

Children

Why Parents Should Routinely Check Their Medicine Cabinet: A Doctor's Guide to Potential Poisons at Home

60,000 Kids a Year Accidentally Poisoned by Meds

Toddlers account for 7 out of 10 cases, report says

Every 10 minutes a child goes to the ER for medicine poisoning, report finds

A surprising number of children are accidentally poisoned. Simple steps can prevent that.

Talking Points for Parents/Guardians with Young Children

- Every 10 minutes, a child goes to the ER for medication poisoning (60,000 per year).
- Almost all prescription medications are dangerous to children, including heart, blood pressure, anti-anxiety, pain relief, etc.
- While child resistant caps are a good barrier, they are not failproof.
- Parents/grandparents should keep their medications in the original vials with child resistant caps instead of using pill organizers.

Talking Points for Parents/Guardians of Teenagers

- We hear from our pharmacy and provider partners that parents of teenagers are very concerned when their teens receive prescriptions for opioids/pain relievers usually following wisdom teeth removal or orthopedic injuries/surgery.
- Teens can become addicted from their first exposure to opioids; therefore, they should take as little as possible to manage pain. Parents should encourage alternate sources of pain relief.
- While the number of people who are addicted or abuse drugs between the ages of 12-17 is low (1%), the number of those who got the medications from a friend or family member is high (57%).
- Parents/grandparents should store their own medications in a secure and isolated space away from teenagers.
- Prescription drug abuse and misuse puts teens at heightened risk for other risky behaviors.

Teens

Prescription Drugs In The Home Are Fueling The Addiction Crisis Among Kids And Teens, Warns New Research

About 44% of high school seniors who misuse prescription drugs have multiple drug sources

From Injury to Opioid: the Unintended Side Effect of Youth Sports Participation

UA STUDENT ACCUSED OF SELLING DRUGS TO PEERS

Police are investigating a Jamestown High School student found in possession of 500 prescription medications

Accidental Poisoning Deaths—Mostly Drug Overdoses—Exceed Homicides of U.S. Young Adults

Older Adults

Increasing U.S. Mortality Due to Accidental Poisoning: The Role of the Baby Boom Cohort

Hundreds of pills seized from local student allegedly selling grandparents' prescriptions

Hospices struggle to stop opioid theft when patients die at home

Hospices struggle with a painful reality: relatives stealing opioid medication issued for end-of-life pain control.

A Simple Reason So Many Older Americans Are Overdosing on Opioids

A recent poll suggests many doctors aren't warning elderly patients of the risks when prescribing painkillers.

The New Opioid Dealers

Older Americans are selling their prescription painkillers to drug pushers

Talking Points for Older Adults or Their Caregivers

- Poly pharmacy among the aging population results in thousands of ER visits and hospitalizations annually.
- Management of medications is critical for the elderly; disposing of medications promptly is critical.
- Prompt disposal reduces the chance for medication confusion and taking a medication by mistake that has expired or no longer needed.
- Clear or colorful pill organizers are convenient for older adults; however, they can be deadly for children, pets, others when not stored securely.
- For older adults who have family and friends visit, they should not assume that their home medicine cabinets are providing safe and secure storage. They should consistently inventory their medications or should move them to a secure location without access to others.

Talking Points for Pet Owners

- 55% of all US households have at least one pet.
- Many pets take the same medications as humans—posing the same risks.
- Pet medications are not usually as secured within the home as human medications—often found on countertops or in kitchen pantries.
- There are alarming studies showing that pet owners (or their family/friends) are taking pain medication prescribed for their pet.
- Pet owners should take all the same precautions with their pet's medications—including proper storage and disposal.

Pets

Shocking trend: Pet owners abusing their own animals to get drugs

Some are taking opioids meant for pets

Drug abusers turning to pet meds to feed habit

Humans May Be Abusing Opioids Prescribed for Pets, FDA Warns