PDMP Interactive Data Tool – Technical Notes

Updated 9/16/2025

Data Source

Data are from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which collects all Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substance prescriptions and two non-controlled drugs (gabapentin and naltrexone) dispensed by Ohio pharmacies and personally furnished by Ohio prescribers.

NOTE: Personally furnish is a legal term for a prescriber dispensing medication from their office.

Data used to populate the Interactive Data Tool starts in January 2015.

Measures

- **County/ZIP Code Data:** County or ZIP Code data are reported based on the residence of the patient (as reported by the dispensing pharmacy or prescriber) and not the county or Zip Code where the drug was dispensed or personally furnished (ex. A patient from Franklin County that goes to a pharmacy in Delaware County will be reported in the Franklin County data).

- **Doses:** Doses are reported as solid dosage units only (i.e., tablets, capsules and patches). Liquids and powders are not included.

- **MME (Opioid Only):** A morphine milligram equivalent (MME) is the amount of opioid prescription drugs, converted to a common unit (milligrams of morphine), that a patient currently has access to based on the information reported by prescribers and

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pharmacies to OARRS. Morphine is widely regarded as the "standard" for the treatment of moderate to severe pain and is commonly used as the reference point. As MME increases, the likelihood of an adverse effect increases, therefore identifying at-risk patients is a crucial first step towards improving patient safety. OARRS utilizes conversion factors created by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

NOTE: Buprenorphine products not included in MME calculations.

- **Prescriptions:** Prescriptions only include the prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies or those personally furnished by prescribers. It does not include prescriptions that were issued but were never dispensed.

Defining Drug Classes

- **Buprenorphine:** information is only collected if it is dispensed at a pharmacy (due to federal privacy regulations data is not reported by opioid treatment programs or prescribers personally furnishing buprenorphine products).

- **Benzodiazepine:** includes benzodiazepines with anti-convulsant, anxiolytic, and sedativehypnotic effects.

- **Opioid:** includes full opioid agonist and partial opioid agonist classes with the exception of buprenorphine.

- **Stimulant:** includes amphetamines, amphetamine derivatives and respiratory/CNS stimulants.

- **Gabapentin:** (an anticonvulsant used to treat nerve pain) is a non-controlled drug that is also collected by OARRS. Data from the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network reports that gabapentin diversion is "moderate to high."