PA PDMP’s education initiative and its impact on prescribing behavior:

A comprehensive evaluation of the statewide online program

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Background
Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) allow licensed prescribers and dispensers to review controlled substance (CS) prescription history with the goal of reducing overprescribing of CSs and preventing prescription abuse and diversion. Pennsylvania’s Department of Health (PA DOH) has led an initiative to educate prescribers on its PDMP system and on topics related to opioid use and prescribing. PA DOH has developed seven modules (Importance of the PDMP system; PDMP System Registration and Utilization; Pain Management; Opioid Prescribing Guidelines; Primary Care Warm Handoff; Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment; and Opioid Tapering) and delivered online and in-person trainings. As primary evaluators, our team generated quarterly reports to determine effects of the intervention on prescribers’ knowledge of the system, and attitudes and intentions towards using the PDMP. This poster focuses on results from online trainings only.

Methods
Participants were administered quizzes before and after completing each online training to gauge knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral intentions related to the covered topic(s). As of December 31, 2018, 1991 unique participants completed an online training module, with 50% of those participants completing at least one module.

Results
Across all topic areas, 87% (n=6055) demonstrated mastery of the topic following the online training (i.e., achieved a score of 80% or greater). Among those who did not have a perfect score on their pre-test, 60% (n=2420) participants demonstrated an increase in knowledge post-training. Moreover, participants generally agreed that the information covered in the module was important and that they had strong intentions to use the information in their clinical practice.

Discussion
These preliminary results show that although providers had high levels of pre-existing knowledge about many of the topics addressed, the educational intervention was effective in increasing knowledge, attitudes, and intentions related to these content areas. This initial analysis will be followed by a further review of the PDMP system data for participants who participated in these online trainings to determine the actual short to medium-term impact of online education on participants’ prescribing behaviors.