

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 Pharmacist 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

Some licensed providers may be registered as an IHS, Military, or VA Prescriber and would not be counted in the number registered in AWA<sub>R</sub>x<sub>E</sub> (PDMP).

#### Portal (Professional license system)

Number of licensed Pharmacists: 1,074

Number of PDMP Pharmacist registrations: 820

Number of Pharmacists dispensing: 597

#### AWA<sub>R</sub>x<sub>E</sub> (PDMP)

Number registered with the PDMP: 1,092

Pharmacists – 622

PIC – 113

IHS Dispenser – 110

IHS Dispenser PIC - 11

VA Dispenser – 23

Military Dispenser – 5

Out of State Pharmacist – 72

Out of State PIC – 23

Pharmacist Delegates – 102 (1,695 technicians and interns)

IHS Pharmacist's Delegates – 9

VA Pharmacist's Delegates – 2

### Reporting Compliance

We are working to enable the tools to monitor compliance. We are reaching out to providers to ensure they understand how and when to report.

### Recommendations

- Encourage the use of authorized delegates.
- Sign up for [Statewide Gateway Integration](#).

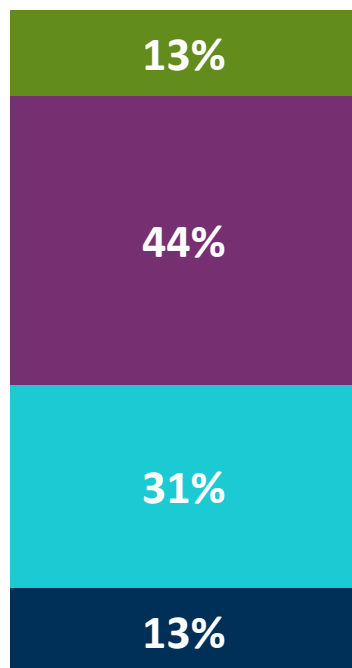
# PDMP PHARMACIST HIGHLIGHTS

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 the **39** Pharmacists who dispense controlled substances. Over half of pharmacists have used the PDMP for at least 5-6 years.



Please see main report for details.

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



- Not so helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Very helpful
- Extremely helpful

**88%** of pharmacists who have contacted their board found their board at least somewhat helpful, while 44% have NOT attempted to contact their board

*Note:* Percents do not include respondents who said they had not contacted their board or were not under any boards.

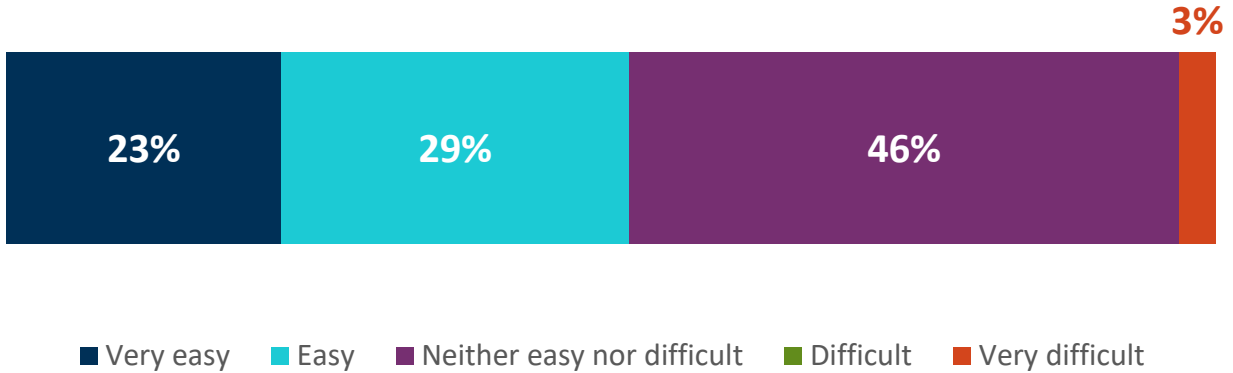
# PDMP PHARMACIST HIGHLIGHTS

## Reporting to the PDMP

**91%**

say their pharmacies report prescription data to the PDMP automatically, and 9% report manually.

### Ease of reporting prescription info to PDMP



*When asked if they ever do not report to the PDMP, **74%** responded that they always report.*

#### No, I always report



#### Unsure of how to report



#### Difficulty or inconvenience of reporting



#### Data dispenser submission guide was not useful



#### Having to report manually



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

# PDMP PHARMACIST HIGHLIGHTS

## Patient queries in the PDMP

**26%**

*Of pharmacists are very or extremely confident that providers review patients prior to writing their prescriptions*

### Actions taken if doubts about provider reviewing patient

Contacted the prescriber to confirm



Reviewed the patient myself



Informed the patient you would not be able to fill the prescription



Asked the patient to speak with their provider about their medication



Referred the patient to another pharmacy



Dispensed a different quantity of the medication



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

**Pharmacists generally check the PDMP to verify patients based on their prescription usage.** That is, 83% check for every patient being prescribed a controlled substance; 28% check for patients with known substance misuse, and 17% check patients with a prescription by a specific provider.

Some pharmacists also check for patients with known behavioral health issues (8%), patients who look suspicious (11%), or other reasons (3%). 8% check every patient regardless of the prescription status.

# PDMP PHARMACIST HIGHLIGHTS

## Denying prescriptions

**71%**

*of pharmacists denied a patient a controlled substance prescription because of information found in the PDMP.*

### Reason for Denial

Patient had received too many prescriptions from the same or multiple providers

74%

Dangerous combination of therapies

59%

Not in the best interest of the patient

52%

Not in the usual course of medical treatment

30%

Patient had a high NarxScore in the PDMP

22%

Did not agree with prescriber

22%

Other

19%

Patient had traveled a long distance to obtain

19%

Patient had a history of paying higher prices for medication

4%

Not medically necessary

0%

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*Among those who denied, the most common reason for denial was receiving too many prescriptions from the same or multiple providers.*

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

### As a result of prescription denial:

67% used the resources in the PDMP to guide their conversation with the patient. 67% discussed their concerns with the patient, 52% referred the patient back to their provider, and 7% just said no. 22% took a different step, including contacting the prescriber directly.

# PDMP PHARMACIST HIGHLIGHTS

## Why pharmacists use the PDMP

The most common reasons for pharmacists to use the PDMP were:

It reduces prescription opioid misuse, abuse, and diversion

94%

It is my moral and ethical obligation to do so

67%

I believe I am making a difference

64%

It is mandatory to do so

53%

For self-preservation

53%

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

14%

Other

11%

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

6%

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



## Use of authorized delegates



**6%** of pharmacists have authorized delegates on their accounts.

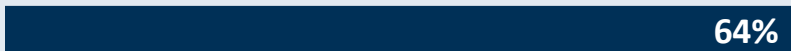
*All pharmacists with authorized delegates had 5 or fewer delegates on their account, and 50% found delegates to be very helpful.*

### Who should be delegates?



*15% of pharmacists 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



*The majority of pharmacists don't have delegates because they prefer to check on their own.*

# PDMP PHARMACIST HIGHLIGHTS

## Impacts of COVID-19

Increased patient queries due to seeing more patients during pandemic

100%

Reviewed less patients due to not seeing patients as frequently

100%

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

*Only 3% of pharmacists said their PDMP use was affected by COVID-19. Pharmacists have largely not changed their PDMP habits due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*





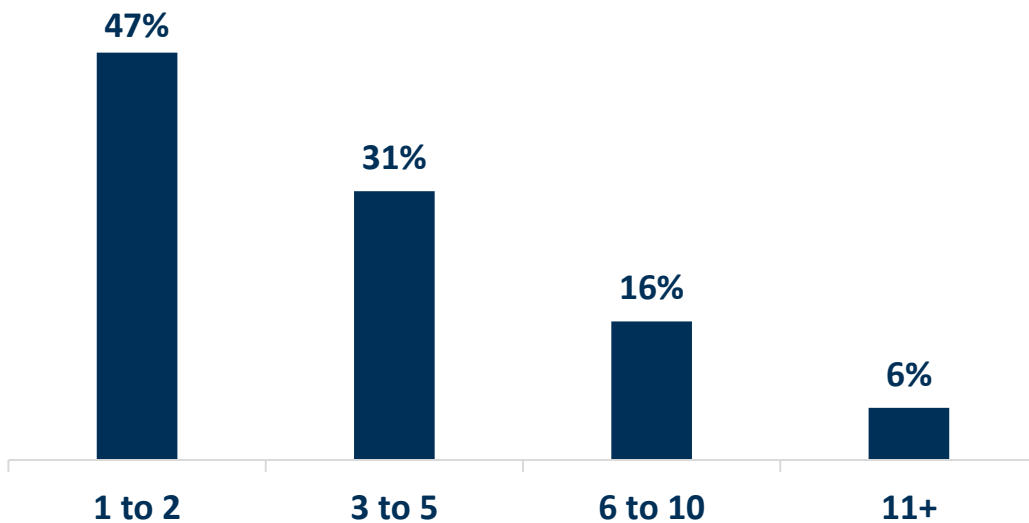
# PDMP DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

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.*

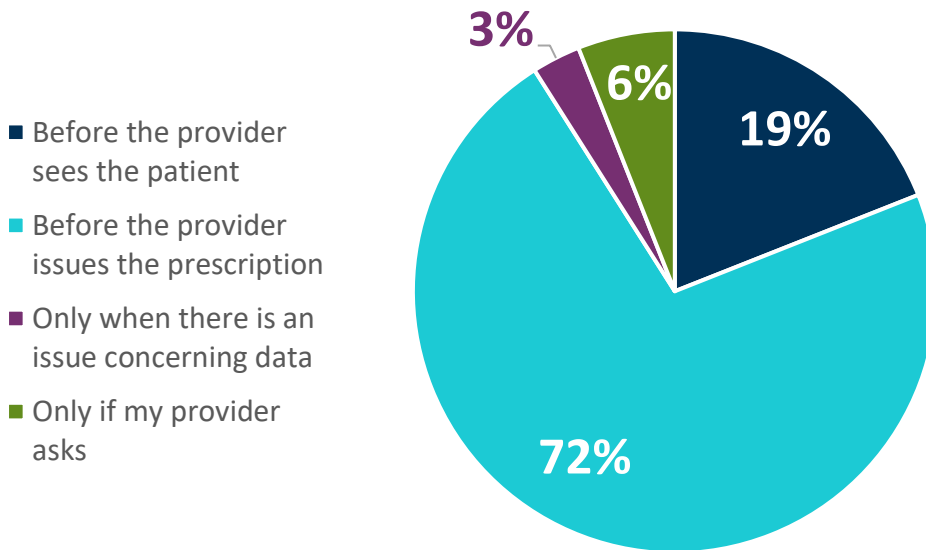
**9%**

*of delegates work for a pharmacist.*

# DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

## Sharing PDMP Information

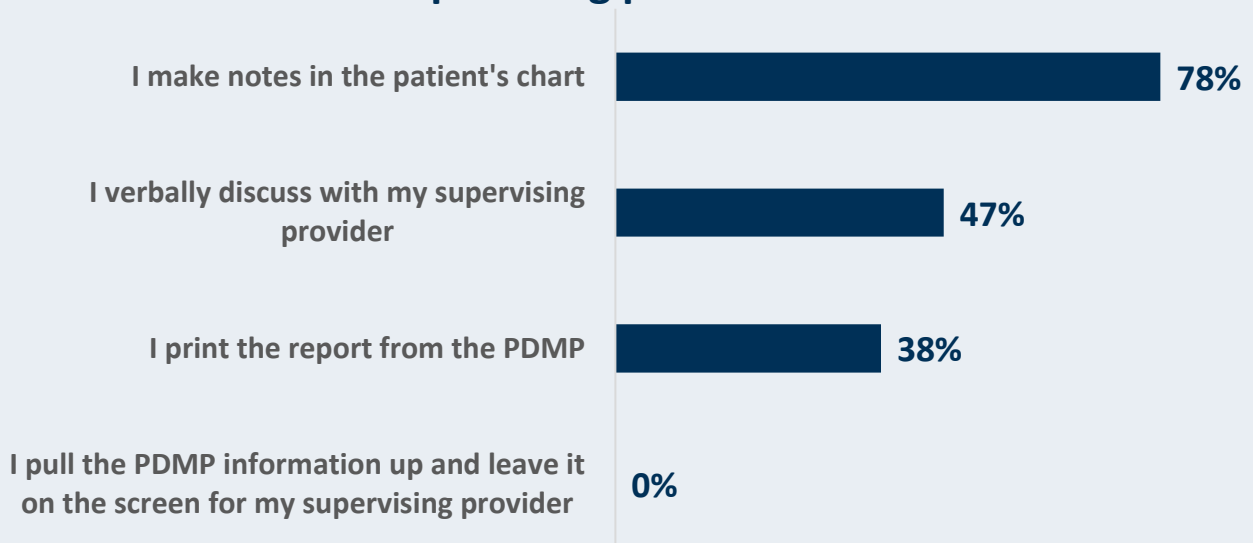
### When delegates share PDMP information with their supervising provider



**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

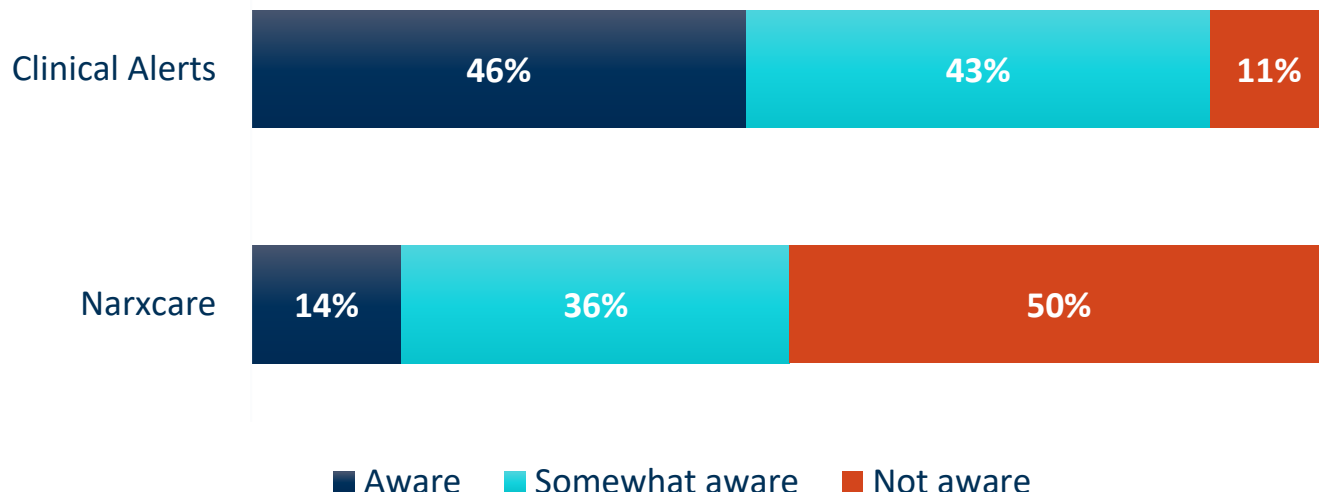
21%

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

