

The Problem



In 2016, more than **11 million** Americans misused prescription opioids.ⁱ



115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.ⁱⁱ



Overdose from accidental **exposure to fentanyl patches** are also a risk, especially for young children who could put it in their mouth or on their skin.ⁱⁱⁱ

Safe Storage Can Help Prevent Abuse

Safe storage is an important part of reducing abuse and misuse of prescription opioids because opioid misuse can start in the home:



40.5% of those who misused prescription pain relievers in 2015 obtained it from a friend or relative for free.

9.4%
bought it from a friend or relative.

3.8%
stole it from a friend or relative.^{iv}

What You Can Do



Store all opioids in their **original packaging** so you retain the prescription information, directions for use and expiration date.



Keep opioids in a **locked cabinet or lockbox** away from family members and house guests.



If you wear a fentanyl patch, consider **covering it with adhesive film** to make sure it doesn't fall off and regularly check to make sure it is still in place.^v



Be sure to keep these **medicines out of reach** of young children. For more information on safe medicine storage visit www.upandaway.org.



Be sure to **monitor the medicine you take** and how much you have left so you will know if there is any missing medicine.



If you or someone close to you has an addiction to pain medication, talk to your healthcare professional or contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's treatment help line at **(800) 662-HELP**.

Allied Against Opioid Abuse is a national education and awareness initiative to help prevent abuse and misuse of prescription opioids. Founded by the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, the initiative is a collaborative effort with diverse partners across the pharmaceutical supply chain, as well as organizations that are experts in public health and healthcare. Our goal is to contribute to solving the opioid crisis in a meaningful way by educating patients about their rights, risks and responsibilities. To learn more visit www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org or follow us on Twitter @AAOA_Tweets.



NCPIE encourages healthcare professionals and community groups to foster patient-professional communication about medicines. However, NCPIE does not supervise or endorse the activities of any group or professional. Discussion and action concerning medicines are solely the responsibility of the patient and their healthcare professionals, and not NCPIE. Please consult a licensed healthcare professional with questions or concerns about your medication and/or condition.

ⁱ New England Journal of Medicine: www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1714529

ⁱⁱ Center for Disease Control & Prevention: www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html

ⁱⁱⁱ Food and Drug Administration: www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm300803.htm

^{iv} 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMSHA: www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR2-2015/NSDUH-FFR2-2015.htm

^v Food and Drug Administration: www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm300803.htm