



Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse – What You Can Do

The age of first use of prescription drugs is 13.3 years.
 On average, 4.3% of youth report using prescription drugs not prescribed for them within the past 30 days.
 #1 place for youth to get prescription drugs for abuse is from an unlocked medicine cabinet at home.

2330 Victory Parkway,
 Suite 703
 Cincinnati, OH 45206
 (513)751-8000
www.prevention-first.org
info@prevention-first.org

Sources: 2014 Student Drug Use Survey, 2012 Coalition Online Survey, PreventionFIRST!

Rx Call to Action Sheet

*If you or someone you know needs help, call 513-281-RHAC (7422)

	Education	Monitoring	Proper Disposal	Enforcement
Health Care Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate patients on taking medicine correctly Provide alternate pain management techniques when appropriate Talk with patients about risky drug taking behavior Tell your patients that it is illegal to share medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for prescription drug abuse and refer them to treatment when necessary Educate patients on proper storage of medication Watch for the signs of abuse Utilize/implement prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate patients on the proper disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer family to appropriate health care provider if problem use/addiction is suspected
Pharmacist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate patients on taking medicine correctly Talk with patients on the dangers of sharing medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with health care providers to monitor patients' medication usage Encourage patients to keep track of their medication quantities Educate patients on proper storage of medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate patients on proper disposal of unused medication Provide a list of places that have prescription drop boxes Register to become an authorized collector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify healthcare providers when a problem is suspected
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate community on the dangers of sharing and taking un-prescribed medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for signs of abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have prescription drug abuse drop box in police station or a list to provide to community Conduct a Prescription Drug Take Back Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer family to appropriate health care provider if abuse is suspected
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk with youth and young adults about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and help them develop refusal skills Know the signs of prescription drug abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get to know your students; watch for behavioral or physical signs of prescription drug abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a list of places that have prescription drop boxes available in nurses office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk with parents/caregivers when there is a suspicion of prescription drug abuse Refer family to appropriate healthcare provider if abuse is suspected
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start the conversations early (Pre-K – Teens) Talk with youth and aging parents about the dangers of prescription drug abuse Know the signs of prescription drug abuse Practice alternative pain management methods when appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep track of medication quantities Have lock box at home to secure prescription drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly dispose of unused medications Participate in community prescription drug take back days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set clear and consistent rules and expectations around prescription drug abuse Seek help when a problem is suspected and/or has been identified
Peer to Peer (Youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn the dangers of taking prescription drugs Share the message with friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep track of prescribed medications that you are taking Never share prescribed medications with others Never take any medication that is not prescribed to you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the proper way to dispose of unused prescription drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any suspected drug abuse to a trusted adult, whether it is your own or a friend's abuse
Realtors/Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate on the proper way to store medications when showing homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell clients to lock up medications prior to showing their home Design homes with lock boxes built into cabinets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If showing a vacant home, properly discard left behind medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify authorities if you are made aware of missing medication from a home you were showing
Elected Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require medical education curricula and continuing education for safe and appropriate use of opioid pain medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in every state to reduce "doctor shopping" and diversion, and enhance PDMPs to make sure they can share data across states and are used by healthcare providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop convenient and environmentally responsible prescription drug disposal programs to help decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in the home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to eliminate improper prescribing practices and stop pill mills
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow opportunity for education about drug abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a drug testing policy at point of hire and at random 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make employees aware of prescription drop boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce drug-free work place policy
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness through reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate prescription drug abuse issues and stay updated on trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local businesses to sponsor take back events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate information to the public and report illegal activity to law enforcement

Sources:
 "Rx Abuse Prevention Toolkit: From Awareness to Action". Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. 2013. www.PreventRXAbuse.org. 10 Aug. 2013
 "Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis". Office of National Drug Control Policy. 2011. www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/prescription-drug-abuse. Web. 9 April. 2015.