



**AFTER
THE PAIN,
THEY'RE
KILLERS.**

DEATHS FROM PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS HAVE INCREASED BY 38% IN WISCONSIN.

It's a myth that prescription painkillers are completely safe because a doctor prescribes them. The Dose of Reality is that in Wisconsin, prescription painkillers are involved in more overdose deaths than heroin and cocaine combined. And everyone is at risk of addiction, especially young people ages 12 – 25.

Working together, we can prevent prescription painkiller abuse in Wisconsin. Since 4 out of 5 heroin addicts start with prescription painkillers, we can also help to curb the statewide heroin epidemic. Go to DoseOfRealityWI.gov to learn what you can do to help.



DOSE OF REALITY
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

South Milwaukee Health Department

Learn more at:
DoseOfRealityWI.gov



A message from Wisconsin
Department of Justice,
Brad Schimel, Attorney General

MYTH: PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE COMPLETELY SAFE BECAUSE THEY ARE PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR.

DOSE OF REALITY:

IN THE U.S., PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE INVOLVED WITH MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS THAN HEROIN AND COCAINE COMBINED.

Doctors, physicians and prescribing medical professionals prescribe opioid or narcotic painkillers like hydrocodone and oxycodone to help treat severe or chronic pain, but the truth is that the risk of addiction for these types of painkillers is high. However, there are effective painkillers available that are non-narcotic. Talk with your pain management professional about whether you should consider alternatives available to you and your family.

Always follow safe prescription medication use tips...

- Do not share your prescription painkillers with anyone.
- Do not take someone else's prescription painkiller.
- Store your prescription painkillers securely.
- Safely dispose of expired, unused or unwanted medications – a list of Drug Take Back locations can be found at DoseOfRealityWI.Gov

When picking up a prescription...

Read and examine the label so you are aware of proper use and storage. Be aware of these prescription facts:

- The number of pills in the bottle must match the amount indicated on the label
- When refilling a prescription, the pills should look the same as the last batch.
- If you have questions about the ingredients, warnings, directions or anything else having to do with your prescription, ask the pharmacist while you're there.

When taking medication at home...

- Take your medications only as needed, and never more than directed by your prescribing medical professional.
- Always double check the label to be sure you are taking the correct pill.
- Keep track of how many pills are left in bottles.

If something goes wrong...

- If you or someone you know has an adverse reaction to a prescription painkiller, call 9-1-1.
- If you miss a dose, call your doctor for instructions.
- If you take too large of a dose, or if you accidentally take the wrong medication, call 9-1-1.



DOSE OF REALITY
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.



Learn more at:
DoseOfRealityWI.gov

A message from Wisconsin Department of Justice, Brad Schimel, Attorney General, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services