

# What is an ACCIDENTAL DEALER?

Someone who unknowingly provides access to prescription or over-the-counter medications to another individual. These drugs are usually stored in medicine cabinets, kitchen cabinets, drawers, bags, purses, cars or any other location NOT under a secure lock and key storage system.

## Don't be an ACCIDENTAL DEALER

### DEA Take-Back Days

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) holds regular prescription drug take-back day programs. All Kentucky State Police Posts participate, along with other agencies. Learn more at 1-800-882-9539 or [www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

### Medication Drop-Off sites

Registered medication drop-off locations in Kentucky can be found at [www.americanmedicinechest.com](http://www.americanmedicinechest.com).

### Medication Boxes

Locate a medication drop-box at a police department for citizens to access year-round. Register at [www.americanmedicinechest.com](http://www.americanmedicinechest.com). [www.medreturn.com](http://www.medreturn.com)

### Individual Lock Boxes

Secure boxes to store your home medications are available for about \$23 at [www.lockmed.com](http://www.lockmed.com).



Kentucky Office of  
Drug Control Policy  
<http://odcp.ky.gov>



1-866-678-6483  
[www.operationunite.org](http://www.operationunite.org)

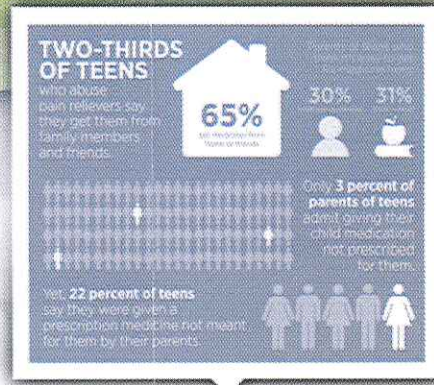
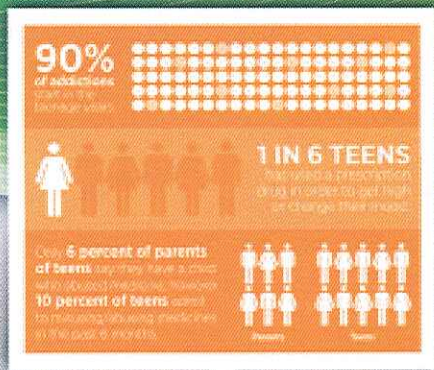


Kentucky Home Care Association  
[www.khca.net](http://www.khca.net)



Every 19 minutes 1 person dies from a drug overdose in the United States—a trend driven by prescription painkillers.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## WHO WOULD WANT MY MEDICINE?

**Two-thirds** of teens who abuse pain relievers say they get them from **family members** and friends; only 5 percent get them from a drug dealer or over the Internet. (Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health)

**1 in 6** teens say they have used a prescription medication **not** prescribed to them by a doctor. (Source: 2011 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study)

Not all addicts are looking for prescription drugs. **Half** of teens who have used pain relievers to get high have also used over-the-counter cough and cold medications to **get high**. (Source: 2011 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study)

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

**Unintentional** drug poisoning is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, surpassing car crashes. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

In southern and eastern Kentucky, the average age of first time drug use is **age 11**. (Source: Operation UNITE)

Every day **2,000 teenagers** use a prescription drug to get high for the first time. (Source: The Partnership at Drugfree.org)

Having unsecured prescription or over-the-counter medications in your home increases the likelihood you will **become a victim** of a break-in or theft.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- **Talk** to the children in your life about the dangers of drug use, especially prescription drug abuse. Children whose parents regularly discuss the dangers of drugs are 50% less likely to abuse them.
- **Monitor** dosage and refills for all members of your household. Take a monthly inventory.
- **Secure** all medications—both prescription and over-the-counter—in a locked medicine cabinet or lockbox.
- **Safely** dispose of expired or unused prescription medications.
- **Tell** relatives, especially grandparents, to lock their medicine or keep them in a safe place.

## HOW CAN I PROPERLY DISPOSE OF MY MEDICINE?

- **Do not** flush down the toilet or pour down the sink. There are potential health and environmental effects of antibiotics, hormones, painkillers depressants and stimulants making their way into our water system and soil.
- Place medications into a plastic zip-top baggie, **crush** the pills or add water to dissolve.
- **Mix** in kitty litter, sawdust or coffee grounds.
- Bags should be disposed of at **approved** landfills or medication drop-off locations.
- **Labels** with identifying names, addresses and prescription numbers should be **removed** from all bottles before throwing in the trash.

