



In 2011, the CDC declared Prescription Drug Abuse a National Epidemic...

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2008, poisoning became the leading cause of injury death in the U.S. (More people died from poisoning than from car accidents.)
Nearly 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths are caused by drugs. CDC

The unprecedented rise in overdose deaths in the US parallels a 300% increase since 1999 in the sale of these strong painkillers. Drug companies are making billions of dollars.

Abuse of OPR costs health insurers approximately \$72.5 billion annually in health-care costs. CDC

Illicit drug use in the United States is estimated to have cost the U.S. economy more than \$19 billion in 2007. Dept. of Justice

The pharmaceutical companies spent more on lobbying between 1998 and 2004 than any other industry... employing a legion of lobbyists.. more than two for each member of Congress.

It is illegal to share or sell prescription drugs...depending on the type & quantity arrest may lead to a felony charge.

Lost productivity due to premature mortality remains a principal component of all costs that drug use imposes on American society.

WHAT YOU CAN DO to END the Rx Abuse EPIDEMIC...

- Educate yourself, your family & your community about the dangers of Rx Drug misuse and abuse.
- Join local Anti-Drug, Prevention... coalitions.
- Encourage professional licensing boards to take action against inappropriate prescribing and to increase education requirements for prescribing pain medications and addiction.
- Ask your doctor or dentist for non-narcotic pain medication.
- Support Prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP)... they are highly underutilized. Ask your doctor, dentist and pharmacist if they are using these programs. If not, ask why? BE PERSISTANT.
- Write your local, state and federal representatives. Insist that he/she actively get involved in Rx Caucuses, advocate for laws that reduce Rx pain pill abuse.

For resources, education on addiction, prevention, recovery visit StopRxDrugAbuse.org
we MUST Stop this Epidemic... Education is the vaccination. Addiction is preventable.

