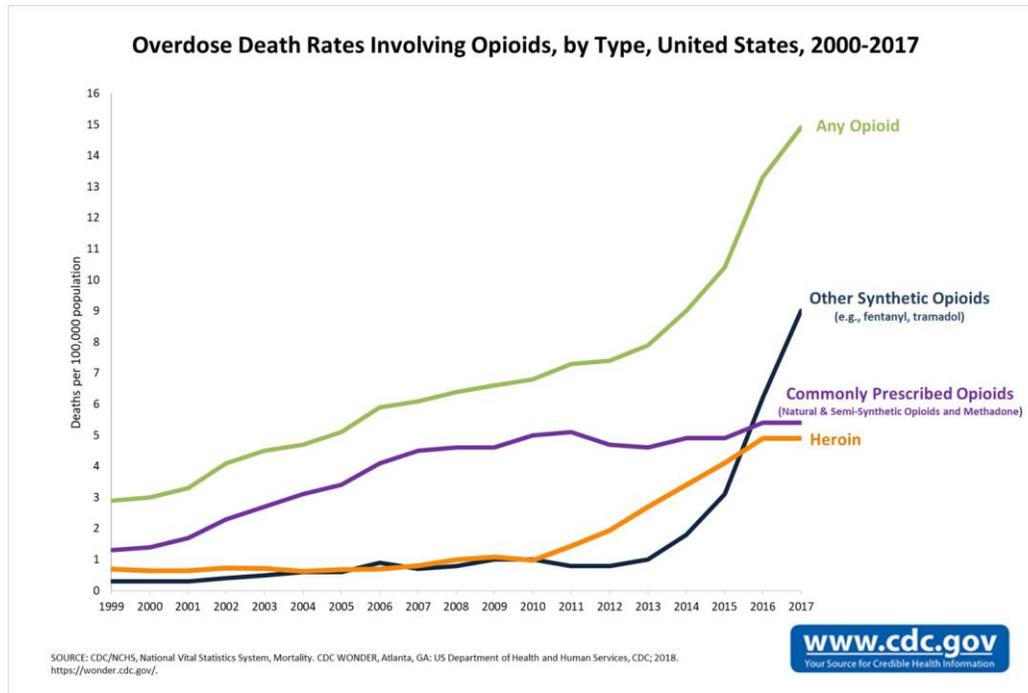


Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Background

Rising levels of opioid overdose deaths continue to be a major public health crisis across the country:



Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) are an important tool to prevent opioid misuse. PDMPs collect data from pharmacies on controlled substance prescriptions that have been dispensed and make this information available to authorized users through a secure electronic database. PDMPs improve patient safety by allowing clinicians to identify patients who are obtaining opioids from multiple providers, calculate the total amount of opioids prescribed (MME), and identify patients who are being prescribed other substances that may increase the risk of adverse drug reactions¹.

Most people (about two thirds²) who use illicit opioids such as heroin and fentanyl first used opioids in the form of prescription opioids; reducing misuse of prescription opioids is therefore a key component of prevention efforts.

Missouri is the only state in the nation without a statewide PDMP.

¹ See, for example: Morgan, L., et al. The use of prescription monitoring programs to reduce opioid diversion and improve patient safety. *Journal of Pain & Palliative Care Pharmacology*, 2012; Worley, J. Prescription drug monitoring programs, a response to doctor shopping: purpose, effectiveness, and directions for future research. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 2012, 33:319-328; Clark, T., et al. Prescription drug monitoring programs: an assessment of the evidence for best practices. PDMP Center of Excellence. 2012; CDC. Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). Atlanta, GA: CDC.

² Cicero, T. J., Ellis, M. S., & Kasper, Z. A. (2017). Increased use of heroin as an initiating opioid of abuse. *Addictive behaviors*, 74, 63-66.

The St. Louis County PDMP

St. Louis County passed Ordinance 26-352 on March 2, 2016, amending the St. Louis County Narcotics Control Act to ‘establish and maintain a program for monitoring the prescribing and dispensing of all Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances by professionals licensed to prescribe or dispense such substances in St. Louis County . . .’. Section 602.804 states ‘The Director may permit dispensers located in counties other than St. Louis County to transmit dispensing information to DPH, either on a voluntary basis or pursuant to local or state law.’

A technical assistance advisory board has been established to review and provide input to program activities and a competitive request for proposal process was used to select Appriss as the St. Louis County PDMP vendor.

Additional counties may voluntarily join after passing local legislation. They must sign a standardized user agreement, effectively making that jurisdiction a ‘subscriber’ with the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health, and designate a recipient to receive aggregated data reports. Local health departments receive regular reports from the PDMP and will educate and broker relationships with prescribers and dispensers in their jurisdictions.

As of April 2019, 71 jurisdictions have joined the St. Louis County PDMP. These jurisdictions cover about 84% of people living in Missouri. This rapid growth within just a couple years of operation indicates that jurisdictions across the state value access to this public health tool and believe it can be an important component of a comprehensive effort to address the opioid overdose crisis.

Recommendation: MOCPE members, representing local health departments covering over 50% of the population residing in Missouri, recommend county-level participation in the St. Louis County Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to reduce prescription opioid misuse, opioid addiction, and opioid-related deaths.