



Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Training and Technical Assistance Center

## **Prescription Drug Monitoring Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **What is a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?**

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) are highly effective tools utilized by government officials for reducing prescription drug abuse and diversion. PDMPs collect, monitor, and analyze electronically transmitted prescribing and dispensing data submitted by pharmacies and dispensing practitioners. The data are used to support states' efforts in education, research, enforcement and abuse prevention. PDMPs are managed under the auspices of a state, district, commonwealth, or territory of the United States.

States recognize the medical need for controlled substances and, therefore, PDMPs do not interfere with appropriate, medical use. Prescription data is provided only to entities authorized by state law to access the program, such as health care practitioners, pharmacists, regulatory boards and law enforcement agencies.

PDMPs are proactive in safeguarding public health and safety while supporting the legitimate use of controlled substances. PDMPs do not infringe on the legitimate prescribing of a controlled substance by a practitioner acting in good faith and in the course of a professional practice.

### **How many states have a PDMP?**

Currently, 49 states, the District of Columbia and one U.S. territory (Guam) have legislation authorizing the creation and operation of a PDMP. Forty-nine states, the District of Columbia and one U.S. territory (Guam) currently have a PDMP that is operational (meaning collecting data from dispensers and reporting information from the database to authorized users). For more information, visit the PDMP TTAC website at [www.pdmpassist.org](http://www.pdmpassist.org) where you can view our [PDMP Program Status Map](#) or [PDMP Program Status Table](#). To learn more about a specific state PDMP, please also visit our [State Profiles](#) section.

### **How do I find state laws and rules that govern a PDMP in my state?**

The [State Profiles](#) have a link to each state's laws and rules governing their PDMPs on our website at [www.pdmpassist.org](http://www.pdmpassist.org).

### **What agency administers the PDMP in each state?**

A variety of state agencies administer the PDMP:

<b>Agency Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Consumer Protection	1
Substance Abuse	3
Professional Licensing	6
Law Enforcement	5
Departments of Health	16
Boards of Pharmacy	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>

Information about which agency is responsible for the PDMP in a specific state is available on our website at [www.pdmpassist.org](http://www.pdmpassist.org) on our [State Profiles](#). You may also view our [state agency map](#) for a nation-wide look.

## Which drugs are monitored by PDMPs?

Per state law, PDMPs monitor controlled substances as defined by Federal and State Controlled Substances Laws. Most PDMPs collect federal schedules II-IV which contain narcotics like hydrocodone, tranquilizers like alprazolam and diazepam, and stimulants like methylphenidate. Some PDMPs also monitor additional drugs of concern such as butalbital. To find out which drugs are monitored by a specific state, we again direct you to our [State Profiles](#) on our website at [www.pdmpassist.org](http://www.pdmpassist.org).

Schedules Collected	States	Number
Schedules II-IV	AK, AZ, CA, FL, IA, KS, ME, NV, NH, OR, RI, SC, VT, VA, WV, WY	16
Schedules II-V	AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, DC, GA, Guam, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MT, NE, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, WA, WI	35

## Who is typically provided access to PDMP information?

Access to PDMP information is determined by state law. Most States allow practitioners and pharmacists to obtain PDMP reports on patients under their care.

Many states also provide PDMP information to other authorized groups. These may include:

- Law Enforcement for drug investigations (open investigations and sometimes court orders are required)
- Licensing and Regulatory Boards for investigating health care professionals who prescribe or dispense prescription controlled substances
- State Medicaid Programs for Medicaid member or provider reviews
- State medical examiners or coroners for cause of death investigations
- Research organizations that may be provided de-identified data for analysis and research

## Who do I contact in my state/territory for questions about my local PDMP?

A [contact list](#) is maintained on our website that has contacts for each PDMP as well as other partner agencies and organizations.

## What type of training and technical assistance is available and how do I request assistance?

Made possible through the partnership of [The Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#) and [The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University](#), the PDMP Training and Technical Assistance Center is helping BJA grantees, organizations, federal partners and other stakeholders in planning, implementing and enhancing prescription monitoring programs.

More information on the types of assistance available and how to make requests may be found on our [PDMP Training and Technical Assistance](#) page at [www.pdmpassist.org](http://www.pdmpassist.org).