

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. (Physician, PA, 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 AWARe 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

##### Physician Assistants

Number of licensed Physician Assistants: 740  
Number of PDMP Physician Assistants registrations: 651\*  
Number of Physician Assistants with DEA registrations: 720  
Directly dispensing: 65

##### Physicians (includes Podiatrists and Medical Residents)

Number of licensed Physicians: 5,158  
Number of PDMP Physicians registrations: 4,146\*  
Number of Physicians with DEA registrations: 4,689  
Directly dispensing: 215

\*This number is an estimate as we are in the process of changing to a PDMP Registration designation instead of a PDMP Registration *number*.

### AWARxE (PDMP)

Number registered with the PDMP: 4,941  
Physician: 4,247  
Physician Assistants: 641  
Medical Resident with Prescriptive Authority: 25  
Podiatrists: 28

### Review

Federally scheduled II – III, over a three-day supply (some specialties omitted)

Physician Assistants

Q4 2021: 46%

Q1 2022: 42%

Physicians, Podiatrists, Medical Residents

Q4 2021: 40%

Q1 2022: 35%

### 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 option of using delegates to assist with reviews
- Provide guidance to licensees on prescribing practices related to the use of dangerous combinations
- Remind providers who are directly dispensing to report daily, including zero reports

# PDMP PHYSICIAN HIGHLIGHTS\*

1

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.**

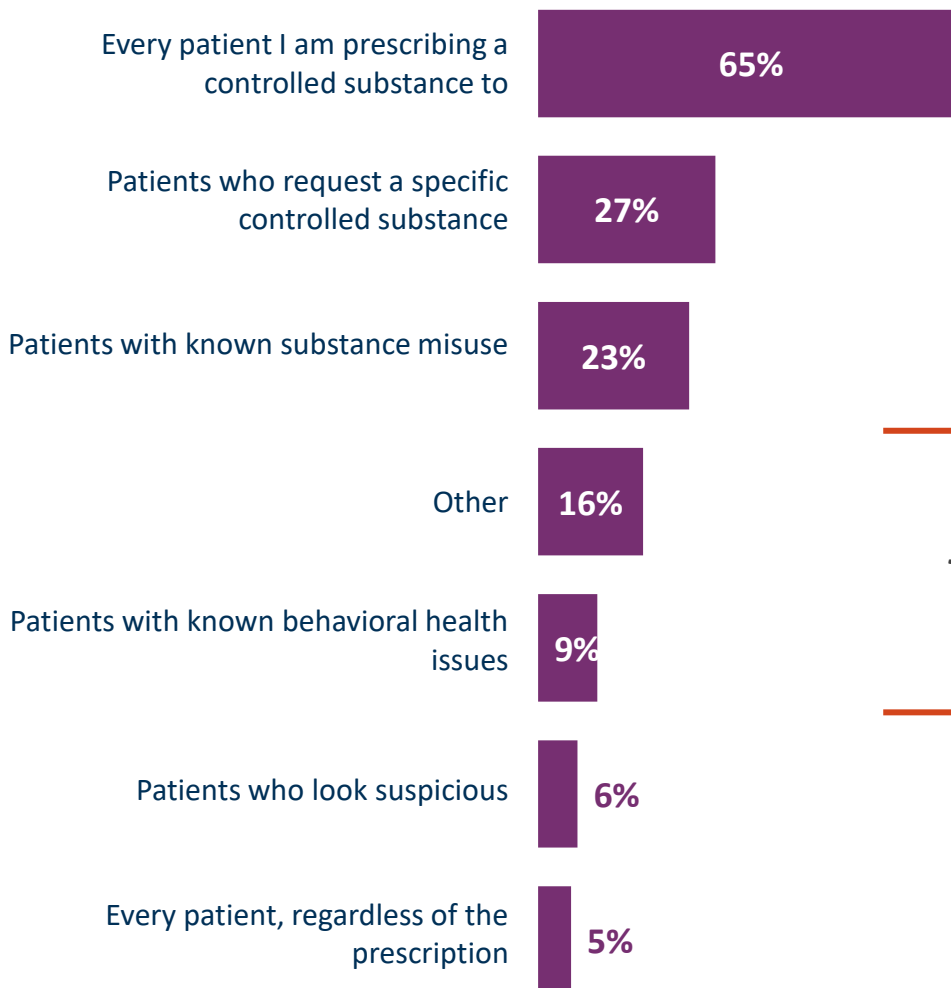
Please see main report for details.



# 79%

*prescribe controlled substances at least monthly.*

## How do Physicians decide when to check PDMP?



*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.

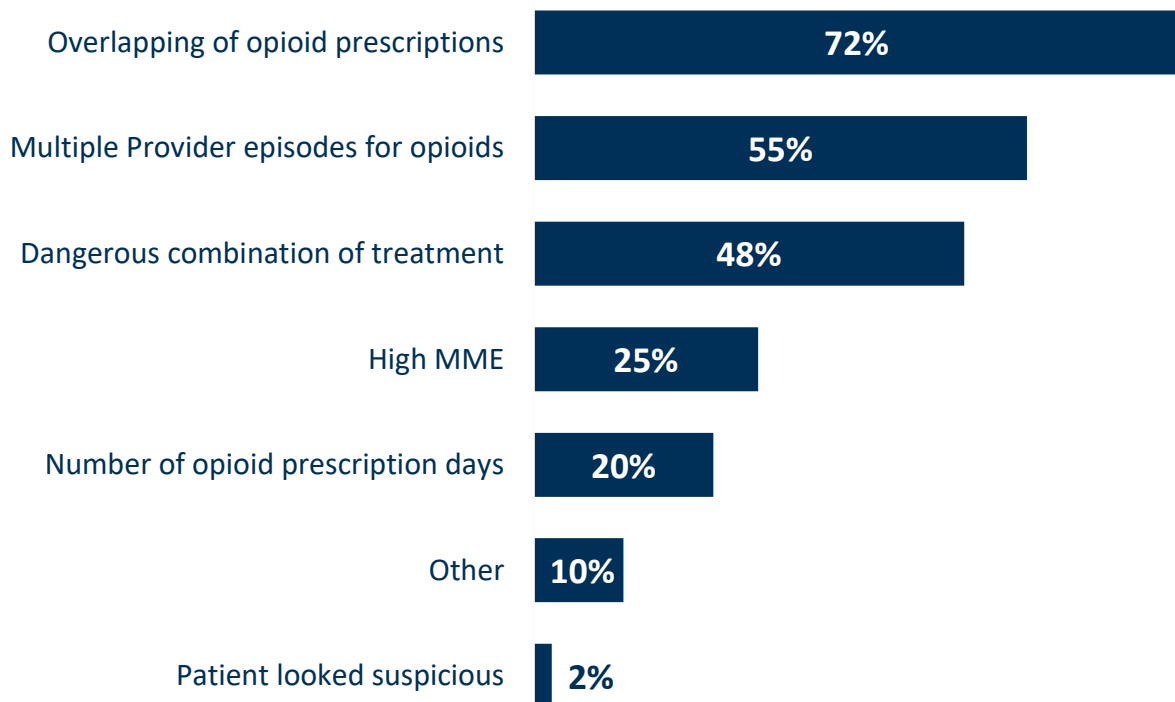
\* Includes Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), optometrists, and podiatrists.

## Denial of prescriptions

**58%**

*denied a prescription because of information found in PDMP*

### Reasons for Denial



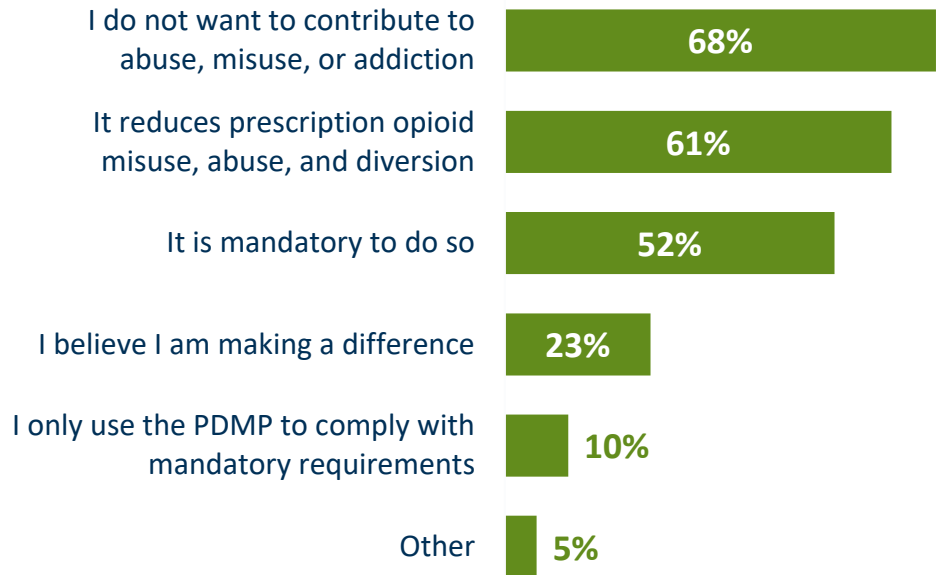
*Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selections.*

**62%** of physicians found patient prescription history extremely or very valuable for informing decision making.

## PDMP usage and barriers to usage

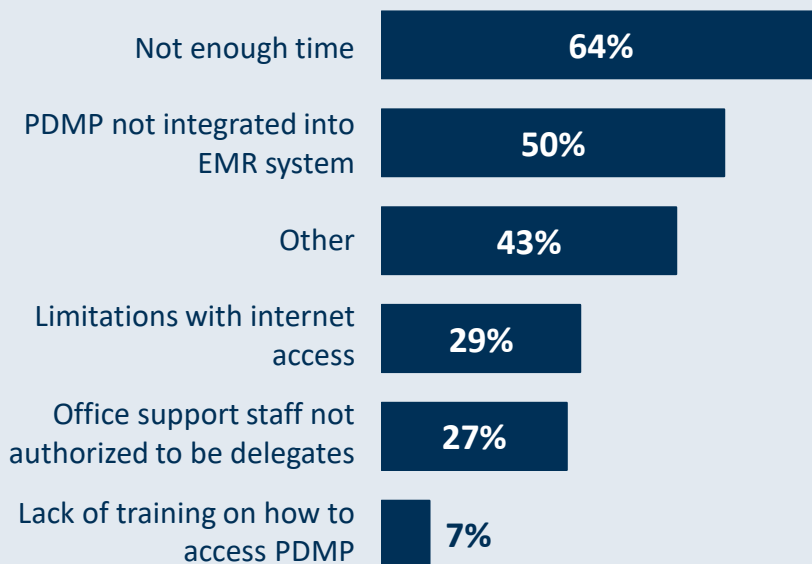
***Most respondents reported using the PDMP to combat the opioid epidemic.***

### Why Physicians Use PDMP



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

### Barriers to using PDMP



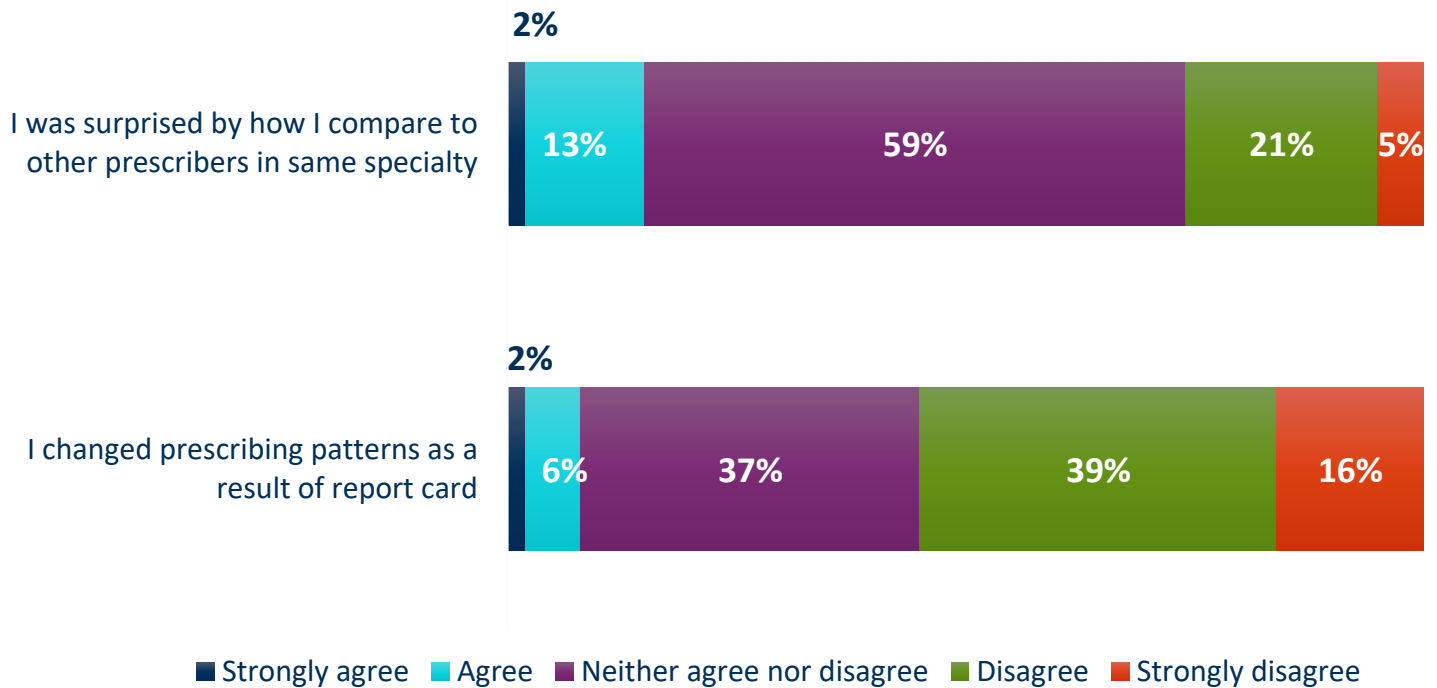
**30%**  
*experienced barriers to using the PDMP*

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

## Report card & enhancements



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



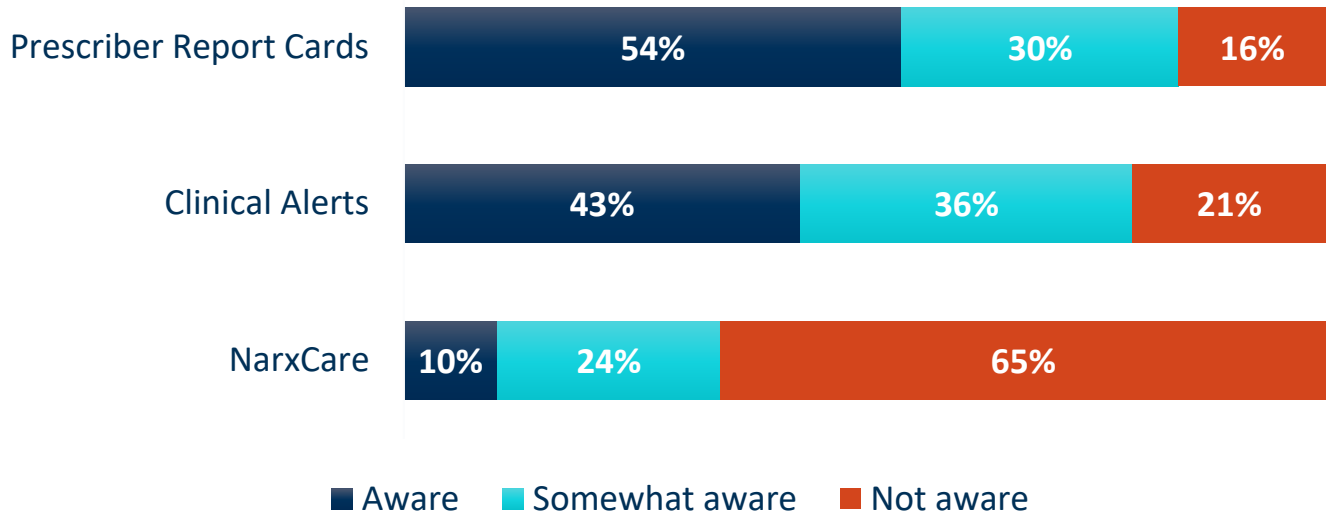
\*Note: percents are calculated out of respondents who indicated that they do receive a report card.

*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.

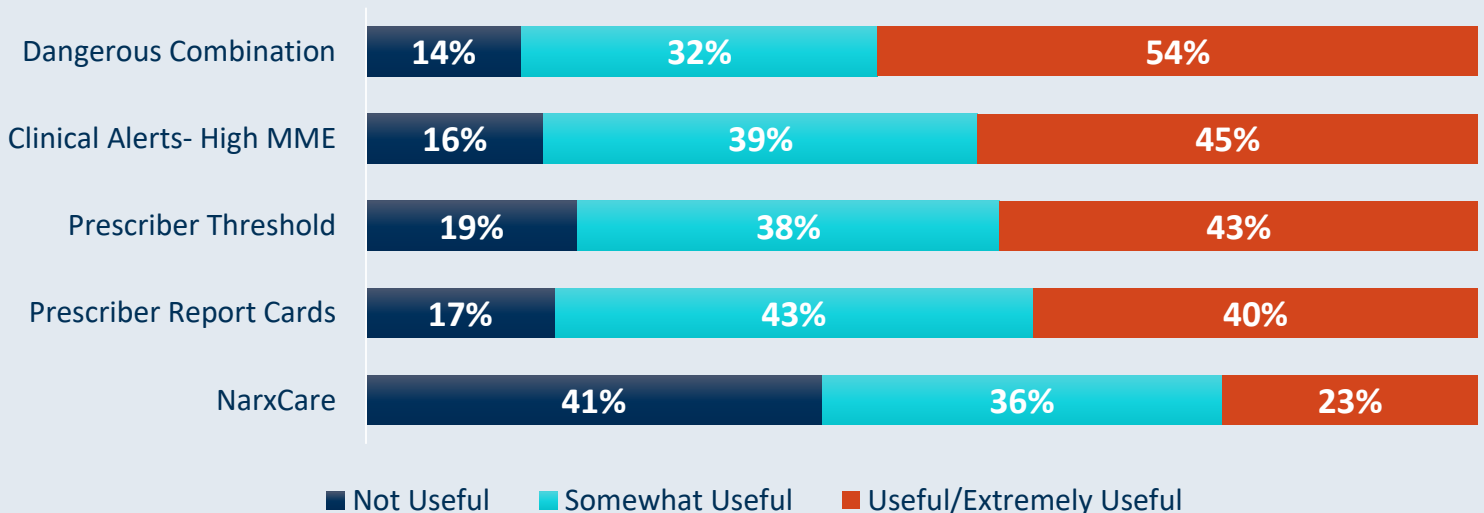
## Awareness of PDMP enhancements



*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



## Impacts of COVID-19

COVID-19 pandemic has affected PDMP use



Increased patient queries due to seeing more patients during pandemic



Reviewed less patients due to not seeing patients as frequently



■ 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.*





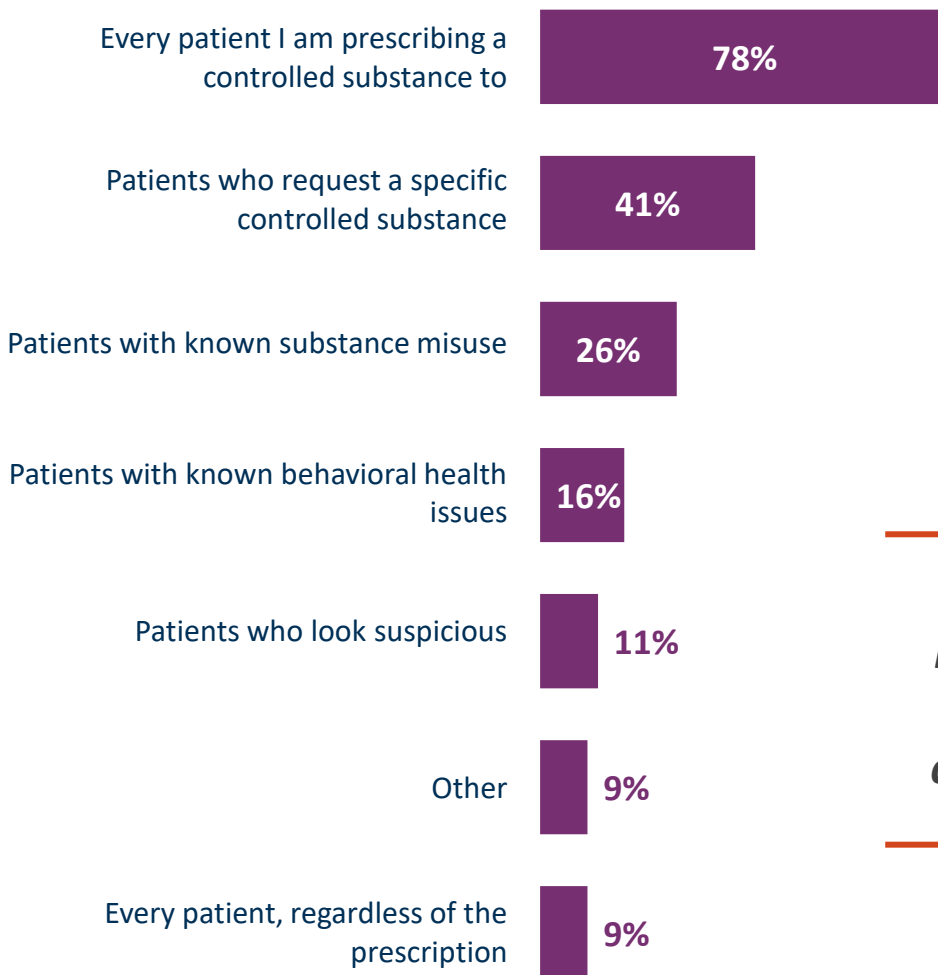
# PDMP PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT HIGHLIGHTS

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 Physician's Assistants who prescribe controlled substances. **There were 80 respondents.** Please see main report for details.



**74%**  
*of PAs prescribe controlled substances at least monthly.*

## How do PAs decide when to check PDMP?



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**78%** of PAs check the PDMP for every patient they prescribe a controlled substance to.

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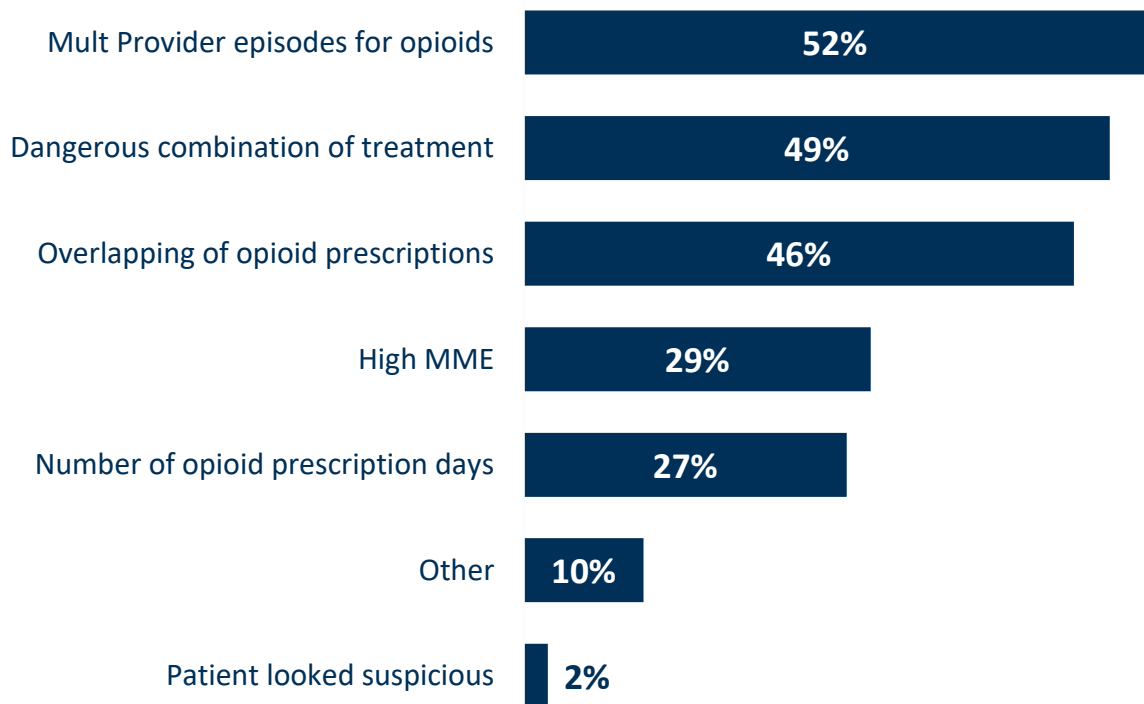
Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selections.

## Denial of prescriptions

**79%**

*of PAs denied a prescription because of information found in PDMP*

### Reasons for Denial



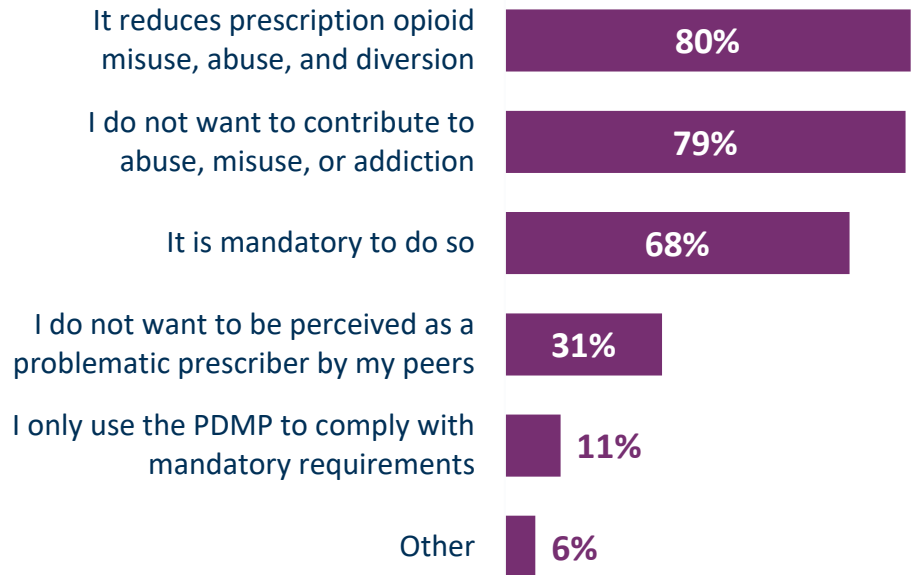
*Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selections.*

**86%** of PAs found patient prescription history extremely or very valuable for informing decision making.

## PDMP usage and barriers to usage

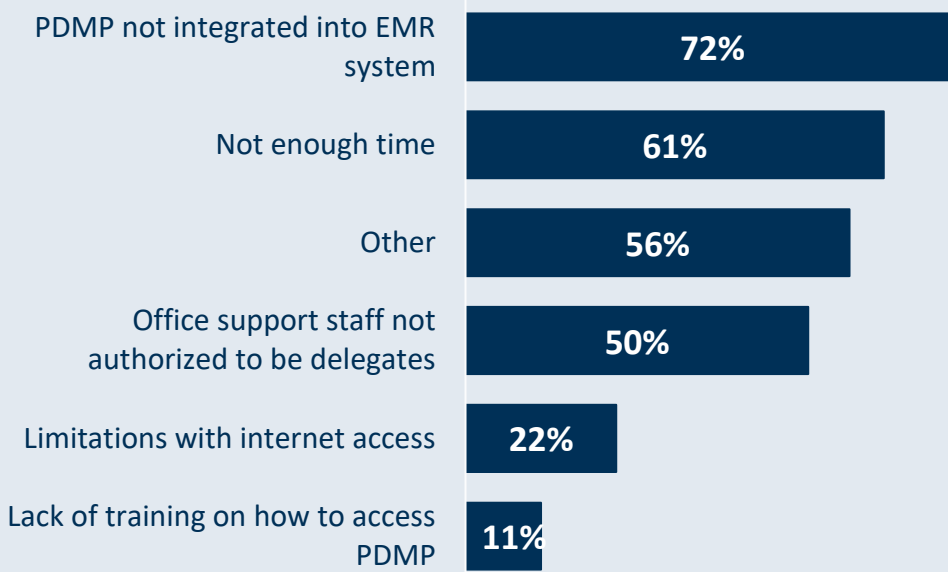
***Most PAs reported using the PDMP to combat the opioid epidemic.***

### Why PAs use PDMP



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

### Barriers to using PDMP



**23%**  
*of PAs experienced barriers to using the PDMP*

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

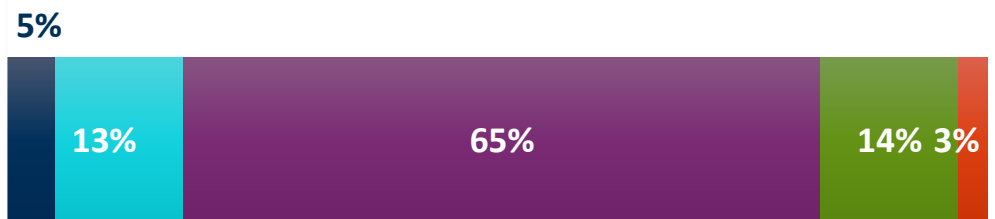
## Report card & enhancements



# 82%

*of PAs receive a prescriber report card.*

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



I changed prescribing patterns as a result of report card



■ 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.

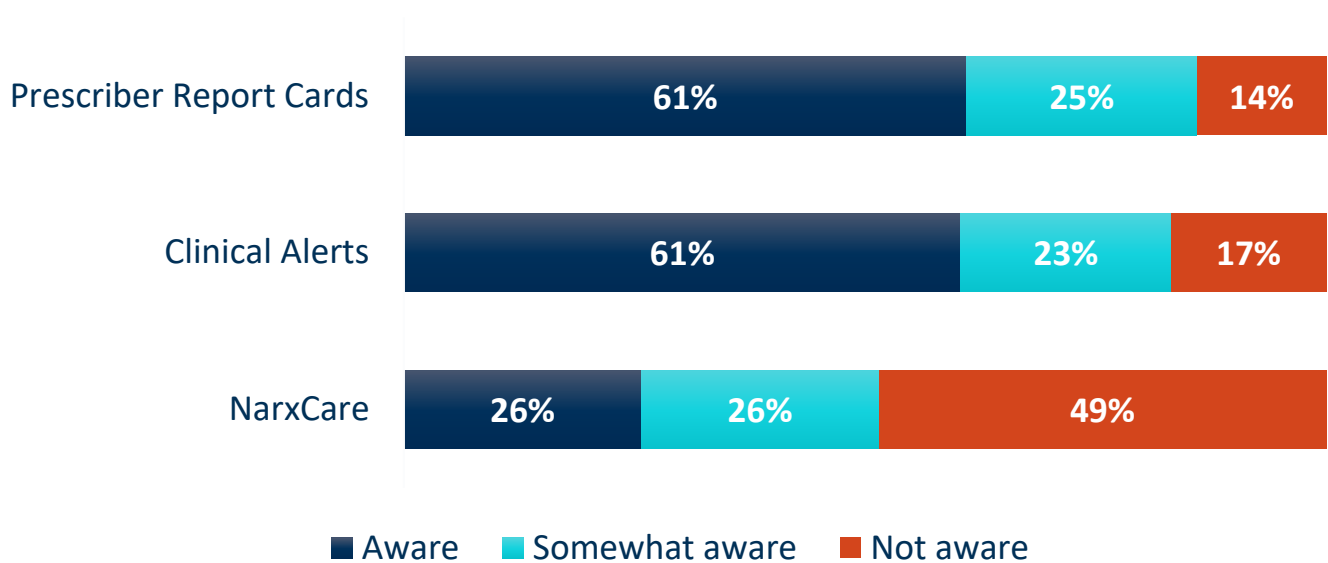
*Most PAs are not surprised by how they compared to other prescribers.*

*Very few changed prescribing patterns based on report card.*

# 42%

*of PAs have reviewed their compliance report in the PDMP. However, over a third (36%) reported that they did not know they could.*

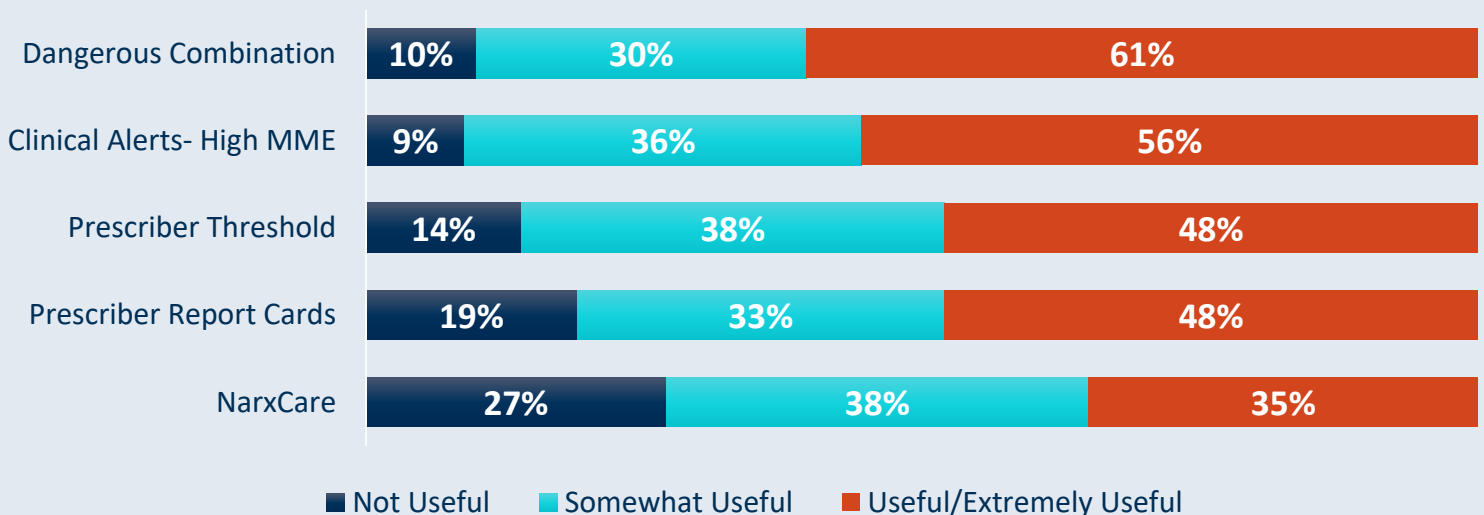
## Awareness of PDMP enhancements



*PA's were most aware of prescriber report cards and Clinical Alerts 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



## Impacts of COVID-19

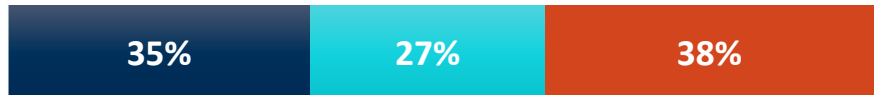
COVID-19 pandemic has affected PDMP use



Increased patient queries due to seeing more patients during pandemic



Reviewed less patients due to not seeing patients as frequently



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

***Generally, PAs did not feel their PDMP use was affected by COVID-19. However, 35% reported reviewing less patients due to not seeing them as frequently. Only 5% saw an increase in patient queries due to the pandemic.***



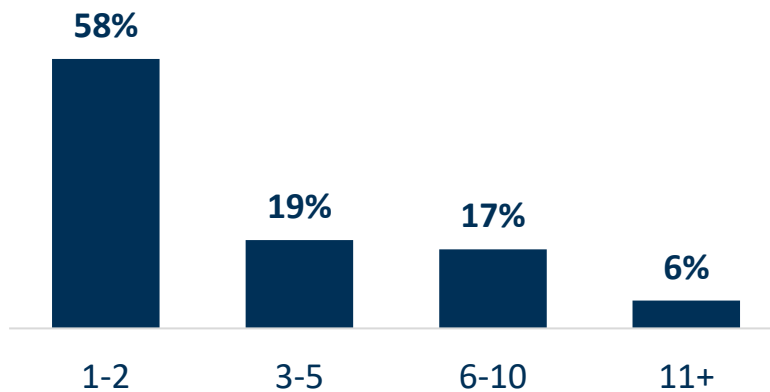
# PDMP DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

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



**86%**

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

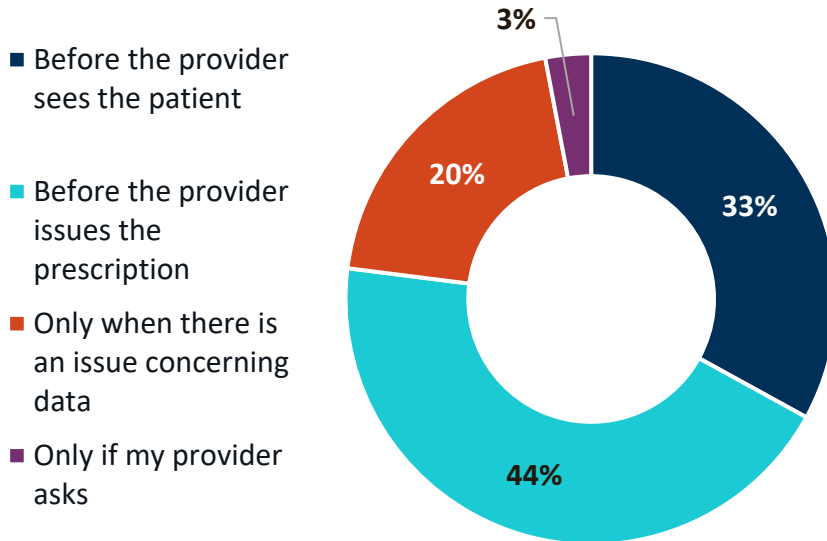
**14%**

*of delegates work for a pharmacist.*

# DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

## Sharing PDMP Information

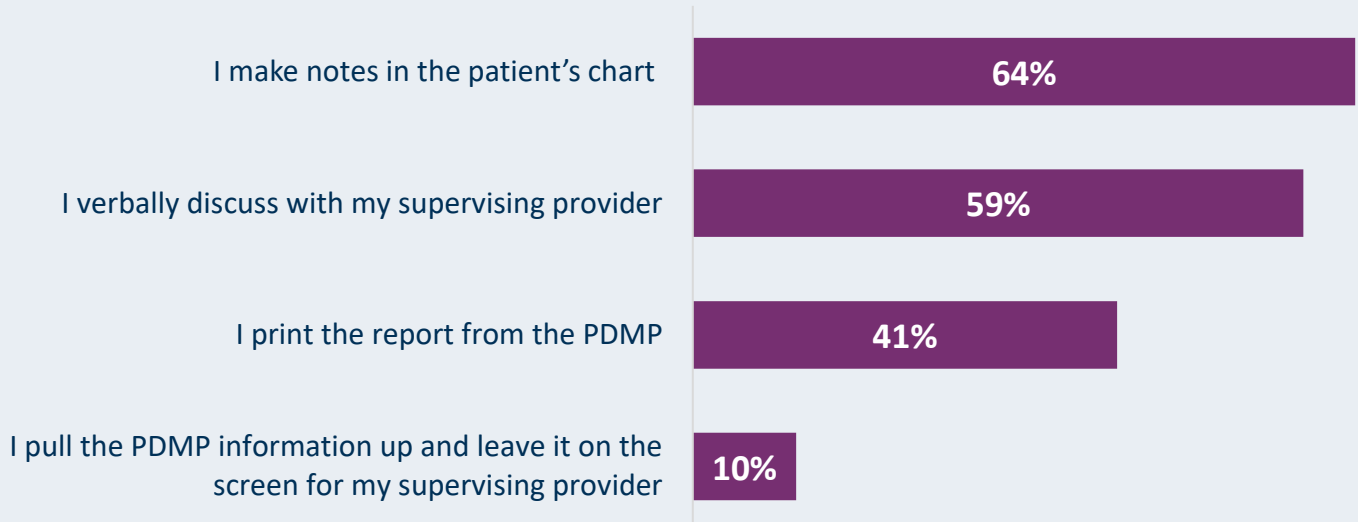
### When delegates share PDMP information with their supervising provider



*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



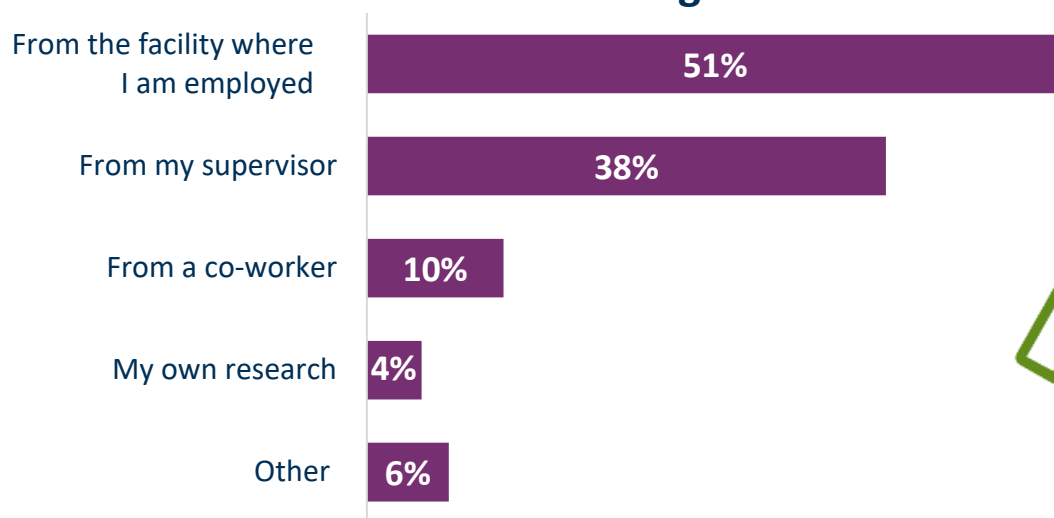
*Note: Percents add up to more than 100% because of multiple selections.*



# DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

## Delegate integration into clinical practice

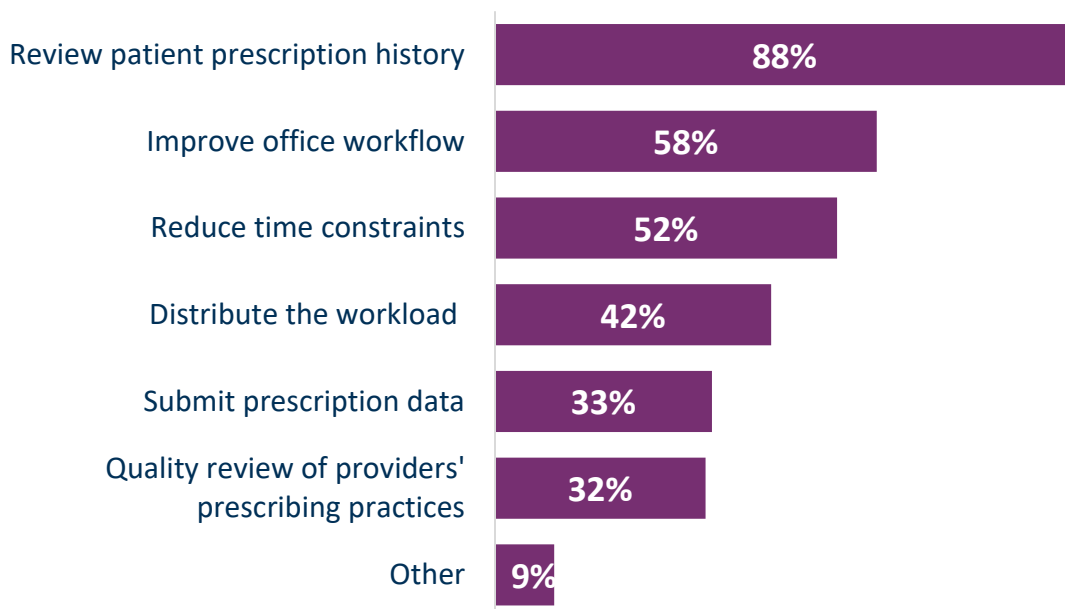
### How delegates learn about the opportunity to become a delegate



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



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