

Medication Safety for Older Adults



When medications can cause harm: Protecting our children and grandchildren

While medications are generally intended to make us feel better by treating disease or managing symptoms, they can be harmful in some situations.

Facts about youth drug use:

- According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (National Institutes of Health), young adults and teens are the biggest abusers of prescription pain relievers, ADHD medications and anti-anxiety drugs.
- One in four teens will misuse or abuse a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime.
- Most people who misuse prescription drugs, including teens and young adults, get them from family or friends, sometimes with their knowledge, but often without it.
- More than 40 percent of teens who misuse prescription drugs get them from their parents' medicine cabinets.
- Children whose families talk to them about drug abuse are 50 percent less likely to misuse them.

Keeping your prescription medications out of site and out of reach will help prevent the children in your life from having access to medications that could harm them if not used properly.

Talk to the young people in your life about the dangers of prescription drug misuse, abuse and addiction.