

Interorganizational Relationships Within Public Health Systems to Address Prescription Drug Abuse: A Qualitative Analysis

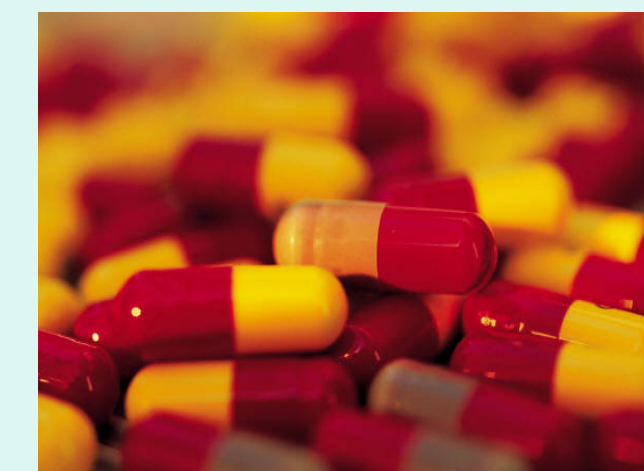
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Background

Benefits and drawbacks of prescription opioids:

- May improve quality of life for those with certain acute or chronic medical conditions
- High potential for abuse; life-threatening adverse effects
- At least 2 million Americans are addicted to prescription opioids



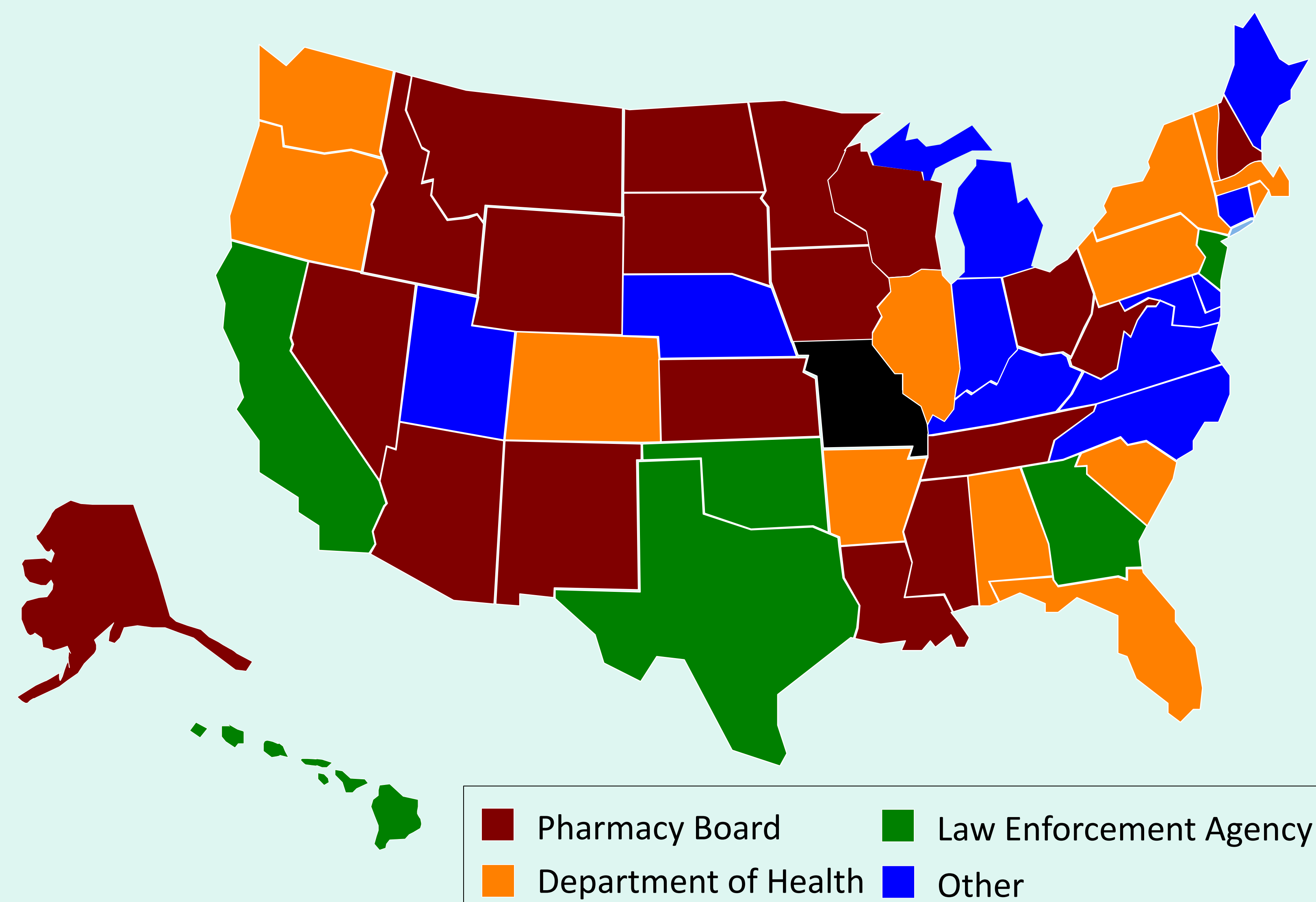
Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs):

- Collect, analyze, and report information about prescribing and utilization of controlled substances
- Depending on law, may be accessed by prescribers, pharmacists, law enforcement, etc.

Project Aims:

- Examine how interorganizational relationships among states' public health system agencies affect structure and function of PDMPs
- Assess how the scope and clarity of legal powers specified in authorizing legislation, enforcement authority, and assigned duties of PDMPs affect their ability to function in the public health system
- Determine how PDMPs' infrastructure affects their ability to address diversion of prescription drugs and associated morbidity and mortality

States by Home Agency for PDMP



Methods

- Case selection: Purposive selection of four states to reflect range of PDMP characteristics
- Semi-structured interviews in each case state: sample includes PDMP stakeholders
 - Interview guide domains:
 - PDMPs and the problem of prescription drug abuse
 - Interorganizational relationships
 - Information sharing
 - Impact of legal structure
 - Infrastructure and resources
 - With permission, interviews recorded and transcribed
- Analysis plan:
 - Coding of transcript data
 - Standardized codebook
 - Qualitative software
 - Identification of themes within and across states

Case States and Interview Sample

- Florida: E-FORCSE, Department of Health
 - Health-oriented interviewees: 5
 - Law enforcement-oriented interviewees: 4
- Kentucky: KASPER, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
 - Health-oriented interviewees: 6
 - Law enforcement-oriented interviewees: 2
- Ohio: OARRS, Board of Pharmacy
 - Health-oriented interviewees: 6
 - Law enforcement-oriented interviewees: 3
- New Jersey: NJPMP, Division of Consumer Affairs
 - Health-oriented interviewees: 5
 - Law enforcement-oriented interviewees: 6

Common Themes

- *Interorganizational relationships*
 - Conflict between legislatively mandated collaborations vs. informal partnerships (e.g., interdisciplinary advisory council for PDMP)
- *Scope and clarity of legal powers*
 - Obstacles to use of data (e.g., requirements for prescriber registration and use of PDMP data)
 - Can delegates access PDMP data?
- *Infrastructure and function*
 - Conflict between PDMP use for health care providers vs. law enforcement
 - How to optimize data-sharing arrangements (e.g., EMRs)

Implications for Policy and Practice

Findings may assist:

- State-level policymakers to revisit PDMP's legally established infrastructure
- State-level executive branch leadership to refine information sharing arrangements or interorganizational linkages
- PDMP administrators and staff as they implement their programs and advocate for more resources or authority

Translation

- Publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Conference presentations
- Presentations in conjunction with National Association of Attorneys General

Dissemination

- Project websites with two institutions
- Blog posts via Network for Public Health Law and Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy
- Social media

Project Information

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