



National Association of State  
Controlled Substances Authorities



## NASCSA NEWS

July 7, 2014

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### NASCSA's State Profiles Updated

One of NASCSA's most important products to date has been the maintenance of its "[State Profiles](#)" that has helped state members and others with a variety of information specific to each state including state controlled substances authority contacts, relevant statutes and rules, as well as important information related to state Prescription Monitoring Program contacts and applicable regulations.

This spring the Survey/Data Committee, with authorization by the Executive Committee hired Bonnie Barnard, formerly with Walgreens and the Indiana State Police, as well as a former board member of NASCSA to conduct a comprehensive update of these profiles. We appreciate the quick response from our

### Presidents Message

The agenda for the annual NASCSA meeting, highlighted in this issue, is a testament to the extraordinary breadth and scope of the issues that controlled substances authorities face on a daily basis. A review of over 30 years of NASCSA agendas demonstrates the persistence of the problem of diversion and abuse of prescription controlled substances, despite all our best efforts to control it. Recent national attention to the unintended consequences of prescription drug misuse is welcome news. NASCSA's voice has been heard at the national level, along with the voices of many other organizations concerned about the issue. The problem isn't one that NASCSA and the other organizations can tackle alone, however. Rather, this problem requires all federal, state and local partners involved to work together. There's been a sea of change in the problem of drug diversion and abuse in recent years and it will take a sea of change both to respond to it and conquer it.

The various committees of NASCSA have been working hard over the past several months on behalf of NASCSA members. Highlights from these committee activities are more fully described below.

Have a happy and safe summer and I look forward to seeing you this October.

Sincerely,

*Ralph Orr, President*

Save the Date for 30th Annual NASCSA  
Conference Oct. 21-24, 2014

Mark your calendars for the 30th Annual Conference  
of the National Association of State Controlled

members in providing updated information. We would ask that members periodically check their [profiles](#) to make sure they are current.

### NASCSA Set to Update Pseudoephedrine Study

The University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy's Institute for Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy has been provided funding from NASCSA to do an update of our "White Paper" evaluating the impact of state laws regulating pseudoephedrine on methamphetamine abuse and trafficking. We anticipate that the study will be completed by the end of the year. To view the original White Paper click [here](#).

### NAMSDL Announces Leadership Changes

Long time CEO of the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) Sherry Green recently retired from her position which she held for more than 20 years to transition to her own company, Sherry L. Green & Associates, LLC. NAMSDL recently named Sarah Kelsey, one of NAMSDL's talented Legislative

Substances Authorities to take place at the Hilton Desoto Hotel in Savannah, Georgia October 21-24, 2014. Members of the Program Committee and the Executive Committee are confident that members will be thrilled with this year's program. The [Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel](#)

is in the heart of historic Savannah and is within easy walking distance to many of the finest restaurants in the city as well as shopping and historic sites.

We have a link to reserve hotel rooms online or by phone [here](#) if you wish to reserve your hotel room now. The room rate is \$140 per night single/double occupancy. The hotel features complimentary Wi-Fi access. There are a number of transportation options available to attendees, which are listed [here](#).

Among the topics to be covered this year include the always popular update by the US Drug Enforcement Administration as well as presentations by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. Other topics include telemedicine; abuse and diversion of amphetamines; impact of mandatory use legislation; Nalaxone; medical marijuana, drug-take back programs; a "point/counterpoint" session on responsibilities under the controlled substances act; and the use of morphine milligram equivalents to name a few. In addition, this year we will also be holding three smaller workshops to allow more of an opportunity for discussions/dialogue among attendees on current issues. The final program should be available in mid-July. Check NASCSA's [website](#) for important updates on the conference.

We will once again be hosting a welcome dinner as well as a networking luncheon during the week that provides a unique opportunity for attendees to stay on the property and network with their colleagues.

The Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs will meet the morning October 21, 2014. The Alliance agenda will be posted when it is finalized.

Please note that the NASCSA conference will kick off at 1 p.m. on October 21, 2014. We ask all members to be present at this time to conduct the roll call and establish a quorum.

### Travel Scholarships to be Announced Later This Month

Attorneys who has been with the organization for over 10 years as its new CEO. We wish Sherry the best and look forward to working with Sarah and the team of NAMSDL in the future.

### Interested in PMP Legislation?

Due to our recent collaboration with the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL), we have been provided with an updated compilation of information on state and federal legislation and regulations pertaining to Prescription Monitoring Programs as a courtesy to members. The latest listing is found [here](#) under the PMP section of our website.

### State Regulatory Developments

Did you know that NASCSA publishes a monthly compilation of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website [here](#).

### Membership is

The Membership Committee received an unprecedented number of applications for travel scholarships to attend this year's conference and will be meeting to narrow down the applicants to six applicants and will offer recommendations to the Executive Committee for final approval. This is the sixth year the Executive Committee has authorized the awarding of travel scholarships. The Executive Committee hopes to continue this tradition because members recognize the importance of attendance at the annual conference to learn and network with peers. The six successful travel Scholarships will be announced in late July.

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## NASCSA Committees Hard at Work

Throughout the year NASCSA has five committees that have been hard at work on a variety of projects. Committee members, comprised of volunteers from members states as well as associate members are the backbone of the organization and we would encourage all members to consider volunteering. Below is a description of committee highlights.

**Membership** - In addition to developing the criteria for this year's travel scholarship, to attend this year's conference, members of the committee will be reviewing the applicants in order to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Committee is also responsible for the development and dissemination of NASCSA's periodic newsletter and has been brainstorming about other organizations and members to conduct outreach.

**Program** - Almost as soon as last year's conference concluded, members of the committee began working on this year's program. Many hours were spent reviewing the conference evaluations as they developed what promises to be another exciting program this year. Stay tuned!

**Survey/Data** - The committee has been hard at work over the past several months and has conducted one survey of our members asking them about some of the issues that are currently most important to them. We have tabulated the results which are posted [here](#). Results of this survey, conducted in March 2014 with a total of 127 respondents show the breath of issues that state agencies and others are currently facing. Interestingly enough, electronic prescribing of controlled substances ranks highest in mentions,

## Strength of NASCSA

Dues notices for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1-June 30th) have been mailed to all members. In order to be eligible to vote at the annual conference, and be eligible for travel scholarships as well as any grants awarded to states for special projects, membership dues must be paid in full.

### Update contact info for "NASCSA News?"

If your contact information changes, please login using the original email address you originally had subscribed with and update any information including your new email address and updated contact information.

### State Pain Policy Advocacy Network Resource

The State Pain Policy Advocacy Network (SPAN) offers a great resource to NASCSA members on legislation related to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, Pain Clinic regulations, medical marijuana (among other issues of interest). For more information visit their link [here](#).

followed by mandatory use of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) followed by integration of state PMPs with Health Information Exchanges and Dispensing of Controlled Substances by Practitioners. A special thanks to Bill Ward, NASCSA's webmaster for compiling the results in an easy to follow format.

The Survey/Data Committee will be conducting a second survey later this month. The survey will be distributed to state controlled substances authorities only, however we will be publicizing the results of the survey later this summer.

**Resolutions/Bylaws** - Based on input from members along with results of the most recent survey, the committee has spent many long hours developing an impressive number of draft resolutions for consideration by members at the annual conference. Thus far 15 resolutions have been developed. Note that all members are permitted to submit proposed resolutions in accordance with our Bylaws, found at Article XI. Draft resolutions will be distributed in early September (45 days prior to the annual meeting). In addition, the committee is reviewing the Bylaws for possible consideration of a few minor changes. Any proposed changes will be distributed 60 days in advance of the meeting.

**Special Projects-** The committee has spent the past several months wrapping up the 2013 PMP grants that were the result of funding provided by Purdue Pharma to support program enhancements. With some funding remaining, the committee issued a Request for Information that resulted in a number of interesting and worthwhile projects that should be beneficial to many state PMP states. Additional details will be provided in the next newsletter.

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### Join NASCSA's Enhanced Forum Site to Share Ideas and Exchange Information

With the input of the Survey/Data Committee and considerable work by our webmaster Bill Ward, NASCSA has significantly revamped its interactive "Forum" site to include more topics. The Forum is for members and others interested in a variety of topics related to controlled substances, prescription monitoring programs, trends, legislation and other issues. The Forum, located at

Did You Know  
NASCSA is on  
Twitter?

If you have a Twitter account, please make sure to follow us @NASCSA. Our followers are growing by leaps and bounds so spread the word and stay connected!

<http://forum.nascsa.org> is also accessible from the main website [www.nascsa.org](http://www.nascsa.org)

NASCSA's Forum requires a one-time initial registration to create a user name and password in order to post or subscribe. The Forum is monitored on a daily basis to ensure that postings are appropriate. Current topics include federal controlled substances laws and regulations; methadone clinics; veterinary use of controlled substances; Buprenorphine prescribing; practitioner dispensing of controlled substances; medical marijuana; prescription requirements; Prescription Monitoring Programs; electronic prescribing; drug "take back" programs; drug schedules; controlled substances registration as well as a general "hot topics" section.

We would strongly encourage all members to consider joining the conversation and sharing among colleagues and others. If you would like to suggest a new forum subject please send your suggestion(s) to [KathyKeough@nascsa.org](mailto:KathyKeough@nascsa.org).

## CDC Reports Significant Variation Among States in Prescribing of Opioid Pain Relievers and Benzodiazepines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [report](#) last week that shows health care providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for opioid painkillers in 2012, but that these prescriptions were distributed unevenly throughout the United States. The Vital Signs report found that health care providers in the highest prescribing state, Alabama, wrote almost three times as many of these prescriptions per person as those in the lowest prescribing state, Hawaii.

CDC analyzed 2012 prescribing data collected from retail pharmacies in the U.S. by a commercial vendor. CDC calculated prescribing rates by state for various types of opioid painkillers. The key findings include:

- \* Southern states - Alabama, Tennessee, and West Virginia in particular - had the most painkiller prescriptions per person.
- \* The Northeast, especially Maine and New Hampshire, had the most prescriptions per person for long-acting/extended-release painkillers and for high-dose painkillers.

\* State variation was the greatest for oxymorphone (a specific type of painkiller), among all prescription painkillers. Nearly 22 times as many prescriptions were written for oxymorphone in Tennessee as were written in Minnesota.

Previous research has shown that state variation in use of prescriptions does not necessarily translate to better health outcomes or patient satisfaction. In fact, high rates of use might produce worse outcomes.

State legislation that establishes oversight over pain management clinics or describes specific registration, licensure, or ownership requirements for such clinics, coupled with restrictions on dispensing controlled substances by prescribers, are promising interventions to address prescription drug overdoses. For example, another paper published last week's CDC's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), presents results of legislation implemented in Florida. To address a 6-year, 61% increase in the number of annual deaths from prescription drug overdose, in 2010 Florida's legislature implemented laws regulating pain clinics, and in 2011, prohibited prescribers dispensing opioid analgesics from their offices. After implementation of the legislation, overdose death rates for opioid analgesics declined 27.0%; overdose death rates for benzodiazepines declined 28.4%. Steps that states can take to address the overprescribing of painkillers include:

- Considering ways to increase prescriber use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP), state-run systems that track all prescriptions for painkillers. PDMPs can help find problems in overprescribing.
- Considering policy options (including laws and regulation) relating to pain clinics to reduce prescribing practices that are risky to patients.
- Evaluating their own data and programs and considering ways to assess Medicaid, workers' compensation programs, and state-run health plans to detect and address inappropriate prescribing of painkillers.
- Identifying opportunities to increase access to substance abuse treatment first responder access to naloxone, a drug used when someone has overdosed.

CDC Vital Signs provides timely, high impact, and data-driven prevention information, linking science, policy, and communications. The full report and past issues of Vital Signs are available [here](#).

For more information about CDC's work to prevent and track prescription drug overdose, please click [here](#) or contact Shana Beavin at [SBeavin@cdc.gov](mailto:SBeavin@cdc.gov).

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We hope you enjoyed this latest edition of NASCSA News. We strongly encourage members and others to share information from their respective agencies for consideration for our newsletter. Please email [KathyKeough@nascsa.org](mailto:KathyKeough@nascsa.org) with your articles and ideas.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Keough*  
Executive Director

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