



KANSAS PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The statewide prescription drug monitoring program, K-TRACS, continues to operate as a valuable clinical decision-making tool for Kansas prescribers and pharmacists. The program reached an all-time high in the number of patient searches conducted in 2020 and continues to work to reduce prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion.

FUNDING & OPERATIONS. The Board worked with K-TRACS stakeholders to identify long-term funding options for K-TRACS this year. A new funding plan proposed for the 2021 legislative session includes increased Board fees, transfers from the Board of Nursing and Board of Healing Arts, retention of administrative fine revenues, and the statutory authority to create a user fee structure.

GRANT FUNDING. The Board is the recipient of three grants for K-TRACS program enhancements; grant funding is not available for program maintenance and sustainability. These grants focus work in the areas of data quality, investigative review, public information, technology upgrades, and education and outreach.

TECHNOLOGY. Through the K-TRACS software vendor, Appriss Health, K-TRACS has made connections to share prescription drug data with 32 states, territories, and health systems. Additionally, more than 900 organizations across the state have successfully integrated their electronic health records systems with K-TRACS to expedite the process of checking patient prescription drug history.

STATEWIDE IMPACT. Controlled substance prescribing is changing in Kansas. High-risk opioid prescribing has declined 23% from the first quarter of 2019 to the third quarter of 2020, while total opioid prescriptions have declined 21% from 2016 to 2019. Additionally, prescription opioid-related overdose deaths have decreased 20% from 2016 to 2019 while drug overdose deaths attributed to all drug types are increasing.

ONGOING INITIATIVES.

- K-TRACS surveyed its users in 2020 to gauge perceptions and identify knowledge gaps to inform future initiatives. Among other results, the survey found that 97% of users believe that K-TRACS has a positive impact on reducing prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion.
- K-TRACS launched a new website in September to provide additional education and training to its users, statistics about program usage, and consumer-facing education.
- K-TRACS began a data quality project to verify the data reported to the program from in-state pharmacies, finding errors in prescriptions reported to K-TRACS in less than 1% of prescriptions.

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