

Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

FY 2018

Third Quarter Report

January – March 2018



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PDMP Users and Queries

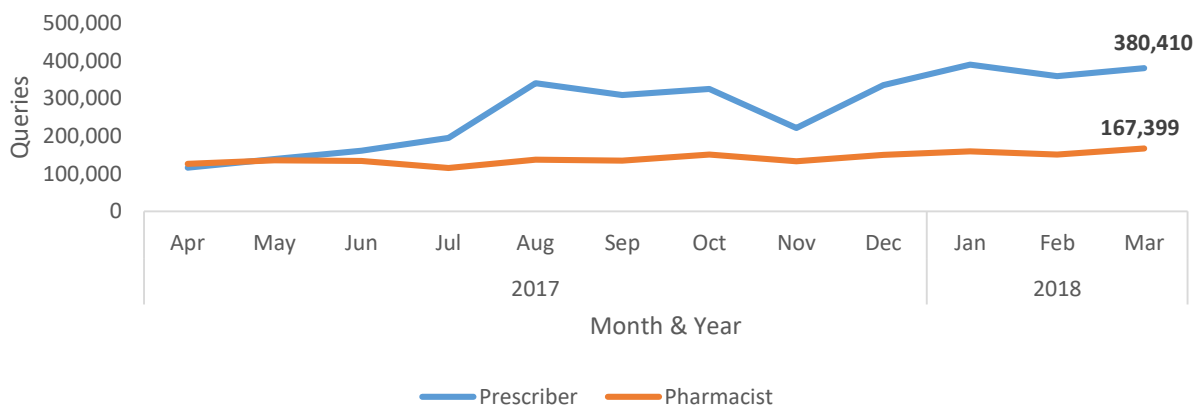
The total number of registered PDMP users increased between January and March. The largest percent increase was among veterinarians and the largest absolute increase was among delegates. The number of registered veterinarians increased from 31 to 35 (13%). The number of delegates increased from 4,136 to 4,427 (7%). Overall, the number of PDMP users increased from 15,990 to 16,536 (3%) (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of authorized users by type – January – March 2018

PDMP User Type	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Pct. Change
Physician (MD, OD)	5,294	5,336	5,379	2%
Podiatrist	65	66	66	2%
Physician Assistant	331	337	339	2%
Adv. Practice Nurse	2,067	2,100	2,138	3%
Optometrist	93	96	97	4%
Dentist	934	943	961	3%
Veterinarian	31	35	35	13%
Pharmacist	2,876	2,907	2,920	2%
Delegate	4,136	4,290	4,427	7%
Law Enforcement	159	164	170	7%
Licensing Board	4	4	4	0%
TOTAL	15,990	16,278	16,536	3%

Along with the increase in registered PDMP users, the number of queries made to the PDMP has also grown. The number of queries made by pharmacists reached an all-time high of 167,399 in March 2018. During that same month, prescribers queried the PDMP 380,410 times, a number that remained relatively steady during the first three months of 2018.

Figure 2: Number of queries by prescribers and pharmacists – Arkansas – April 2017 – March 2018



PDMP queries made by Licensing Boards and Certified Law Enforcement Prescription Drug Diversion Investigators (CLEPDDIs) account for a small fraction of all PDMP queries, but they have the potential to make a big impact on prescribing. This is because licensing boards and law enforcement have the legal authority to investigate inappropriate or illegal prescribing. An increase in queries by these two groups suggests that there is more scrutiny of how controlled substances are being prescribed (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Number of queries by licensing boards and law enforcement – Arkansas – April 2017 – Mar 2018



Interstate Data Sharing

The opioid crisis does not stop at state borders. Soon after states began establishing PDMPs, authorities recognized the need to share information between states. Interstate data sharing allows prescribers and pharmacists in Arkansas to see what drugs their patients have received in up to 29 other states, which prevents patients from “doctor shopping” from one state to another (Figure 4). Doctor shopping is visiting multiple prescribers and pharmacies for the same type of medication.

Figure 4: States that share PDMP data with Arkansas – March 2018

