

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
Office of the Secretary
4822 Madison Yards Way
PO Box 8368
Madison WI 53708-8368



Phone: 608-266-1352
Web: <http://dsps.wi.gov>
Email: dsps@wisconsin.gov

Tony Evers, Governor
Dan Hereth, Secretary

December 28, 2023

Wisconsin State Senate
Chief Clerk
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Wisconsin State Assembly
Chief Clerk
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Chief Clerks:

As specified in Wis. Stats. § 961.36 (3), I am submitting the 2023 Controlled Substances Board Annual Report. Questions regarding the report can be directed to Assistant Deputy Secretary Jennifer Garrett at (608) 266-6795.

Sincerely,

Dan Hereth
Secretary-designee



2023 Annual Report

I. Membership

Statutory membership of the Board:

1. A psychiatrist (appointed by the Governor)
2. A pharmacologist (appointed by the Governor)
3. Chair of the Pharmacy Examining Board or designee
4. Chair of the Board of Nursing or designee
5. Chair of the Dentistry Examining Board or designee
6. Chair of the Medical Examining Board or designee
7. State Attorney General or designee
8. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection or designee
9. Secretary of the Department of Health Services or designee

II. Drug Scheduling

Action was taken on the following substances:

Schedule I

- Addition of Amineptine (CSB 2.96)
- Addition of Zipeprol (CSB 2.97)
- Addition of Mesocarb (CSB 2.98)
- Addition of Methiopropamine (CSB 2.001)
- Addition of 4 Synthetic Benzodiazepine Substances (CSB 2.003)
- Etizolam
- Clonazolam
- Diclazepam
- Flubromazolam
- Transfer of Flualprazolam from Schedule IV to Schedule I (CSB 2.003)

Schedule II

- Exclusion of [¹⁸F]FP-CIT (CSB 2.98)

Schedule IV

- Exclusion of Fenfluramine (CSB 2.002)

III. Drug Use Trends in Wisconsin

Drug Prevalence

According to the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories, the most prevalent drugs documented by group in 2023 are:

- Methamphetamine
- THC
- Cocaine
- Fentanyl/fentanyl analogs
- NCS (Non-controlled Substance)
- Heroin

- Other
- Hallucinogens
- Rx Opioids/Other Opioids
- Oxycodone
- Benzodiazepine
- Other Stimulants

***Notes**

- The rankings represent completed laboratory assignments from 1/1/2023 – 11/30/2023.
- The “NCS” category includes substances that are not controlled – i.e., acetaminophen, melatonin, ibuprofen, etc.
- The “Other” category includes drugs that do not fall into the other groups.

The data below were compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Overdose Data

*Data for 2023 was not available for the full reporting year at the time this report was required for submission.

Wisconsin Overdose Deaths

(Data source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

*A single death can be represented in multiple drug categories

2021		2022	
All Opioids	1,427	All Opioids	1,408
Heroin	162	Heroin	123
Prescription Opioids	355	Prescription Opioids	291
Synthetic Opioids (including Fentanyl)	1,293	Synthetic Opioids (including Fentanyl)	1288
Cocaine	549	Cocaine	660

*Data current as of 10/11/2023

National Overdose Deaths

(Data source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics System and *CDC Wonder)

2021		2022	
All Opioids	80,926	All Opioids	**
Heroin	9,259	Heroin	**
Prescription Opioids	---	Prescription Opioids	**
Synthetic Opioids (including Fentanyl)	71,074	Synthetic Opioids (including Fentanyl)	**
Cocaine	24,688	Cocaine	**

** data not available at time of completion

IV. Special Use Authorization (SUA) Permits

Under Wis. Stat. Ch. 961, the Board issues Special Use Authorization (SUA) Permits. SUA Permits authorize individuals to manufacture, obtain, possess, use, administer or dispense controlled substances. SUA Permits are necessary for research, teaching, analytical laboratories, industrial applications, humane societies, and drug detection dog training.

SUA TYPES/ MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC *	Year Totals
Analytical Lab	1	1	8	8	2		4	3	5	1	6		39
Hum. Society	2	5	3	1	5	2	5	6	4	1	3	2	39
Instruct. Activities													0
Narcotic Dog Training	5	2	16	4	3	10	2	9	15	3	7	1	72
Research	9		19	6	13	13	9	9	15	11	10	1	115
Law Enf. Animal Control Officers													0
Industrial/ Commercial Processing									1	2	1		4
Other				1							1		2
Total SUA's Issued in 2023(All Together)	17	8	46	20	23	25	20	27	35	18	28	4	271

*December data current through 12/5/2023

V. The Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (WI PDMP)

The Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) is a tool to help combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic in Wisconsin. By providing valuable information about monitored prescription drugs that are dispensed in the state, it aids healthcare professionals in their prescribing and dispensing decisions. The ePDMP also fosters the ability of pharmacies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescribed monitored prescription drugs.

2023 Accomplishments

- In 2023, the WI PDMP was awarded \$1,922,000 in federal funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Harold Rogers PDMP Grant program. This funding will allow the PDMP to enhance the overall data quality of the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP), by creating a streamlined workflow for law enforcement mandatory reporting in the ePDMP, improving existing automated reports, and enhancing analytics and interactivity for the public-facing statistics dashboard.
- In 2023, the WI PDMP continued to allow healthcare organizations to access ePDMP data via electronic health record (EHR) without the payment of monthly subscription fees. This will continue to greatly benefit under-resourced and rural healthcare facilities.
- DSPS has conducted a survey of ePDMP users on a quarterly basis which began the second quarter of 2021 to measure user satisfaction and inform current and future system enhancements. 2023 Survey results indicated an 87% overall user satisfaction rate amongst respondents, a 9% increase compared to the same timeframe in 2022.

2023 Referrals

The Controlled Substances Board refers to relevant boards, suspicious or critically dangerous conduct or practices of a pharmacy, pharmacist, or practitioner.

The Controlled Substances Board made the following referrals in 2023:

- 10 physicians to the Medical Examining Board
- 1 physician assistant to the Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board

Top 15 Dispensed Monitored Prescription Drugs

In general, the top 15 drugs have annually remained the same with some changes in the ranking, with the exception of gabapentin, which joined the list in 2021 for the first time.

The Top 15 Dispensed Monitored Prescription Drugs by Dispensing in the second quarter (Q2) of 2023 were:

1. Gabapentin (Other)
2. Amphetamine-Dextroamphetamine (Stimulant)
3. Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen (Opioid)
4. Lisdexamfetamine Dimesylate (Stimulant)
5. Tramadol HCl (Opioid)
6. Oxycodone HCl (Opioid)
7. Lorazepam (Benzodiazepine)
8. Methylphenidate HCl (Stimulant)
9. Alprazolam (Benzodiazepine)
10. Clonazepam (Benzodiazepine)
11. Zolpidem Tartrate (Other)
12. Pregabalin (Other)
13. Buprenorphine HCl-Naloxone HCl Dihydrate (Opioid)
14. Oxycodone w/ Acetaminophen (Opioid)
15. Diazepam (Benzodiazepine)

2023 Dispensing Trends

There was a 3.2% increase in monitored prescription drugs being dispensed in Wisconsin through Q2 2023 compared to the same timeframe in 2022. There were decreases in both the dispensing of Opioids (1%) and Benzodiazepines (2%). The overall increase can be attributed to the increase in the Other (8%) and Stimulants (7%) drug class. Gabapentin, introduced as a monitored drug in Q3 2021, accounted for 720,144 dispensations in the Other drug class through Q2 2023, an 11% increase compared to the same timeframe in 2022. This increase in Gabapentin dispensing comprised 71% of the total increase in the Other drug class.

Compared to 2017 within the same timeframe, an overall decrease in the total dispensing of monitored prescription drugs and data-driven alerts was observed:

- 5% decrease in the total number of monitored prescription drugs dispensed through Q2 2023 compared to 2017 including:
 - 35% decrease in the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed.
 - 30% decrease in the number of benzodiazepine prescriptions dispensed.
 - 23% increase in the number of stimulant prescriptions dispensed.
 - 96% increase in the number of other prescriptions dispensed. This increase can be largely associated with gabapentin which was introduced as a monitored drug in 2021.
- 39% decrease in the total number of data-driven alerts generated by the WI ePDMP through Q2 2023 compared to 2017 including:
 - 53% decrease in the number of alerts for multiple same day prescriptions.
 - 33% decrease in the number of alerts for multiple prescribers or pharmacies.
 - 70% decrease in the number of alerts for high opioid daily dose
 - 52% decrease in the number of alerts for concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescriptions.
 - 47% decrease in the number of alerts for long-term opioid therapy.
 - 33% increase in the number of alerts for early refills. This increase can be largely associated with gabapentin which was introduced as a monitored drug in 2021.

VI. Recommendations for Improving Control and Prevention of the Diversion of Controlled Substances

1. Work closely with the ePDMP to review referrals, prescribing data and dispensing trends.
2. Provide information to the public about ePDMP and Controlled Substances Board actions and accomplishments.
3. Communicate with stakeholders regarding the ePDMP, diversion data and trends.
4. Review drugs for classification and reclassification.