

This report contains summary data from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Data is provided as a courtesy for the board and is intended to be used for informational purposes only.

News

- The results of the 2023 PDMP Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire have been posted to the website. The summary of Physician and Physician Assistant participation is attached with the Delegate participation report.
- [Statewide Gateway Integration](#) is ongoing.
- Auto-approval has been enabled!
- We have applied for grants with our partners at Department of Health for funding from the Centers and Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Awards will be announced this fall.

Registration

Portal

Physician Assistants

Number of licensed Physician Assistants: 753
Number of PDMP Physician Assistants registrations: 725
Number of Physician Assistants with DEA registrations: 732
Directly dispensing: 63

Physicians (includes Podiatrists and Medical Residents)

Number of licensed Physicians: 5,452
Number of PDMP Physicians registrations: 4,778
Number of Physicians with DEA registrations: 4,814
Directly dispensing: 137

AWARxE (PDMP)

Number registered with the PDMP: 5,126
Physician: 4,394
Physician Assistants: 655
Medical Resident with Prescriptive Authority: 49
Podiatrists: 28

Review

Federally Scheduled II – III controlled substances, over a three-day supply (emergency, surgical and oncology specialties are omitted). The system does not capture treatment codes and is therefore not able to account for prescription(s) not reviewed due to some of the exemptions in AS 17.30.200(k)(4)(A).

Physician Assistants

Q4 2022: 47%
Q2 2023: 35%

Physicians, Podiatrists, Medical Residents

Q4 2022: 38%
Q2 2023: 41%

Recommendations

- Promote increased reviewing. Mandatory review applies to non-refillable federally scheduled II – III controlled substances over a three-day supply (for further exemptions see AS 17.30.200(k)).
- Encourage the use of authorized delegates.
- Remind providers who are directly dispensing to report daily, including zero reports.
- Sign up for [Statewide Gateway Integration](#).

PDMP PHYSICIANS 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 **106** prescribing physicians who responded to the survey. The majority (94%) of physicians have been using the PDMP for at least 3-4 years.

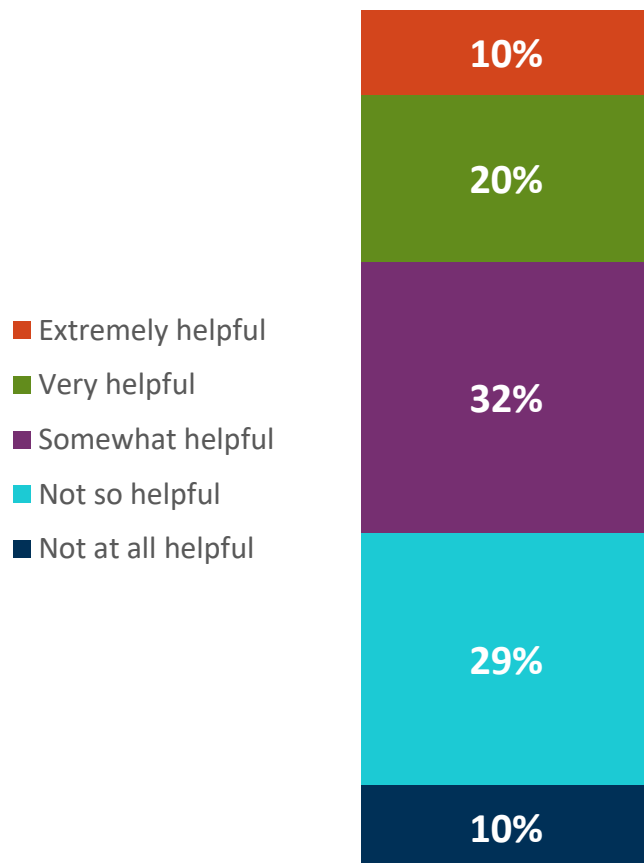


75%

of physicians prescribe controlled substances at least weekly

Please see main report for details.

How helpful is your licensing board regarding PDMP registration?



*Half of responding physicians indicated they have not attempted to contact their board. Of physicians who did, **62%** found their board at least somewhat helpful.*

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

When do physicians check the PDMP?

Every patient I am prescribing a controlled substance to



Patients who request a specific controlled substance



Patients with known substance misuse



Patients with known behavioral health issues



Other



Every patient, regardless of the prescription



Patients who look suspicious

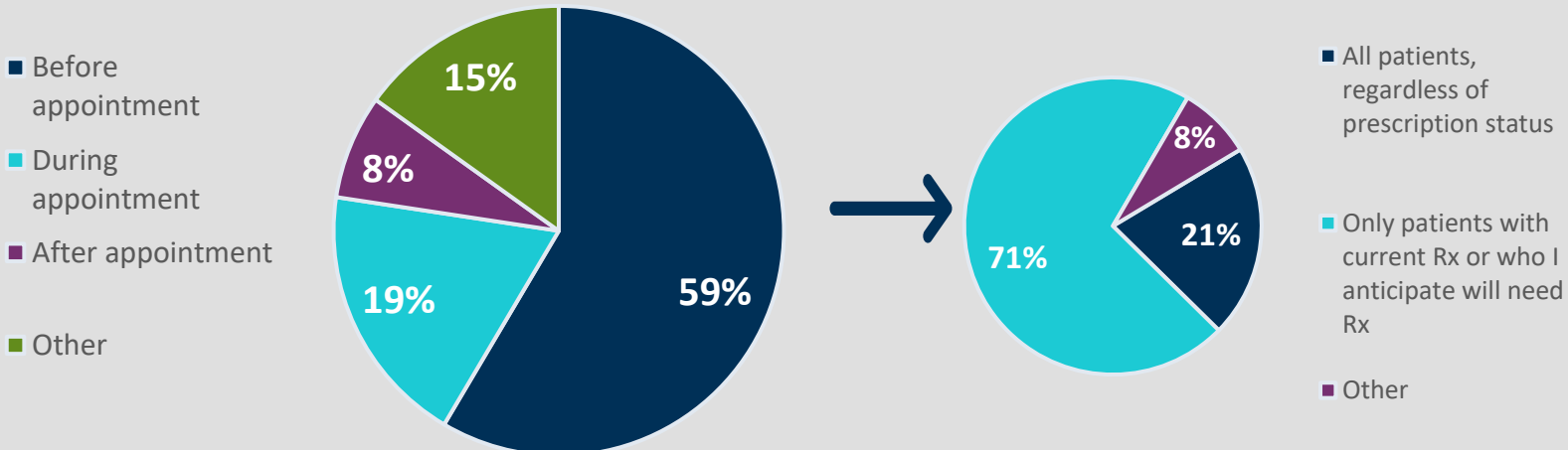


76%

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.

*Over half (59%) of physicians review patients in the PDMP **before** their appointment, and 70% of those that they review beforehand are patients with a current prescription or who they anticipate will need a prescription.*



Do physicians dispense?



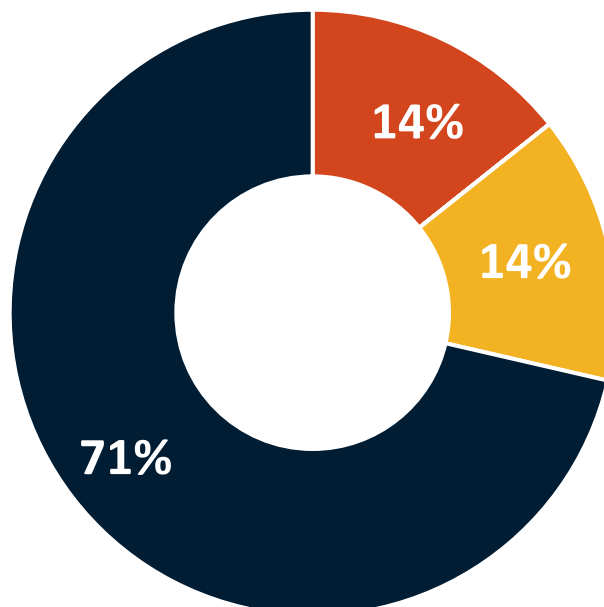
8%

reported that they directly dispense controlled substances

0%

No physicians zero report on days they do not directly dispense

Of physicians indicating they directly dispense most indicate they never report the dispensation to the PDMP.



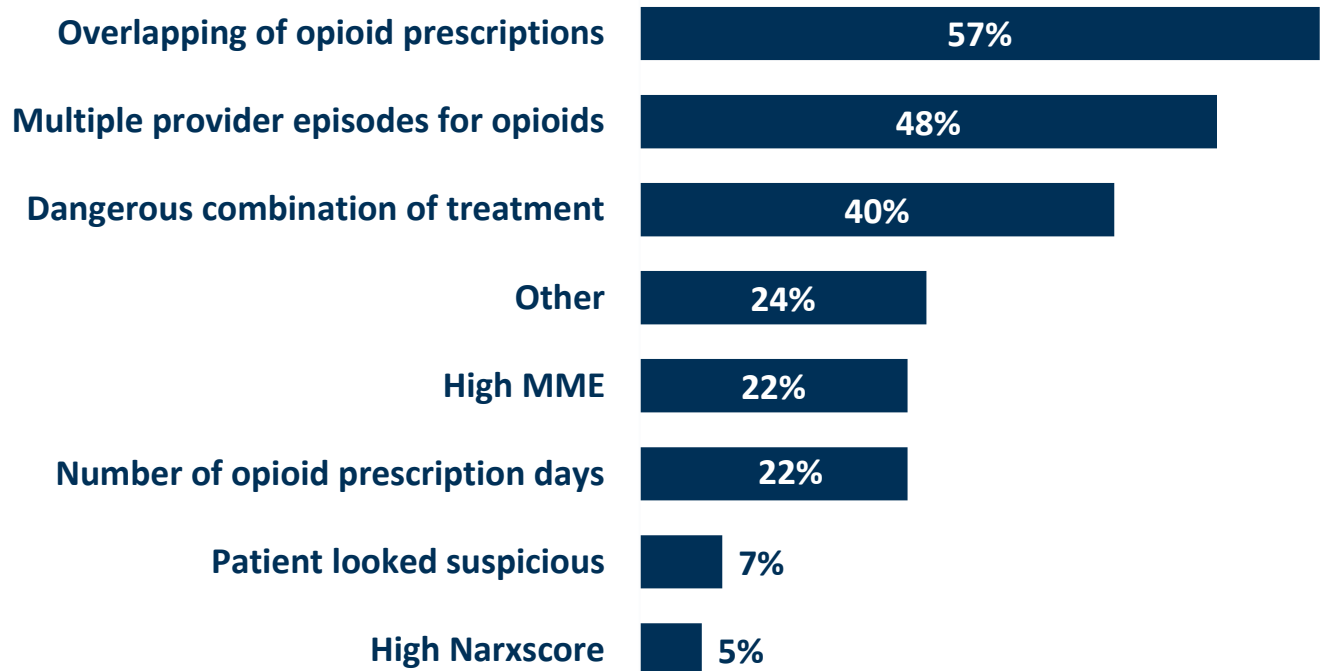
■ Immediately ■ Only when I directly dispense ■ Never

Denial of prescriptions

56%

of responding physicians 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.



6 out of 10 physicians found patient prescription history extremely or very valuable for informing decision making.

PDMP usage and barriers to usage

Why physicians 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



For self-preservation



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



I believe I am making a difference



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



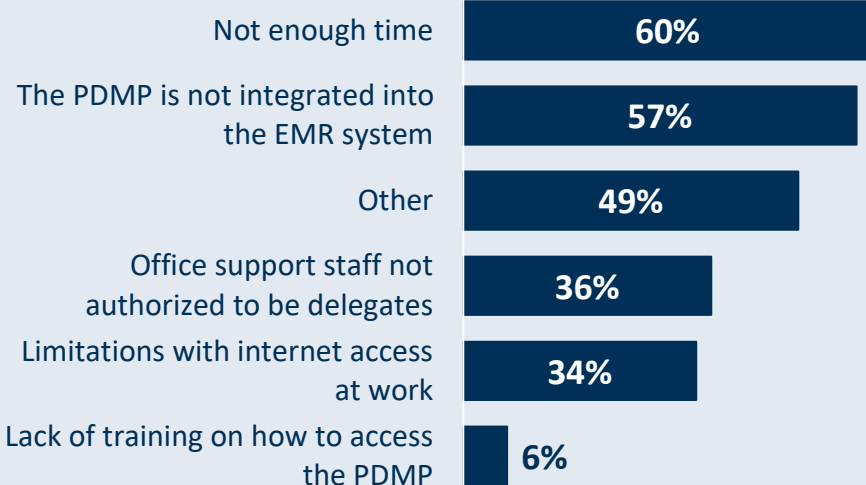
Other



Most physicians 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



47%
experienced barriers to using the PDMP

Physicians who selected other reported the PDMP being slow.

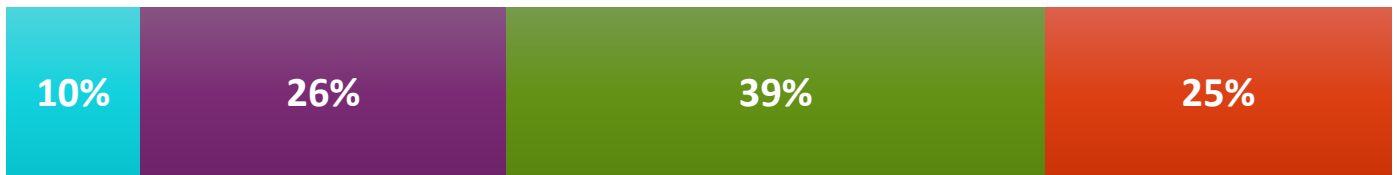
Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selection.

Report card & enhancements

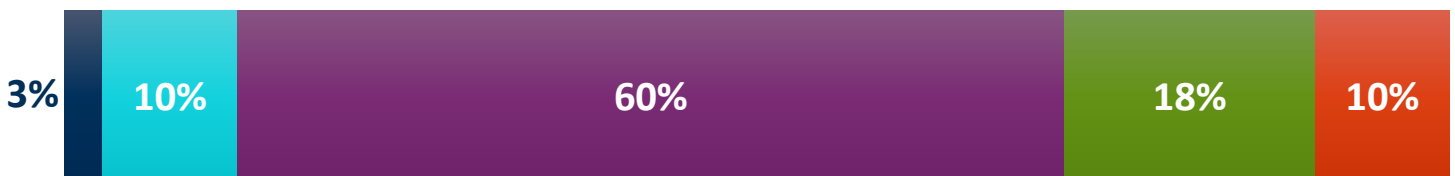


74% of physicians receive a prescriber report card.

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.

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

Few (10%) changed prescribing patterns based on report card.

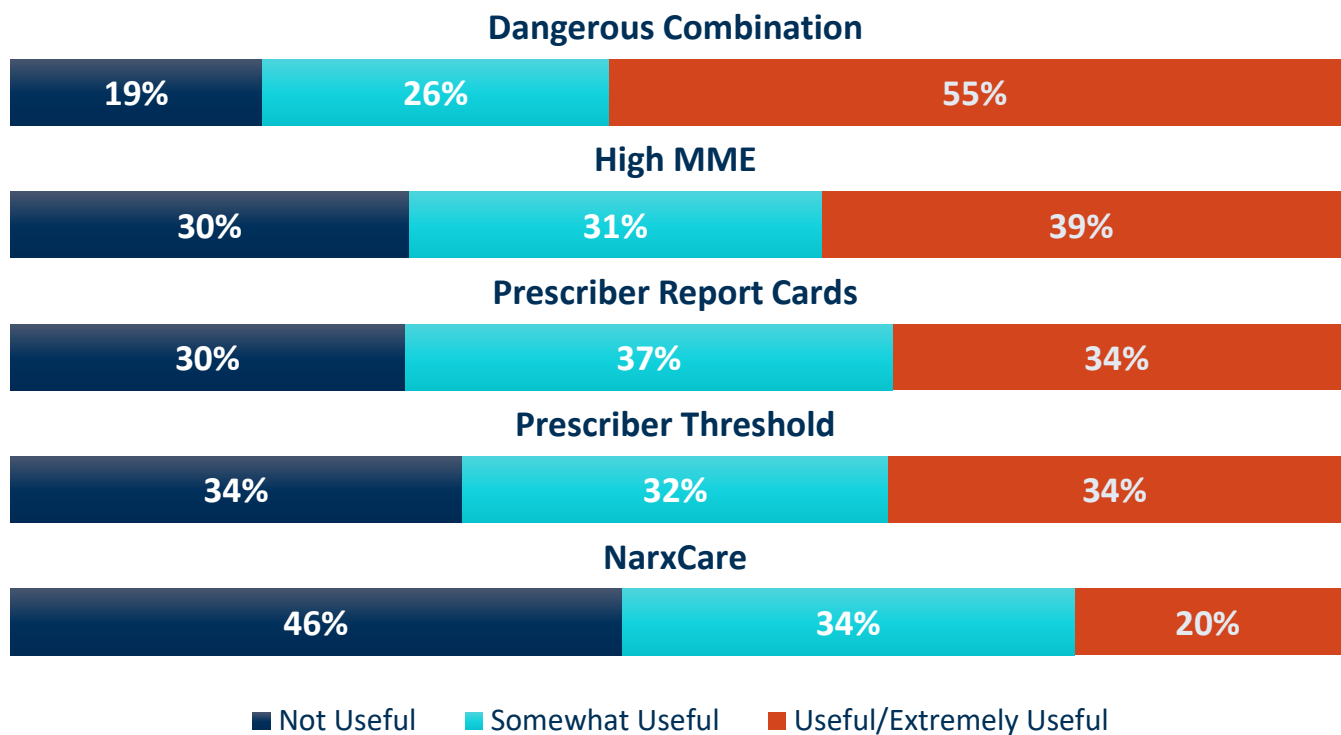
33%

of physicians have reviewed their compliance report in the PDMP

46%

reported that they did not know they could review their compliance report

Usefulness of PDMP Enhancements



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

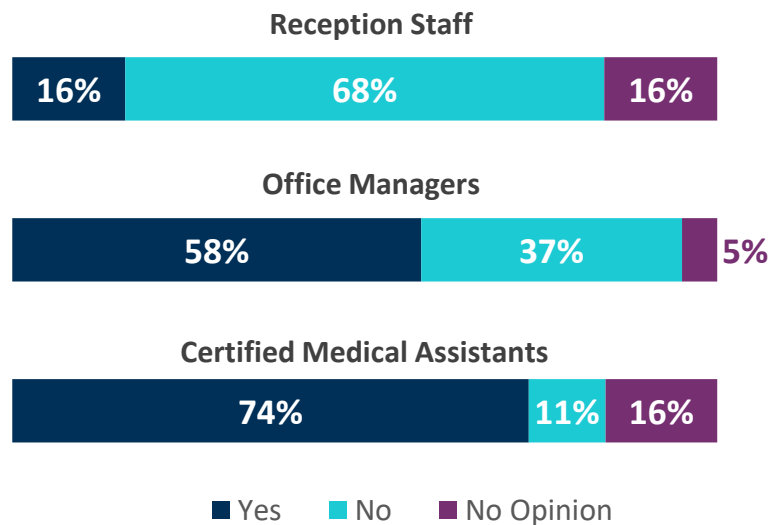
Use of authorized delegates



20% of physicians have authorized delegates on their accounts

Over half (63%) of physicians with authorized delegates had 1-2 delegates on their account and found delegates to be very or extremely helpful (58%).

Who should be delegates?



21% of physicians who don't have delegates are interested in learning about adding delegates.

I prefer to check on my own

44%

Other

41%

I don't understand how to allow them

8%

Too much responsibility to share

5%

Most physicians 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 physicians said their PDMP use was affected by COVID-19.


Over half of those indicating an impact reported reviewing less patients due to not seeing them as frequently.



PDMP PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HIGHLIGHTS

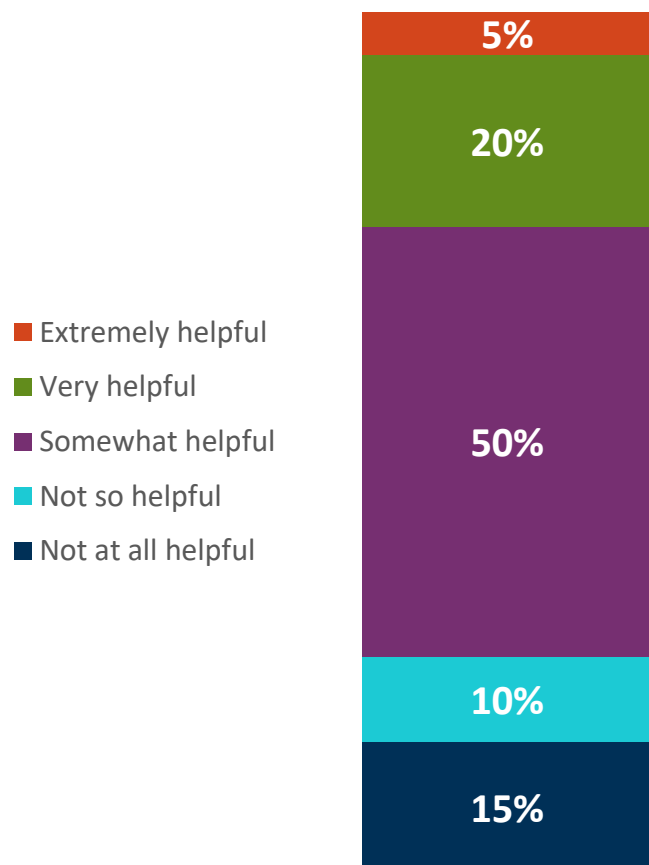
The **2023 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Awareness Feedback** survey was distributed to prescribers in Alaska to gauge their experience with the PDMP. This fact sheet shows the results of this survey for the **41** prescribing physician assistants (PA) who responded to the survey. The majority (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.

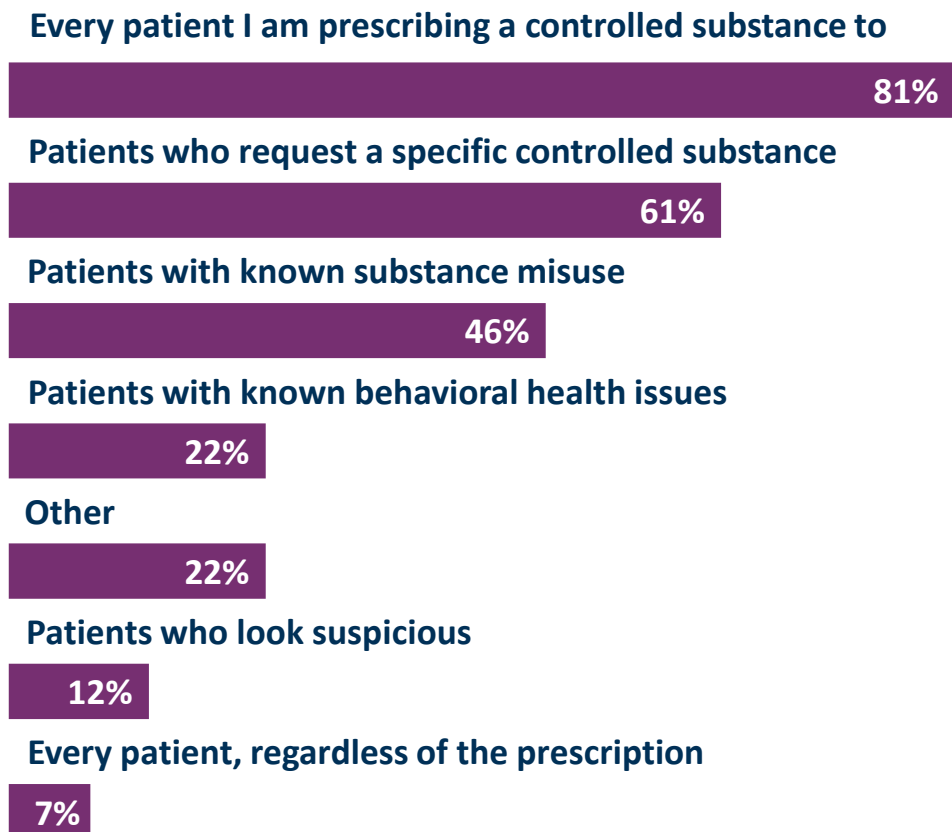
How helpful is your licensing board regarding PDMP registration?



*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?

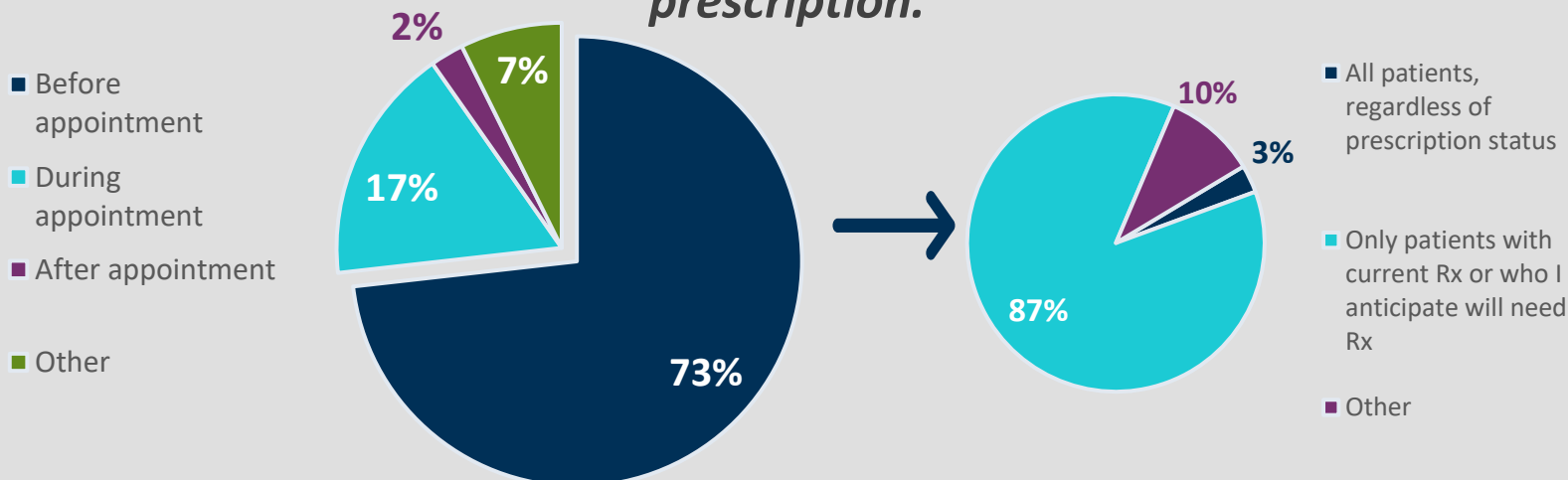


81%

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.*



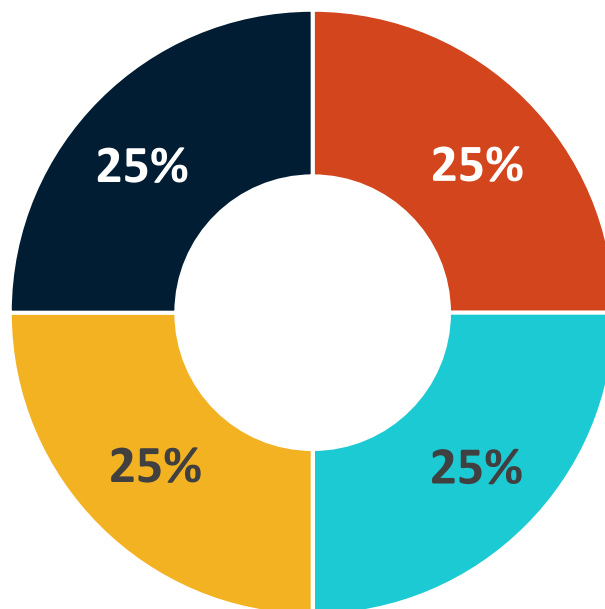
Do PAs Dispense?



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.



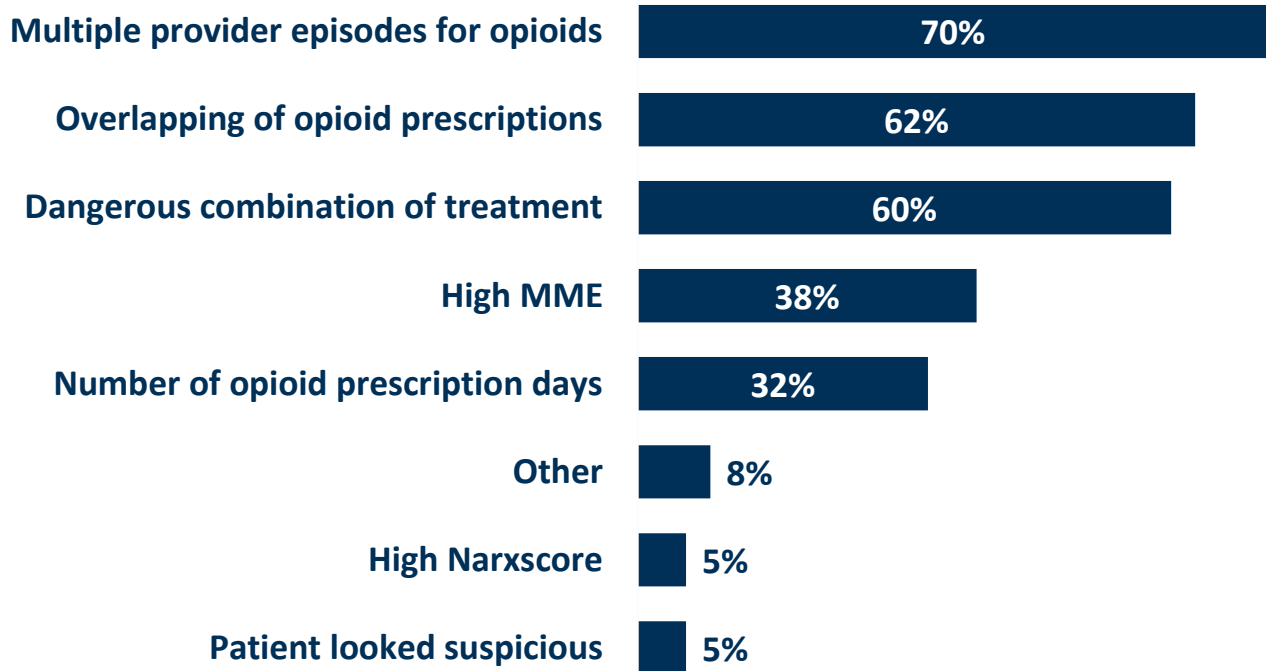
■ Immediately ■ Daily ■ Only when I directly dispense ■ Never

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

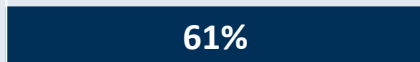
Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selection.

Barriers to using PDMP

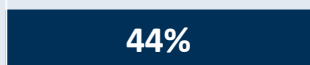
The PDMP is not integrated into the EMR system



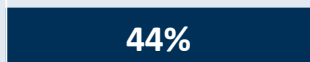
Other



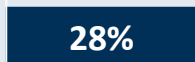
Office support staff not authorized to be delegates



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

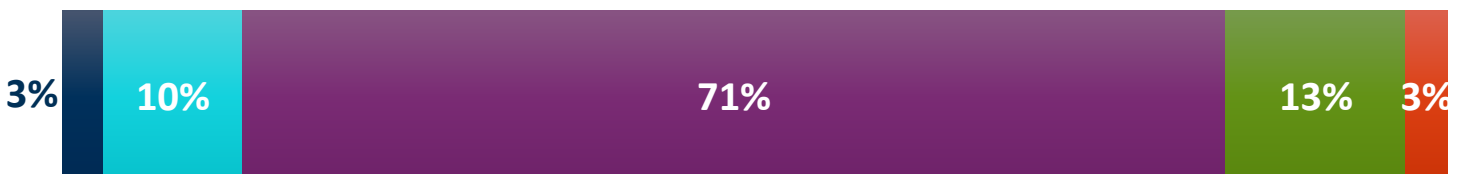


82% of PAs receive a prescriber report card.

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.

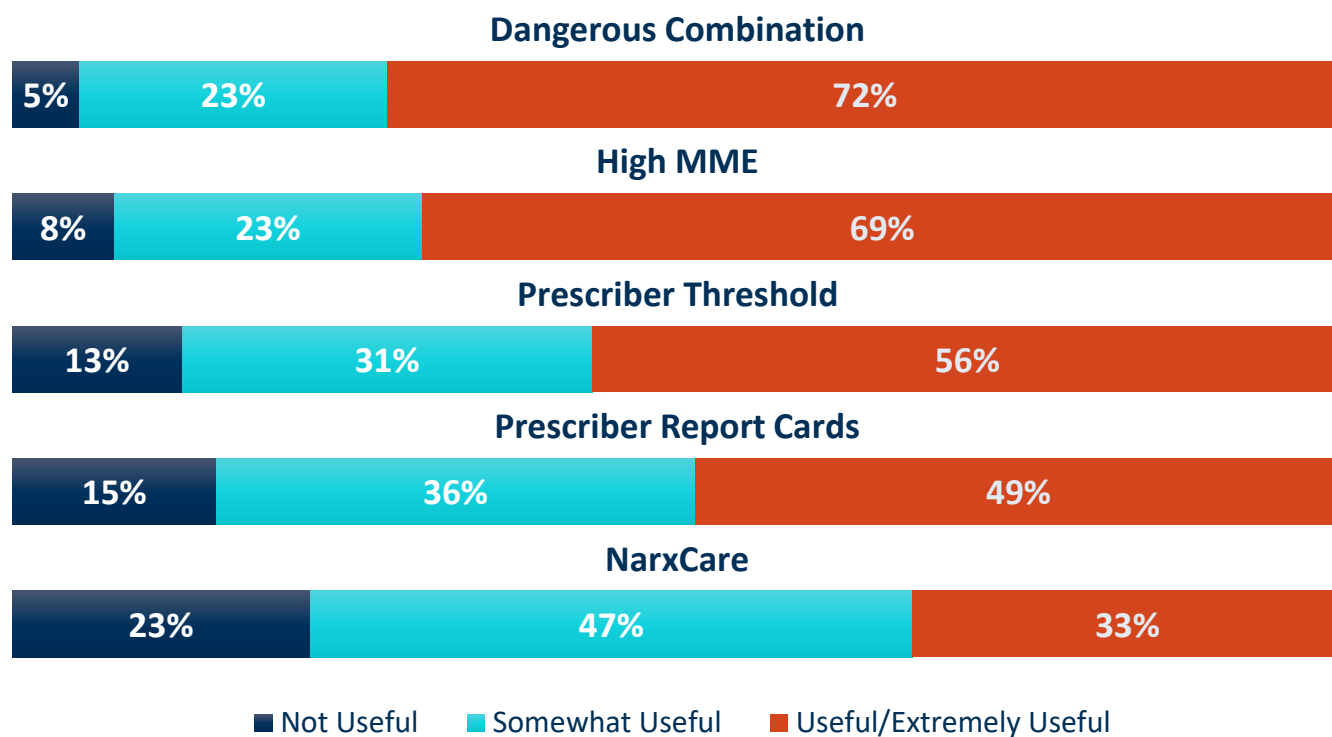
Most PAs were not surprised by how they compared to other prescribers.

None changed prescribing patterns based on report card.

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



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

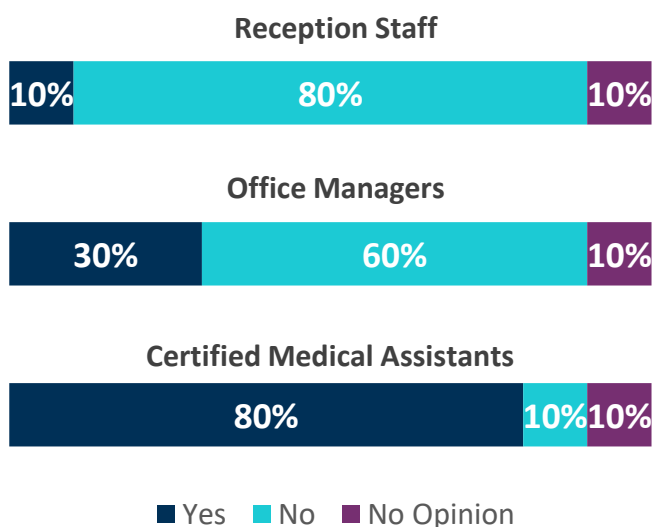
Use of authorized delegates



26% of PAs have authorized delegates on their accounts.

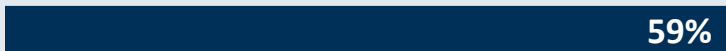
Just over half (60%) of PAs with authorized delegates had 1-2 delegates on their account and found delegates to be very or extremely helpful (70%).

Who should be delegates?

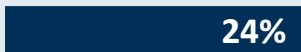


17% of PAs who don't have delegates are interested in learning about adding delegates.

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.



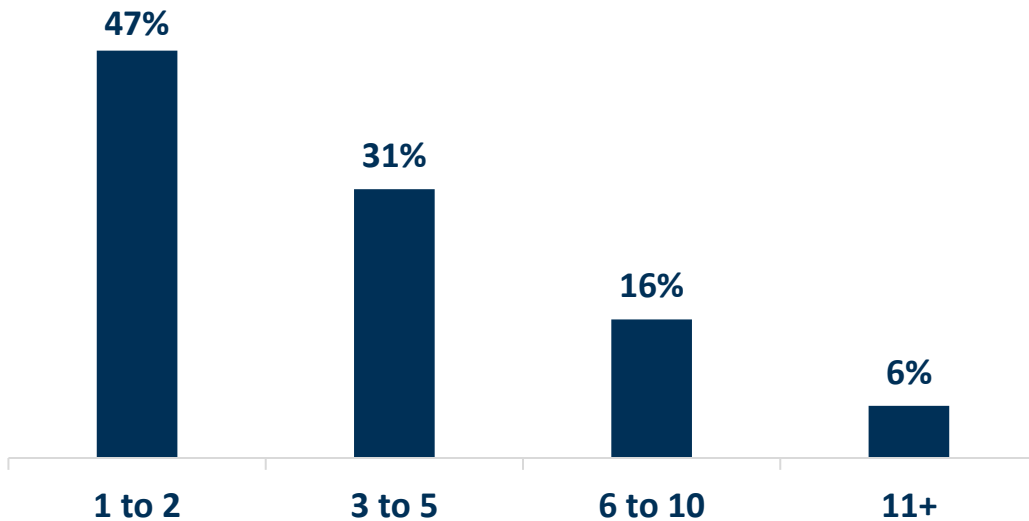
PDMP DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

The **2023 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Awareness Feedback survey** was distributed to users in Alaska to gauge their experience with the PDMP. This fact sheet shows the results of this survey for **38 delegates** who participated. Half of the delegates have used the PDMP for at least **3-4 years**.

Please see main report for details.

Delegate background

Number of PDMP users with whom delegates are registered



91%

of delegates work for a prescriber in a hospital or office.

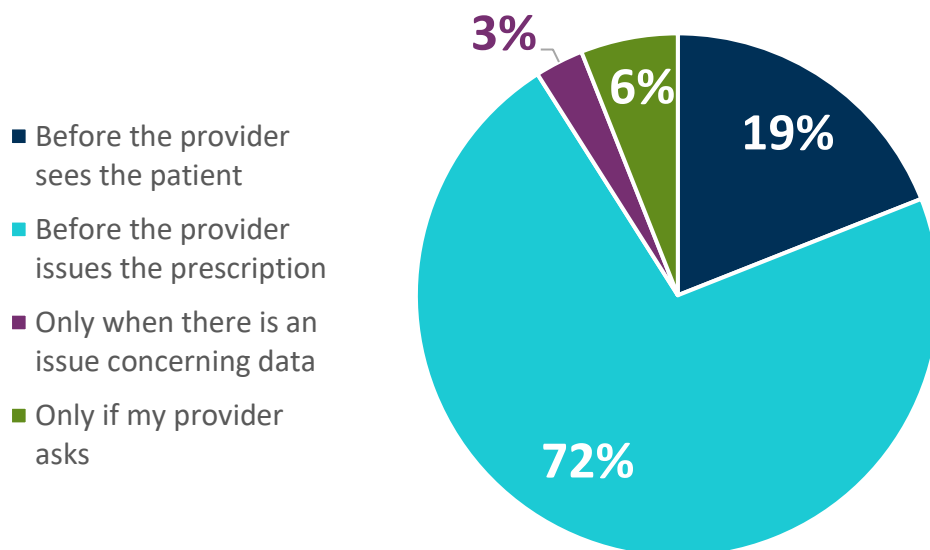
9%

of delegates work for a pharmacist.

DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

Sharing PDMP Information

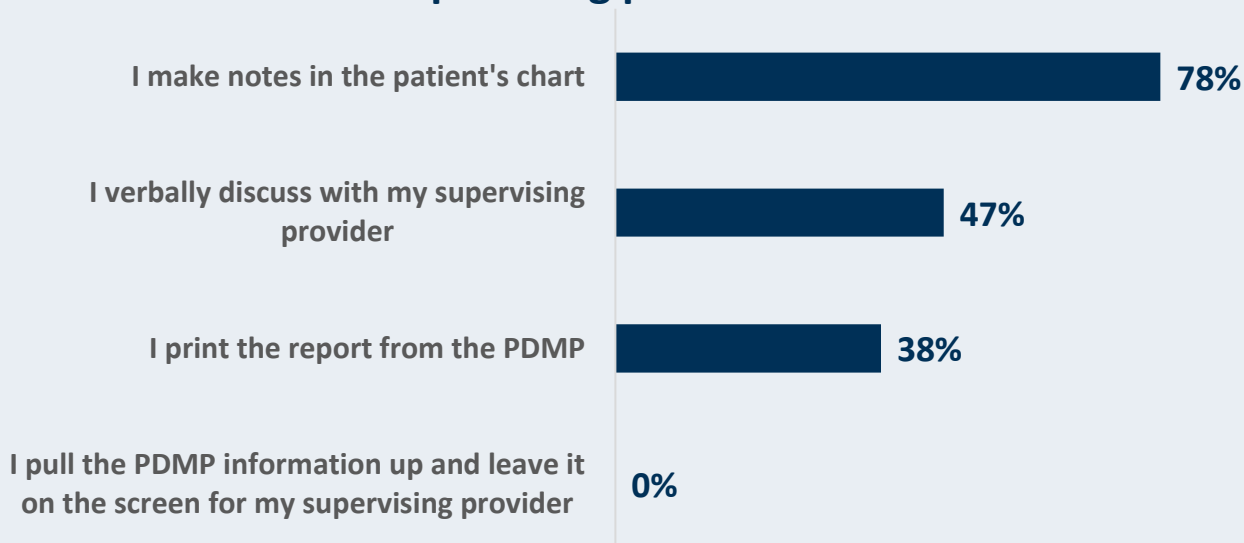
When delegates share PDMP information with their supervising provider



72% of delegates share information before the provider issues the prescription.

Nearly 4 out of 5 of delegates share PDMP info by making notes in the patient's chart

How delegates share PDMP information with the supervising provider



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

DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

Delegate integration into clinical practice

How delegates learn about the opportunity to become a delegate

From the facility where I am employed

69%

From my supervisor

16%

My own research

6%

From a co-worker

6%

Other

3%



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

How delegates perceive their role to be useful

Delegates feel their role is most useful for reviewing prescription history, improving office workflow, and saving time

To review patient prescription history

94%

Improving office workflow

49%

Reducing time constraints

39%

Quality review of providers prescribing practices

24%

Distributing workload

21%

To submit prescription data

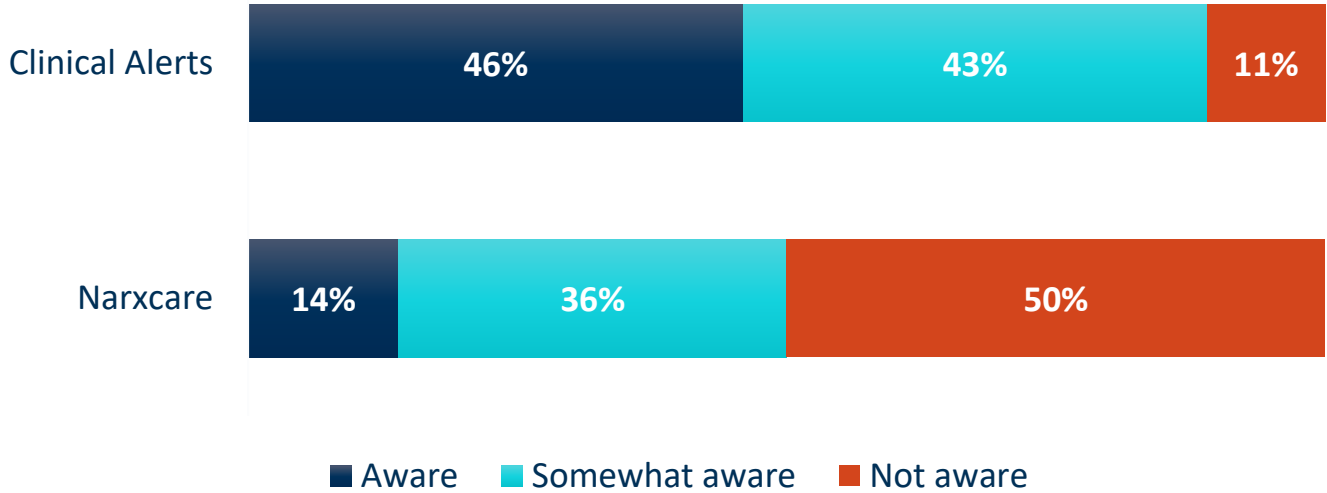
21%

Other

3%

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

Awareness of PDMP enhancements



Delegates were most aware of clinical alerts and least aware of NarxCare enhancements.

The most useful PDMP enhancements are dangerous combination alerts, while NarxCare is considered the least useful.

Usefulness of PDMP enhancements

