



Wisconsin **Medical** Society

National Report shows Wisconsin Physicians' Dedication to Fighting the Opioid Crisis

June 10, 2019

Contact: Mark Grapentine, Senior Vice President, Government Relations 608-442-3768

Madison, Wis.— The American Medical Association “2019 Opioid Progress Report” details information on reducing the number of opioid prescriptions across the country. Nationally, use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) has increased 56 percent between 2017 and 2018.

Wisconsin is in the top 10 states for using this system designed to increase information on opioid prescribing for patients. The enhanced PDMP (ePDMP) is a tool accessible to multiple stakeholders including pharmacies, physicians and other healthcare professionals, law enforcement, and public health officials.

Registrations with our ePDMP has grown from 5,359 in 2014 to 53,227 in 2018. Use of the ePDMP with queries has grown from 227,049 in 2014 to 7,272,248 in 2018. “Wisconsin physicians continue to step up to the plate as strong partners in the efforts to reduce the opioid epidemic. Working with a variety of stakeholders, we are grateful for the continued bipartisan support and partnership for our patients,” said Dr. George Morris, President of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

Key national findings in the report include:

- Opioid prescriptions decreased 33 percent between 2013-2018 from 251.8M to 168.8M;
- PDMP use increased to 462M since 2014 (up from 61.4M in 2014);
- More than 700,000 physicians and other health care professionals completed CME and related trainings or accessed other resources focused on opioid prescribing, pain management, screening for substance use disorders and other areas;
- Naloxone prescriptions increased to nearly 600,000 in 2018—a 338 percent increase from 2016;
- More than 66,000 physicians and other health care professionals now have a federal waiver to prescribe buprenorphine in-office for the treatment of opioid use disorder—an increase of more than 28,000 since 2016.

With physician members statewide dedicated to the best interests of their patients, the Wisconsin Medical Society is the largest association of medical doctors in the Wisconsin and a trusted source for health policy leadership since 1841.