



ST. LOUIS COUNTY PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

“The Governor's announcement serves as a reminder that, when legislators in Jefferson City proved unable to pass a prescription drug monitoring program, St. Louis County confronted the crisis head-on. In 2016, we established Missouri’s first PDMP to battle opioid abuse and soaring overdose deaths.

Since then, other counties, representing 58 percent of Missouri’s population, have joined St. Louis County’s fully functional PDMP. And more counties are joining our program every day. In the meantime, we will continue to operate our successful program with the hope that whatever the governor proposes does nothing to hinder our progress.” - County Executive Steve Stenger

- The St. Louis County PDMP will continue to move forward on its current path. The focus of the St. Louis County PDMP is to provide physicians and dispensers with information that will improve patient care, prevent potential addiction, and provide options for those who may already be addicted.
- Substance abuse and addiction are medical conditions that must be treated with appropriate clinical care and social supports. Providers are key frontline partners in delivering high quality patient care that addresses these concerns. We stand firm in being a partner to health care providers and public health advocates in training, information, data-driven decision-making, and care for patients.
- The system potentially being established by the State of Missouri has a very different focus, target audience, and process, and it is currently unknown what the impact might be on opiate addiction across the state. The governor has repeatedly stated that the system does not impact the operations of the St. Louis County PDMP, and we agree.
- The St. Louis County PDMP is built on a strong evidence base from nationwide data sources and has adopted multiple best practices designed to address this issue. We have built relationships with counties across the state, leaders, physicians, pharmacies, advocates, patients, and community members, and we will continue to drive this project forward together.
- Data consistently shows that the overwhelming majority of prescribers are not in violation of the law in their prescribing, and enforcement efforts will have a limited impact. Some statewide programs in the 1990’s attempted to focus on providers as the source of opiate addiction and all have failed to produce reductions in the opioid crisis. These systems were replaced with PDMPs that provide information at the point of care. The focus on a few providers that may be engaged in illegal activities does not address the needs of the majority of providers intent on quality patient care who need information and resources.
- St. Louis County will continue to monitor statewide legislation as it progresses and will continue our partnerships with everyone who wants to work on the many necessary steps in addressing the opioid epidemic.

For additional information regarding the St. Louis County PDMP, visit www.stlouisco.com/pdmp