

*Protecting Ohio's Families*



# PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE IS KILLING OHIOANS.



**The abuse of prescription pain medications and heroin — both classified as opiates — is epidemic in Ohio.**

By calling a toll-free number provided by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, you can confidentially report people you suspect are inappropriately prescribing or distributing prescription drugs.

**CALL 855-BCI-OHIO (224-6446)**  
**Your call just might save a life.**



## **Know the facts**

- Drug overdoses kill an average of five Ohioans every day.
- Since 2007, unintended drug overdoses have exceeded car crashes as the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio.
- Ohio's death rate from overdoses has jumped 440 percent since 1999, from 327 deaths that year to 1,765 in 2011, an increase largely driven by prescription drug abuse and the use of multiple drugs.
- In one year — from 2010 to 2011 — the number of deaths from unintended drug overdoses jumped 14.3 percent.

# Drug storage and disposal tips

Keep a close watch on your family's prescription medications to protect those you love. Follow these important safeguards:

- Inventory all medications in your home, noting the number of pills and refills remaining.
- Keep all medicines — including over-the-counter drugs — in a locked cabinet or other safe place and monitor them closely. Urge relatives and friends to do the same.
- Maintain control of any drug prescribed to a child or teen.
- Place the national hotline for poison control centers — **800-222-1222** — near every home phone and in your cell phone address book.
- Discard expired or unused medications at Drug Take Back Day events, which are held twice a year throughout Ohio. Collection dates and locations are posted at **www.dea.gov**.

## Where to turn



- To find a treatment provider in your area, call the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services at **800-788-7254**.
- Learn how to get involved with the Drug Free Action Alliance by visiting **www.drugfreeactionalliance.org** or calling **614-540-9985**.

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