

# Pennsylvania's Opioid Prescriptions Plunge 38% After State Monitoring Program Implementation

PHILADELPHIA,, PA, UNITED STATES, July 10, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A recent study reveals a dramatic 38% drop in opioid prescriptions in Pennsylvania since the implementation of the "Prescription Drug Monitoring Program" (PDMP). As the opioid crisis continues to grip the nation, Pennsylvania's data highlights the significant impact of regulatory measures on curbing opioid abuse, offering a potential model for other states battling similar epidemics.

The study titled "Opioid Prescribing Patterns by Drug Type: The Pennsylvania Experience" examines the changes in opioid prescribing patterns in Pennsylvania from 2016 to 2020 following the implementation of the PDMP. The study was organized by the Rothman Opioid Foundation.

"In 2016, nearly 2 million opioid prescriptions were given to patients across the state. However, by the end of the study period in 2020, there was a 38 percent decrease in opioid prescriptions written," says Dr. Asif Ilyas, senior author of the study. He is President of the Rothman Opioid Foundation in Philadelphia, a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University, and an Associate Dean of Clinical Research at the Drexel University College of Medicine in Pennsylvania. Ilyas states that, at last, during its initial rollout, the PDMP has affected the absolute number of opioids prescribed by Pennsylvania's prescribers.

This reduction was observed across various types of opioids, with the largest decreases in the prescriptions of hydrocodone and oxycodone in absolute numbers. Despite the overall reduction in prescriptions, the composition of the types of opioids prescribed remained relatively consistent over the study period. Ilyas notes that continued analysis of opioid prescribing across the state, as well as improvements to the PDMP, is needed to maximize the PDMP's effect to curb prescribing utilization in Pennsylvania.

Co-authors of the study include Brock Bakewell, Chaim Miller, and Matthew Sherman. The study appears in The Journal of Opioid Management, March-April 2023. A copy of the study can be found at: <https://wmpllc.org/ojs/index.php/jom/article/view/3365>

About the Rothman Institute Foundation for Opioid Research and Education.

The Rothman Orthopaedic Foundation, for short, is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to

raising awareness of the ongoing opioid crisis, educating physicians and patients on safe opioid prescribing and use – respectively, and advising policymakers on sound opioid and pain management policy. Most importantly, the Rothman Opioid Foundation performs and supports the highest quality research on opioids and alternative pain modalities to yield findings that can better inform patients, physicians, and the greater healthcare community in the most evidenced-based pain management strategies while working to mitigate opioid abuse and addiction.

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