



**CONNECTICUT  
Clearinghouse**

a program of the Connecticut Center  
for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

800.232.4424 (Voice/TTY) 860.793.9813 (Fax)  
www.ctclearinghouse.org



A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness

# Let's Work Together To Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

## Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States.

Because prescription drugs are legal, they are easily accessible, often from a home medicine cabinet. Further, some individuals who abuse prescription drugs, particularly teens, believe these substances are safer than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a healthcare professional and sold behind the counter.

Physicians, law enforcement officials, teachers, parents, grandparents, and young people need to know about the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

- A recent national survey of high-school students reported that among 12th graders surveyed, 7 of the top 10 abused substances are pharmaceuticals.
- Between 1997 and 2007, treatment admissions for prescription painkillers increased more than 400 percent.
- Between 2004 and 2008, the number of visits to hospital emergency departments involving the non-medical use of narcotic painkillers increased 111 percent.

We know from the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health that most people who abuse these drugs are getting them from friends and family or from a doctor.

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is committed to making efforts to prevent and reduce prescription drug abuse and emergency room visits resulting from that abuse.

### You can support this initiative:

- ✓ Carefully monitor prescription drugs in the home
- ✓ If you have unused or expired prescription drugs, properly dispose of them at a law enforcement-sponsored take-back event in your community

- ✓ Support efforts to educate physicians about opiate painkiller prescribing
- ✓ Share information about the dangers of prescription drug abuse with your family, friends, and members of the public through newsletters, emails, and websites, including adding ONDCP's Prescription Drug image to your site to raise awareness about the issue



### Together, we can help spread an important message:

- If you have unused prescription drugs in your home, dispose of them properly
- Don't take medication that isn't prescribed to you
- If you know of a friend, work colleague, or loved one who you think might be abusing prescription drugs, get them help

If you have a story about what you or your community is doing to combat prescription drug abuse, we encourage you to share it with us. We are interested in hearing from your community and believe great ideas come from inside and outside government, from large organizations, or a single, small effort. Learning about your work in prescription drug abuse prevention can help inform programs and assist us in our policy work.

*Let's work together to eliminate this fast-growing drug problem.*

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)  
National Crime Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)  
[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prescriptiondrugs](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prescriptiondrugs)