


# PDMP PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HIGHLIGHTS

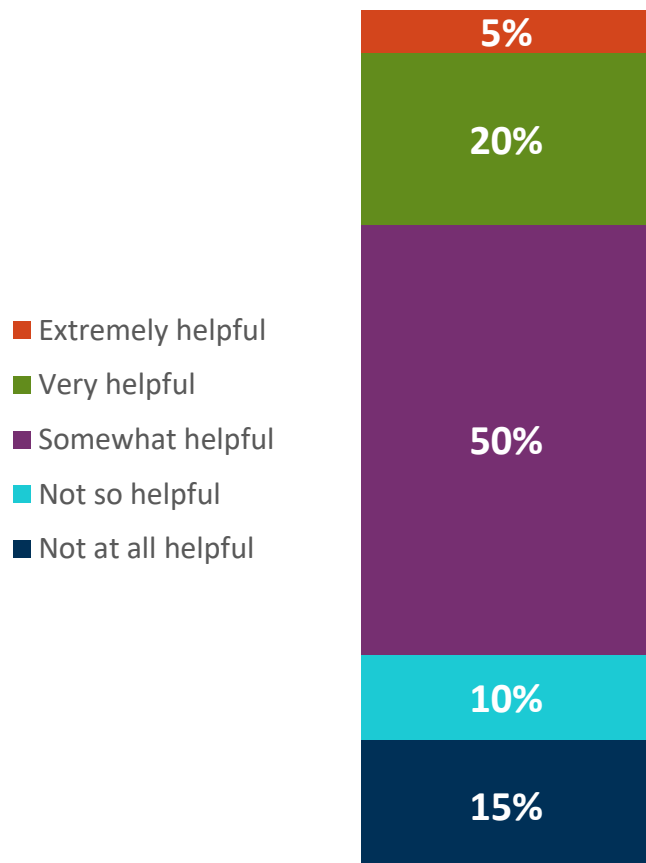
The **2023 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Awareness Feedback** survey was distributed to prescribers in Alaska to gauge their experience with the PDMP. This fact sheet shows the results of this survey for the **41** prescribing physician assistants (PA) who responded to the survey. The majority (87%) of PAs have been using the PDMP for at least 3-4 years.

Please see main report for details.



**83%**  
*of PAs prescribe controlled substances at least monthly.*

## How helpful is your licensing board regarding PDMP registration?



*Just under half of responding PAs indicated they have not attempted to contact their board. Of PAs who did, **75%** found their board at least somewhat helpful.*

Note: Percents do not include respondents who said they had not contacted their board.

## When do PAs check the PDMP?

Every patient I am prescribing a controlled substance to

81%

Patients who request a specific controlled substance

61%

Patients with known substance misuse

46%

Patients with known behavioral health issues

22%

Other

22%

Patients who look suspicious

12%

Every patient, regardless of the prescription

7%

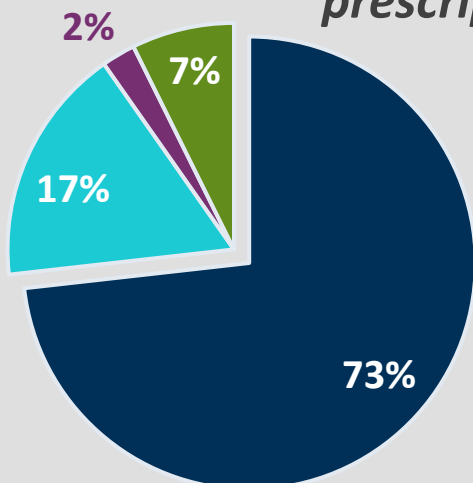
# 81%

*Check the PDMP for every patient they are prescribing a controlled substance to*

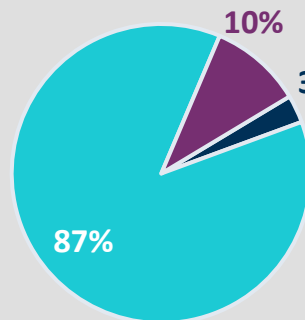
Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selection.

*Most PAs review patients in the PDMP **before** their appointment, and about half (54%) of those that they review beforehand are patients with a current prescription or who they anticipate will need a prescription.*

- Before appointment
- During appointment
- After appointment
- Other



- All patients, regardless of prescription status
- Only patients with current Rx or who I anticipate will need Rx
- Other



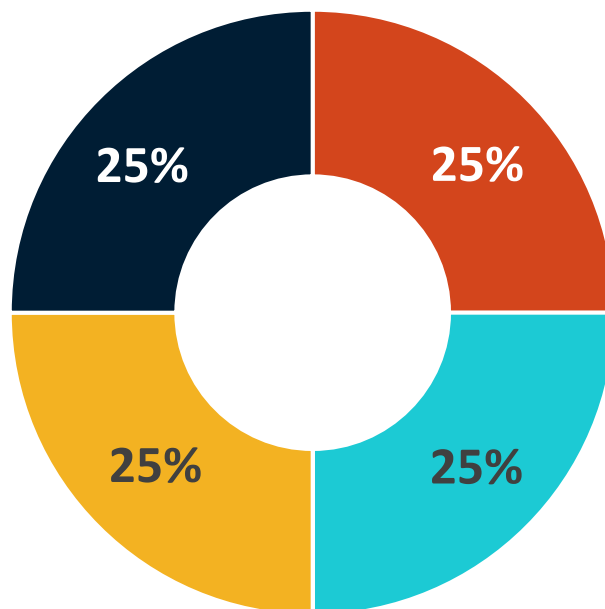
## Do PAs Dispense?



**10%** reported that they directly dispense controlled substances

**25%** of PAs zero report on days they do not directly dispense

*Of PA's indicating they directly dispense, there is variation on when they report the dispensation to the PDMP.*



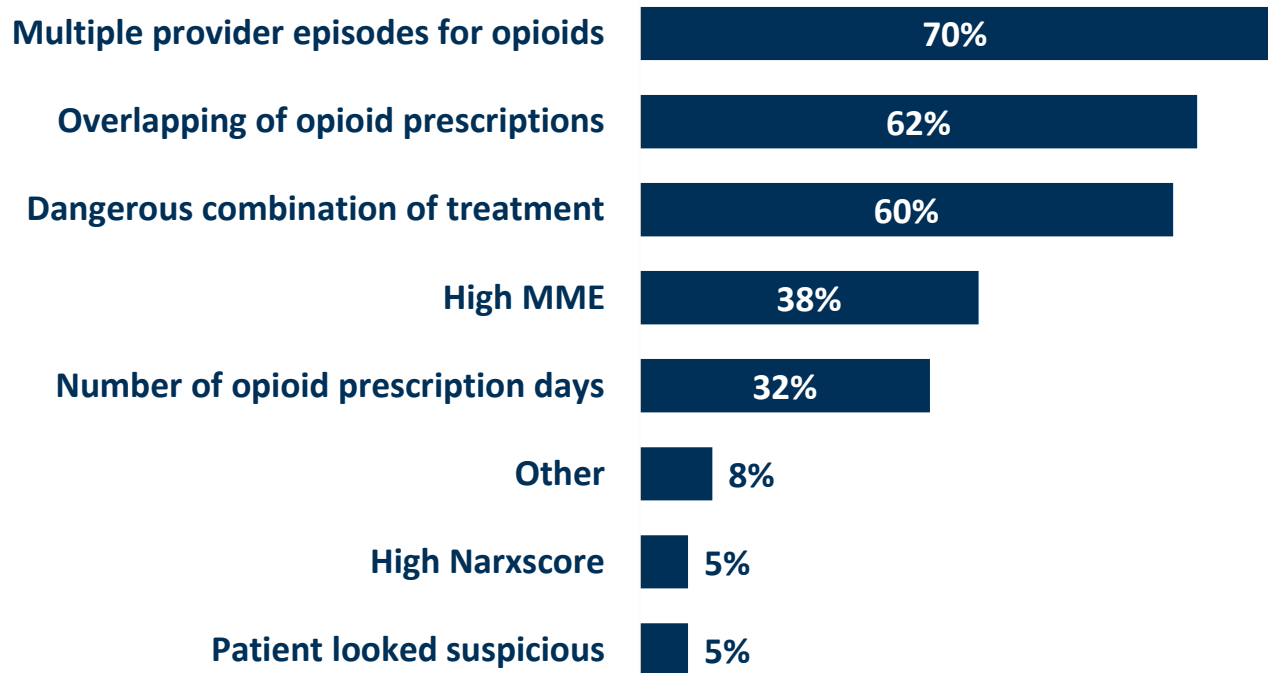
■ Immediately ■ Daily ■ Only when I directly dispense ■ Never

## Denial of prescriptions

**90%**

*of responding PAs reported denying a prescription because of information found in PDMP*

### Reasons for Denial



*Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selection.*



**8 out of 10 PAs found patient prescription history extremely or very valuable for informing decision making.**

## PDMP usage and barriers to usage

### Why PAs use PDMP

*It reduces prescription opioid misuse, abuse, and diversion*



*It is mandatory to do so*



*It is my moral and ethical obligation to do so*



*I do not want to be viewed by patients as an easy provider to obtain prescriptions*



*For self-preservation*



*I believe I am making a difference*



*I do not want to be perceived as a problematic prescriber by my peers*



*Other*



*Most PAs reported using the PDMP to reduce misuse, abuse, and diversion*

Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selection.

### Barriers to using PDMP

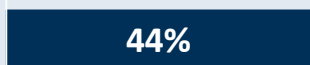
The PDMP is not integrated into the EMR system



Other



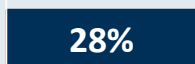
Office support staff not authorized to be delegates



Not enough time



Limitations with internet access at work



Lack of training on how to access the PDMP



**44%**  
*experienced barriers to using the PDMP*

*PAs who selected other reported the PDMP being slow and not always up to date.*

Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selection.

## Report card & enhancements

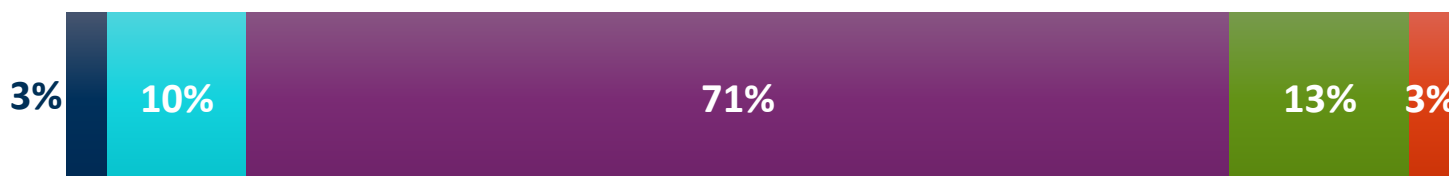


**82%** of PAs receive a prescriber report card.

### *I changed prescribing patterns as a result of report card*



### *I was surprised by how I compare to other prescribers in same specialty*



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

\*Note: percents are calculated out of respondents who indicated that they receive a report card.

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***Most PAs were not surprised by how they compared to other prescribers.***

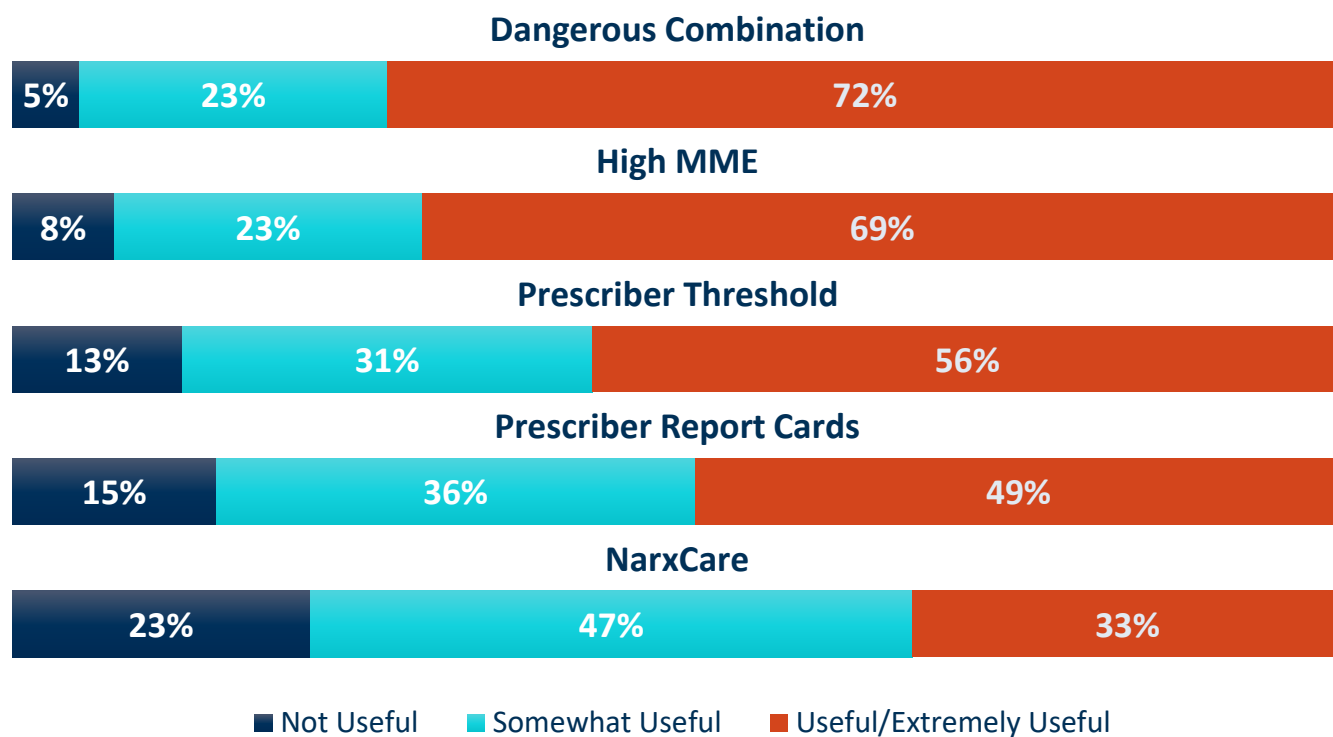
***None changed prescribing patterns based on report card.***

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**23%** of PAs have reviewed their compliance report in the PDMP

**59%** reported that they did not know they could review their compliance report

## Usefulness of PDMP Enhancements



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*The most useful enhancements are dangerous combination alerts and high MME alerts while NarxCare is considered the least useful.*

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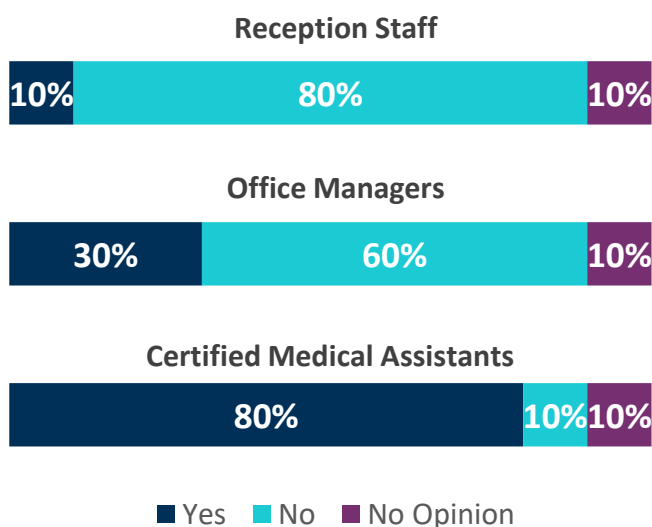
## Use of authorized delegates



**26%** of PAs have authorized delegates on their accounts.

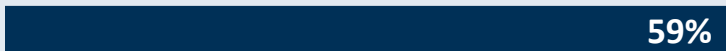
*Just over half (60%) of PAs with authorized delegates had 1-2 delegates on their account and found delegates to be very or extremely helpful (70%).*

### Who should be delegates?



*17% of PAs who don't have delegates are interested in learning about adding delegates.*

I prefer to check on my own



Other



I don't understand how to allow them



Too much responsibility to share



*Most PAs don't have delegates because they prefer to check on their own.*



## Impacts of COVID-19

Increased patient queries due to seeing more patients during pandemic



Reviewed less patients due to not seeing patients as frequently



■ Strongly Agree   ■ Agree   ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly Disagree

***Only 19% of PAs said their PDMP use was affected by COVID-19. Those indicating an impact largely reported not changing the frequency in which they conducted patient PDMP reviews.***

