

# PREVENT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

**WARNING:** Prescription medicines are now more frequently abused than cocaine, heroin, and meth combined.

**1** Take medicines only as prescribed.

**2** Do not share your medicines with anyone.

**3** Store your medicines safely.

**4** Properly dispose of unused medicines immediately.

**THINK  
ABOUT IT**

PREVENT RX DRUG ABUSE

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Medical Association of Georgia Foundation

Prescription drug abuse is a national epidemic with well over **16,500 deaths a year from pain killer overdose.**

**More people now die each year** from accidental drug overdose than in auto accidents.

**Eighteen women die** every day from prescription pain killer overdose, an increase of over 400% since 1999.

**DON'T BE AN  
UNINTENTIONAL  
DRUG SUPPLIER**

by allowing others access to your medicines.

# THINK ABOUT IT

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## **Annual death toll from prescription pain killers**

greatly exceeds the number of deaths from all illegal drugs combined.

## **The United States comprises less than 5 percent**

of the world population but uses more than 80 percent of the global supply of pain killer medications.

## **The age group most likely to die**

from an accidental drug overdose is 45 to 54 years old.

## **A quarter of high school teenagers**

have experimented with misappropriated prescription drugs.

## **Genetics plays a key role**

in prescription drug addiction.

## **Friends and family**

“unintentional drug suppliers” are the source for 70% of misused prescription drugs.

# THE FOUR STEPS

## to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse

### 1 Take Only as Prescribed

- See back for list of most abused medications
- Do not mix medications except as directed by physician
- Do not take these medicines with alcohol – it could be deadly

### 2 Do Not Share Medicines

- Taking another person's prescription is both illegal and dangerous
- Medicines that you take could have a very different effect on others

### 3 Store Your Prescriptions Safely

- Do not allow others to gain access to your prescriptions
- Addicted persons will take pills from your home
- Children are particularly at risk for accidental overdose
- A drug lockbox with a key or combination is the best security

### 4 Dispose Promptly

- Dispose of unused medications promptly when no longer needed
- Take to a drug drop box at the local police or sheriff's office. For prescription drug drop boxes around the state go to [www.stoprxabuseinga.org/prescription-drug-disposal](http://www.stoprxabuseinga.org/prescription-drug-disposal).
- Turn in at a DEA take-back event
- Take pills from bottle and mix with food waste garbage
- **Do not flush in toilet** – medicines may stay in the water supply

# COMMONLY ABUSED MEDICATIONS

## NARCOTIC PAIN KILLERS:

### Hydrocodone

Lortab  
Vicodin  
Norco

### Oxycodone

Percocet  
Roxicodone  
Endocet  
Oxycontin

### Methadone

### Morphine

Avinza  
Kadian

### Fentanyl

Duragesic  
Fentora

### Codeine

## ANXIETY MEDICATIONS:

Xanax

Valium

Ativan

*Inappropriate use of any of these common prescription medicines (listed above) can be fatal, while ingesting any combination of pain killers and anxiety medications together can increase risk factors dramatically - and even more so when alcohol is added.*



**face it...**

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[www.faceitpeople.org](http://www.faceitpeople.org)

Find out more at  
[www.rxdrugabuse.org](http://www.rxdrugabuse.org)