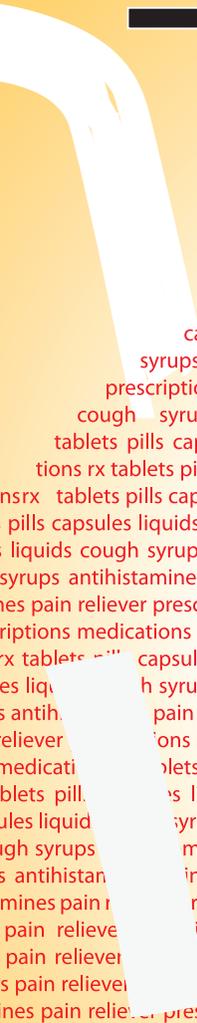


MEDUCATION

A dose of knowledge



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syrups antihistamines pain reliever
prescriptions medications rx tablets pills
cough syrups antihistamines pain reliever
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Be Aware. Don't Share.® Lock Your Meds.®

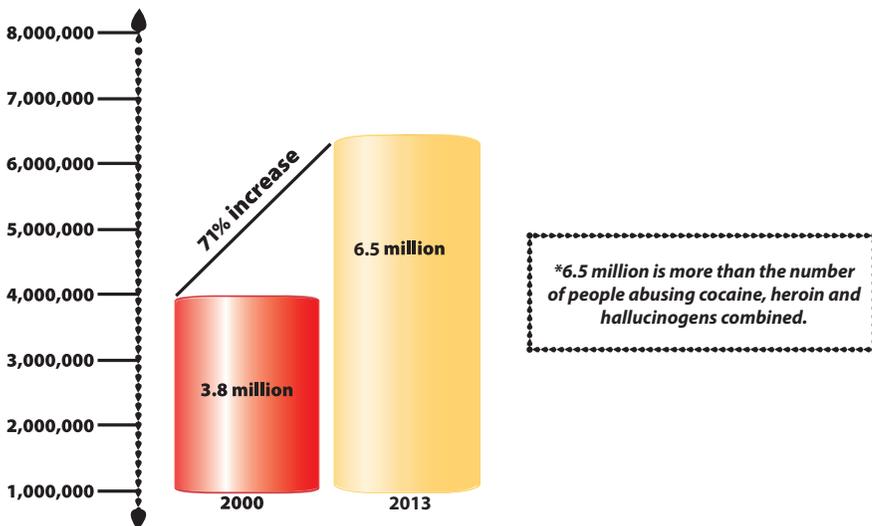


LESSON 1: Your Medicine. Their Drugs.

Prescription medicines taken properly help heal illness, relieve pain, control disease and bring balance to your life. But when others take your medications, they can be very dangerous.

An alarming trend is emerging. Every day, more than **1,700 children and young adults** begin experimenting with prescription drugs. These drugs range from pain relievers and depressants to stimulants and over-the-counter (OTC) medicine.

6.5 million Americans abuse prescription drugs*



(Source: 2013 National Survey on Drug Use & Health)

Some disturbing facts:

Almost 1 in 4 teens
in America say they have abused
prescription drugs.

3.1 million
12-to 25-year-olds
used OTC cough and cold
medications at least once
to get high.

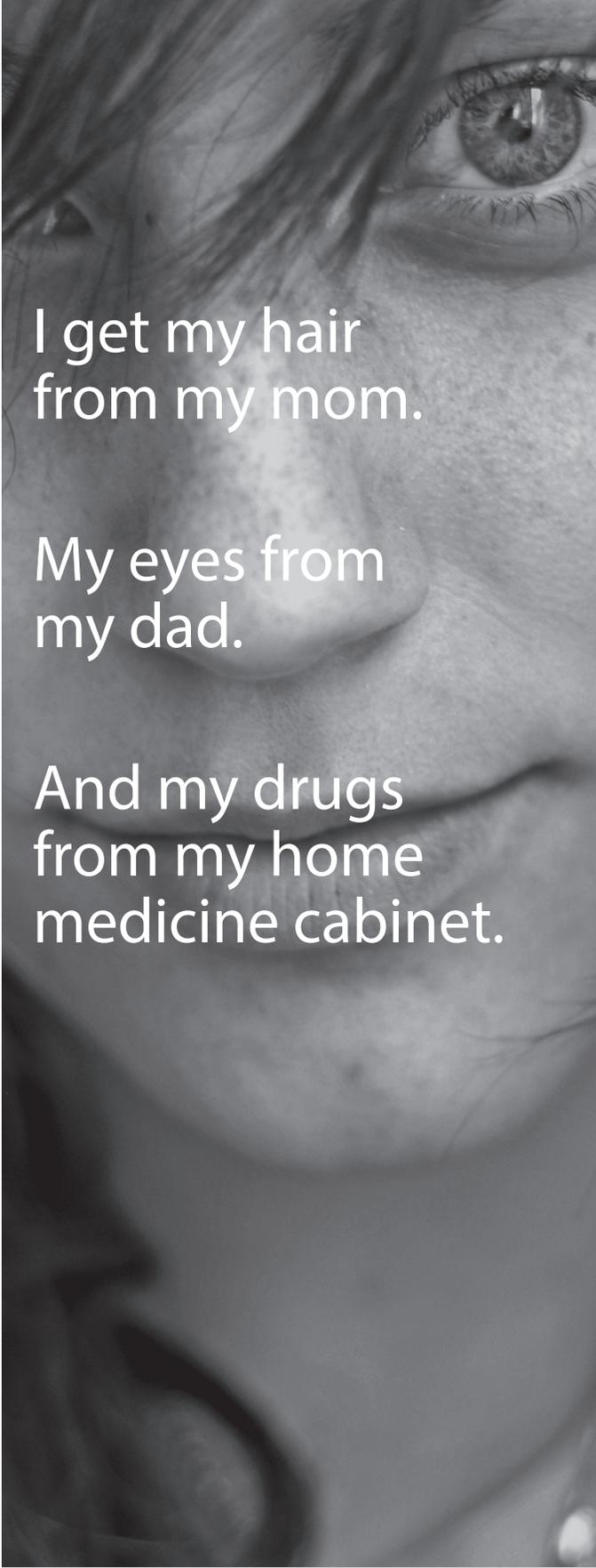
Prescription drugs are the
#1 choice
among 12-13 year olds.

13 is the mean age
of the first non-prescribed use of
sedatives and stimulants.

One in 7 boys
and one in five girls has shared
or borrowed a prescription drug.

Nearly **1 in 10 high
school seniors** admit
abusing pain relievers.

Girls age 12-17
are more likely than boys to
misuse OTC medications, but
the trend reverses with
18- to 25-year-olds.



I get my hair
from my mom.

My eyes from
my dad.

And my drugs
from my home
medicine cabinet.

LESSON 2: Your nightstand. Their drug supplier.

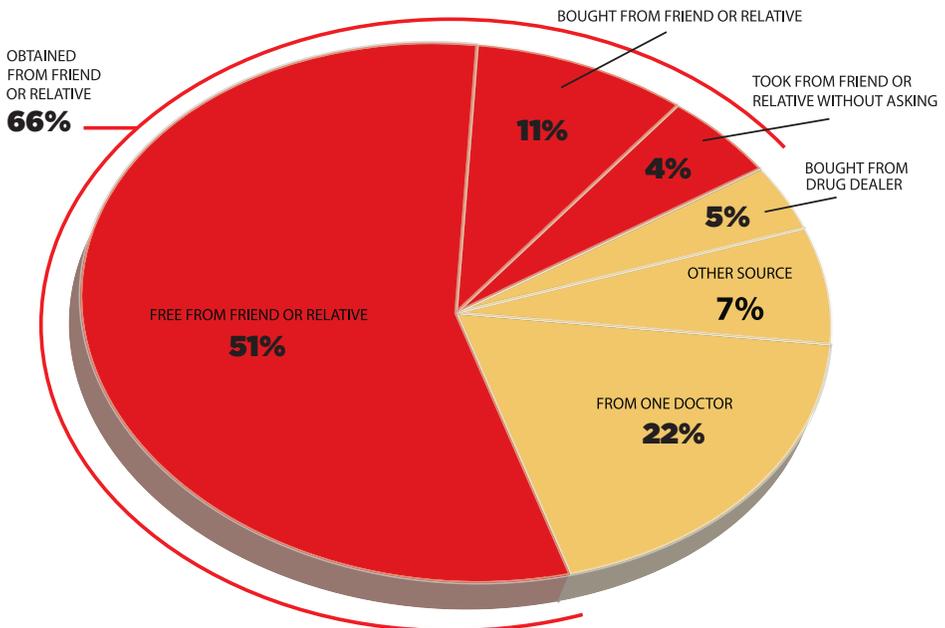
What's in your medicine cabinet? On your nightstand or the kitchen counter? In your purse? Naturally, you keep prescription medicines and cold and cough remedies handy for you to take when needed. But, they are also handy for teens to take without you knowing it.

Adolescents believe that since the medicines were prescribed by a doctor, they provide

an inexpensive, legal and "medically safe high." In the case of OTC remedies, most children have been given these medicines by their parents for common illnesses, such as fevers, colds and coughs. So, teens believe it is safe to take these drugs whenever they choose. The proliferation of pharmaceutical ads on television as well as the Internet and peer misinformation helps contribute to this attitude.

Source of Pain Relievers for Abusers

Ages 12 and older



*Percentage from friend or relative is derived before rounding of individual sources.
Source: SAMHSA 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

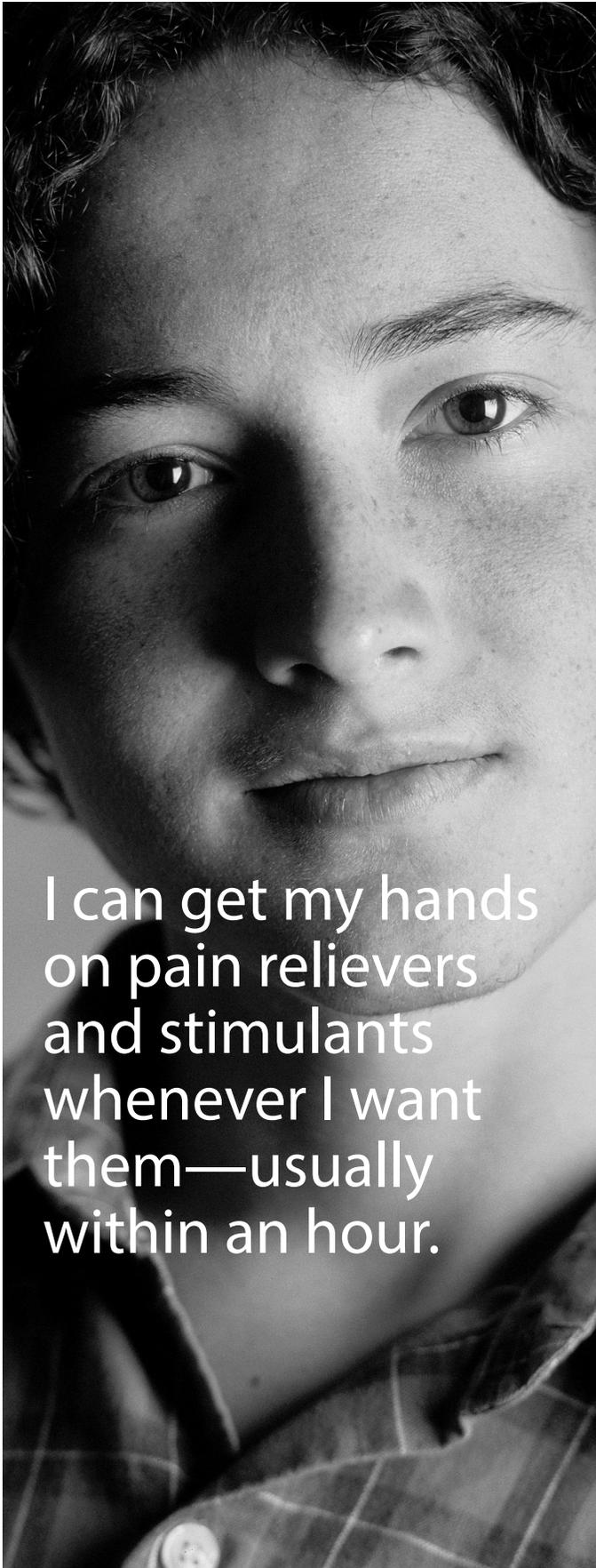
More disturbing facts:

More teens have been **offered prescription drugs** than other illegal ones, except marijuana.

4 out of 10 teens believe prescription and OTC medicines are less addictive and dangerous than street drugs.

7.3 million young people believe there's **"nothing wrong"** with using non-prescribed medicines periodically and that parents "don't care as much if you get caught."

More than one-third say they feel **peer pressure** to take prescription or OTC drugs.



I can get my hands on pain relievers and stimulants whenever I want them—usually within an hour.

LESSON 3: Your rationale. Their reasons.

We often ask: Why? Teens give many reasons for abusing prescription and OTC drugs, such as wanting to “fit in,” relieve depression and anxiety, help them cope with life’s stresses, sleep better or increase their alertness and concentration power so they can do better in school. Some want to control their weight with stimulants. Others want to self-medicate to relieve pain. They want to experiment. They want to be accepted by their peers. They want to escape

reality or make their reality more bearable.

The abuse of OTC drugs by teens is largely with cough and cold medicines that contain dextromethorphan (DXM) to get high. Some youngsters are also abusing laxatives, diuretics and diet pills to control their weight. Some herbal or “natural” products can be just as dangerous as diet pills because they act like a stimulant on the nervous system.

The most commonly abused prescription drugs are:

1. Pain relievers (Opioids) These powerful narcotics are used primarily to treat pain and can be found in some cough medicines:

| TYPES | PRESCRIBED FOR | SAMPLE BRAND NAMES |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Morphine | Severe pain | Kadian, MS Contin, Oramorph SR |
| Oxycodone | Severe pain | OxyContin, Roxicodone, Percodan, Percocet, Vicodin |
| Codeine | Coughs, mild pain | Tylenol with Codeine Robitussin with Codeine |
| Others | Pain Relieve diarrhea | Darvon, Dilaudid, Demerol, Ultram Lomotil |

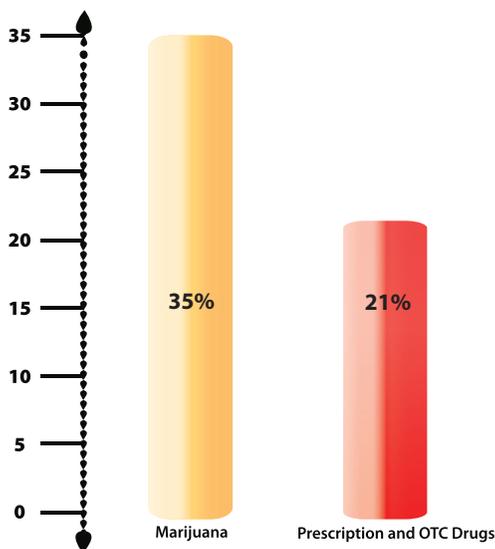
Appeal to teenagers Can produce quick, intense feeling of pleasure followed by a sense of well being and a calm drowsiness

2. Depressants, also known as tranquilizers and sedatives

| PRESCRIBED TO TREAT | SAMPLE BRAND NAMES |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anxiety, tension, sleep disorders, severe stress reactions, panic attacks | Mebaral, Nembutal, Seconal, Soma, Phenobarbital, Klonopin, Xanax, Valium, Librium, Halcion, Ativan, Rozerem, Ambien, Lunesta |

Appeal to teenagers Causes euphoria or relaxation and sleep

Drugs Most Frequently Used by 12th Graders



(Source: "Monitoring The Future Study," University of Michigan, 2015)

3. Stimulants, or uppers, enhance brain activity

PRESCRIBED TO TREAT

Respiratory problems, sleep disorders (narcolepsy), attention-deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), short-term treatment of obesity, depression

SAMPLE BRAND NAMES

Adderall, Ritalin, Dexedrine, Focalin, Methylin, Concerta

Appeal to teenagers Increases alertness, attention and energy, feeling of extreme joy, gives them energy to stay awake, increases concentration, become more talkative, lose weight

4. Over-the-counter drug abuse with dextromethorphan (DXM) is called "robo-tripping" by teens.

USED TO TREAT

Cough, colds, sinus pressure (with DXM)

Sleep problems

Weight control:

Laxatives, diuretics

Diet pills, with ingredients, such as Ephedrine, caffeine, laxatives

SAMPLE BRAND NAMES

Alka-Seltzer, Contac, Coricidin, NyQuil, Robitussin, Sudafed, Theraflu, Vicks, Nytol, Benadryl, Unisom, Tylenol PM

Ex-lax, Dulcolax, MiraLax

Alli, Apidexin, Phenphedrine, Liporexall, DecaSlim, Colovox

Appeal to teenagers Creates a high, relieves pain, reduces anxiety, suppresses appetite, helps them sleep or lose weight, gives them an edge in sports or school

If you suspect your teen is using drugs, do not wait to act. The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration has a listing of treatment centers in your area. (www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov or 1-(800) 662-HELP (4357)).

LESSON 4: Your words. Their slang.

Close the COMMUNICATION



1. All Star

Best players lose in this sport.

Taking multiple drugs

4. Cotton

*Little children use it for bunny tails.
Big kids use it for fairy tales.*

OxyContin

5. Kibbles & Bits

Excites both dogs and teens.

Ritalin



7. Pancakes & Syrup

*A sweet way to start your day and
end it for them.*

Combination of a sedative and codeine cough syrup

10. Legal Speed

*Staying within the speed limit is
impossible with this fuel.*

Over-the-counter asthma drugs



GAP

DIRECTIONS: Every generation has their slang, but the lingo today's teenagers use could mean something dangerous if they are abusing prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. For example, you go "fishing" for salmon or trout, they go "phishing" for pharmaceuticals.

Words that sound innocent to your ears may have another meaning on the street. Read the "hints" and then see if you can guess the drug culture's definition of these common words or expressions.

2. Vikings

Minnesota fans don't cheer these guys.

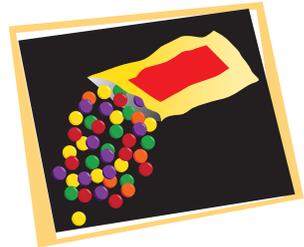
Vicodin



3. Skittles

A Halloween candy that gives kids nightmares.

OTC cough and cold medicine



6. Jack

A friend you don't want your teen to know.

A person who steals someone else's drugs

8. Babysit

Not a healthy way to earn money.

Guiding a friend through first drug experience



9. "V"

Flashing this Victory sign is a downer.

Valium

www.lockyourmeds.org

LESSON 5: Your lifesaver. Their lifetaker.

When your doctor prescribes medicine for you, the effects are closely monitored. But when teenagers abuse medicines that are prescribed for someone else, no one is monitoring their dosage or frequency of use. They can become addicted, poisoned or even die from an overdose.

All too often, teens combine prescription or OTC drugs with other substances, like alcohol or marijuana, which can lead to dangerous consequences. And, sometimes they attend “pharm or rainbow parties” where various prescription medications are dumped into a bowl and ingested by handfuls.

Why should families be concerned?

- More people die of drug overdose than from **car crashes or guns**.
- Death by overdose involving prescription drugs **have quadrupled** since 1999.
- **1.5 million people 12 and older** received treatment for prescription drugs in 2013.

Watch for these signs and symptoms.

| DRUG | SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF ABUSE | LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF ABUSE |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Opioids (Pain relievers, narcotics) | <p>Physical side effects: relief from pain, lack of energy, drowsiness, constriction of the pupils, flushing of the face and neck, nausea, constipation, vomiting, slowed breathing, nightmares</p> <p>Psychological side effects: anxiety, impaired judgment, inability to concentrate and learn, apathy, agitation, depression</p> | <p>Addiction, physical dependence Paranoia, hallucinations, dementia</p> <p>Severe withdrawal symptoms when teen stops taking the drug, including deep depression and suicidal thoughts</p> <p>Need to take more of the drug or a combination of drugs to produce the same high, possibly leading to overdose</p> <p>Higher risk of graduating to heroin</p> |

| DRUG | SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF ABUSE | LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF ABUSE |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Depressants | <p>Physical side effects: loss of coordination, dilated pupils, slurred speech, relaxed muscles, shallow breathing, sluggishness, fatigue, dizziness, drowsiness, fever, hyperactivity, visual hallucinations</p> <p>Psychological side effects: poor concentration, feelings of confusion, disorientation, impaired judgment and memory, lowered inhibitions, rage, hostility, depression, amnesia, paranoia</p> | <p>Addiction, dependence</p> <p>Severe withdrawal symptoms</p> <p>Need to take larger doses to achieve the same effects</p> <p>Shallow breathing, clammy skin, weak and rapid pulse, seizures, overdose, coma</p> |
| Stimulants | <p>Physical side effects: decreased appetite, loss of coordination, collapse, increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dizziness, tremors, headache, flushed skin, chest pain, excessive sweating, vomiting, abdominal cramps</p> <p>Psychological side effects: restlessness, delusions, hostility, irritability, insomnia, anxiety, agitation, nightmares</p> | <p>Addiction, high fever, convulsions, heart failure, overdose</p> <p>Paranoia, aggressiveness, extreme anorexia, thinking problems, visual and auditory hallucinations, delusions, panic, suicidal tendencies, severe dental problems</p> |
| Over-the-counter drugs | <p>Physical side effects: nausea, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, vomiting, loss of consciousness, numbness of fingers and toes, loss of coordination, abdominal pain, irregular heartbeat, aches, seizures</p> <p>Psychological side effects: impaired judgment, restlessness, euphoria, cold flashes, dizziness, diarrhea</p> | <p>Addiction, insomnia, panic attacks, psychosis, high-blood pressure, damage to nerves, muscles and tissues in large intestine, coma</p> |

If you suspect your teen has overdosed on any of these drugs, seek medical help immediately.

LESSON 6: Your solutions. Their protection.

Quite frequently youngsters merely open the medicine cabinet and there before them is a variety of drugs available for the taking: pain pills for post gum surgery; sleeping pills from an overseas airplane trip; cough medicine from last season's flu. The time to act is now. You are the key to your child's drug-free future.

Take the following **preventative steps:**

- **Remove** drugs from your medicine cabinet and hide them, lock them up or take them out of your house.
- **Safeguard** all medicines that have to remain at home by monitoring quantities and controlling access.
- **Take inventory** by writing down the names and amounts of medications you currently have and regularly check to see if anything is missing.
- If your child is on prescribed medication, monitor the

dosages and refills. **Set clear rules**, such as, not sharing and always following proper dosages.

- **Warn** your youngsters that taking prescription or OTC drugs without a doctor's supervision can be just as dangerous and potentially lethal as taking street drugs.
- **Supervise** your child's **Internet** use: many pharmacy sites are not regulated and will sell your child medications without prescriptions.
- **Properly dispose** of old, expired or unused medicines in the trash. Hide or mix them with cat litter or coffee grounds before throwing them away in an empty can or bag. **DO NOT** flush medications down the drain or toilet, unless the label indicates it is safe to do so.

Take the pledge

Visit www.lockyourmeds.org

Be Aware. Don't Share.® Lock your meds.®

SOURCES: Center for Lawful Access & Abuse Deterrence, <http://www.claad.org/resources>; Drug slang: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/streetterms/>; The Medical Letter, *Treatment Guidelines*, Vol. 43, March 2001; Vol. 4, November 2006; Vol. 5, April 2007; Vol. 6, April 2008; Vol. 50, December 2008; Vol. 7, March 2009; National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Monitoring the Future* survey, 20015 ; National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Prescription Drug: Abuse and Addiction*, <http://www.drugabuse.gov/ResearchReports/Prescription/prescription3.html>; Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Prescription for Danger*, January 2008, March 2009; Parents.TheAnti-Drug, <http://www.theantidrug.com/>; http://kidshealth.org/teen/drug_alcohol/drugs/prescription_drug_abuse.html; http://www.drugfree.org/portal/drugissue/features/prescription_medicine_misuse; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, 2014; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, http://www.justice.gov/dea/concern/prescription_drug_fact_sheet.html; The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XIV: Teens and Parents*, August 2009