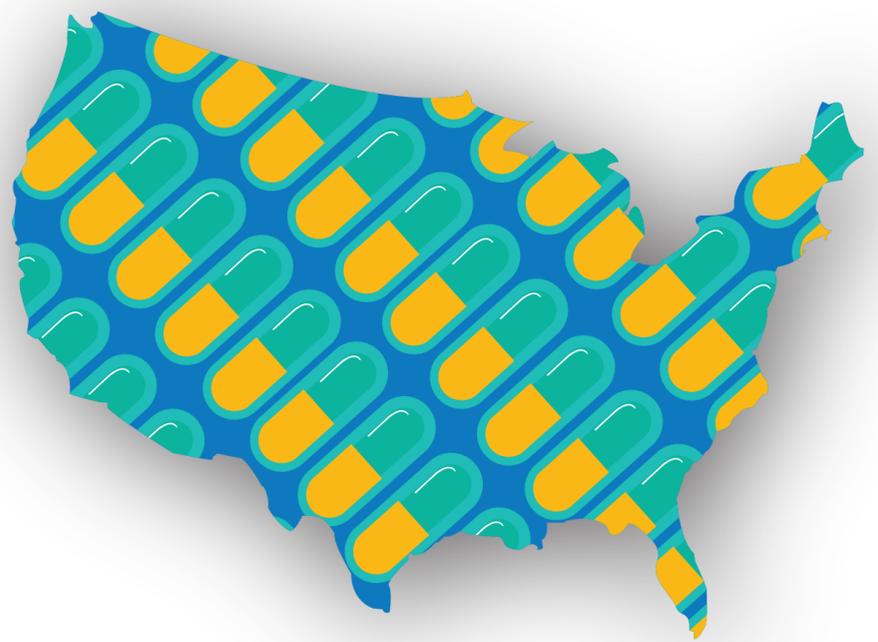


Prescription Drug Abuse

An American Epidemic



Number of people who die every day due to narcotic prescription drug overdose.

There are 3 types of prescription drugs that are commonly abused:

- Opioids**: painkillers like Vicodin and codeine
- Depressants**: drugs that treat anxiety and aid sleep, like Valium or Xanax
- Stimulants**: drugs used to treat ADHD, like Adderall and Ritalin

Prescription drug monitoring programs can help fight this epidemic. PDMPs encourage data-sharing to track prescribing, so doctors know where drugs are going. When PDMP programs were used in emergency rooms, 61% of patients received no or fewer opioid medications than originally planned.

35

Number of states with PDMP programs in the U.S.
13 others are setting them up.

Next Steps



Monitoring

Support efforts to increase provider use of PDMPs. Encourage reporting of suspected abuse or theft.



Enforcement

Create systems of accountability for doctors and prescribers. Establish standards for safe and effective prescribing.



Education

Teach parents, youth and all patients about the risks and dangers of abuse. Train prescribers to follow safe and appropriate dosages.

To take these next steps, we must call for strong public health funding.