

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE



PRESCRIPTION drugs are common in a home but can be dangerous when not taken as the doctor wanted.



9.9 MILLION AMERICANS misused prescription drugs in 2018. Over half were taken from friends or family at home.



60,000 YOUNG CHILDREN go to the emergency room every year because they got into medicines within reach.

STRATEGIES TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD



SAFELY STORE MEDICATION in a location that is too high for young children to see or reach. Re-lock safety caps on medicine bottles. Put the Poison Help number into your cell phone so you have it in case you need it (1-800-222-1222).



FIND A DISPOSAL SITE for any unused or expired medications. You can safely dispose medications at Drug Take Back Programs in your community, ask law enforcement, or use this website to find a local disposal site: takebackday.dea.gov/#collectionlocator



BUILD TRUST with your child now. This will help keep a good relationship when talking about challenging topics. Listen and be fully present when talking with your child



BE A ROLE MODEL when using, storing, and disposing prescription drugs. Be sure to never tell your child medicine is candy. Your values, knowledge, and actions influence your child.



KNOW YOUR KIDS' FRIENDS to make sure they send positive messages to your child. Supportive friendships and involvement in community groups can lower risks of your child misusing prescription drugs later in life.



VISIT [TNOPIOID.UTK.EDU](https://tnopioid.utk.edu) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Top Sources: National Center for Health Statistics. (2020). 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Up and Away Campaign, Centers for Disease Control. <https://www.upandaway.org/2020>. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2016). Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood.