

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2025

Approved by the Assembly, May 2025

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Issue:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over one million people have died since 1999 due to a drug overdose, and more recently, the age-adjusted rate of overdose deaths increased by 14%. Opioids are involved in the vast majority of these deaths (75% of all drug overdose deaths in 2021), and 1 in 5 of those deaths were attributable to prescription opioids. Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) are state-level public health efforts to improve clinical decision making, reduce controlled substance medication misuse, and identify controlled substance medication diversion. PDMP regulations, access, and requirements vary state to state.

It is the position of APA that:

- 1. Patient care, safety, privacy, and confidentiality must be paramount priorities when implementing and utilizing PDMPs.**
- 2. PDMPs should include medications prescribed and/or dispensed by substance use disorder treatment programs if the health information remains confidential. PDMPs should be administered by departments of health or boards of pharmacy. PDMPs should include a notice stating the drugs excluded from the program.**
- 3. All providers with prescriptive authority should be automatically registered with their state PDMP.**

Author: Council on Addiction Psychiatry

Collaborators: Council on Health Care Systems and Financing, Committee on Telepsychiatry

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