

YOUR DOCTOR WANTS YOU TO KNOW:

Prescription drug abuse is an epidemic.

6.2 million people ages 12 and above report abusing prescription drugs.*

If you are taking medicines such as:

- OPIOIDS (for pain)
- SEDATIVES (for anxiety/sleep)
- STIMULANTS (for ADHD/weight loss)

Be aware, these are often stolen by family or friends. Some believe these meds are a safe way to get high. Also, these drugs have a high street value.

You can prevent a tragic overdose with a few simple precautions:

- Use medicine according to directions to prevent injury or death.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist about interactions with other medications you may be taking.
- Do not share medicine. Sharing controlled substances is against the law.



Lock Them Up

- Store meds in a locked cabinet, drawer, suitcase or safe.
- Do not store meds in kitchen cabinets or unlocked bathroom medicine cabinets.
- Do not leave in the open, such as on a nightstand, on a windowsill or in a purse.
- Do not take in the presence of children.
- Count your pills on a monthly basis.
- If stolen, notify police.
- If not locked up, meds could get in the wrong hands of family, young children or strangers.



Safe Disposal

- **If possible, participate in your community's take-back program.** (See reverse)
- Follow disposal instructions furnished by the FDA at [tinyurl.com/2dnuhkh](https://www.fda.gov/2dnuhkh).
- Do not flush down toilet (See FDA website for exceptions).
- Before disposing of empty medicine packaging, scratch out all prescription information on the label.
- *If you must discard at home:* Using a separate container (such as plastic bag or jar), dissolve (do not crush) medicine with tap water. Add an unpalatable substance like laundry detergent or used coffee grounds. Reinforce sealing before throwing in household trash.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

Safely discard expired/unwanted prescription drugs at one of these drop box sites:

SARASOTA COUNTY

Sheriff's Offices: 2071 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota (941) 861-4081
4531 State Road 776, Venice (941) 861-1704

Police Depts: 4980 City Hall Blvd, North Port
2099 Adams Ln, Sarasota
1350 Ridgewood Ave, Venice

MANATEE COUNTY

407 57th Ave E, Bradenton
5030 US 301 N, Ellenton

100 10th St W, Bradenton
403 Highland Ave, Bradenton Bch
5801 Highland Ave, Holmes Bch
1115 10th St W, Palmetto

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

7474 Utilities Rd, Punta Gorda



www.SafeRxFlorida.org

Additional Information & Resources

Food & Drug Administration
Disposal of Unused Medicines
tinyurl.com/2dnukhk

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse & Mental Health
Services Administration
samhsa.gov

NOPE Task Force
Narcotics Overdose Prevention &
Education
nopetaskforce.org

**Prescription Drug Abuse
Awareness in Sarasota**
Sarasota Medical Society Alliance
facebook.com/RxDrugAbuse



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