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Chairperson

**Alan Bloom**  
Vice Chairperson

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Secretary

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES BOARD**



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January 30, 2017

The Honorable Eric Esser  
Acting Secretary, Department of Safety and Professional Services  
State of Wisconsin  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
PO Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Dear Secretary Esser,

On March 17, 2016, 2015 Wisconsin Act 267 was enacted providing reporting requirements for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). On behalf of the Controlled Substance Board, I am pleased to provide you and the Department with a copy of the second quarterly report.

I would like to thank Department staff for their extensive work to create the current report and look forward to working with staff as we continue to improve the PDMP functionality and reporting.

This report will be a valuable tool for those around the state who are interested in promoting the health, safety and well-being of Wisconsin residents. If you receive any questions or comments about the report please forward them to the Controlled Substance Board so we can improve the report as necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Englebert", written in a cursive style.

Doug Englebert  
Chair, Wisconsin Controlled Substance Board



## Controlled Substances Board



## Report 2

October 1 – December 31, 2016

# Contact Information

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## Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board

**Chairperson: Doug Englebert**

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# Introduction

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The Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was deployed in June 2013. It is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) pursuant to the regulations and policies established by the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (CSB). Since being deployed, the PDMP primarily has been a tool to help healthcare professionals make more informed decisions about prescribing and dispensing controlled substance prescription drugs to patients. It also discloses data as authorized by law to governmental and law enforcement agencies.

At the end of December 2016, the PDMP stored over 48 million prescription records submitted by over 2,000 pharmacies and dispensing practitioners. Over 19,000 prescribers, pharmacists, and their delegates had performed over 4.1 million queries for patient prescription reports. The number of queries performed by healthcare users per day has steadily risen, with an average of almost 5,000 queries performed each day.

Pursuant to ss. 961.385 (5) – (6), Wis. Stats., the CSB is required to submit a report to DSPS about the PDMP. This report is intended to satisfy that requirement. It includes information related to each of the following topics identified in the law:

- The satisfaction with the program of pharmacists, pharmacies, practitioners, and other users of the program.
- The program's impact on referrals of pharmacists, pharmacies, and practitioners to licensing or regulatory boards for discipline and to law enforcement agencies for investigation and possible prosecution.
- An assessment of the trends and changes in the use of monitored prescription drugs in this state.
- The number of practitioners, by profession, and pharmacies submitting records to the board under the program in the previous quarter.
- A description of the number, frequency, and nature of submissions by law enforcement agencies under s. 961.37 (3) (a) in the previous quarter.
- A description of the number, frequency, and nature of requests made in the previous quarter for disclosure of records generated under the program.
- The number of individuals receiving prescription orders from 5 or more practitioners or having monitored prescription drugs dispensed by 5 or more pharmacies within the same 90-day period at any time over the course of the program.
- The number of individuals receiving daily morphine milligram equivalents of 1 to 19 milligrams, 20 to 49 milligrams, 50 to 99 milligrams, and 100 or more milligrams in the previous quarter.
- The number of individuals to whom both opioids and benzodiazepines were dispensed within the same 90-day period at any time over the course of the program.

On January 17, 2017, DSPS launched the first release of an enhanced PDMP (ePDMP) system. The primary emphasis of the new system's design is value-added clinical workflow integration, improved data quality capabilities for both searching and reporting, and maximized public health and public safety use. It will also be capable of compiling all of the data required for future reports.

# User Satisfaction

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DSPS did not conduct a user satisfaction survey this quarter. All available PDMP resources were dedicated to preparing for the launch of the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program on January 17, 2017. DSPS intends to conduct a user survey in late in Q1 2017, after users are able to get more familiar with the WI ePDMP.

# Impact on Referrals for Investigation

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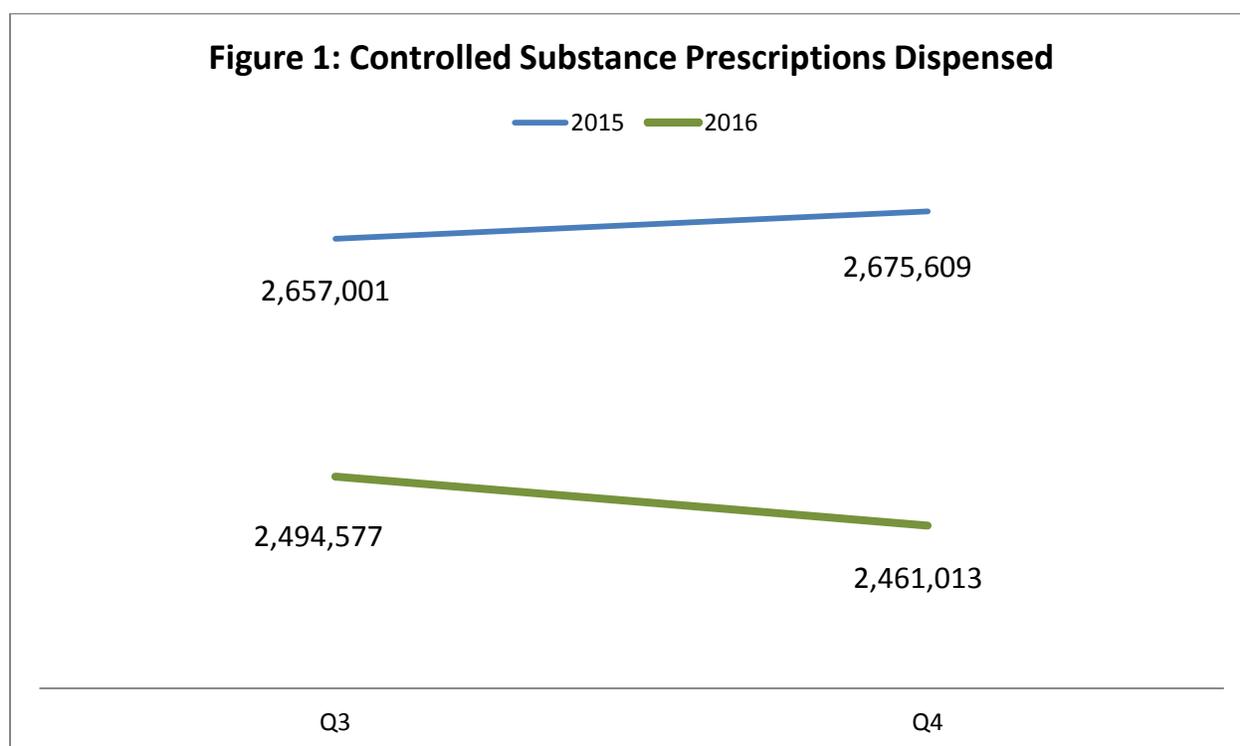
Between October 1 and December 31, 2016, the Controlled Substances Board did not make any referrals for possible investigation and disciplinary action pursuant to s. 961.385 (2) (f), Wis. Stats.

# Monitored Prescription Drug Use Trend<sup>1</sup>

The amount of monitored prescription drugs, and opioids in particular, dispensed between October 1 and December 31, 2016 is less than the amount dispensed during the same period in 2015.

During the fourth quarter 2016, the total number of monitored drug prescriptions dispensed was 2,461,013, and the number of monitored drug doses dispensed was 147,232,485. During the fourth quarter 2015, the total number of monitored drug prescriptions dispensed was 2,675,609, and the number of monitored drug doses dispensed was 162,037,077. The number of dispensed prescriptions for a monitored prescription drug this quarter is approximately 8% less than the same quarter in 2015. Similarly, the number of dispensed doses for a monitored prescription drug this quarter is approximately 9% less than the same period in 2015.

In addition to the year-over-year decrease, Figure 1 shows that the number of controlled substance prescriptions dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2016 is less than the number of controlled substance prescriptions dispensed during the third quarter of 2016. The approximate 1% decrease from the third quarter is small, but the trend is noteworthy considering that the number of controlled substance prescriptions dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2015 had increased by approximately 1% from the third quarter of 2015.



<sup>1</sup> The data presented in this section are from the records of the PDMP as of January 15, 2017. Because the PDMP is an accumulation of records submitted to it by pharmacies and other dispensers, the data are subject to correction and revision as the PDMP receives new data.

While there was a reduction in the volume of monitored prescription drugs dispensed, there has been little change in the 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs since 2015. The tables below show the top 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs during the fourth quarter of 2016 and the top 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs during the same quarter in 2015.

<b>Top 15 Monitored Prescription Drugs Dispensed During Q4 2016</b>		
<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Prescriptions</b>	<b>Quantity Dispensed</b>
HYDROCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN	372,352	21,296,316
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE/AMPHETAMINE	206,564	9,909,202
TRAMADOL HCL	191,366	14,600,467
OXYCODONE HCL	184,668	15,789,602
ALPRAZOLAM	167,835	9,886,096
LORAZEPAM	165,282	8,089,898
CLONAZEPAM	137,208	8,202,175
OXYCODONE HCL/ACETAMINOPHEN	137,170	9,208,350
ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE	133,701	4,452,372
METHYLPHENIDATE HCL	99,441	5,008,004
LISDEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE	79,031	2,496,948
MORPHINE SULFATE	69,173	4,032,928
DIAZEPAM	64,973	2,833,913
PREGABALIN	57,716	4,389,631
ACETAMINOPHEN WITH CODEINE	49,230	2,270,938

The top 15 dispensed monitored prescription drugs accounted for over 83% of all monitored prescription drug doses dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2016.

<b>Top 15 Monitored Prescription Drugs Dispensed During Q4 2015</b>		
<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Prescriptions</b>	<b>Quantity Dispensed</b>
HYDROCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN	437,777	25,253,185
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE/AMPHETAMINE	222,182	10,558,405
OXYCODONE HCL	203,794	17,958,889
TRAMADOL HCL	202,385	15,693,549
ALPRAZOLAM	181,818	10,885,136
LORAZEPAM	178,081	8,792,816
OXYCODONE HCL/ACETAMINOPHEN	162,279	10,804,836
ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE	148,965	4,914,803
CLONAZEPAM	147,046	8,809,126
METHYLPHENIDATE HCL	101,919	5,167,146
MORPHINE SULFATE	78,016	4,725,694
DIAZEPAM	73,091	3,297,561
LISDEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE	65,093	2,075,630
PREGABALIN	56,373	4,290,450
ACETAMINOPHEN WITH CODEINE	55,781	2,650,320

The top 15 dispensed monitored prescription drugs accounted for nearly 84% of all monitored prescription drug doses dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2015.

Additionally, there was a more than 11% reduction in the number of opioid prescription orders issued and an over 13% reduction in the volume of opioid doses dispensed when comparing the data of the fourth quarters of 2015 and 2016.

<b>Amount of Opioid Prescriptions and Opioid Doses Dispensed</b>		
<b>Period</b>	<b>Opioid Prescription Orders</b>	<b>Quantity Dispensed</b>
<b>2015 Q4</b>	1,261,095	82,874,267
<b>2016 Q4</b>	1,113,233	71,850,279
<b>Difference</b>	(147,962)	(11,023,988)
<b>Percent Decrease</b>	11.7%	13.3%

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report identified the classes of prescriptions using the following AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classifications:

Opioids:

- 280808: Opiate Agonists
- 280812: Opiate Partial Agonist

# Data Submissions

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Between October 1 and December 31, 2016, 1,699 dispensers submitted 2,631,792 records to the PDMP. Of those dispensers, approximately 83% were located in Wisconsin, while 17% were located outside of Wisconsin. Approximately 89% of the dispensers were pharmacies, while the remaining 11% of the dispensers were dispensing practitioners. The profession of the dispensing practitioners was not reported in a consistent manner in the PDMP system used to provide data for this report but will be available in future reports based on the enhancements being made to the PDMP application.

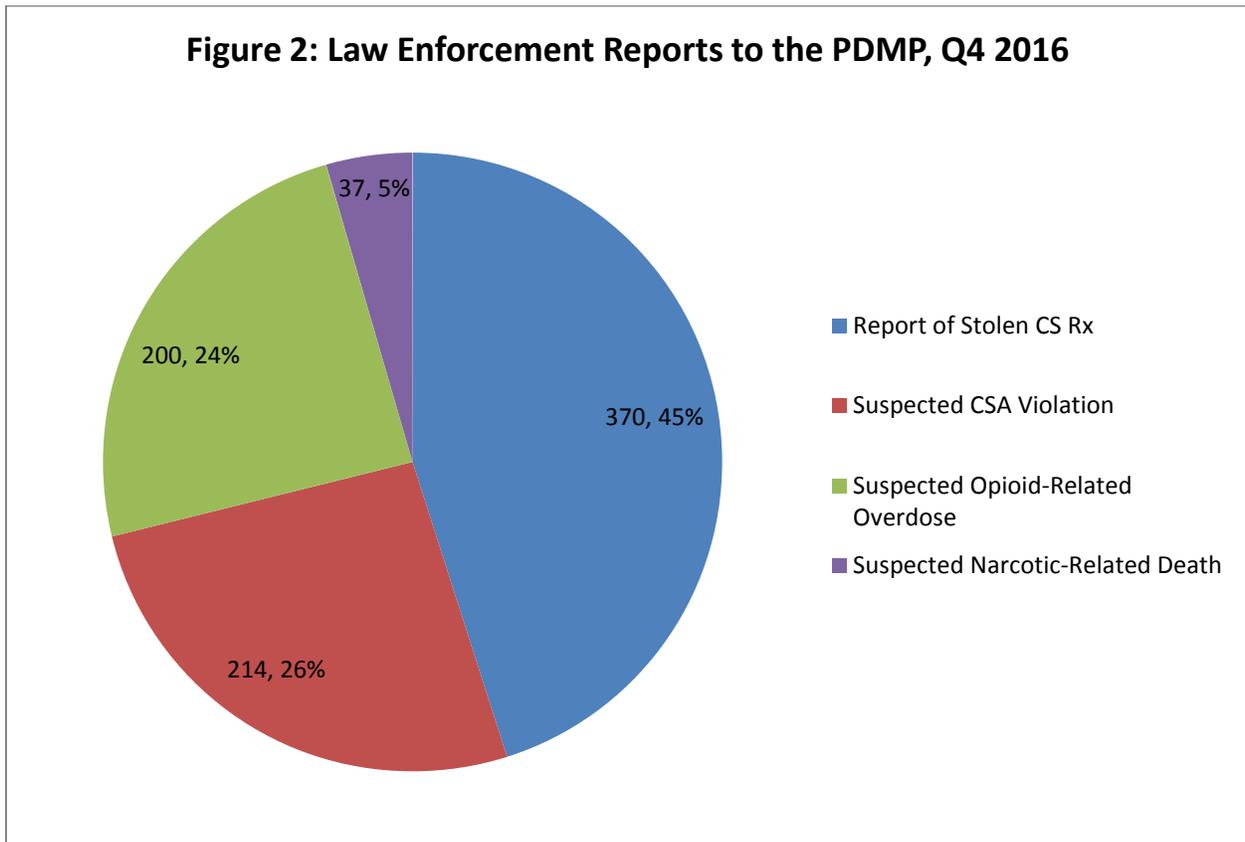
# Law Enforcement Reports

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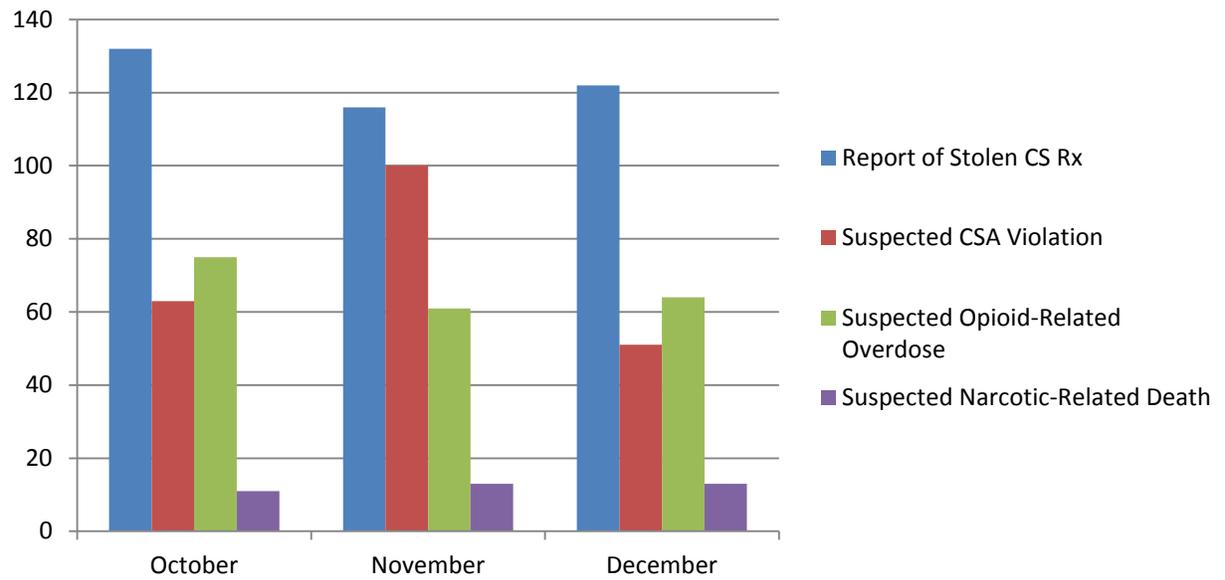
Between October 1 and December 31, 2016, 112 different Wisconsin law enforcement agencies submitted 821 reports to the PDMP as required by s. 961.37 (3) (a), Wis. Stat. The law requires the agencies to submit a report in each of the following situations:

1. When a law enforcement officer receives a report of a stolen controlled substance prescription.
2. When a law enforcement officer reasonably suspects that a violation of the Controlled Substances Act involving a prescribed drug is occurring or has occurred.
3. When a law enforcement officer believes someone is undergoing or has immediately prior experienced an opioid-related drug overdose.
4. When a law enforcement officer believes someone died as a result of using a narcotic drug.

Figures 2-3 show the breakdown of the reports submitted to the PDMP by type and by month.

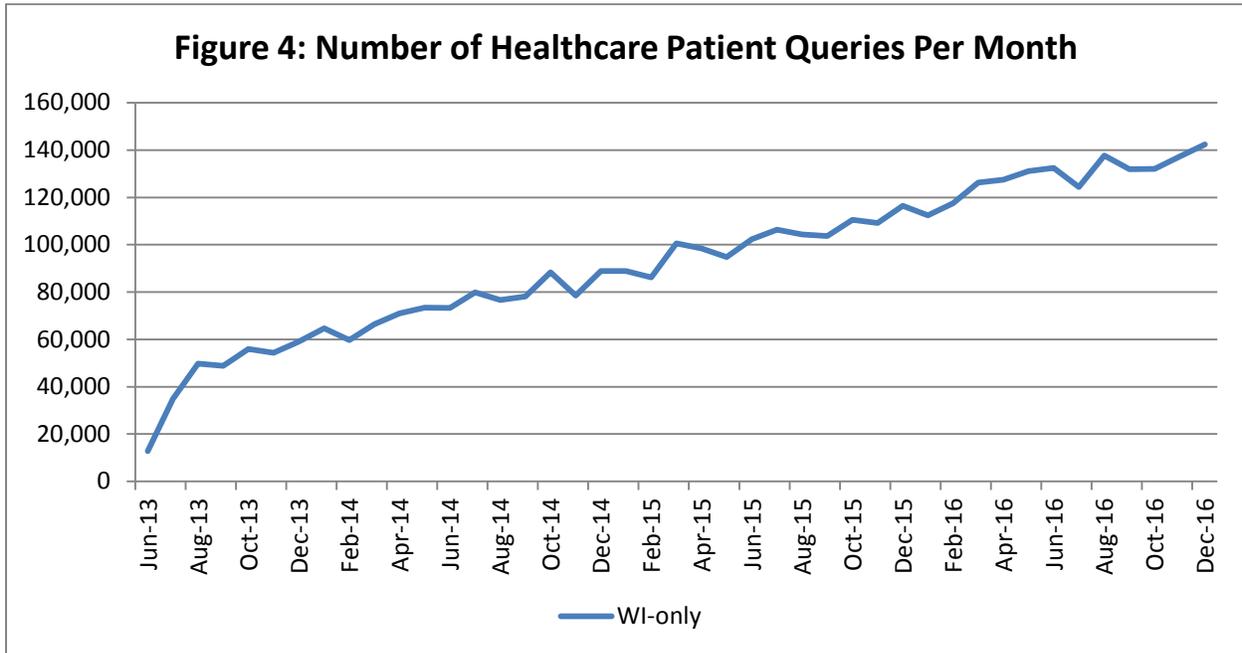


**Figure 3: Law Enforcement Reports to the PDMP, Q4 2016**

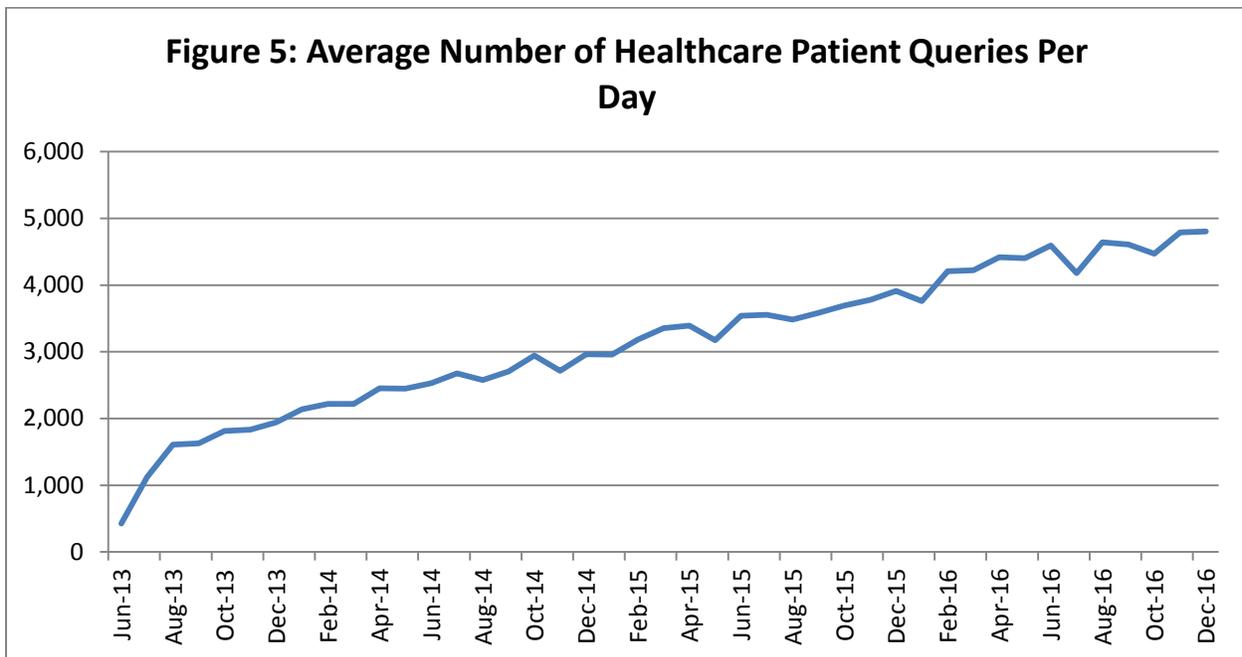


# Disclosure of PDMP Data

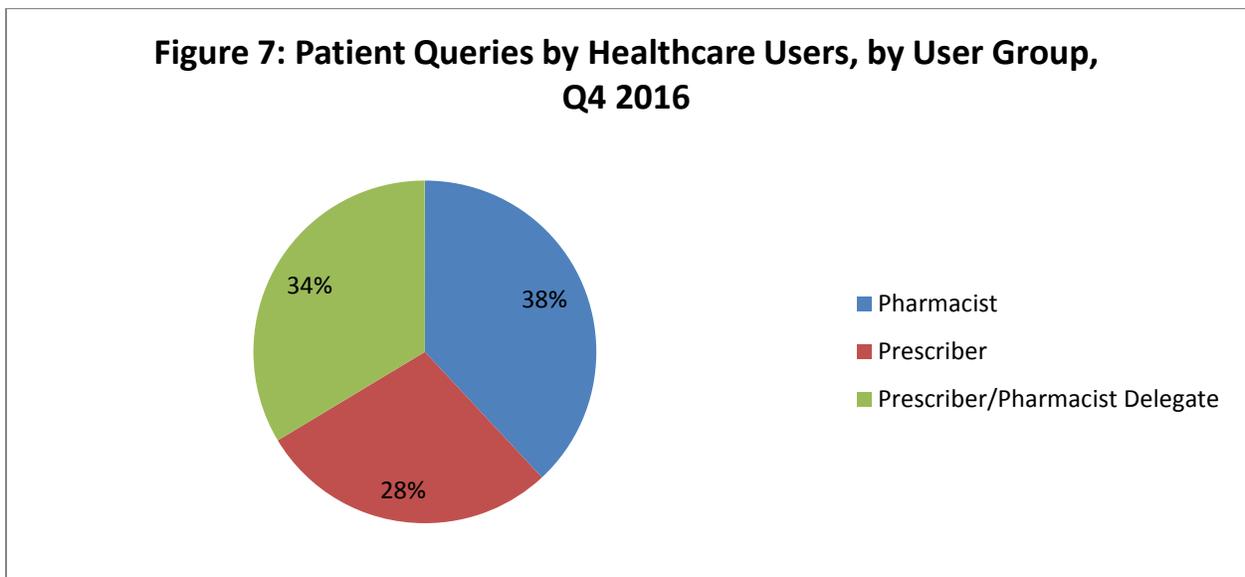
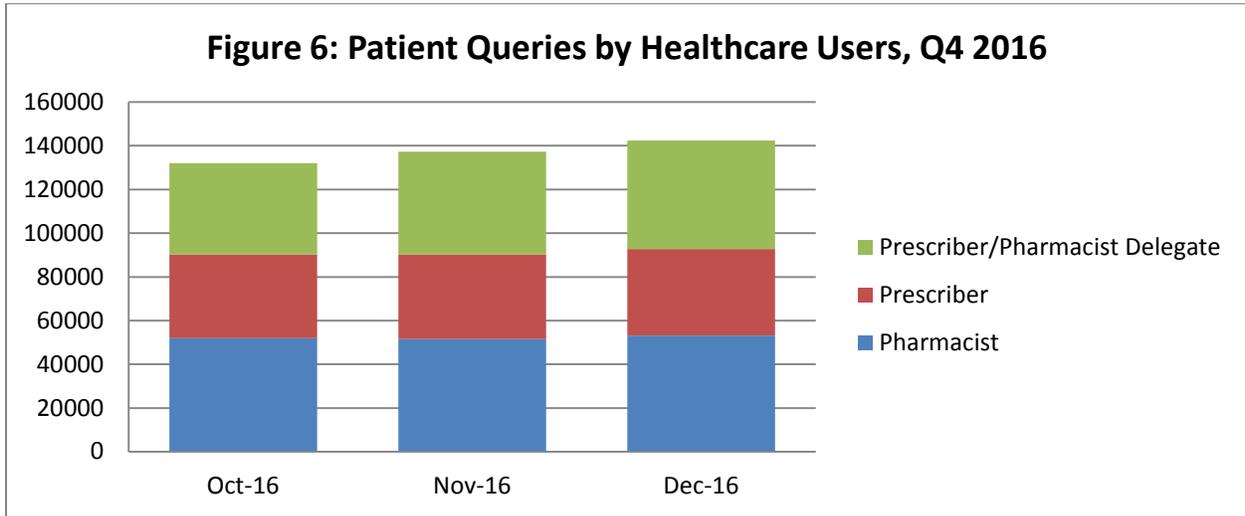
Between October 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016, healthcare users made 431,209 patient queries. The total number of patient queries by healthcare users has steadily increased since the program became operational in June 2013, as seen in Figure 4.



The daily average of queries by healthcare users also reflects a steady increase, as seen in Figure 5.

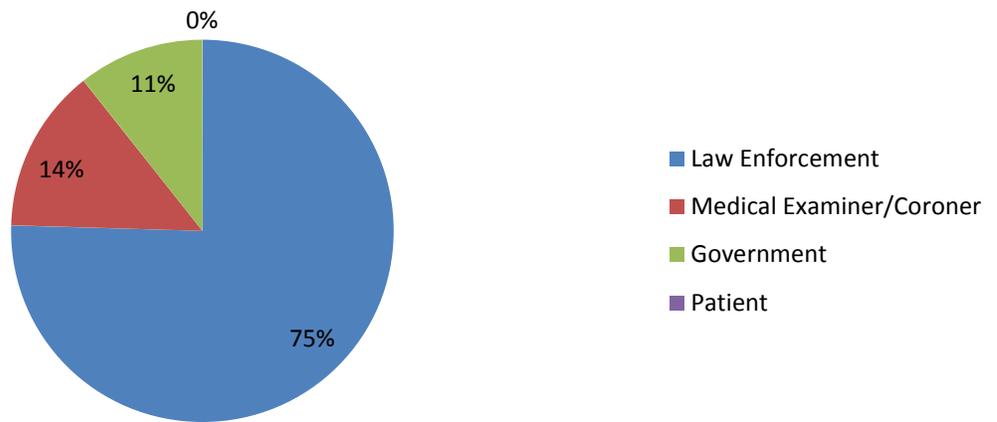


Figures 6 and 7 show the breakdown by profession of patient queries by prescribers, pharmacists, and prescriber/pharmacist delegates for this quarter.



Authorized individuals from non-healthcare groups made 216 requests for PDMP data this quarter. The breakdown among authorized non-healthcare groups can be seen in Figure 8.

**Figure 8: Other Authorized Requests, Q4 2016**



# Doctor Shopping and Pharmacy Hopping

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The PDMP system used to provide data for this report was capable of calculating the number of individuals who received prescription orders from five or more prescribers and had those prescriptions dispensed by five or more pharmacies between October 1 and December 31, 2016.

According to the records submitted to the PDMP by pharmacies and other dispensers, 285 individuals obtained five or more prescription orders for a monitored prescription drug and had those drugs dispensed by five or more pharmacies this quarter.

One individual obtained prescription orders from 17 different prescribers between October 1 and December 31, 2016. Four individuals obtained monitored prescription drugs at 9 different pharmacies.

Based on its improved data-quality capabilities and analytics, the ePDMP application will be able to alert providers about patients that meet doctor-shopping and pharmacy-hopping thresholds in real-time.

# Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME)

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The PDMP system used to provide data for this report was not capable of calculating morphine milligram equivalent doses of opioid drugs. However, pursuant to the authority provided in 2015 Act 267, DSPS included advanced data analytic functionalities in the scope and design of the new Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) system. The ePDMP was launched on January 17, 2017. DSPS will use the enhanced data quality capabilities of the new system to fulfill the requirements of this section in retrospect and in all new reports.

# Opioid-Benzodiazepine Overlap

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The PDMP system used to provide data for this report was capable of identifying the number of individuals to whom at least one opioid prescription and at least one benzodiazepine prescription were dispensed between October 1 and December 31, 2016. This does not necessarily mean that the prescriptions overlapped. It only means that at some point in the quarter the patient received an opioid prescription and that at some point in the quarter the same patient received a benzodiazepine prescription.

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report identified the classes of prescriptions using the following AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classifications:

## Opioids:

- 280808: Opiate Agonists
- 280812: Opiate Partial Agonists

## Benzodiazepines:

- 281208: Benzodiazepines (Anticonvulsants)
- 282408: Benzodiazepines (Anxiolytics, Sedatives, and Hypnotics)

According to the records submitted to the PDMP by pharmacies and other dispensers, 477,255 individuals received an opioid prescription and 276,366 individuals received a benzodiazepine prescription this quarter. Approximately 95,590 individuals received both an opioid prescription and a benzodiazepine prescription between October 1 and December 31, 2016.

Based on its improved data-quality capabilities and analytics, the forthcoming ePDMP application will be able to alert providers about patients that have overlapping benzodiazepine and opioid prescriptions as a standard function of the patient report.