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

- We are currently advertising for a Project Assistant to work on a sustainable plan to monitoring reporting compliance.
- The Communications module was enabled on February 8, 2022. Specific user configurations were completed on February 22, 2022.
- We are currently data sharing with 17 states and the Military Health System.
- We conducted a delegate audit during the month of March. Of the 982 providers who had delegates, 719 did not reverify their delegates during the audit.
- The 2021 Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire results are posted on the pdmp website under the resources tab. Optometrists are included in the Physician factsheet. (Physician and Delegate user role factsheets are attached to this report).

Upcoming Activities

- The 2022 Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire will launch this summer. An announcement will be made through AWARxE and posted to users' dashboards.
- The division has issued two RFP's: one for Statewide Integration, and one for a PDMP Review and Assessment.

Registration

Portal

Number of licensed Optometrists: 222
Number of PDMP Optometrists registrations: 97
Number of Optometrists with DEA registrations: 72

AWARxE (PDMP)

Number registered with the PDMP: 92

Review

Federally scheduled II – III, over a three-day supply (some specialties omitted)
Q4 2021: NA
Q1 2022: NA

Delinquent Reporters

Providers who directly dispense are required to report daily. No Optometrists have reported they are directly dispensing as of the date of this report.

Recommendations

- Encourage increased reviewing, including the use of authorized delegates
- Issue periodic reminders to licensees on mandatory reviewing
- Provide guidance to licensees on prescribing practices related to the use of dangerous combinations
- Set daily MME in regulation
- Develop a disciplinary matrix to guide appropriate actions taken against licensees who do not comply with mandatory registration and use

PDMP PHYSICIAN HIGHLIGHTS*

The **2021 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Awareness Feedback survey** was distributed to prescribers in Alaska to gauge their experience with the PDMP. This pamphlet shows the results of this survey for optometrists, MDs, and podiatrists combined who prescribe controlled substances. **There were 247 respondents**. Please see main report for details.
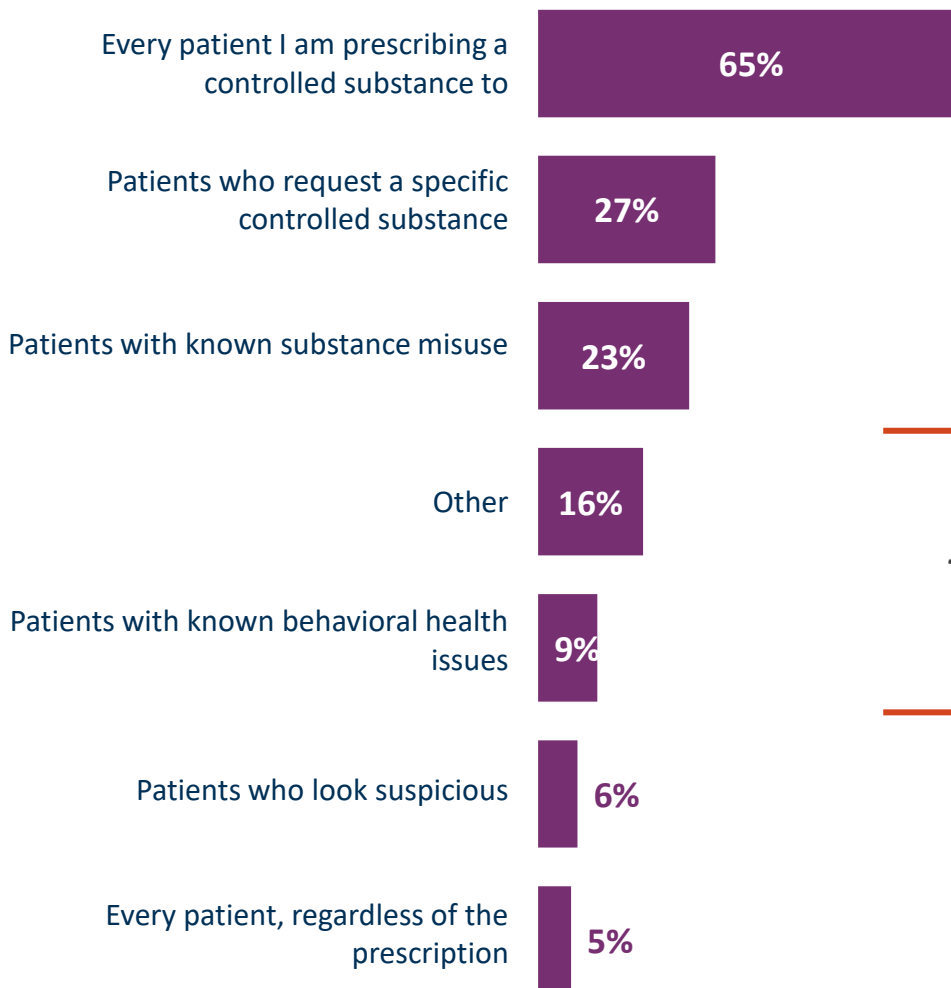
79%
prescribe controlled substances at least monthly.

How do Physicians decide when to check PDMP?

Every patient I am prescribing a controlled substance to	65%
Patients who request a specific controlled substance	27%
Patients with known substance misuse	23%
Other	16%
Patients with known behavioral health issues	9%
Patients who look suspicious	6%
Every patient, regardless of the prescription	5%

65% check the PDMP for every patient they prescribe a controlled substance to.

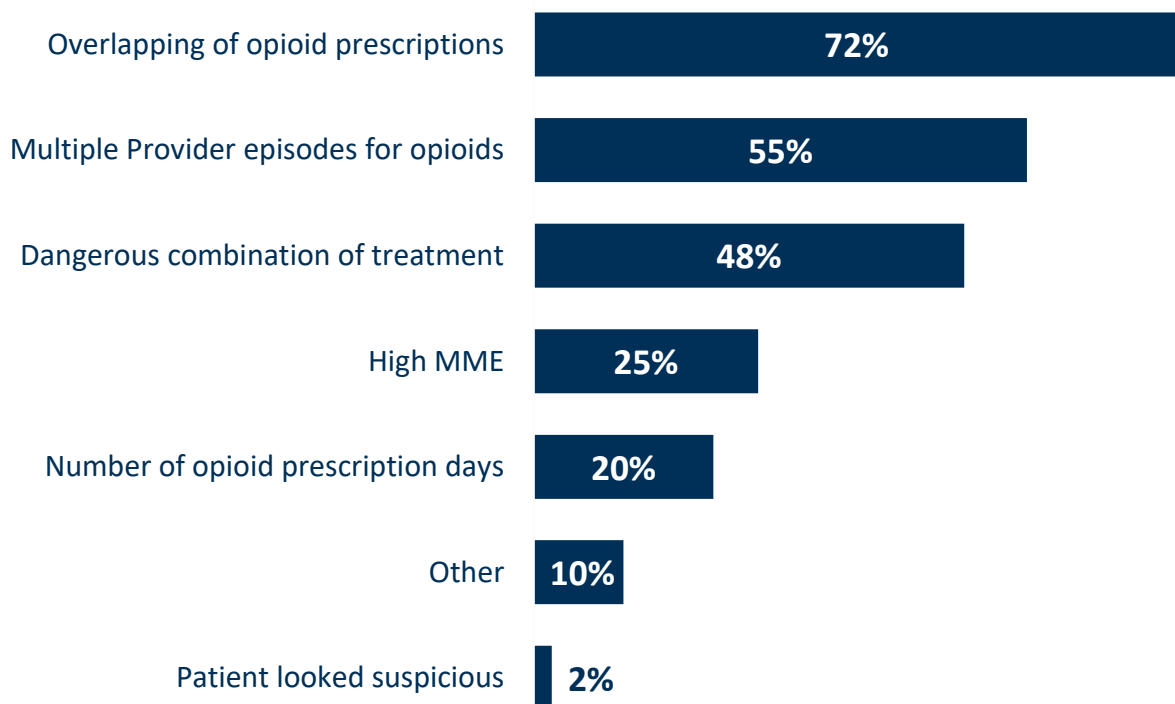*Note*: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selections.

* Includes Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), optometrists, and podiatrists.

Denial of prescriptions

58% denied a prescription because of information found in PDMP

Reasons for Denial

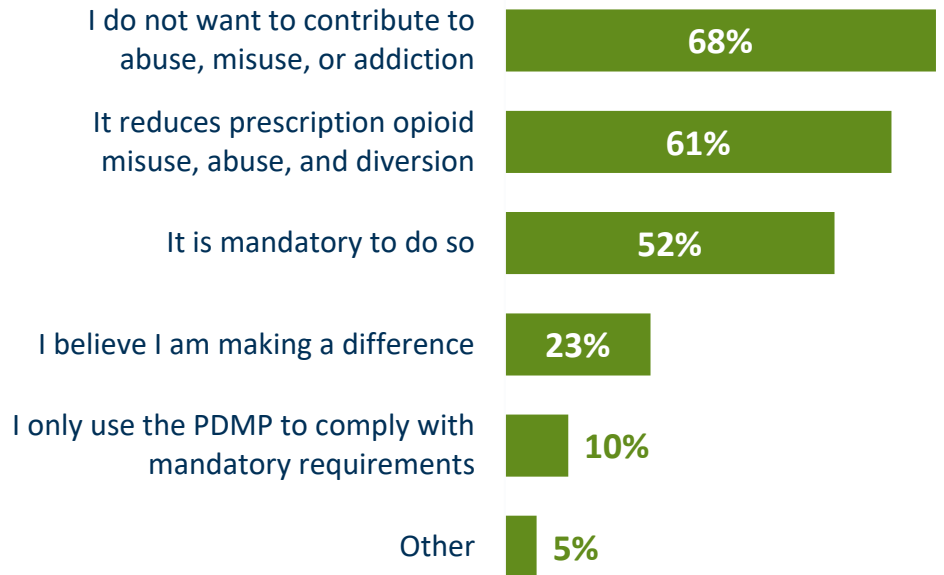| Reason	Percent
Overlapping of opioid prescriptions	72%
Multiple Provider episodes for opioids	55%
Dangerous combination of treatment	48%
High MME	25%
Number of opioid prescription days	20%
Other	10%
Patient looked suspicious	2%

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

62% of physicians found patient prescription history extremely or very valuable for informing decision making.
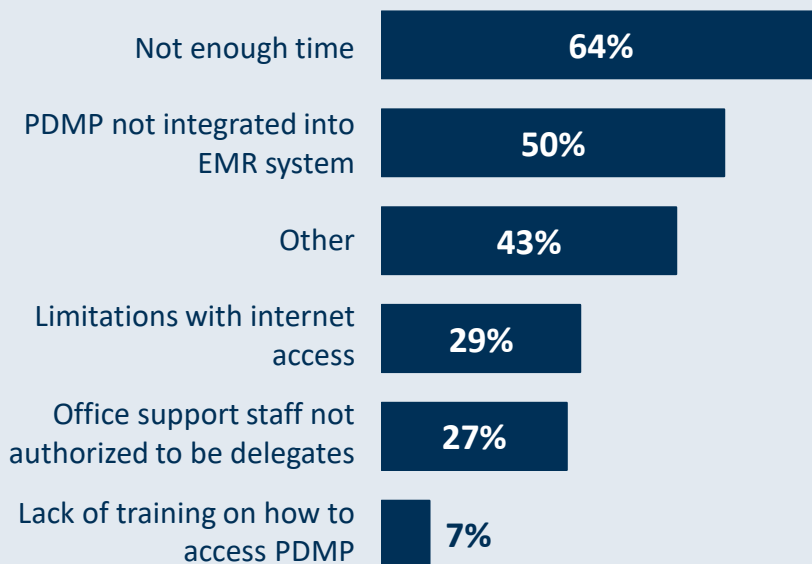
PDMP usage and barriers to usage

Most respondents reported using the PDMP to combat the opioid epidemic.

Why Physicians Use PDMP

I do not want to contribute to abuse, misuse, or addiction	68%
It reduces prescription opioid misuse, abuse, and diversion	61%
It is mandatory to do so	52%
I believe I am making a difference	23%
I only use the PDMP to comply with mandatory requirements	10%
Other	5%

Note: Graph shows the top 3 and bottom 3 responses for Physicians.

Barriers to using PDMP

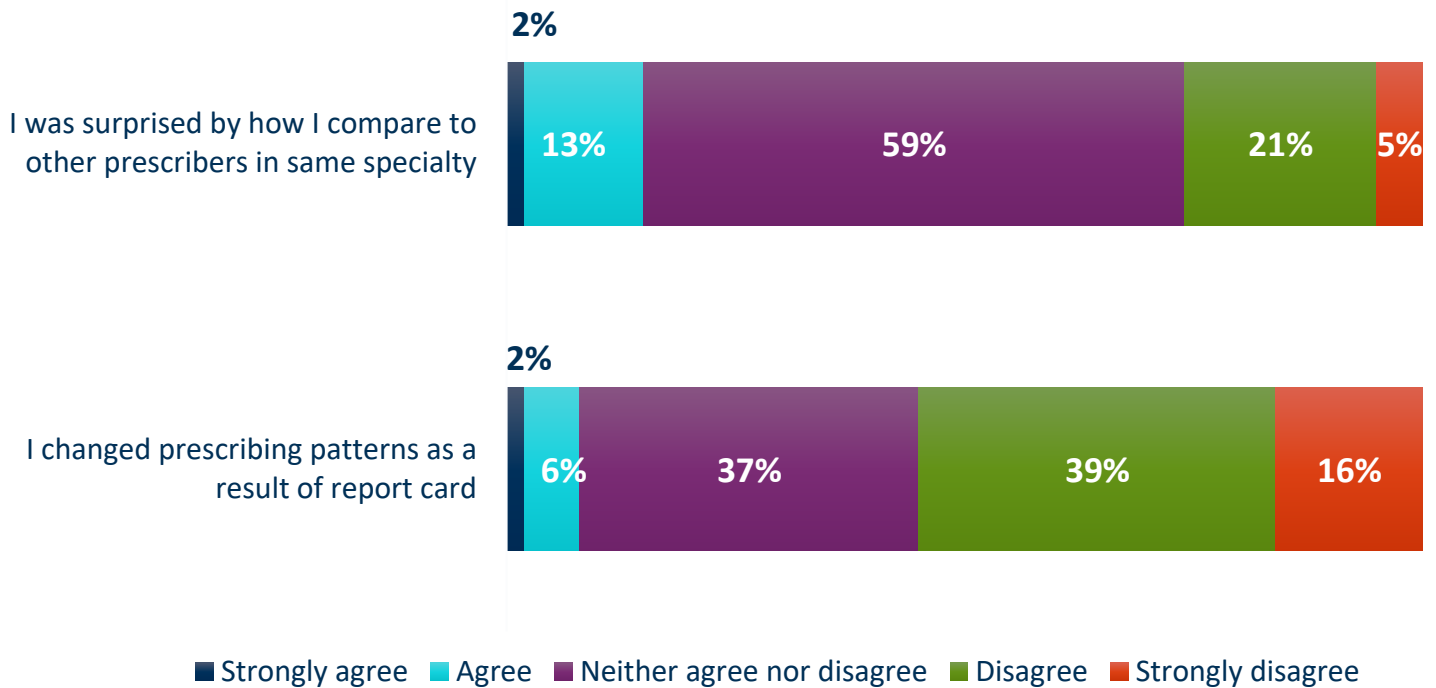|	
Not enough time	64%
PDMP not integrated into EMR system	50%
Other	43%
Limitations with internet access	29%
Office support staff not authorized to be delegates	27%
Lack of training on how to access PDMP	7%

30%

experienced barriers to using the PDMP

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

Report card & enhancements

78% *of physicians receive a prescriber report card.*

2%

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

| 13% | 59% | 21% | 5% |

2%

I changed prescribing patterns as a result of report card

| 6% | 37% | 39% | 16% |

■ Strongly agree   ■ Agree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly disagree
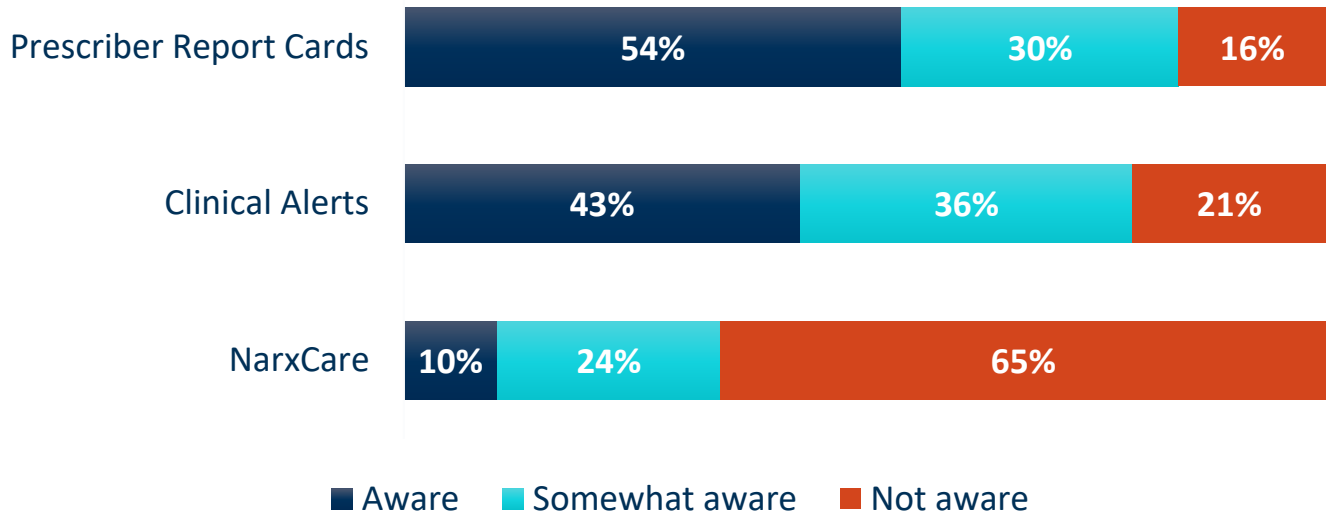
Note: percents are calculated out of respondents who indicated that they do receive a report card.

Most respondents are not surprised by how they compared to other prescribers.

Only a few changed prescribing patterns based on report card.

37%

of physicians have reviewed their compliance report in the PDMP. However, nearly half (45%) reported that they did not know they could.
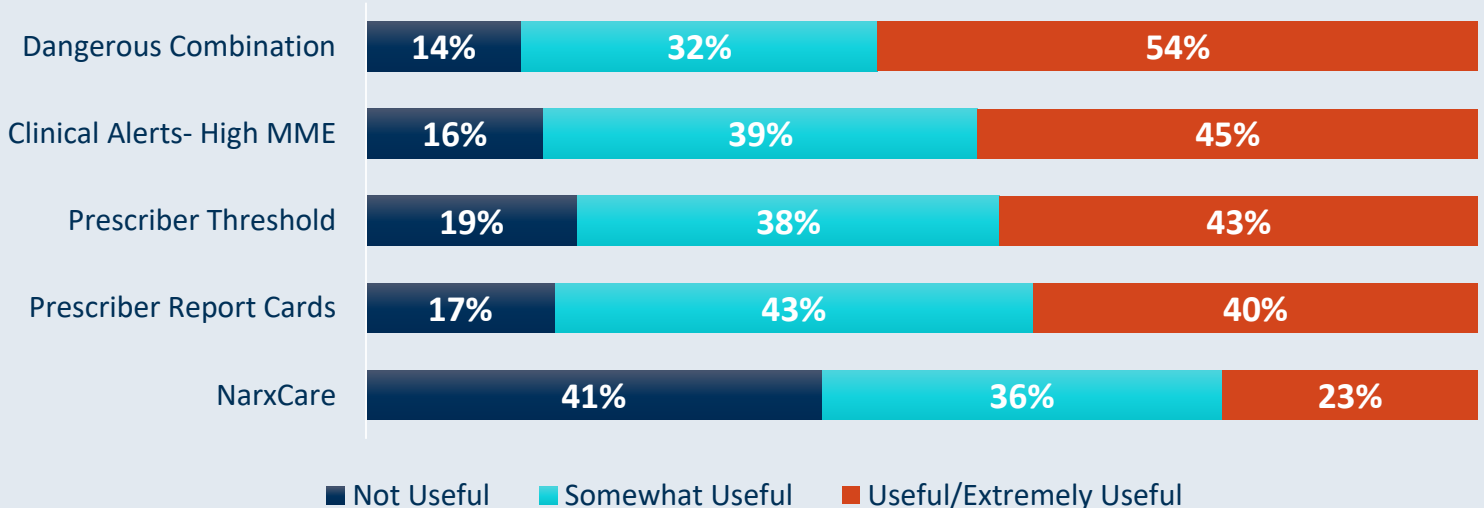
Awareness of PDMP enhancements

	Aware	Somewhat aware	Not aware
Prescriber Report Cards	54%	30%	16%
Clinical Alerts	43%	36%	21%
NarxCare	10%	24%	65%

■ Aware ■ Somewhat aware ■ Not aware

Physicians were most aware of prescriber report cards and least aware of NarxCare enhancements.

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

Usefulness of PDMP enhancements

	Not Useful	Somewhat Useful	Useful/Extremely Useful
Dangerous Combination	14%	32%	54%
Clinical Alerts- High MME	16%	39%	45%
Prescriber Threshold	19%	38%	43%
Prescriber Report Cards	17%	43%	40%
NarxCare	41%	36%	23%

■ Not Useful ■ Somewhat Useful ■ Useful/Extremely Useful

Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic has affected PDMP use: 16% Agree/Somewhat Agree, 30% Neither agree nor disagree, 55% Disagree/Somewhat Disagree

Increased patient queries due to seeing more patients during pandemic: 2% Agree/Somewhat Agree, 29% Neither agree nor disagree, 69% Disagree/Somewhat Disagree

Reviewed less patients due to not seeing patients as frequently: 24% Agree/Somewhat Agree, 29% Neither agree nor disagree, 56% Disagree/Somewhat Disagree

■ Agree/Somewhat Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree/Somewhat Disagree

Generally, physicians did not feel their PDMP use was affected by COVID-19. However, 24% reported reviewing less patients due to not seeing them as frequently. Only 2% saw an increase in patient queries due to the pandemic.
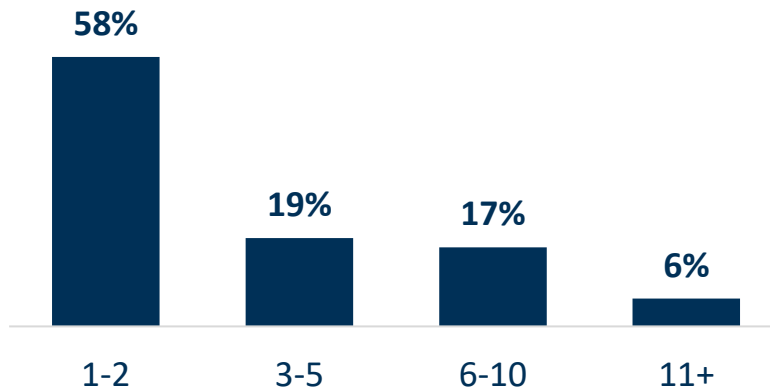
PDMP DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

The **2021 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Awareness Feedback survey** was distributed to users in Alaska to gauge their experience with the PDMP. This pamphlet shows the results of this survey for delegates who prescribe controlled substances. **There were 69 respondents.**

Please see main report for details.

Delegate background

Number of PDMP users delegates are registered with

Category	Percentage
1-2	58%
3-5	19%
6-10	17%
11+	6%

86%
of delegates work for a prescriber in a hospital or office.
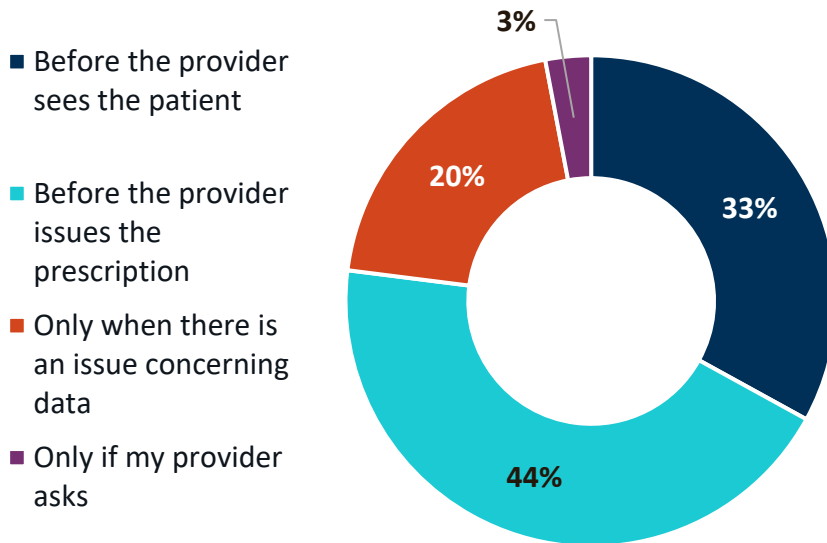
14%
of delegates work for a pharmacist.
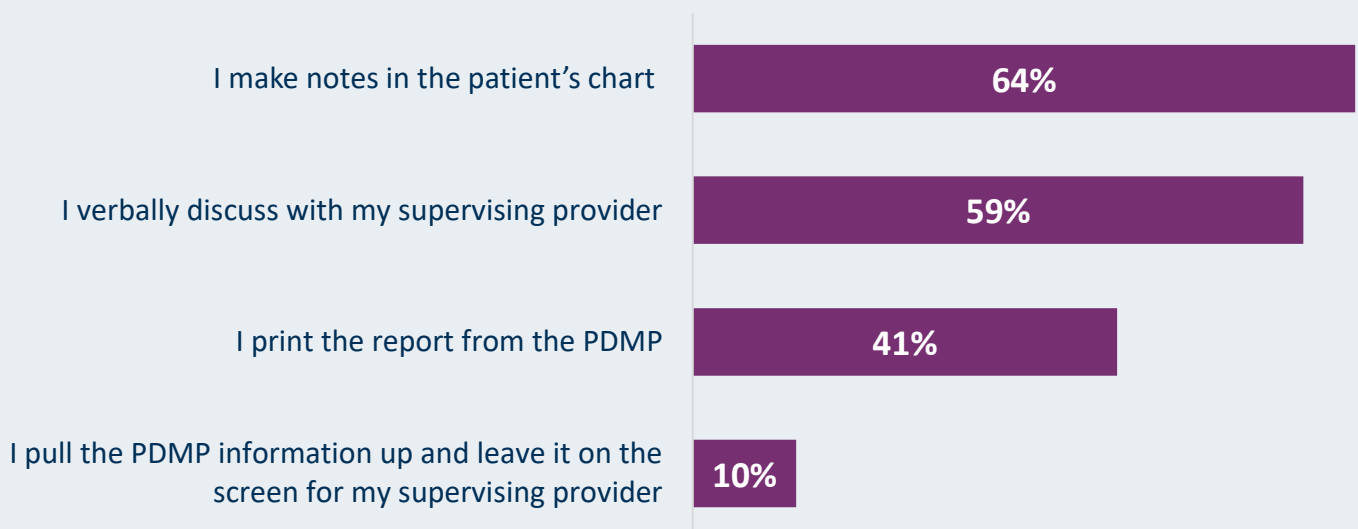
DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

Sharing PDMP Information

When delegates share PDMP information with their supervising provider

- Before the provider sees the patient
- Before the provider issues the prescription
- Only when there is an issue concerning data
- Only if my provider asks

3%

20%

33%

44%

*A **third** of delegates share information before the provider sees the patient.*

Delegates use a combination of methods to share information with the supervising provider.

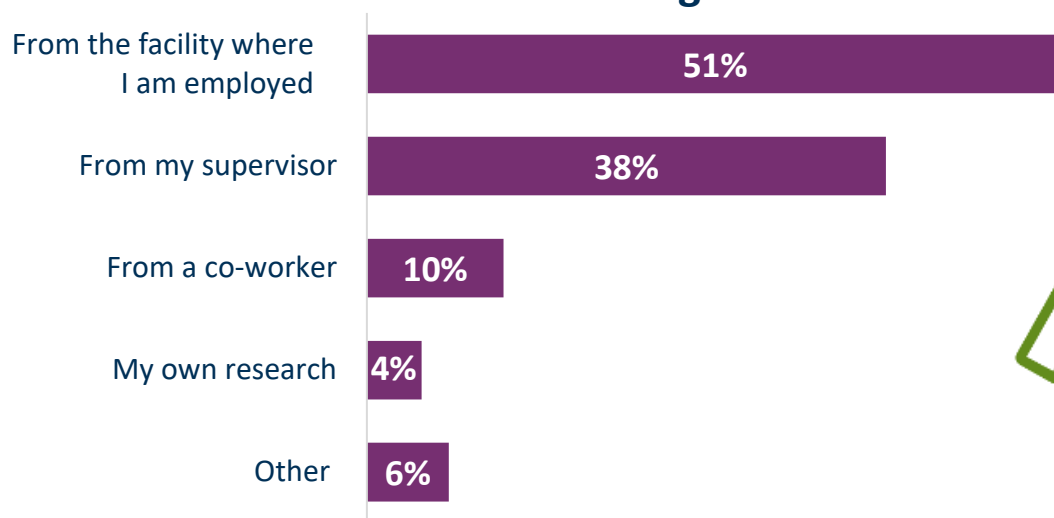### How delegates share PDMP information with the supervising provider

Method	%
I make notes in the patient's chart	64%
I verbally discuss with my supervising provider	59%
I print the report from the PDMP	41%
I pull the PDMP information up and leave it on the screen for my supervising provider	10%

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

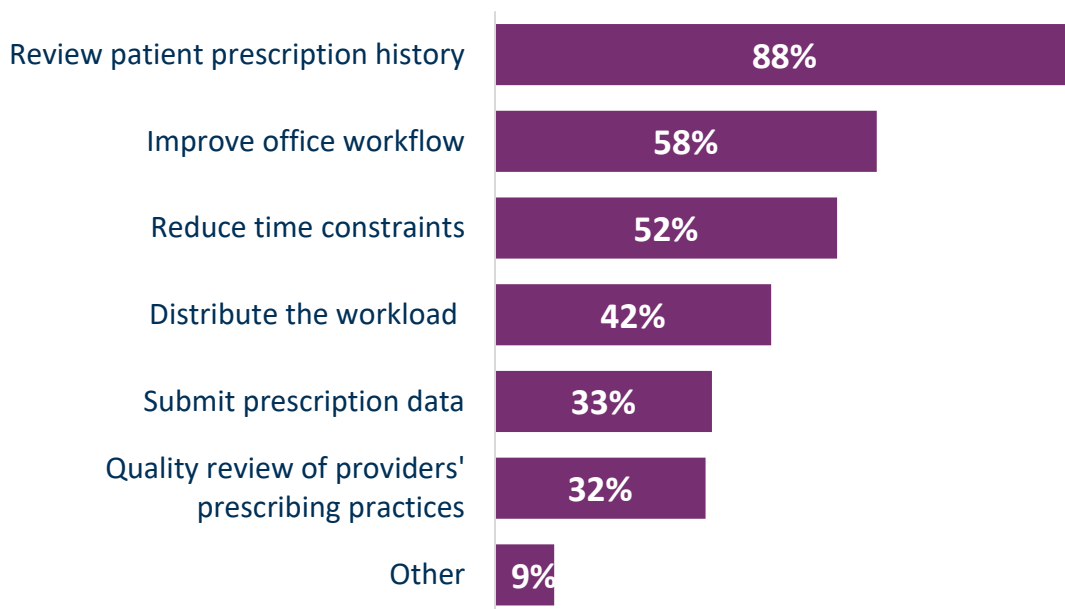# DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

Delegate integration into clinical practice

How delegates learn about the opportunity to become a delegate

From the facility where I am employed	51%
From my supervisor	38%
From a co-worker	10%
My own research	4%
Other	6%

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

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

How delegates perceive their role to be useful

Review patient prescription history	88%
Improve office workflow	58%
Reduce time constraints	52%
Distribute the workload	42%
Submit prescription data	33%
Quality review of providers' prescribing practices	32%
Other	9%

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