



# **NM DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION QUARTERLY MEASURES REPORT**

**FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023 (2023Q4)**

**Substance Use Epidemiology Section  
Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program  
Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau  
Center for Health Protection**

## Introduction

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:

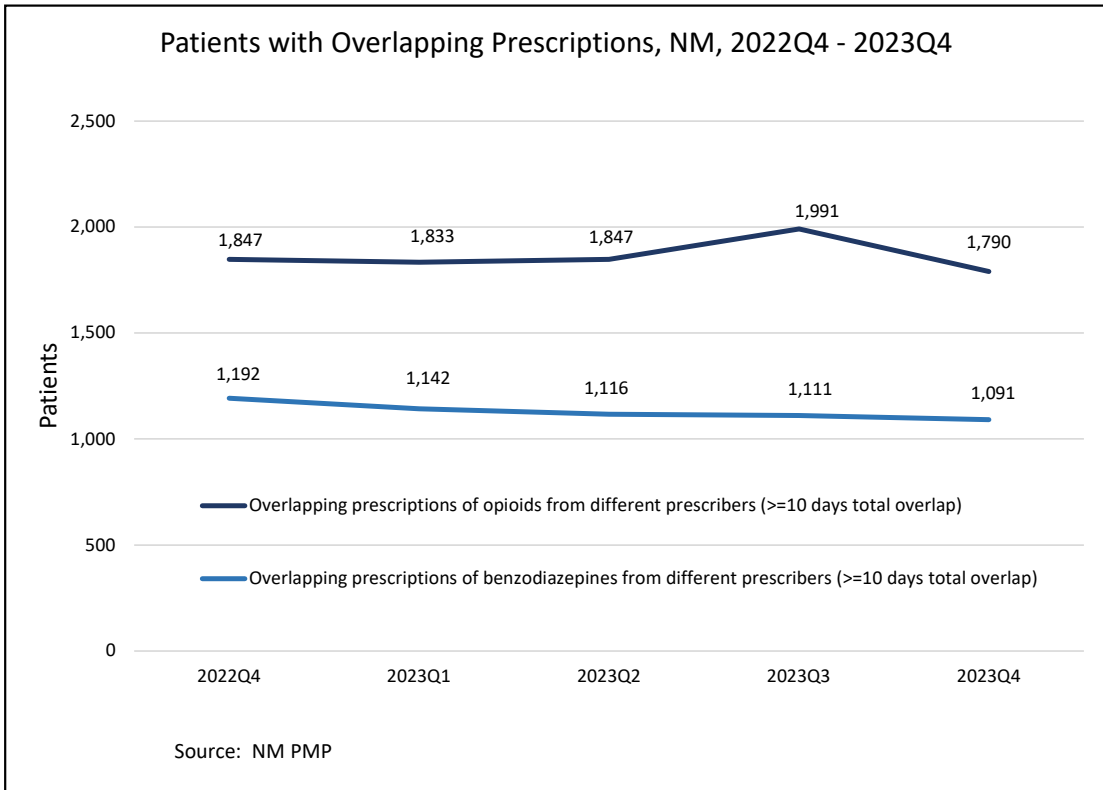
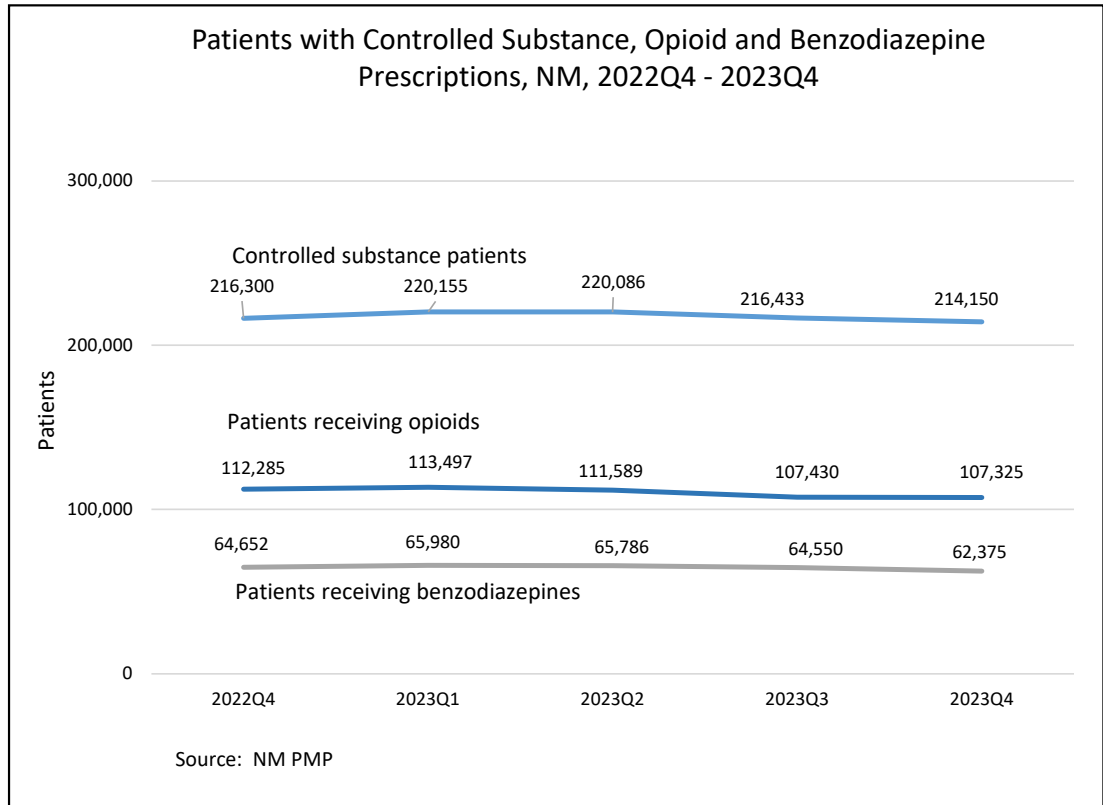
1. The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) operated by the NM Board of Pharmacy, which collects data on every controlled substance prescription filled in New Mexico.
2. New Mexico Medicaid in the Human Services Department, for data on methadone treatment paid by Medicaid, and for data on claims paid 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.

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.

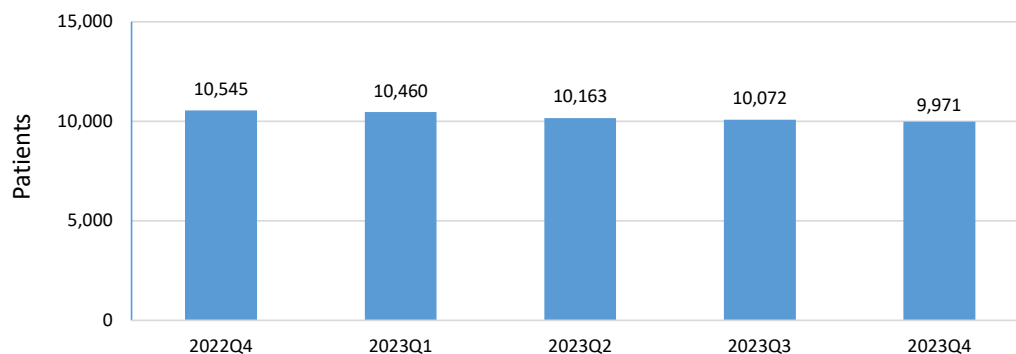
Gabapentin was added to PMP reporting as a drug of concern in March 2023. This caused increases in the number of prescribers with 20+ patients, the number of patients with multiple providers. Most other indicators were not affected.

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



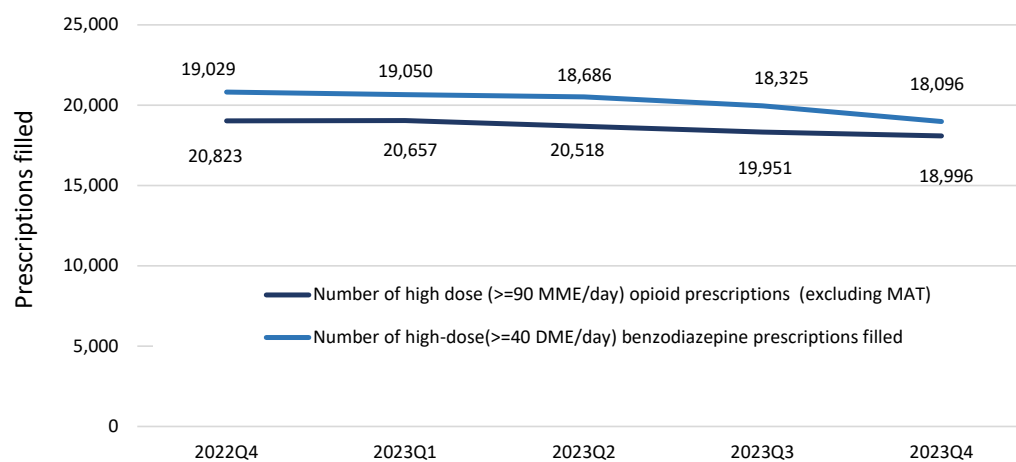
### I. New Mexico Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Measures

Patients with Concurrent Opioids and Benzodiazepines ( $\geq 10$  days overlap), NM, 2022Q4 - 2023Q4



Source: NM PMP

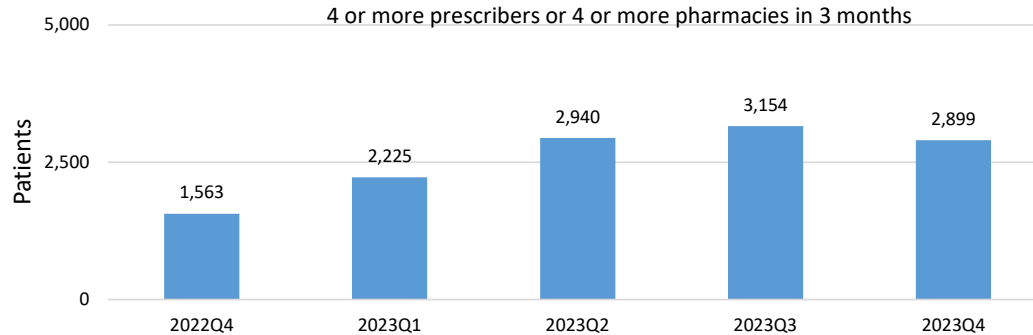
High Dose Prescriptions, NM, 2022Q4 - 2023Q4



Source: NM PMP

Patients with Multiple Prescribers and Pharmacies, NM, 2022Q4 - 2023Q4

4 or more prescribers or 4 or more pharmacies in 3 months



Source: NM PMP

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

### Totals

Year and Quarter	2022Q4	2023Q3	2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2023Q3 vs 2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2022Q4 vs 2023Q4
Total number of controlled substance patients	216,300	216,433	214,150	-1.1%	-1.0%
Number of patients receiving opioids (excluding MAT)	112,285	107,430	107,325	-0.1%	-4.4%
Number of opioid prescriptions filled (excluding MAT)	233,260	225,626	222,851	-1.2%	-4.5%
Number of MAT buprenorphine prescriptions filled	27,935	27,502	27,384	-0.4%	-2.0%
Number of high dose ( $\geq 90$ MME/day) opioid prescriptions (excluding MAT)	19,029	18,325	18,096	-1.2%	-4.9%
Total MME of opioids filled - (excluding MAT)	162,433,449	155,221,298	152,230,773	-1.9%	-6.3%
Total MME/prescription-day	43	42	42	-0.8%	-2.0%
Number of patients receiving benzodiazepines	64,652	64,550	62,375	-3.4%	-3.5%
Number of benzodiazepine prescriptions filled	138,232	135,612	131,692	-2.9%	-4.7%
Number of high-dose ( $\geq 40$ DME/day) benzodiazepine prescriptions filled	20,823	19,951	18,996	-4.8%	-8.8%
Total DME of benzodiazepines filled	64,649,797	60,964,445	59,095,898	-3.1%	-8.6%
Total DME/patient	1,000	944	947	0.3%	-5.3%

**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	2022Q4	2023Q3	2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2023Q3 vs 2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2022Q4 vs 2023Q4
High dose opioids ( $\geq 90$ MME/day) (excluding MAT)	7,139	6,815	6,853	0.6%	-4.0%
High dose benzodiazepines ( $\geq 40$ DME/day)	9,236	9,031	8,565	-5.2%	-7.3%
Opioids $\geq 90$ days and $< 90\%$ of days in past 6 months (excluding MAT)	13,539	13,486	14,221	5.5%	5.0%
Opioids $\geq 90\%$ of days in past 6 months (excluding MAT)	23,978	23,045	21,906	-4.9%	-8.6%
Benzodiazepines $\geq 90$ days and $< 90\%$ of days in past 6 months	15,178	14,531	14,679	1.0%	-3.3%
Benzodiazepines $\geq 90\%$ of days in past 6 months	19,244	18,617	17,787	-4.5%	-7.6%
Overlapping prescriptions of opioids from different prescribers ( $\geq 10$ days total overlap)	1,847	1,991	1,790	-10.1%	-3.1%
Overlapping prescriptions of benzodiazepines from different prescribers ( $\geq 10$ days total overlap)	1,192	1,111	1,091	-1.8%	-8.5%
Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepines ( $\geq 10$ days overlap)	10,545	10,072	9,971	-1.0%	-5.4%
High dose opioids ( $\geq 90$ MME/day) plus benzodiazepines	1,503	1,449	1,454	0.3%	-3.3%
Multiple prescribers and pharmacies: 4 or more prescribers or 4 or more pharmacies in 3 months	1,563	3,154	2,899	-8.1%	85.5%
New Opioid Patients with at least 30 days of coverage in the past 3 months (excl MAT)	1,902	1,909	1,961	2.7%	3.1%
New Benzodiazepine Patients with at least 30 days of coverage in the past 3 months	2,769	2,653	2,654	0.0%	-4.2%

**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

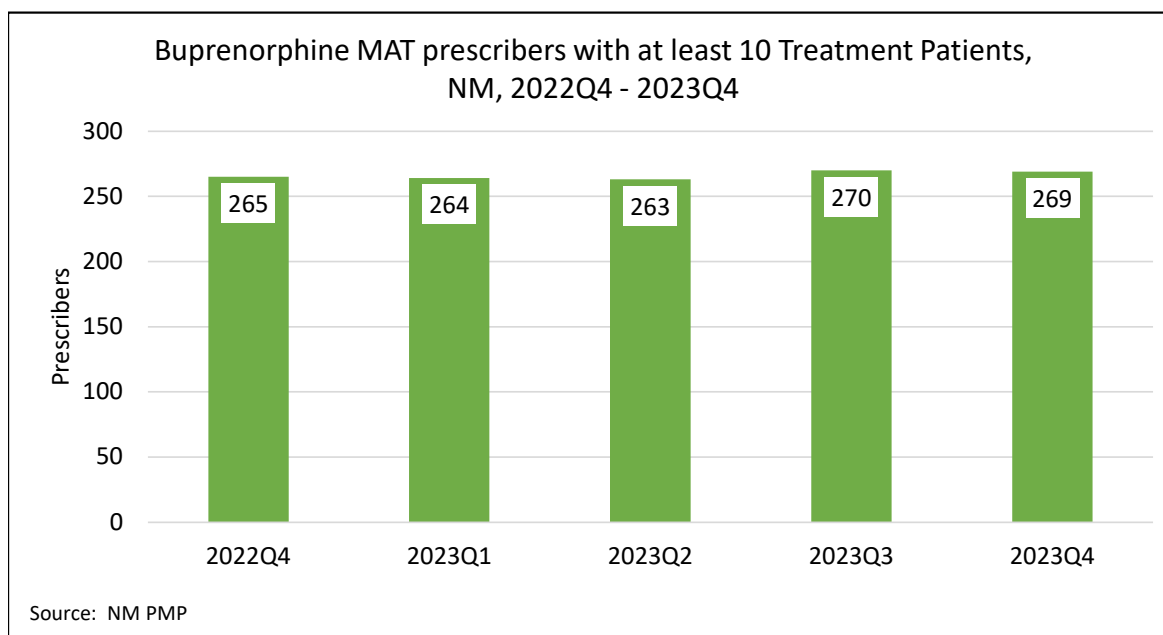
### New Mexico Prescribers with at least 20 controlled substance patients:

Year and Quarter	2022Q4	2023Q3	2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2023Q3 vs 2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2022Q4 vs 2023Q4
Total active controlled substance prescribers	3,022	3,510	3,466	-1.3%	14.7%
Prescribers with at least 50% high dose of opioid prescriptions, excluding treatment prescribers	16	16	16	0.0%	0.0%
Prescribers with at least 50% high dose of benzodiazepine prescriptions	77	89	69	-22.5%	-10.4%
Some PMP Use: Requested reports on at least 25% of patients estimated to require them	1,799	1,941	1,878	-3.2%	4.4%
Zero PMP Use: Requested no PMP reports on patients filling Controlled Substances	237	282	321	13.8%	35.4%
Number of Patients with PMP reports requested by practitioners	432,088	312,653	253,811	-18.8%	-41.3%
% of Chronic opioid users with a PMP request in the past 3 months*	83.3%	82.1%	81.2%	-1.1%	-2.5%
% of Chronic benzodiazepine users with a PMP request in the past 3 months*	60.5%	59.7%	58.6%	-1.9%	-3.2%
% of New Opioid Patients with a PMP request in the past 3 months**	45.0%	46.6%	43.7%	-6.1%	-2.8%
% of New Benzodiazepine Patients with a PMP request in the past 3 months**	46.1%	45.9%	44.4%	-3.3%	-3.6%

\*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	2022Q4	2023Q3	2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2023Q3 vs 2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2022Q4 vs 2023Q4
Buprenorphine MAT prescribers with at least 10 treatment patients	265	270	269	-0.4%	1.5%
Buprenorphine MAT prescribers with 5 to 9 treatment patients	102	130	137	5.4%	34.3%
Buprenorphine MAT prescribers with 1 to 4 treatment patients	249	478	485	1.5%	94.8%
Buprenorphine MAT patients ( $\geq 10$ days)	8,550	8,842	8,942	1.1%	4.6%
Buprenorphine MAT prescriptions filled	27,935	27,502	27,384	-0.4%	-2.0%

### Medicaid Methadone Treatment

Number of distinct individuals with methadone claims paid by NM Medicaid	5,627	4,634	4,655	0.5%	-17.3%
Number of distinct NM Medicaid providers of methadone	13	14	15	7.1%	15.4%

Methadone Treatment Programs by Survey Date	Dec 2022	Sept 2023	Dec 2023		
Number of Methadone Treatment Programs	21	22	22	0.0%	4.8%
Number of Methadone Treatment Patients in those Programs	7,130	7,012	6,902	-1.6%	-3.2%

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

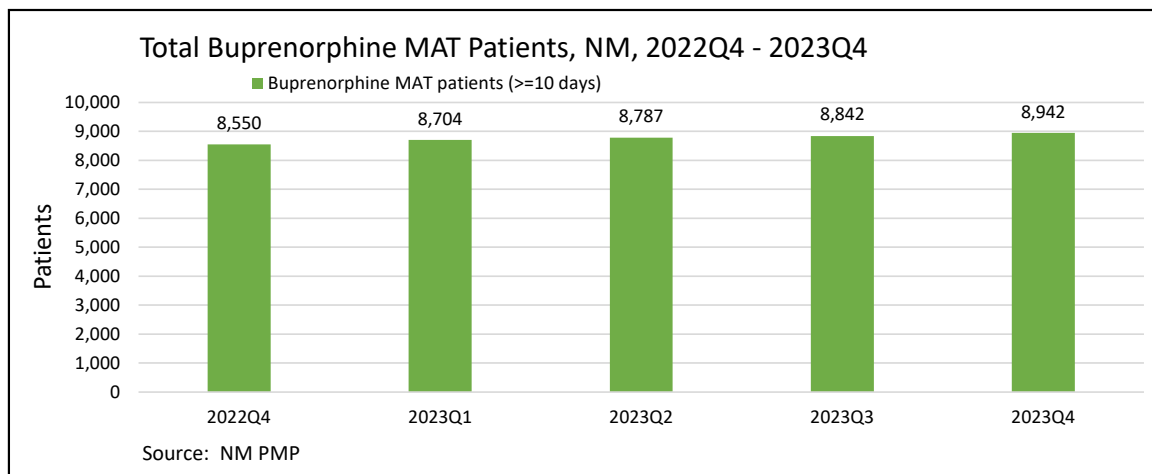
After December 2022, the DATA waiver will no longer be needed to provide OUD treatment

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	2022Q4	2023Q3	2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2023Q3 vs 2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2022Q4 vs 2023Q4
New Enrollments in NM State Government Naloxone Programs	1,207	1,494	1,327	-11.2%	9.9%
Total Number of NM Naloxone Doses distributed*	9,708	12,256	10,466	-14.6%	7.8%
Total Number of NM Reported Reversals**	660	822	746	-9.2%	13.0%

Year and Quarter	2022Q4	2023Q3	2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2023Q3 vs 2023Q4	Quarterly % Change 2022Q4 vs 2023Q4
Pharmacies Presenting Medicaid Naloxone Claims+	248	279	280	0.4%	12.9%
Number of Medicaid Naloxone Claims Processed	4,590	5,491	8,825	60.7%	92.3%

\*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

