

PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATION



LEARN THE FACTS

- Prescription pain medication can be helpful in managing pain and making it possible for an individual to improve his or her ability to function.
- If used incorrectly, prescription pain medications can be dangerous—even fatal.

- Never share your prescription pain medications. Besides being dangerous, it is a felony.
- Taking prescription pain medications with other depressants, such as sleep aids, anti-anxiety medications or cold medicine, can be dangerous.
- Properly dispose of all unused and expired prescription pain medications.

SAFE STORAGE

- Store your prescription pain medications out of reach of kids, family and guests.
- Know where your prescription pain medications are at all times.
- Keep prescription pain pills in the original bottle with the label attached, and with the child resistant cap secured.
- Keep track of how many prescription pain pills are in your bottle so you are immediately aware if any are missing.
- Dispose of all unused and expired medications properly.

MISUSE OF PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATION IN UTAH

Throughout the state of Utah, numerous local coalitions are actively engaged in preventing the misuse of prescription pain medications.

AVAILABILITY

In 2008, 72% of Utahns who had been prescribed pain medications during the past year reported having leftover medication.

71% of those with leftover medication reported they had kept the medication, thereby potentially increasing the chance of misuse, abuse and theft.

SAFE DISPOSAL

- Do not flush! Do not pour! In the past, it was recommended to flush medications down the toilet or sink. We now know that drugs disposed of in this manner can enter the environment because sewage treatment plants and septic tanks are not designed to filter them.
- Please take your medications to a permanent collection site or a special community take-back event. You may also take your unused medications to one of the permanent sites located in the lobby of local law enforcement agencies.
- Prescriptions may be dropped off anonymously since identification is not required.

TIPS FOR SAFE USE

- Never take prescription pain medication that is not prescribed to you. Everyone responds differently to pain medication and what is safe for one person may not be safe for another.
- Never take your prescription pain medication more often or in higher doses. Your body must build up a tolerance to the effects on the respiratory system before the dose can be increased.
- Never drink alcohol beverages while taking prescription pain medications. Alcohol increases the toxicity of pain medication.

- Bins are emptied by a Law Enforcement Officer and ultimately incinerated at DEQ permitted facilities.
- The Salt Lake City Police Department has two locations:

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
475 South 300 East

PIONEER PRECINCT
1040 West 700 South