



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
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Prescription Monitoring Program Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

July 1, 2024

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 provides a mechanism for prescribers and pharmacists to monitor their patient's prescription history.

Act 676 of the 2006 Louisiana Legislature authorized the development, implementation, and operation 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 2023-2024, the council convened a quorum of members on February 7, 2024. 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, prosecutorial officials, and specialty courts. The staff also reported on 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. During the previous fiscal year, 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 2023 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 9, 2023** – an Invitation to Bid (ITB) through the Office of State Procurement was open for the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) software.
- **October 11, 2023** – the Office of State Procurement approved a purchase order for the PMP software through Bamboo Health.
- **January 1, 2024** – a new contract for the PMP software through Bamboo Health began.
- **March 20, 2024** – the Board of Pharmacy amended Sections 2901 and 2914 of its rules relative to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The rule change in Section 2901 clarifies intent in regards to butalbital containing products being reported to the PMP and removes naloxone as a drug of concern. The rule change in Section 2914 addresses record retention of PMP information by the Board.
- **June 7, 2024** - Louisiana began sharing PMP information through PMP InterConnect with the state of Kentucky.
- **June 11, 2024** – the Louisiana Department of Health’s Office of Public Health, Bureau of Community Preparedness provided grant funds to cover the costs associated with the PMP statewide integration project for the period October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- **June 30, 2024** – as of this date, the Louisiana PMP is sharing with 37 PMPs: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Military Health System – Dept. of Defense (MHS-DOD), Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, 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.

The statewide initiative has been funded through grants obtained from LDH-OPH-BCP which has covered the costs from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024.

As of June 30, 2024, the Louisiana PMP was interoperable with 654 licensees (EHRs and pharmacy management systems) across the state. The 654 licensees represent more than 3,100 facilities in Louisiana and were responsible for 3,674,705 PMP requests in the month of June 2024.

Program Metrics

The data on the following pages provide summary data for the operational aspects of the program for Calendar Year 2023. The first graphic presents information about the use of the information by authorized prescribers, pharmacists, and their delegates. Data for the different roles of users are presented, including the number authorized to obtain PMP access privileges, the number with active access privileges, and the number of queries to the PMP database through the PMP website (AWARxE) and through the integration component (Gateway). The graphic also contains information about the use of the information by other authorized users, including law enforcement, prosecutorial officials, specialty courts, regulatory agencies, and other roles.

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 13.4 million prescriptions for controlled substances and drugs of concern were dispensed in the state during Calendar Year 2023, with an average of 2.839 prescriptions per Louisiana resident. Specifically looking at opioid prescriptions, the state saw a reduction in the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed by 4.2% compared to Calendar Year 2022.

Calendar Year 2023 PMP User Statistics

PMP User Stats for 2022 (01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023)				
PMP Healthcare Provider Role	Number of Providers <u>Eligible</u> for PMP Access (as of 12/31/2023)	Number of Providers <u>with</u> Active PMP Access Privileges (as of 12/31/2023)	Number of PMP Requests by Providers through AWARxE® During 2023	Number of PMP Requests by Providers through Gateway® During 2023
Physician (MD, DO)	13,684	9,552	2,170,861	26,634,608
Nurse Practitioner (APRN)	5,257	4,178	968,926	2,483,143
Dentist (DDS)	2,252	1,469	24,170	16,747
Physician Assistant (PA)	1,370	1,082	176,586	304,387
Optometrist (OD)	366	153	11	0
Podiatrist (DPM)	169	120	8,365	0
Medical Psychologist (MP)	99	94	34,365	43,744
Medical Intern/Resident	1,725	1,181	42,595	803,479
Prescriber's Delegate	N/A	3,915	755,125	0
Pharmacist (PST)	9,307	5,402	5,120,883	8,667,792
Pharmacist's Delegate	N/A	1,709	543,000	0
Totals	34,229	28,855	9,844,887	38,953,900


Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial Officials & Specialty Courts	CY 2023 Searches
DEA (Patient Requests)	540
Specialty Court	67
FBI	13
Homeland Security	1
Local Law Enforcement	116
Multijurisdictional Task Force	0
State Attorney General	3
State Police	16
Totals	756


Regulatory Agencies	CY 2023 Searches
Board of Pharmacy	3800
Board of Dentistry	8
Board of Medicine	762
Board of Nursing	4
Board of Optometry Investigator	0
DEA (Licensee/Registrant Request)	695
Totals	5269

Other Roles	CY 2023 Searches
Medical Examiner/Coroner	48
Louisiana Medicaid Program	307
Totals	355


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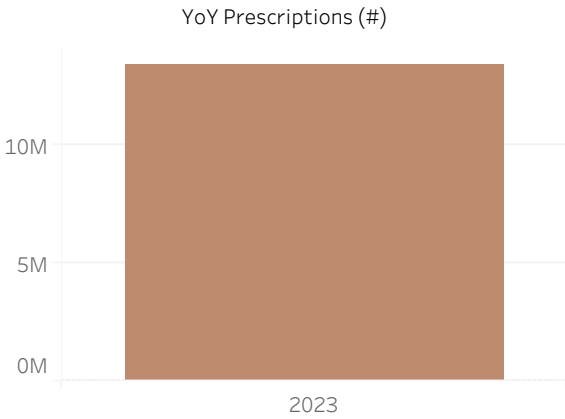
Calendar Year 2023

 State Rx per Capita
2.839

 Prescriptions
13,412,102

Quantity Dispensed	each (tablets, kits, etc.)	586,664K
	grams (solids)	5,406K
	milliliters (liquids)	89,542K
	Unspecified	5,808K

 Days Supply
312,054,073



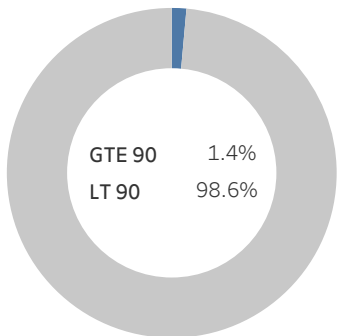
YoY Prescriptions (#) by Drug Schedule

2	2023	4,624,564
3	2023	844,621
4	2023	3,755,876
5	2023	468,746
*	2023	3,718,295

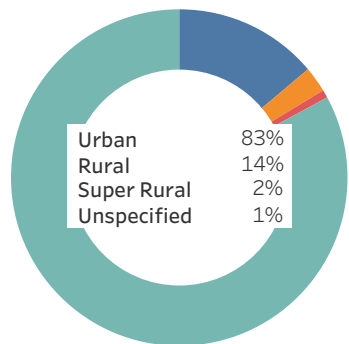
YoY Prescriptions (#) by Drug Classes

Opioid	2023	3,572,920
Benzo	2023	2,123,746
Anxiolytic, Hypnotics, Se..	2023	903,836
Other	2023	6,811,600

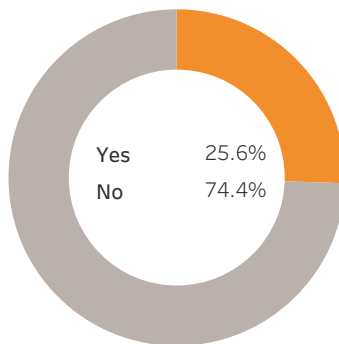
Prescriptions >= 90 MME vs. All



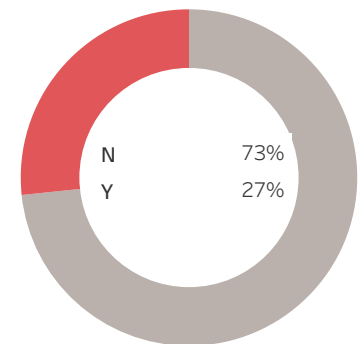
Rx by Prescriber Environment



New vs. Refill Prescriptions



Opioids vs. Non Opioids (%)



Disclaimer: Appriss is the sole owner of all intellectual property rights in and to the Appriss Property. "Appriss Property" means all of the following: (i) the AWARxE Service and any user guides or manuals related thereto; (ii) any deliverables and/or work product developed while providing the AWARxE Service; (iii) enhancements, modifications or derivative works to the AWARxE Service; and (iv) any patient consolidation identifier mechanisms and other data fields source from a third party.

Conclusion

The program has completed 15 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, Ms. Amy Hammon, 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