

# Medication Safety Practices



Drug overdoses are the leading cause of injury-related death in the US. Over 1/3 of these overdoses are the result of misuse of a prescribed opioid.

## MEDICATION SAFETY TIPS



Take your medication exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider



Know your medicine and its purpose, possible side effects, and interactions it may have with other medication/substances



Keep a list of all medications in your household including over-the-counter drugs and supplements



Do not share your medication



Call poison control right away if you think your child may have gotten into a medicine or vitamin

## KNOW THE RISK

The risk of opioid overdose increases 60% if someone in the household was prescribed an opioid in the past 6 months.



## PROPER STORAGE PRACTICES



Keep medications in their original package



Store medications out of reach and sight (use a locked box if possible)



Make sure the safety cap is locked



Store medications as directed by your pharmacist

## WHY PROPER DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS IS IMPORTANT



Prevents substance use



Protects our environment by preventing substances from entering our water/soil



Prevents accidental ingestion by children or pets



Dispose of unused medications at the end of your treatment at your local unused medication drop box

LEARN MORE FROM THE FDA



Find help, locate Dallas County unused medication drop boxes, learn about substance use disorder, and more



## SEEK HELP

15x

You are 15x more likely to become addicted to opioids if they are taken for a period longer than 3 months



**DCHHS**  
Dallas County Health and Human Services  
Healthy People Healthy Communities  
Health and Social Equity

Have questions?  
Ask your pharmacist today.