Since January 2017, Florida Nurse Practitioners (NP) have joined the rest of the states in gaining DEA privileges with HB 423 or the Barbara Lumpkin Prescribing Act. In order to be proponents for safe, responsible controlled substance prescribing and be inline with state mandated prescribing laws, NPs should be aware of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), created as a safeguard against prescription misuse and overprescribing.

**Drug Abuse Problem**
- Florida has been the focus of the addiction crisis for a number of years, and was once the highest state with opioid purchases.
- Prescription-related deaths in Florida reached a staggering 2,710 deaths in 2010.
- The most frequently observed category of Age was 50-64 years old (n = 69, 48%). The most frequently observed category of Years of Experience was less than 5 years (n = 62, 43%).

**Role and Description of the PDMP**
- States that have implemented PDMPs have resulted in (1) successful reductions in prescription opioid-related deaths (2) decrease in the supply and abuse of highly addictive controlled substances (3) decline in opioid dispensation
- 22 states currently have dispenser AND prescriber mandates for PDMP participation. Florida is not one of them.
- Prescriber and dispenser participation is necessary for PDMP success.

**How to use E-FORCSE**
- Electronic- Florida Online Reporting of Controlled Substance Evaluation Program (E-FORCSE) is Florida's PDMP.

**Background and Significance**
- 16,892 invitation emails were sent to ARNPs with Florida licenses.
- 319 completed responses to the pre-questionnaire
- 145 participants completed both the pretest and posttest questionnaires and were included in the education initiative
- The most frequently observed category of Age was 50-64 years old (n = 69, 48%). The most frequently observed category of Years of Experience was less than 5 years (n = 62, 43%).

**Results**
- 145 participants completed both the pretest and posttest questionnaires and were included in the education initiative.
- The frequency for demographic variables shows the distribution of participants across different age and years of experience categories.

**Methodology**
- Critical Appraisal of literature
- Study population determined: NPs with active ARNP licenses in Florida
- Education Improvement Initiative created: (1) PowerPoint presentation on study themes (2) pretest included questions on: consent, confirmation of active ARNP license in Florida, demographics- age and years of experience as an NP (3) pretest and posttest included: 18 knowledge questions on study themes (4) multiple choice question type including single best answer questions and multiple answer questions

**Discussion**
- The was the first education improvement initiative to focus on the Florida PDMP for NPs.
- Participants struggled with understanding that the PDMP in Florida does not mandate prescriber participation. It was a far-reaching aim of this education improvement initiative to garner support for prescriber mandated legislation in Florida by increasing understanding of and participation in the PDMP.
- Future research should focus on how an education improvement initiative affects use of the PDMP and ease of use by clinicians.
- Research should emphasize how an education intervention affects implementation of the PDMP for improvement in patient care when controlled substances are prescribed.
- From a legislative perspective, research should be directed at whether participation in an education improvement initiative increases support for healthcare policy changes, namely encouraging PDMP prescriber mandated participation.

**Acknowledgements**
- We wish to thank Dr. James Lani of Interlakes Statistics for assistance with the statistical analysis of this education improvement initiative.
- We also thank all the NPs included in the education improvement initiative for their participation.

**References**
- References available upon request.