

Assessing the Last Line of Defense Against Prescription Opioid Abuse

The ongoing devastation wrought by the opioid epidemic has brought renewed attention to the implications of prescription drug misuse. National data shows that in 2015, approximately **12.5 million individuals reported misuse of opioid pain relievers** in the past year, with approximately 36% obtaining opioid medications for misuse through filling medications from a prescriber.

Understanding which prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) best enable healthcare providers, pharmacists, and others to effectively identify patients at risk of misusing opioids is critical. Yet research into the efficacy of PDMPs is scarce and provides little guidance into best practices.

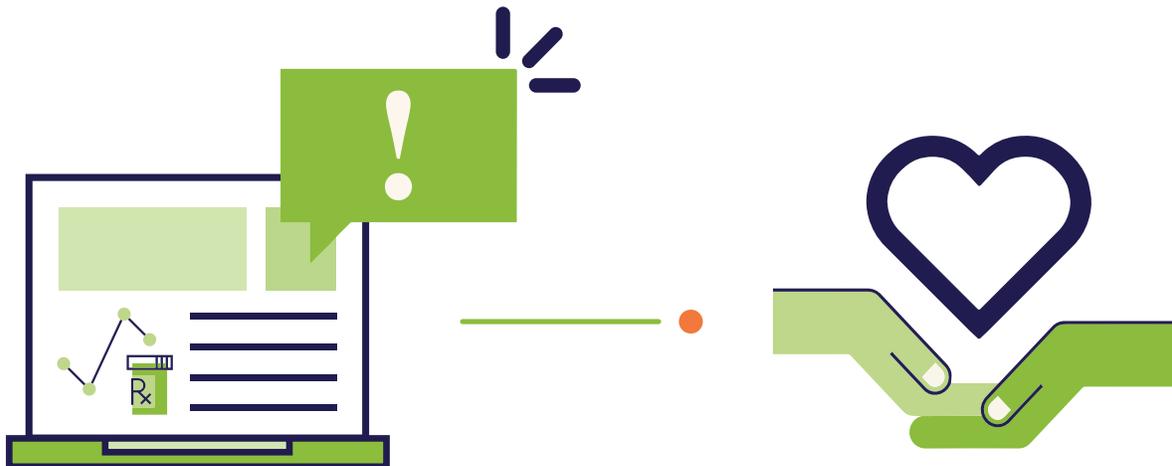
As the largest vendor of PDMP database systems in the U.S., Bamboo Health aims to help fill the void and build greater industry understanding of best-practice solutions. PDMPs serve as the last line of defense in preventing harmful adverse events—such as substance use disorder and overdose—as they provide key information for clinicians and pharmacists writing prescriptions or dispensing controlled substance medications.

To assess the effectiveness of these PDMP solutions in clinical settings, the Bamboo Health Data Science Team investigated key outcomes and compared results pre- and postimplementation in two different states. The study on the first state spanned implementations over three different time periods for a combined 27 months' worth of data, and the study on the second state examined nearly five years of data from early 2015 to late 2019.



KNOWLEDGE BRIEF:

EVALUATING THE IMPACT: NARXCARE AND PMP GATEWAY EFFECTIVENESS



While narcotic prescriptions were on the decline prior to the implementation of Bamboo Health solutions, the studies found those declines accelerated following NarxCare and PMP Gateway integrations in both states—driving declines 227% faster in the first state and 23% faster in the second state. The NarxCare and Gateway integrations also coincided with shifts to lower potency narcotic prescriptions, and generally lower risk prescribing characteristics over time.

To build upon these studies for additional industry insights, Bamboo Health is working to standardize PDMP outcome assessments and make them available for all PMP AWA^{RxE}-supported PDMPs. The state study results clearly illustrate the immense value of having effective PDMPs as the last line of defense against prescription drug misuse, to help frontline providers offer optimal patient care and save lives in the process.

How can we help?
Tell us your needs.

[BAMBOOHEALTH.COM/CONTACT/](https://bamboohealth.com/contact/)