

An Ounce of Prevention...



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The Unassuming Drug Dealer

By now, awareness about the prescription drug epidemic is at an all time high. It has been covered by the mainstream media, discussed in presidential debates, and is a focal point for every prevention organization in the country. What we do not see are large DEA busts of huge prescription drug rings, no pictures of police having captured several pounds of medication via covert drug operations, and no clandestine tunnels from one national border to another for the sole purpose of smuggling prescription drugs. Not that these things don't happen but certainly not to the degree that we saw in the 1980's and 90's with huge cocaine busts and methamphetamine labs. Why not? To put it simply, demand can be met in our own medicine cabinets.

According to a 2010 report from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ), and RTI International, "rates averaged across 2009-2010 show that over one half of the nonmed-

ical users of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives aged 12 or older got the prescription drugs they most recently used 'from a friend or relative for free.'" In addition, 55% of pain relievers were given to friends or relatives, 11.4% bought them from a friend or relative, 4.8% took them without asking, and only 4.4% got them from a drug dealer or stranger. Of those who obtained pain relievers from a friend or relative for free, 79.4% of those relatives obtained the drugs from just one doctor.

Statistics like these have turned the "War on Drugs" on its ear. The face of prescription drug diversion is not El Capo or any of the major drug cartels...it is Grandma, Uncle Joe, or even Mom and Dad. The war has come to our physicians offices and our own medicine cabinets.

How can you keep from becoming an accidental drug dealer? Follow the guidelines of Count It, Lock It, Drop It" a comprehensive community program for prescription drug abuse prevention. First and foremost, NEVER share your prescription drugs, count your medication every two weeks, lock it in a secure location, and drop any unused medication at a medicine disposal site in your county. For more information, go to countitlockitdropit.org or contact your local drug prevention coalition.



Count It!



Lock It!



Drop It!

#DontBeAnAccidentalDrugDealer

Smith County Drug Take Back Event

OCT 22nd
9am -12pm at
Carthage City Hall

Tennessee REDLINE
Help for Substance Abuse
1-800-889-9789



Drop Box Locations: Smith County Sheriff's Office & Carthage City Police Department

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