**MA Prescription Monitoring Program County-Level Data Measures (Calendar Year 2013)**

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality ● March 2015*

**The Department of Public Health’s (DPH)** Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) serves as a repository of data for all prescription drugs dispensed statewide, including those prescriptions that represent the highest potential for abuse (federal Schedules II – V, including certain narcotics, stimulants and sedatives) and are among those most sought for illicit and non-medical use. The PMP also enables prescribers and dispensers to access a patient’s prescription history and can be used as a clinical decision-making tool, allowing the provider to have a holistic view of the patient’s medications.

When interpreting PMP county-level data, it is important to emphasize that increases or decreases in a single measure may not indicate an increase or decrease in prescription misuse or abuse. Put simply, use does not always equate to abuse. There are many factors that might explain an unusually high rate of prescribing in a given area. For instance, an area which contains a large number of residents in long-term care facilities may cause a high rate of opioid prescribing.

These datasets inform critical discussions about opioid prescribing, provide an important baseline to better inform future policy decisions and allow the state and stakeholders to more meaningfully measure whether policy initiatives are effective.

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| **County**(County classifications are by patient zip code; patient state must also = MA) | **Census Population** | **Total Schedule II Opioid Prescriptions** | **Total Number of Schedule II Opioid Solid Dosage Units** | **Individuals Receiving Schedule II Opioid Prescription** | **% of Individuals Receiving Schedule II Opioid Prescription (of total population)** | **Individuals with Activity of Concern** | **Rate of Individuals with Activity of Concern (per 1,000)** |
| Barnstable | 214,990 | 111,537 | 6,982,337 | 30,775 | 14.3 | 478 | 15.5 |
| Berkshire | 130,016 | 62,622 | 3,748,904 | 14,933 | 11.5 | 158 | 10.6 |
| Bristol | 552,780 | 295,564 | 18,815,778 | 72,211 | 13.1 | 1,137 | 15.7 |
| Dukes | 17,256 | 8,870 | 636,432 | 2,537 | 14.7 | 32 | 12.6 |
| Essex | 762,550 | 287,254 | 17,562,073 | 83,147 | 10.9 | 1,059 | 12.7 |
| Franklin | 71,221 | 43,813 | 2,877,031 | 10,364 | 14.6 | 107 | 10.3 |
| Hampden | 467,319 | 289,492 | 18,528,495 | 73,735 | 15.8 | 1,091 | 14.8 |
| Hampshire | 159,596 | 75,199 | 5,341,842 | 18,315 | 11.5 | 167 | 9.1 |
| Middlesex | 1,552,802 | 440,197 | 26,779,541 | 142,350 | 9.2 | 1,815 | 12.8 |
| Nantucket | 10,399 | 4,868 | 247,963 | 1,429 | 13.7 | 2 | 1.4 |
| Norfolk | 681,845 | 243,437 | 15,369,591 | 73,829 | 10.8 | 1,009 | 13.7 |
| Plymouth | 501,915 | 233,065 | 15,091,547 | 66,142 | 13.2 | 1,114 | 16.8 |
| Suffolk | 755,503 | 239,003 | 15,721,427 | 73,630 | 9.7 | 1,050 | 14.3 |
| Worcester | 809,106 | 341,518 | 24,599,809 | 88,956 | 11.0 | 1,296 | 14.6 |
| **MA TOTALS** | **6,692,824** | **2,680,740** | **171,777,833** | **741,908** | **11.1** | **10,636** | **14.3** |