

PDMP Study Highlights

The Study, “An Evaluation of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs”
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September 1, 2006

Background:

- The study reviewed the effects of state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) on the supply (measured as grams per capita for pain relievers and stimulants) and abuse of prescription drugs (measured by admissions to treatment involving pain relievers or stimulants).
- The study involved sophisticated analyses comparing states that have PDMPs to states that do not.
- The study was sponsored by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Main Findings:

- PDMPs reduce supply and abuse of prescription drugs (this finding was especially true for states that monitored proactively—defined as PDMP states that identified cases for investigation).
- PDMP states had notably lower rates of supply of prescription drugs compared with states that did not have PDMPs.
- In terms of impact, the study found that rates of abuse in states that had proactively monitoring PDMPs would have been 10 percent higher (by 2003) for pain relievers and 4 percent higher for stimulants had the programs not been in place