

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

July 1, 2023

Mission

Created by the Louisiana Legislature in 1888, the mission of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy remains unchanged over a century later: to regulate the practice of pharmacy in such a manner as to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana. Toward that goal, the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act specifically authorizes the Board to restrict the practice of pharmacy to qualified persons as well as regulate all persons and sites that sell prescription drugs or devices or provide pharmacy care services to consumers in this state.

Licensure

In order to facilitate the restriction of practice to qualified persons, the Board has established educational, experiential, and examination requirements for the initial credentialing of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. As authorized by the legislature, the Board has contracted its high-stakes examination procedures with professional testing services.

A. Examinations for Pharmacists

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) are administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Initial licensure as a pharmacist requires completion of both tests; a pharmacist licensed elsewhere seeking transfer of licensure to Louisiana need only complete the MPJE. These computer adaptive tests are administered in continuous window opportunities at multiple sites throughout the state.

B. Examinations for Pharmacy Technicians

The Board has approved two pharmacy technician certification examinations – the Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination (PTCE) administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board and the Examination for Certified Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT) administered by National Healthcareer Association (NHA). Initial certification as a pharmacy technician requires completion of one of these two tests. Both examinations are computer adaptive tests which are administered in continuous window opportunities at multiple sites throughout the state.

C. New Credentials

During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Board issued 4,630 new credentials in the Pharmacy Program and 2,660 new credentials in the CDS Program. Of note within the Pharmacy Program, we issued 481 new pharmacist licenses, 575 new pharmacy technician certificates, and 846 new pharmacy technician candidate registrations during the past fiscal year. Of note within the CDS Program, we issued new CDS licenses to 1,525 physicians, interns and residents, as well as 613 advanced practice registered nurses, and 113 dentists.

D. License Transfer (Reciprocity)

Persons already licensed as a pharmacist by any other state who wish to obtain a license in Louisiana must complete the required application form, submit to a criminal background check and successfully complete the MPJE test. Of the 481 new

pharmacist licenses issued this past fiscal year, 289 were issued subsequent to completion of the reciprocity process.

E. Census Data

At the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2023, a review of our credential records yielded the following census information:

harmacy Program	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Pharmacists (PST)			
Number of PST in Louisiana	5,925	5,937	5,939
Number of PST Nonresident	<u>3,392</u>	<u>3,635</u>	<u>3,757</u>
Total Number of PST (Active)	9,317	9,572	9,696
Pharmacy Interns			
Number of Active Registrations	1,233	1,159	1,073
Pharmacy Technicians			
Number of Active Certificates	7,406	7,449	6,899
Pharmacy Technicians Candidates			
Number of Active Registrations	1,752	1,861	1,565
Pharmacies (Active)			
Community - Independent	622	629	623
Community - Chain	577	579	572
Hospital	174	174	171
Hospital - Satellite	9	8	11
Institutional	21	21	21
Nonresident	624	672	696
Charitable	8	9	9
Nuclear	10	10	10
Correctional	4	4	4
Remote Processor	1	1	C
Telepharmacy	1	2	3
Marijuana	9	9	9
Marijuana Satellite	0	0	1
Special Event	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Number of Permits	2,060	2,118	2,131
Equipment Permits			
Emergency Drug Kit (EDK)	417	423	415
Automated Medication System	464	160	170
Durable Medical Equipment	665	659	670

Special Activity Credentials			
CDTM Registrations	98	103	109
Medication Administration	4,041	3,393	1,257
Special Work Permits	102	121	124
TM Designation	182	236	223
PMP Access Registrations	22,420	23,258	24,242
Pharmacy Benefit Manager	0	13	25

50,525

48,599

Pharmacy Program TOTAL 50,157

OS Program	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Automated Medication System	47	53	64
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	4,244	4,621	5,073
Dentist	2,287	2,270	2,258
Drug Detection Canine - Private Agency	6	5	5
Drug Detection Canine - Law Enforcement	0	0	1
Distributor	256	260	239
Podiatrist	171	167	169
Veterinarian	1,260	1,285	1,300
Animal Euthanasia Tech - Cert	2	1	4
Animal Euthanasia Tech - Lead	20	18	19
Hospital	313	318	316
Hospital - Exempt	5	5	5
Intern or Resident	1,831	1,728	1,892
Analytical Laboratory	8	8	8
Analytical Laboratory - Exempt	5	5	5
Physician	13,581	13,679	13,790
Physician via Telemedicine	24	28	39
Manufacturer	37	38	37
Medical Psychologist	96	98	97
Optometrist	373	371	364
Physician's Assistant	1,119	1,195	1,302
Pharmacy - Exempt	25	24	24
Pharmacy	1,269	1,269	1,256
Researcher	114	111	107
APRN via Telehealth	1	4	14
Registered Outsourcing Facility	19	23	23
Substance Abuse Clinic	9	9	10
Substance Abuse Clinic - Exempt	0	0	C
Therapeutic Marijuana Pharmacy	0	10	10
Third Party Logistics	45	51	49
Withdrawal Management Clinic	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	5
CDS Program TOTAL	27,167	27,654	28,485

Total Active Credentials Under Board Management			
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Pharmacy Program	50,157	50,525	48,599
CDS Program	<u>27,167</u>	<u>27,654</u>	<u>28,485</u>
Total	77,324	78,179	77,084

Compliance

A. Enforcement

In order to control and regulate the practice of pharmacy in Louisiana, the Board employs seven pharmacist compliance officers to perform routine inspections and special investigations throughout the year in all places under the Board's jurisdiction. In addition to pharmacies, the compliance officers also inspect healthcare facilities to monitor compliance with controlled substance requirements. The compliance officers visited 1,565 pharmacies and other facilities during the year to perform routine inspections, site visits for permit changes, and other calls for assistance. The compliance and administrative officers began the fiscal year with 137 cases from the previous fiscal years, received 388 new cases, and closed 386 cases, leaving 139 cases for the next fiscal year. Of the 386 cases closed during the fiscal year: 7 of the original complaints were withdrawn, 13 resulted from completion of previously imposed probationary periods, 93 were determined to be without violation, 16 cases were referred to other agencies, 67 resulted in field/administrative corrections, 52 resulted in administrative sanctions, and 138 cases were referred to the Board's committees. Those committees took no action in 14 of their cases, issued non-disciplinary letters of non-compliance in 27 cases, and then recommended voluntary consent agreements for 97 cases. Of that number, all but two accepted the proposed Board decision; those two respondents were referred for formal administrative hearings. The decisions from the formal administrative hearings resulted in suspension and assessments in the two cases.

Compliance officers coordinate other investigative activities with a wide range of agencies, including local police departments, parish sheriff departments, other state regulatory and law enforcement agencies, and federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Though the compliance officers utilize the educational approach as the preferred mechanism to achieve compliance, certain circumstances warrant formal Board action.

B. Adjudications

During the past fiscal year, the Board conducted two formal administrative hearings and levied formal disciplinary action against several credentials. A summary of all the Board's disciplinary decisions is presented here:

Sanction	Pharmacist	Intern	Technician	Candidate	Pharmacy	CDS
Letter of Warning with Assessment	5	0	0	1	2	0
Letter of Reprimand with Assessment	10	0	8	0	2	0
Probation with Assessment	8	1	5	1	5	0
Fine plus Costs (No Other Sanction)	3	0	1	0	20	0
Revocation	0	0	5	1	2	0
Denial	1	0	0	0	0	0
Suspension (May or May Not Include Assessment)	1	0	1	1	0	0
Surrender resulting in Indefinite Suspension	7	2	2	1	0	4

C. Disciplinary Restrictions

From time to time, the Board imposes disciplinary restrictions on various credentials, including probation, suspension, and other practice restrictions. Probationary periods are typically imposed for defined periods of time, whereas suspensions may be imposed for defined or indefinite periods of time. As of July 1, 2023 there were several credentials on probation, including 37 pharmacist licenses, seven pharmacy technician certificates, one pharmacy intern registration, and six pharmacy permits. The number of credentials on active suspension include 102 pharmacist licenses, four pharmacy intern registrations, 121 pharmacy technician certificates, 30 pharmacy technician candidate registrations, three special work permits, 13 pharmacy permits, and 10 controlled substance licenses for pharmacies.

D. Practitioner Recovery Program

The Board established its program in 1988 to assist practitioners to obtain treatment for their impairment, maintain their recovery, and assist their re-entry into professional practice. As of July 1, 2023 there were 24 pharmacists, one pharmacy intern, and three pharmacy technicians actively engaged in the recovery program. They surrendered their credentials while in treatment; following treatment and upon favorable recommendation by board-certified addiction medicine specialists, they applied for the reinstatement of their credentials. The Board reinstated their credentials on probation, and the licensees practice under various restrictions designed to monitor their re-entry to professional practice.

Board Activity

A. Legislative

During the 2023 regular session, the Board sponsored two bills.

- SB 14 (Act 201) to update the state list of controlled substances consistent with recent federal controlled substance scheduling actions. The legislature passed that bill and Governor Edwards signed that measure as Act 201 of the 2023 Legislature and it became effective August 1, 2023.
- HB 133 (Act 14) amended the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) law reducing the frequency of mandatory advisory council meetings from quarterly to at least once annually and provides for the ability to meet by electronic means. The legislature passed that bill and Governor Edwards signed that measure as Act 14 of the 2023 Legislature and it became effective August 1, 2023.

B. Regulatory

The Board's Regulation Revision Committee is tasked with the continuous review of the Board's rules and their recommendation for revision as appropriate. The Board completed 10 regulatory projects during the fiscal year:

- Project 2022-1 ~ Raw Marijuana Products the Board initiated this regulatory project to implement the provisions of Act 424 of the 2021 Legislature authorizing the use of raw or crude marijuana for therapeutic purposes and to remove an unnecessary restriction on the storage of marijuana products in marijuana pharmacies. The rule changes add raw products to the list of allowable dosage forms, establish testing standards for raw products, and specifies the dispensing limitations for raw products identified in the legislation. Further, the rule changes allow marijuana pharmacies to temporarily store marijuana products outside safes and vaults but still within the prescription department during their operating hours to facilitate efficient dispensing procedures.
- Project 2022-02 ~ Fees the Board initiated this project to itemize all fees the Board is authorized to charge its clients. Although the Board is authorized by R.S. 37:1182(A)(21) to promulgate a rule to establish its fees, it had never done so. The last fee increase for the Board was adopted by the 2005 Legislature. The Board established its fees in rule and increased those fees to provide additional funds for operating costs.
- Project 2022-03 ~ Marijuana Pharmacies the Board initiated this regulatory project to amend its rules for marijuana pharmacies to reduce some of the regulatory restrictions for licensed pharmacy personnel in those pharmacies as well as to require those pharmacies to make marijuana product testing results available whenever patients request that information.
- Project 2022-04 ~ Pharmacy Benefit Managers the Board initiated this regulatory project to amend its rules for pharmacy benefit managers to repeal the requirement for the inclusion of an audited financial statement in the application for a new pharmacy benefit manager permit.
- Project 2022-05 ~ Pharmacy Operations the Board initiated this regulatory project to amend its rules for pharmacies to address concerns expressed by consumers, licensees, and legislators. The rule changes address appropriate staffing levels in pharmacies and adequate rest breaks for pharmacy staff. The rule changes also require pharmacy owners to develop plans, policies, and procedures for business continuity as well as continuity of patient care in the event of a disaster or emergency.
- Project 2022-06 ~ Nonresident Pharmacies the Board initiated this regulatory project to amend its rules for nonresident pharmacies to replace the term "out-of-state" with "nonresident", create parity between nonresident and resident pharmacies chapter requirements, clarify intent, and modify the responsibility on the pharmacist-in-charge in the matter of policy and procedures. The rule change also removed the requirement for nonresident pharmacies to designate a resident and registered office in Louisiana.
- Project 2022-07 ~ Licensing Dependents of Healthcare Professionals Relocating to Louisiana – the Board initiated this regulatory project to add new sections to two of its chapters of rules: §508 in Chapter 5 – Pharmacists and §906 in Chapter 9 – Pharmacy Technicians, to establish preferential licensing procedures for dependents of healthcare professionals relocating to

Louisiana pursuant to the provisions of Act 279 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

- Project 2022-08 ~ Transfer of Prescription Information the Board initiated this regulatory project to accommodate the transfer of prescriptions in electronic form.
- Project 2022-09 ~ Partial Fills of CDS Prescriptions the Board initiated this regulatory project to amend its rules relative to prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances (CDS). The changes require pharmacies dispensing CDS prescriptions to use a dispensing information system capable of accurately recording partial fills and refills of such prescriptions and require a pharmacist to dispense a partial fill of a CDS prescription when requested by the patient or prescriber, subject to the pharmacist's obligation relative to corresponding responsibility.
- Project 2022-10 ~ Compounding the Board initiated this regulatory project to amend its rule relative to standards for pharmacy compounding. The proposed rule change removes the reference to a specific edition of the United States Pharmacopeia-National Formulary thereby making the current edition applicable for pharmacy compounding.

C. Prescription Monitoring Program

The Board continued its operation of Louisiana's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The vendor contract to operate the program is held by Bamboo Health, based in Louisville, KY. The vendor's operating platform is PMP AWARxE. Further, through its PMP InterConnect portal, the Louisiana PMP connects to prescription monitoring programs in over 35 state and federal jurisdictions to allow for seamless interstate data inquiries. The number of prescribers and dispensers authorized to access the program's database continues to increase, with more than 28,000 providers using the system as of June 30, 2023. The downward trend for the dispensing of opioid medications has continued. Since the program is required to file an annual report to the legislature, we have appended that report to this one to facilitate its separation.

Board Office

The Board currently employs 23 people on a full-time basis in a variety of professional, technical, and clerical roles; the Board also supports the local Cooperative Office Education (COE) program in Baton Rouge area high schools by hiring high school senior students on a temporary basis. The physical and mailing address of the Board office is:

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy 3388 Brentwood Drive Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1700

The Board's website address is <u>www.pharmacy.la.gov</u> and general email is received at <u>info@pharmacy.la.gov</u>.

Conclusion

The Board has had an active year on several fronts, and all of these activities have contributed to the overall mission of the board. The officers and members of the Board, as well as the entire office staff, are committed to achieving our goal of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through appropriate regulation of the practice of pharmacy in this state. We understand that public service is a privilege, and we endeavor to render that service honorably.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Fontenot Executive Director



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Prescription Monitoring Program Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

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Introduction

The Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is an electronic database used to collect and monitor prescription data for all Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substances, marijuana recommendations, as well as certain drugs of concern, dispensed by pharmacies in Louisiana or to a Louisiana resident from pharmacies located in another state. The PMP also provides a venue for monitoring patient prescription history for practitioners.

Act 676 of the 2006 Louisiana Legislature authorized the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of an electronic system for the monitoring of controlled substances and other drugs of concern that are dispensed within the state or to state residents by pharmacies located in other states. The goal of the program is to improve the state's ability to identify and inhibit the diversion of controlled substances and drugs of concern in an efficient and cost-effective manner that shall not impede the appropriate utilization of these drugs for legitimate medical purposes.

The PMP was implemented in August 2008. Pharmacies and dispensing prescribers were instructed how and when to transmit their dispensing transactions to the program vendor for assimilation into the PMP database. Prescribers, dispensers, and other persons authorized to access PMP information were instructed how to secure their access privileges. The web portal to the PMP database was opened to queries on January 1, 2009, and the program remains fully operational.

Advisory Council

The enabling legislation created the PMP Advisory Council to assist the Board in the development and operation of the program. The council consists of the following members, each of whom may appoint a designee:

- 1. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners;
- 2. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry;
- 3. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing;
- 4. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners;
- 5. The president of the Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants;
- 6. The president of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy;
- 7. The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police;
- 8. The administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
- 9. The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives;
- 10. The president of the Louisiana Senate;
- 11. The chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare;
- 12. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare;
- 13. The secretary of the Department of Health;
- 14. The president of the Louisiana State Medical Society;
- 15. The president of the Louisiana Dental Association;
- 16. The president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners;
- 17. The president of the Optometry Association of Louisiana;
- 18. The president of the Louisiana Pharmacists Association;
- 19. The president of the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association;

- 20. The president of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores;
- 21. The president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association;
- 22. The president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association;
- 23. The president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America;
- 24. The president of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.

During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the council convened a quorum of members on each of their regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, except for April 2023. The program staff presented data concerning the number of prescription transactions reported to the program database as well as the number of queries to the database by prescribers, dispensers, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies. The staff also reported on the addition of new states available through the PMP InterConnect interstate network, as well as the increased utilization by the private sector of the PMP Gateway service, which integrates the PMP access portal into existing practice information systems in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, practitioner offices, and pharmacies. The council recommended a change to the PMP law reducing the frequency of mandatory advisory council meetings from quarterly to at least once annually and the ability to meet by electronic means. The legislature passed that bill and Governor Edwards signed that measure as Act 14 of the 2023 Legislature and it became effective August 1, 2023.

Program Highlights

- *August 1, 2022* the program transitioned from the ASAP 4.2 reporting standard to the 4.2B standard.
- January 1, 2023 The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health (OPH), Bureau of Community Preparedness (BCP) provided \$600,000 in federal grant funds to cover the PMP integration licensing fees for healthcare provider users for the period beginning January 1, 2023 ending September 30, 2023.
- *April 13, 2023* Louisiana began sharing PMP information through PMP InterConnect with the state of Ohio.
- June 30, 2023 as of this date, the Louisiana PMP is sharing with 36 PMPs: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Military Health System – Dept. of Defense (MHS-DOD), Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

Louisiana PMP Statewide Integration Project

On January 1, 2019, the Board partnered with the Louisiana Dept. of Health's Office of Public Health, Bureau of Community Preparedness (LDH-OPH-BCP) and Appriss

Health (Bamboo Health) to provide a statewide PMP integration option to all healthcare providers in Louisiana utilizing a service called PMP Gateway[®]. Gateway offers healthcare providers an option to integrate PMP data within the provider's electronic health record (EHR) or pharmacy information system to provide a streamlined clinical workflow for providers. The integration eliminates the need for providers to log in separately to the PMP web portal; instead, the EHR automatically initiates a patient query and returns the patient's PMP information directly within the provider's EHR or pharmacy information system.

Included as part of the integration, users now have access to an advanced analytics and patient support tool called NarxCare[®]. In addition to the existing Louisiana PMP functionality, NarxCare aggregates and analyzes prescription information from pharmacies and presents visual interactive information, as well as advanced analytic insights, machine learning risk scores and more to help prescribers and pharmacists provide better patient safety and outcomes for every patient. NarxCare also provides tools and resources that support patients' needs and assists a healthcare provider to connect their patient to treatment when appropriate. The statewide initiative was originally funded by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant awarded to LDH-OPH-BCP and covers the costs of the licensing fees associated with the integration and NarxCare service. The original grant funding ended on April 30, 2021. LDH-OPH-BCP was able to provide additional grant funding which extended the project until September 30, 2023.

As of June 30, 2023, the Louisiana PMP was interoperable with 538 licensees (EHRs and pharmacy management systems) across the state. The 538 licensees represent more than 3,000 facilities in Louisiana and were responsible for 3,211,192 PMP requests in the month of June 2023. There are an additional 256 licensee applicants pending.

Program Metrics

The data on the following pages provide summary data for the operational aspects of the program for Calendar Year 2022. The first graphic presents information about the use of the information by the authorized users as identified in the governing legislation. Data for the different categories of prescribers are presented, including the number of prescribers authorized to obtain PMP access privileges, the number with active access privileges, and the number of queries to the PMP database by those prescribers. Other authorized users include law enforcement and regulatory agencies; information concerning the number of queries originating from those entities is also presented.

The second graphic presents information concerning the numbers of controlled substance prescriptions dispense in the state, including summary data for different types of drugs like opioids and benzodiazepines. Just over 12.9 million prescriptions for controlled substances and drugs of concern were dispensed in the state during Calendar Year 2022, with an average of 2.812 prescriptions per Louisiana resident. Specifically looking at opioid prescriptions, the state saw a reduction in the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed by 3.9% compared to Calendar Year 2021.

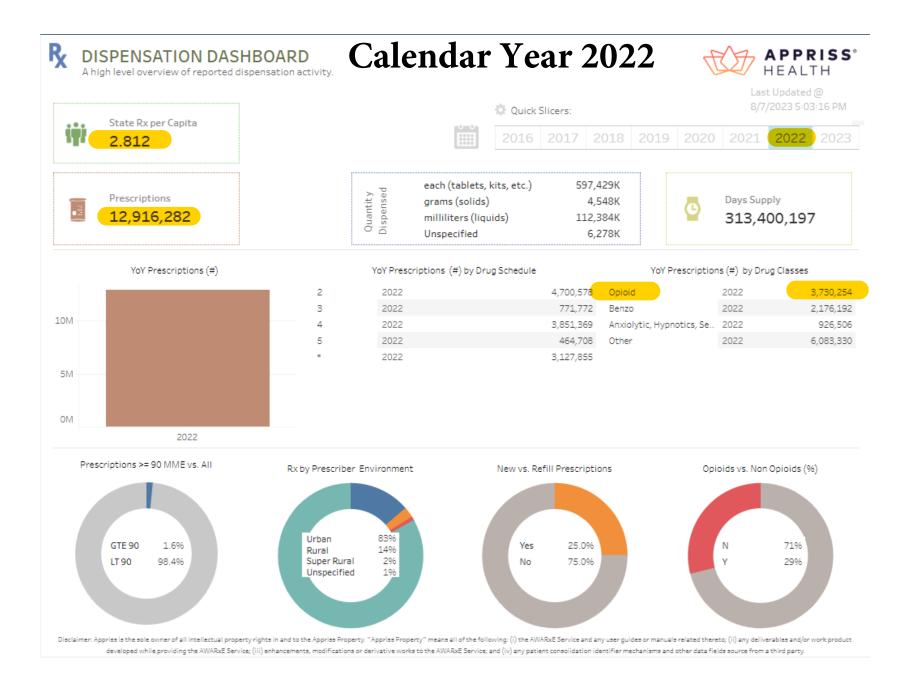
Calendar Year 2022 PMP User Statistics

PMP User Stats for 2022 (01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022)					
	Number of	Number of Providers	Number of PMP Requests	Number of PMP	
	Providers <u>Eligible</u> for	with Active PMP	by Providers through	Requests by	
	PMP Access (as of	Access Privileges (as	AWARxE®	Providers through	
PMP Healthcare Provider Role	12/31/2022)	of 12/31/2022)	During 2022	Gateway [®] During 2022	
Physician (MD, DO)	13,518	9,327	2,020,258	18,582,971	
Nurse Practitioner (APRN)	4,855	3,851	858,773	2,122,656	
Dentist (DDS)	2,205	1,445	23,850	22,478	
Physician Assistant (PA)	1,270	983	155,284	223,074	
Optometrist (OD)	360	156	11	6	
Podiatrist (DPM)	168	121	7,806	0	
Medical Psychologist (MP)	98	88	38,180	26,231	
Medical Intern/Resident	1,640	1,240	43,505	195,800	
Prescriber's Delegate	N/A	3,794	766,161	0	
Pharmacist (PST)	9,666	5,254	4,294,030	8,501,888	
Pharmacist's Delegate	N/A	1,664	501,604	0	
Totals	33,780	27,923	8,709,462	29,675,104	

Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial Officials & Specialty Courts	CY 2022 Searches
DEA (Patient Requests)	385
Specialty Court	45
FBI	14
Homeland Security	5
Local Law Enforcement	113
Multijurisdictional Task Force	0
State Attorney General	1
State Police	29
Totals	592

Regulatory Agencies	CY 2022 Searches
Board of Pharmacy	3177
Board of Dentistry	8
Board of Medicine	481
Board of Nursing	11
Board of Optometry Investigator	0
DEA (Licensee/Registrant	
Request)	744
Totals	4,421

Other Roles	CY 2022 Searches
Medical Examiner/Coroner	173
Louisiana Medicaid Program	95
Totals	139



Conclusion

The program has completed 14 years of operation. Based on feedback from authorized users, it appears to represent an efficient and cost-effective use of resources. Data from the program suggests we have made some progress in the reduction of diversion of controlled substances.

We value and appreciate the contributions from and collaboration with our partners on the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Council. We also acknowledge the contributions from our administrative coordinators, Ms. Reshmi Ravindranath, Ms. Christina Howland, and Ms. Nerissa Montgomery for their assistance with the development of this report and administrative oversight of the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Fontenot Executive Director