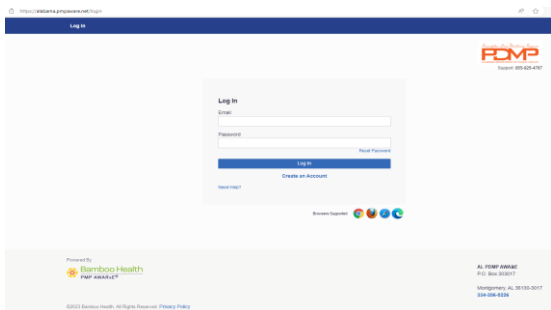
12 Month-ending Provisional Number and Percent Change of Drug Overdose Deaths

Based on data available for analysis on: September 7, 2025



alabamapublichealth.gov

14



alabamapublichealth.gov

15

Alabama PDMP

Website: alabama.pmpaware.net

- Log in to existing account.
- Create an account.
 - Email address will be the account ID and can be personal email address or one associated with employer.
 - Requires email verification.
- Reset password.
 - Two methods:
 - Email with link will be sent to address affiliated with account.
 - Code sent to mobile number if one is listed in the user's profile.
 - System requires password reset every 90 days.

alabamapublichealth.gov

16

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)
- The reports generated from the controlled substances database contain confidential information, including patient identifiers, and are not public records. The information should not be provided to any other persons or entity.

alabamapublichealth.gov

17

Best Practices

- PDMP reports should not be placed in the patient's medical record (paper or electronic) or given to the patient.
- 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.
- Multiple state queries are limited to exact match on last name, first name, and date of birth (DOB).

alabamapublichealth.gov

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.

alabamapublichealth.gov

19

Program Features

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

alabamapublichealth.gov

20

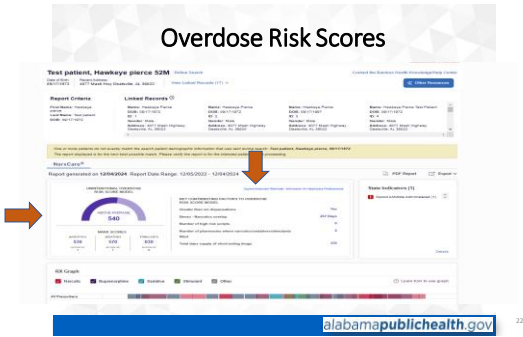
Overdose Risk Scores

- Scores range from 000-999.
- Overall Unintentional Overdose Risk Score.
- Scores for three different drug types:
 - Narcotics.
 - Sedatives.
 - Stimulants.
- Calculation based on the number of:
 - Providers.
 - Pharmacies.
 - MME.
 - Overlapping prescriptions.
 - Other parameters.
- Last number is the number of active prescriptions for that drug type.

alabamapublichealth.gov

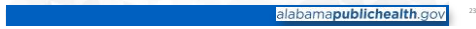
21

Overdose Risk Scores

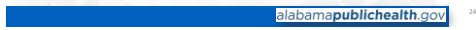
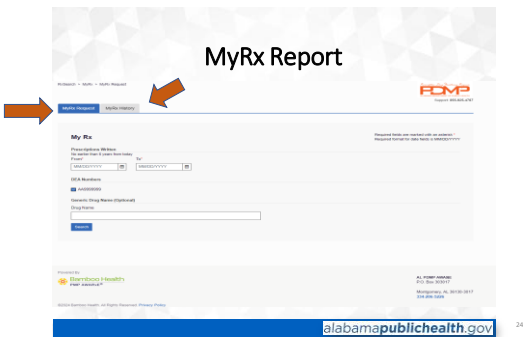


MyRx Report

- DEA numbers displayed include the user's DEA number(s) and the collaborating mid-level prescriber's DEA number.
- Shows all prescriptions dispensed under the user's DEA number(s).
- Feature that allows physicians to monitor collaborating mid-level prescribers.
- Located under RxSearch (Click on Menu, then MyRx).
- MyRx History: MyRx Reports requested by user.



MyRx Report

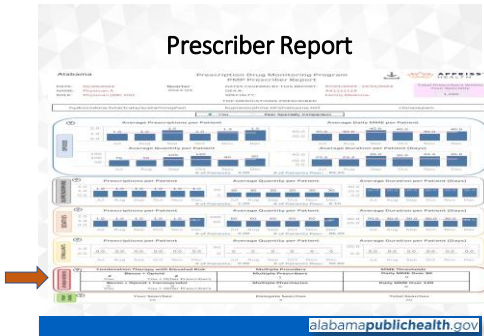


Prescriber Reports

- 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). No one except the user has access to his/her Prescriber Report. PDMP staff will access the report only upon the prescriber's request when clarification is needed.
- Reports are now interactive with features that allow the prescriber to drill down to see specific patient information.

alabamapublichealth.gov

Prescriber Report



alabamapublichealth.gov

EHR Integration

- PDMP integration is available for most EHRs and pharmacy management software. Check with your vendor or go to: https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/pdmp/ehr_integration.html
- Funding has been secured for Fiscal Year 2026 (through September 2026).
- Saves time and improves workflow.
- As of September 30, 2025, 1044 entities have integrated the PDMP into their EHR/pharmacy management software system, and 278 are pending.

alabamapublichealth.gov

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 states' 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.

alabamapublichealth.gov

New Feature

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

alabamapublichealth.gov

Overdose Risk Scores

The screenshot displays the 'Overdose Risk Scores' interface for a patient named 'Hawkeye pierce 52M'. At the top, it shows the patient's name and a 'Print Report' button. Below this, there are sections for 'Report Criteria', 'Linked Records', and 'Risk Score'. The 'Risk Score' section features a gauge with a needle pointing to 540, with a scale from 0 to 800. A red arrow points to the 'Risk Score' field. The interface also includes a 'Report generated on 10/16/2024' and a 'Report Date Range' of 10/16/2022 - 10/16/2024. At the bottom, there are tabs for 'Risk Score', 'Prescriptions', 'Medications', 'Allergies', and 'Other'.

alabamapublichealth.gov

Helpful Hints

- The patient's last name, first name, and DOB are required fields.
- May enter partial first and last name:
 - At least three letters.
 - Common names may generate multiple patients (example: Wil for Williams, Williamson, etc.).
- May enter a DOB range. Helps find patients who may have been entered with a different DOB but, again, be careful with common names.
- Hyphenated names can be tricky. Using the Partial Name feature may be helpful.
- Liquid quantities are measured per ml which can make quantities look high.

alabamapublichealth.gov

31

More Helpful Hints

- Let PDMP staff know if two patients are consolidated in error.
- Multiple state searches via Aware: **Matches only same first and last name and DOB** so common names may include more than one patient. Important to discuss with patient before making assumptions.
- Password resets: Sometimes fire walls block PDMP emails. There is an option to reset your password via text when a cell number is listed in your PDMP profile.
- Mid-level prescribers: Inform PDMP staff when new collaborating practice agreement is approved by AL BME. Mid-level prescribers must have an active QACSC to qualify for PDMP access as NP or PA.

alabamapublichealth.gov

32

PDMP Continuing Education Opportunities

- Online PDMP townhall available at <https://aub.ethosce.com/>.
 - No cost
 - 2 hours CE
- Coming in 2026: Two regional substance misuse summits.
 - Mobile
 - Huntsville

alabamapublichealth.gov

33

AlaHOPE Curriculum

- Partnership with JCDH, Department of Health Services Administration at UAB School of Health Professions, and ALBME.
- Funded by CDC Overdose Data to Action grant and goal of Prescriber/Dispenser Committee of Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council.
- "Alabama Health Professionals' Opioid and Pain Management Education" = AlaHOPE.
 - <https://aub.ethosce.com/alahope/group/alahope>
 - Multi-disciplinary opioid and pain management curriculum for AL Health Professional Schools and current health professionals.
 - Continuing education credit.
 - No cost.



alabamapublichealth.gov

Connect Alabama App: Information and Resources Locator



alabamapublichealth.gov

LEARN HOW TO REVERSE AN OVERDOSE WITH FREE NALOXONE

HOW do I get my FREE Kit and FREE Training?

- Go to alab.org/naloxone or scan the QR code below.
- Register online. Watch a quick video on naloxone and how to use it.
- Pick one of the options to get your free naloxone kit.
 - Have kit mailed to you for free anywhere in Alabama.
 - Pick up kit at ACDH (1400 6th Ave South, Birmingham, AL).
 - Pick up kit at a participating pharmacy.

WHAT is an Opioid?

- A drug such as fentanyl, heroin, or prescription pain medication. Opioids can be very addictive.
- Are you or someone you know struggling with opioid use? Visit our Recovery Resources page to find help at alab.org/recovery.

WHAT is Naloxone?

- Naloxone is a prescription drug that reverses an opioid overdose.
- It is simple to use to get right and to use.
- Naloxone can be treated to use.

WHO can be treated to use Naloxone?

- Anyone worried that a community member or loved one is at risk for overdosing on an opioid.
- Anyone who works with populations at risk for overdosing on an opioid.

Call these numbers?

- Call 911
- Call 800-488-9999 or email naloxone@alab.org

Formaldehyde (preservative) and Paraben

©2020 AlABMA. All Rights Reserved. Alabama Department of Public Health. All Rights Reserved.

alabamapublichealth.gov

Contact Information

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

Pharmacy Division Team:

Rachel Kiefer, Pharm D., Acting Pharmacy Director and Acting PDMP Director
Anna Bishop, BSN, RN, OD2A Prevention Manager
Brittany Stewart, CPhT, PDMP Administrator
Vicki Walker, CPhT, PDMP Compliance Program Administrator
Lacey Peacock, CPhT, 340B Program Coordinator and Naloxone Distribution

alabamapublichealth.gov
