

Prescription

Drugs

Why Am I Needed?

Pain medication (opioid analgesics) are involved in the majority of unintentional overdoses.* While these medications can be used appropriately in the management of acute and chronic pain, they may be misused because they can make a person feel euphoric and create a state of intense pleasure; some people refer to this as feeling "high."

Misuse of prescription medication, especially pain medication, occurs among all ages and socioeconomic groups.

Medication diversion is a term used when a medication is taken by someone that was not prescribed the medication. Taking someone else's medication or selling and/or giving someone else medication that is not prescribed to them is illegal.

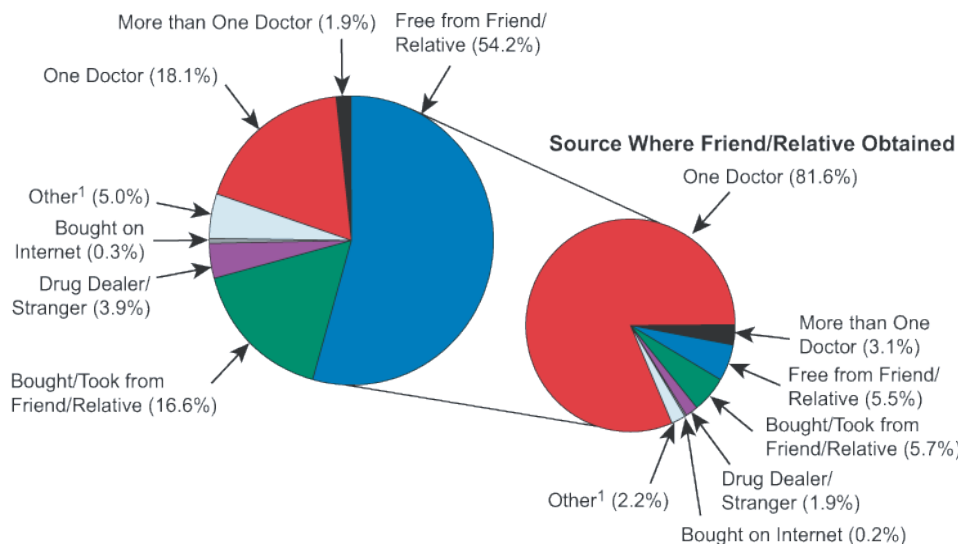
What Do I Need to Know?

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse overdose caused by pain medication or heroin. Recent NC legislation provides immunity to people administering naloxone and to medical staff who prescribe the naloxone.

Know the signs of an opioid (pain medication/heroin) overdose: shallow breathing, unresponsive to stimuli (calling their name or rubbing knuckles on their breastbone), and blue/black fingernails or lips. Respond by calling 911 and administering naloxone.

Taking pain medication and benzodiazepines at the same time can increase your risk of overdose because both medications decrease your heart and breathing rates; this decrease can be drastic enough to stop your heart and breathing entirely. Mixing these medications with alcohol can also have a similar effect.

Source Where Pain Relievers Were Obtained for Most Recent Nonmedical Use among Past Year Users Aged 12 or Older: 2010-2011**







Note: The percentages do not add to 100 percent due to rounding. The Other category includes the sources "Wrote Fake Prescription," "Stolen from Doctor's Office/Clinic/Hospital/Pharmacy," and "Some Other Way."



What Needs To Be Done?



Follow these steps when you are prescribed a medication:

-  To dispose of medications correctly, follow these suggestions:
 - <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm101653.htm>
 - www.projectpilldrop.org
 - <https://apps.ncdoi.net/f?p=102:4:14019262828324::NO::>
-  Ask your medical provider to write you a prescription for naloxone if you or someone you know is at risk of an opioid overdose.
-  Get involved in community action. Explore opportunities to collaborate with other members of your community to distribute information about this important topic.
-  ***Take Correctly, Store Securely, Dispose Properly, Never Share.™***

Resources

Help is available. If you have a problem with prescription medications or know someone who does, you can call 1-800-662-HELP or visit: <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>.

For additional information about avoiding unintentional overdose, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Poisoning/preventiontips.htm>.

Read more about the Good Samaritan Law & Naloxone Legislation here:

<http://openstates.org/nc/bills/2013/SB20/documents/NCD00022391/>

For more information
visit
projectlazarus.org
or call
+1.336.667.8100



*Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/pdf/poison-issue-brief.pdf>

**Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/2k11results/nsduhresults2011.htm#2.2>