HELP STOP Rx DRUG ABUSE IN GEORGIA!

“Prescription drug abuse has reached epidemic levels in Georgia – and the implications for individuals and families and our communities can be devastating.”
– Georgia Drug and Narcotics Agency Director Rick Allen

4 STEPS TO STOP Rx DRUG ABUSE

1. Only take your medicine as prescribed
   - Don’t mix your medications unless your physician says it’s okay to do so.
   - It could be deadly to mix your medication with alcohol.

2. Don’t share your prescription medicine
   - Taking another person’s prescription medicine is illegal and dangerous.

3. Store your medicine in a safe and secure place
   - Don’t allow others to get access to your prescription medicine.
   - Given the opportunity, addicts will take your medicine.
   - Children are especially vulnerable when it comes to accidental overdoses.
   - Store your medicine in a lockbox that requires a key or a combination.

4. Properly dispose of any unused medicine ASAP
   - Dispose of your unused medicine as soon as it’s no longer needed.
   - Call your police department to see if there is a prescription drug disposal box in your community.
   - Be on the lookout for DEA-sponsored prescription drug take-back events in your community.
   - If you don’t have other disposal options, mix your unused medicine with food waste and throw it away.
   - Do not flush your unused medicine down the toilet as it will contaminate our water supply.
FACTS & FIGURES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes that prescription drug abuse is a national epidemic. According to CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics …

- The number of overdose deaths that were attributed to prescription narcotic painkillers in the U.S. tripled between 1999 and 2010
- Death by prescription drug and painkiller overdose in the U.S. increased in 2010 for the 11th consecutive year
- More than 22,000 of the drug overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2010 involved pharmaceutical drugs
- Prescription narcotic painkillers like morphine, oxycodone, and methadone were responsible for the majority of pharmaceutical-related overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2010

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, pharmaceuticals account for about 40% of all poisoning “exposures” among children who are under the age of six.

According to the “National Survey on Drug Use and Health,” in 2010 friends and family members were “unintentional drug suppliers” by serving as the source for 70% of the prescription drugs that were abused.

According to the International Narcotics Control Board, the U.S. has less than 5% of the world’s population – but it uses more than 80% of the world’s supply of pain medications.

Genetics play a key role in prescription drug addiction.

COMMONLY ABUSED MEDICATIONS

### Narcotic Pain Killers

- Hydrocodone: Lortab, Vicodin, Norco
- Oxycodone: Percocet, Roxicodone, Endocet, Oxycontin
- Methadone/Morphine: Avinza, Kadian
- Fentanyl: Duragesic, Fentora
- Codeine

### Anxiety Medications

- Xanax, Valium, Ativan

Go to [www.rxdrugabuse.org](http://www.rxdrugabuse.org) for additional information or to make a donation to the MAG Foundation to reduce prescription drug abuse in Georgia.