



**NM DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION QUARTERLY MEASURES REPORT  
THIRD QUARTER OF 2021 (2021Q3)**

**Substance Abuse Epidemiology Section  
Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program  
Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau  
Epidemiology and Response Division**

This report is produced quarterly to track indicators related to drug overdose prevention. The indicators reported here allow for the tracking of three key interventions for prescription drug overdose: improving prescribing of controlled substances, increasing the availability of treatment for opioid dependence, and the increasing availability of naloxone in the community.

This report is based on calendar quarters: Q1 is January-March of the calendar year.

Data for this report were drawn from several sources:

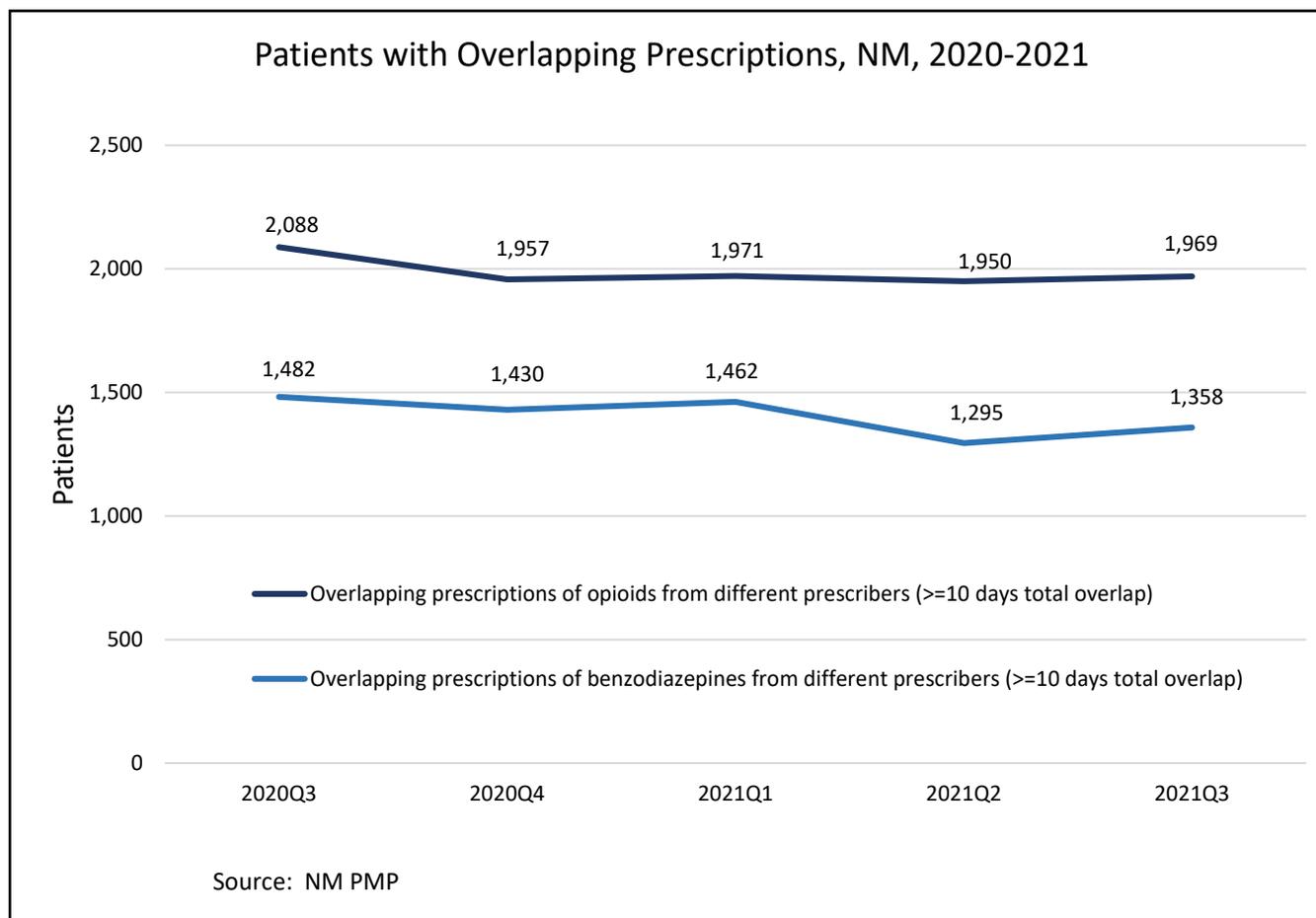
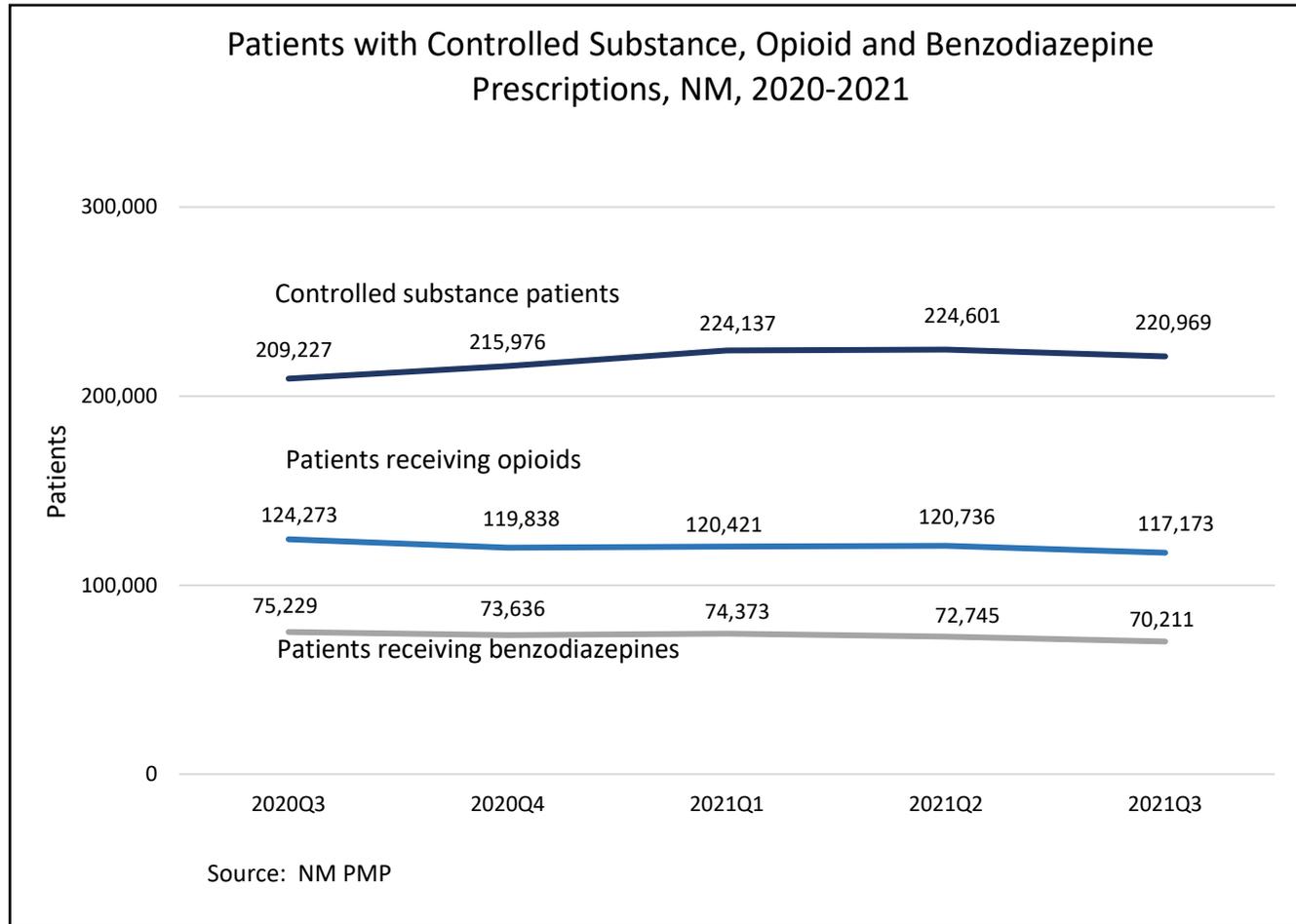
1. The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) operated by the NM Board of Pharmacy, which collects data on every controlled substance prescription filled in New Mexico.
2. New Mexico Medicaid in the Human Services Department, for data on methadone treatment paid by Medicaid, and for data on claims paid for naloxone prescriptions at pharmacies.
3. The State Opioid Treatment Authority in the Human Services Department for data on methadone treatment programs operating in New Mexico.
4. The NM Department of Health Syringe Services Program for data on naloxone distributed via syringe exchange sites.
5. The Behavioral Health Services Division in the Human Services Department for data on naloxone distributed through Office of Substance Abuse Prevention programs.

Reports for 2020 Q2 and after reflect a changed definition of medication assisted treatment (MAT). The older definition defined MAT as buprenorphine/naloxone combination products only. The new definition has been applied to all quarters included in this report and includes all buprenorphine products except a couple of types indicated for the treatment of pain. Because MAT products are usually high-dose prescriptions and are counted separately from other opioids, this change has an effect on many of the indicators in this report.

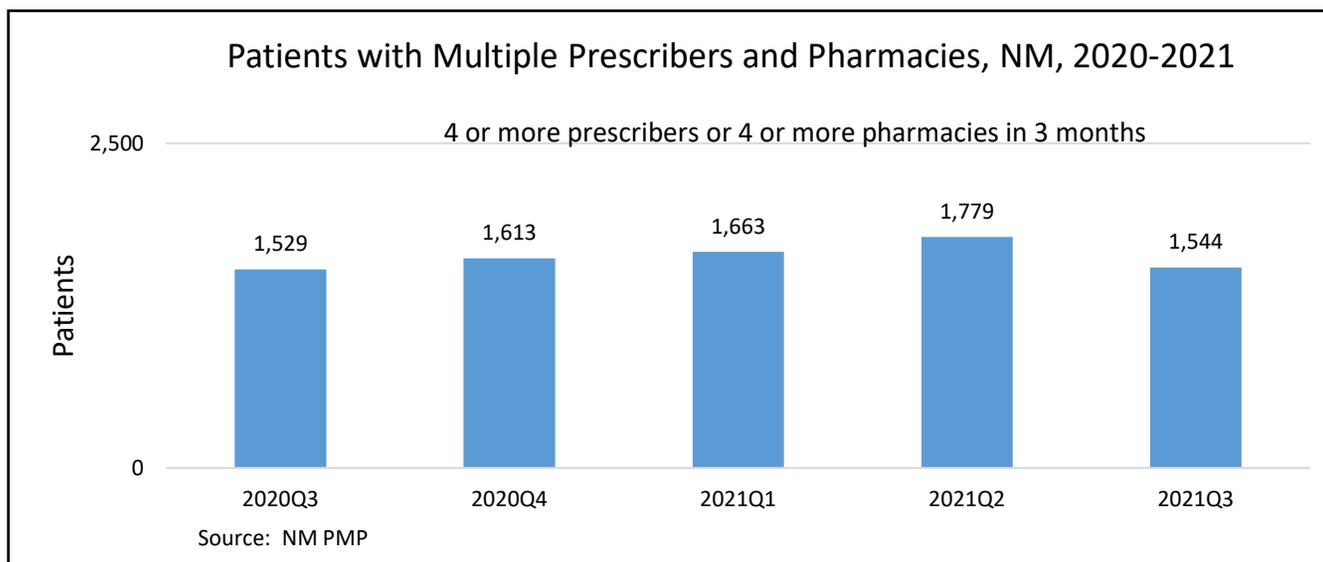
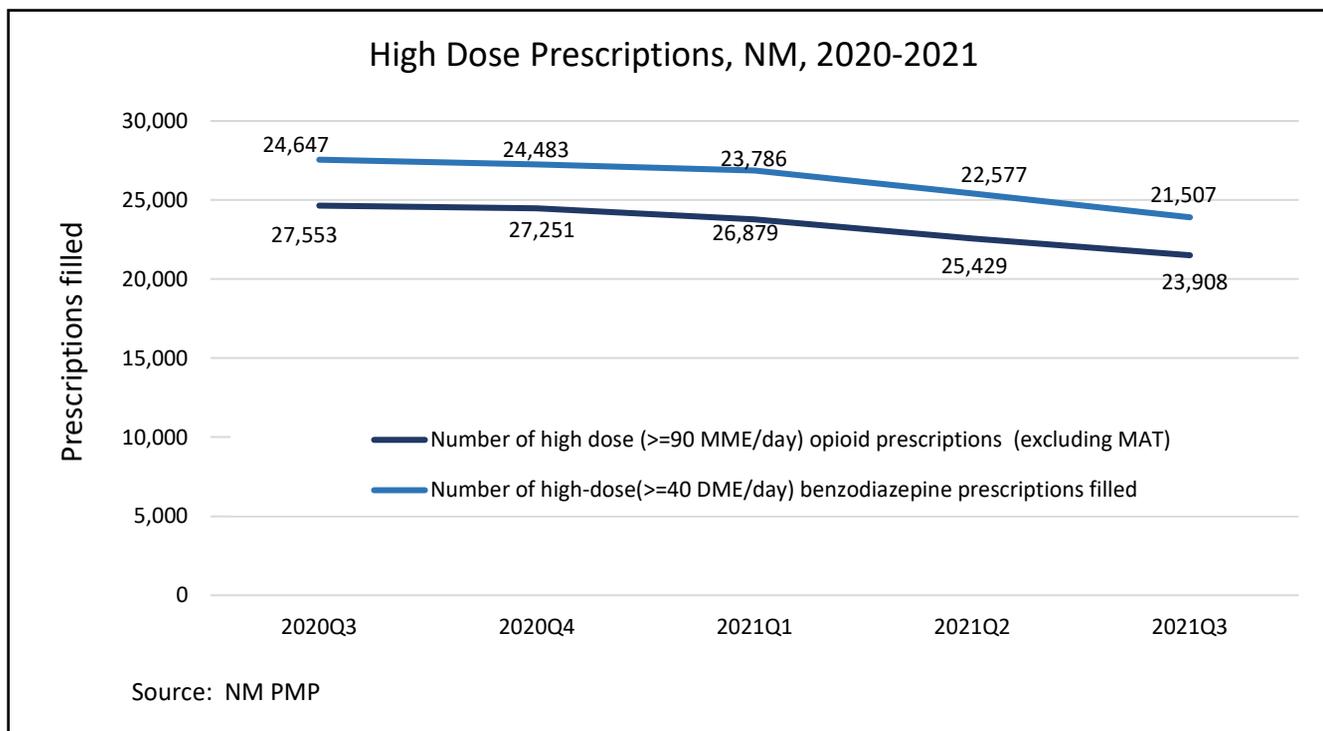
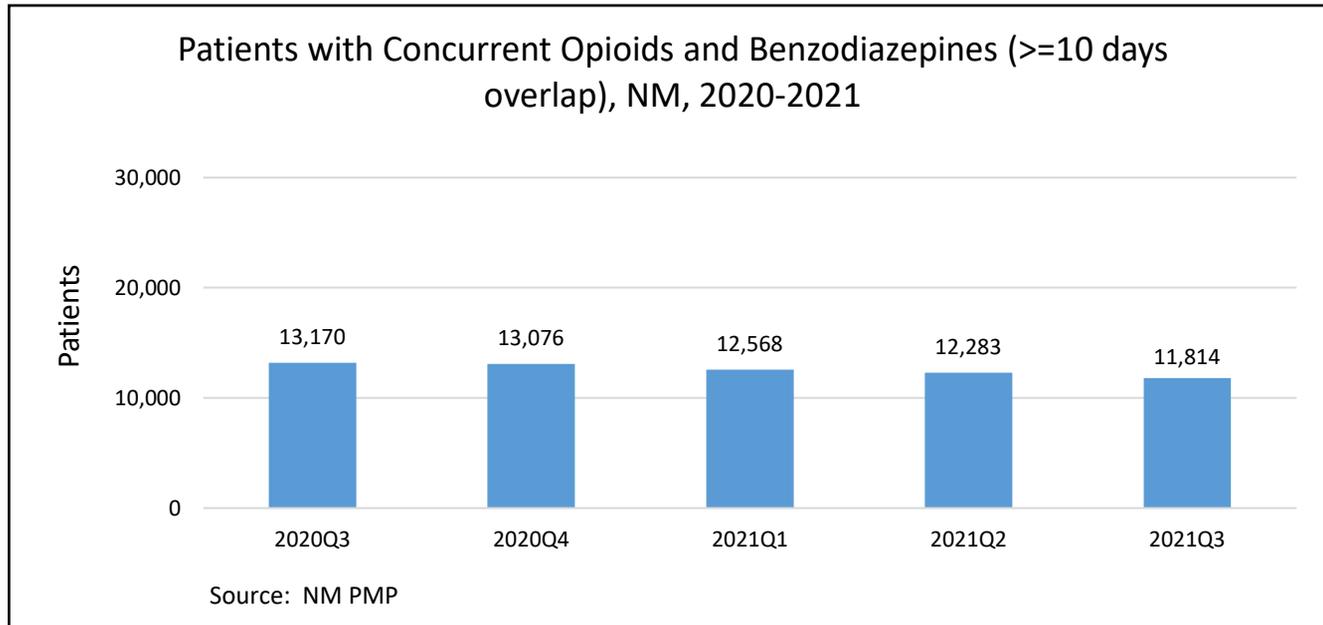
The peak in restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic occurred in 2020 Q2, especially in April and May. This is reflected in decreased numbers of patients and prescriptions, particularly for opioids. The decrease from Q1 to Q2 is larger than usual that year.

Prior to 2020 Q4, a number of controlled substances were excluded from the analyses that are the basis of this report. These included the barbiturates and some miscellaneous controlled substances (notably testosterone and pregabalin). The inclusion of these drugs increased the number of controlled substance patients and providers reported, and increased the number of patients with multiple providers or pharmacies. Most other indicators were not affected.

## I. New Mexico Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Measures



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### Totals

Year and Quarter	2020Q3	2021Q2	2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2021Q2 vs 2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2020Q3 vs 2021Q3
Total number of controlled substance patients	209,227	224,601	220,969	-1.6%	5.6%
Number of patients receiving opioids (excluding MAT)	124,273	120,736	117,173	-3.0%	-5.7%
Number of opioid prescriptions filled (excluding MAT)	269,217	258,480	248,966	-3.7%	-7.5%
Number of MAT buprenorphine prescriptions filled	29,691	28,309	27,882	-1.5%	-6.1%
Number of high dose ( $\geq 90$ MME/day) opioid prescriptions (excluding MAT)	24,647	22,577	21,507	-4.7%	-12.7%
Total MME of opioids filled - (excluding MAT)	200,856,154	187,153,962	180,384,507	-3.6%	-10.2%
Total MME/prescription-day	47	45	45	-1.6%	-4.3%
Number of patients receiving benzodiazepines	75,229	72,745	70,211	-3.5%	-6.7%
Number of benzodiazepine prescriptions filled	166,405	158,764	152,796	-3.8%	-8.2%
Number of high-dose ( $\geq 40$ DME/day) benzodiazepine prescriptions filled	27,553	25,429	23,908	-6.0%	-13.2%
Total DME of benzodiazepines filled	82,237,327	76,475,085	73,613,949	-3.7%	-10.5%
Total DME/patient	1,093	1,051	1,048	-0.3%	-4.1%

**SOURCE OF DATA:** NM Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), NM Prescribers with at least 20 controlled substance patients

MAT = Medication assisted treatment - the use of buprenorphine products indicated for treatment of opioid use disorder. Excludes products indicated for the treatment of pain.

MME = Morphine Milligram Equivalent; reference at [http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating\\_total\\_daily\\_dose-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf)

DME = Diazepam Milligram Equivalent; reference at <http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=217249>, 2004

## I. New Mexico Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Measures

### Number of Patients with:

Year and Quarter	2020Q3	2021Q2	2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2021Q2 vs 2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2020Q3 vs 2021Q3
High dose opioids (>=90 MME/day) (excluding MAT)	8,867	8,331	7,893	-5.3%	-11.0%
High dose benzodiazepines (>=40 DME/day)	12,050	11,278	10,487	-7.0%	-13.0%
Opioids >=90 days and <90% of days in past 6 months (excluding MAT)	14,709	14,600	14,279	-2.2%	-2.9%
Opioids >=90% of days in past 6 months (excluding MAT)	28,426	26,620	26,158	-1.7%	-8.0%
Benzodiazepines >=90 days and <90% of days in past 6 months	17,839	17,265	16,604	-3.8%	-6.9%
Benzodiazepines >=90% of days in past 6 months	22,756	21,581	21,116	-2.2%	-7.2%
Overlapping prescriptions of opioids from different prescribers (>=10 days total overlap)	2,088	1,950	1,969	1.0%	-5.7%
Overlapping prescriptions of benzodiazepines from different prescribers (>=10 days total overlap)	1,482	1,295	1,358	4.9%	-8.4%
Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepines (>=10 days overlap)	13,170	12,283	11,814	-3.8%	-10.3%
High dose opioids (>=90 MME/day) plus benzodiazepines	2,055	1,841	1,740	-5.5%	-15.3%
Multiple prescribers and pharmacies: 4 or more prescribers or 4 or more pharmacies in 3 months	1,529	1,779	1,544	-13.2%	1.0%
New Opioid Patients with at least 30 days of coverage in the past 3 months (excl MAT)	2,019	2,001	2,002	0.0%	-0.8%
New Benzodiazepine Patients with at least 30 days of coverage in the past 3 months	3,252	2,877	2,986	3.8%	-8.2%

**SOURCE OF DATA:** NM Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), NM Prescribers with at least 20 controlled substance patients

## I. New Mexico Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Measures

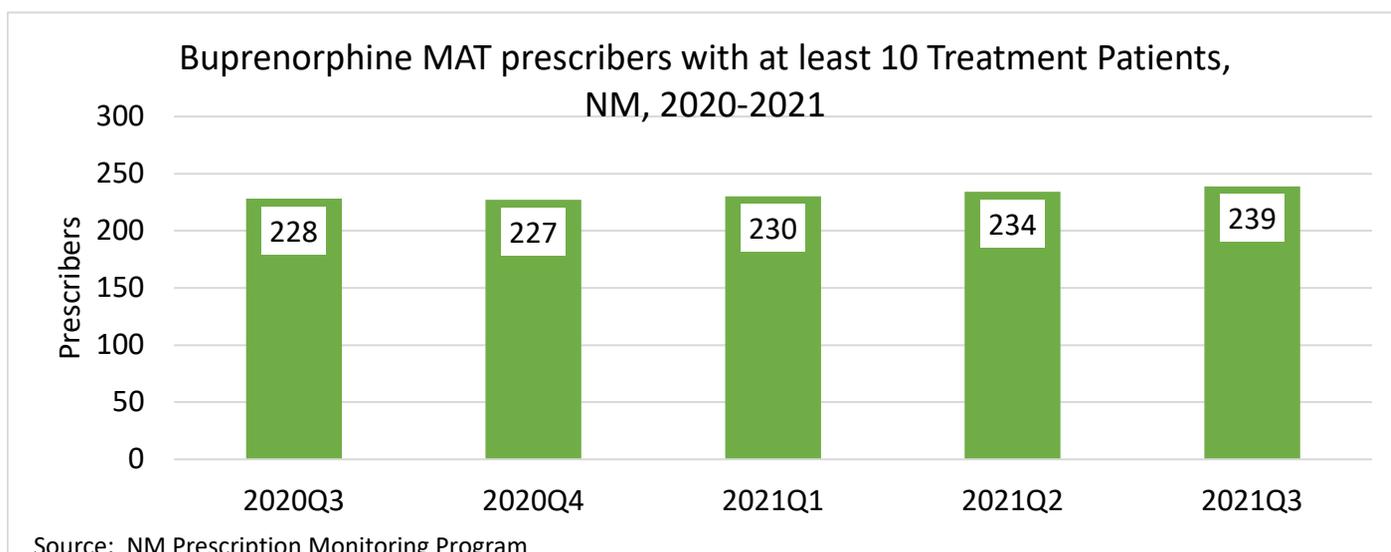
### New Mexico Prescribers with at least 20 controlled substance patients:

Year and Quarter	2020Q3	2021Q2	2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2021Q2 vs 2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2020Q3 vs 2021Q3
Total active controlled substance prescribers	2,935	3,103	3,081	-0.7%	5.0%
Prescribers with at least 50% high dose of opioid prescriptions, excluding treatment prescribers	35	26	27	3.8%	-22.9%
Prescribers with at least 50% high dose of benzodiazepine prescriptions	116	100	110	10.0%	-5.2%
Prescribers with at least 25% of patients having concurrent opioids and benzodiazepines	7	5	2	-60.0%	-71.4%
Some PMP Use: Requested reports on at least 25% of patients estimated to require them	1,605	1,766	1,819	3.0%	13.3%
Zero PMP Use: Requested no PMP reports on patients filling Controlled Substances	241	265	245	-7.5%	1.7%
Number of Patients with PMP reports requested by practitioners	289,348	397,798	402,977	1.3%	39.3%
% of Chronic opioid users with a PMP request in the past 3 months*	79.8%	83.3%	83.0%	-0.5%	3.9%
% of Chronic benzodiazepine users with a PMP request in the past 3 months*	58.4%	60.5%	60.5%	-0.1%	3.6%
% of New Opioid Patients with a PMP request in the past 3 months**	36.8%	44.5%	46.1%	3.5%	25.3%
% of New Benzodiazepine Patients with a PMP request in the past 3 months**	41.3%	44.4%	47.5%	6.9%	15.0%

\*Chronic users are those with at least 90 days of coverage in six months.

\*\*New patients are those with more than 4 days of coverage in the quarter and none in the prior quarter.

**SOURCE OF DATA:** NM Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), NM Prescribers with at least 20 controlled substance patients



## II. Medication Assisted Treatment (buprenorphine and methadone) Measures

Year and Quarter	2020Q3	2021Q2	2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2021Q2 vs 2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2020Q3 vs 2021Q3
Buprenorphine MAT prescribers with at least 10 treatment patients	228	234	239	2.1%	4.8%
Buprenorphine MAT patients (>=10 days)	8,143	8,079	8,083	0.0%	-0.7%
Buprenorphine MAT prescriptions filled	29,691	28,309	27,882	-1.5%	-6.1%
Total Practitioners with DATA Waiver	1,031	1,205	1,249	3.7%	21.1%
Nurse Practitioners and PAs with DATA Waiver	342	425	455	7.1%	33.0%

### Medicaid Methadone Treatment

Number of distinct individuals with methadone claims paid by NM Medicaid	6,107	6,023	6,205	3.0%	1.6%
Number of distinct NM Medicaid providers of methadone	11	14	14	0.0%	27.3%

Methadone Treatment Programs by Survey Date	Sep 2020	Jun 2021	Oct 2021		
Number of Methadone Treatment Programs	18	21	20	-4.8%	11.1%
Number of Methadone Treatment Patients in those Programs	7,160	7,327	7,277	-0.7%	1.6%

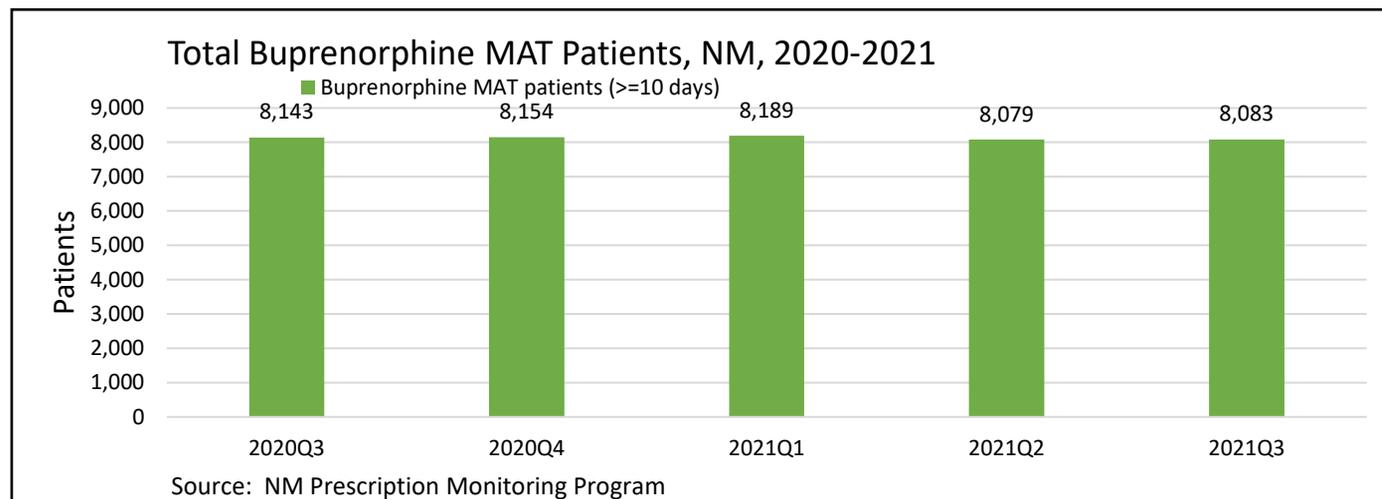
DATA Waivered provider data are as of the last month of the quarter

#### Sources:

Buprenorphine MAT data: NM Prescription Monitoring Program

Methadone data: NM Human Services Department, State Opioid Treatment Authority; NM Medicaid

DATA Waivered providers: US DEA Diversion Control Division



### III. Naloxone Distribution and Usage Measures

Year and Quarter	2020Q3	2021Q2	2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2021Q2 vs 2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2020Q3 vs 2021Q3
New Enrollments in NM State Government Naloxone Programs	2,473	2,184	2,345	7.4%	-5.2%
Total Number of NM Naloxone Doses distributed*	9,018	14,242	14,136	-0.7%	56.8%
Total Number of NM Reported Reversals**	797	727	1,009	38.8%	26.6%

Year and Quarter	2020Q3	2021Q2	2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2021Q2 vs 2021Q3	Quarterly % Change 2020Q3 vs 2021Q3
Pharmacies Presenting Medicaid Naloxone Claims+	257	261	251	-3.8%	-2.3%
Number of Medicaid Naloxone Claims Processed	4,889	4,711	5,272	11.9%	7.8%

\*Some naloxone doses were given to organizations and may not have been distributed in that quarter.

\*\*Reported Reversals are not necessarily individual level data, as one person could have overdosed and been reversed more than once. Data on reversals are combined across several agencies and programs, and the definition of a reversal may vary.

+An outpatient pharmacy could present claims in more than one quarter. The total number was obtained by counting each pharmacy once. There were 286 outpatient Pharmacies with a NM address in 2019 according to the Board of Pharmacy.

Sources: NM DOH Programs; NM HSD/BHSD Programs; NM Medicaid

