



Prescription Drug Abuse

Consequences

Prescription drug abuse burdens our courts, fills our jails, drains our healthcare system, and creates lifelong addicts. It also devastates families, ruins communities and robs the future of our youth.

Addiction: Long-term use of opiates and depressants (e.g., Xanax) can lead to physical dependence and addiction. Even short-term use of certain medications (e.g., Oxycontin) can lead to addiction, especially when abused (e.g., snorted). Young people become addicted more quickly than adults.

Crime: Pharmacy robberies are increasing nation-wide. According to the Manatee County Sheriff, crimes related to prescription pills have reached epidemic proportions. Burglars are breaking into homes looking for prescriptions, jewelry and other valuables.

Overdose:

- In 15 states and the District of Columbia, unintentional overdoses have replaced motor-vehicle incidents as the leading cause of accidental death.
- In Florida, the death rate for prescription drugs increased 84.2% from 2003 to 2009. The greatest increase in death rate was observed for oxycodone (264.6%).

Child abuse:

- Drug abuse contributes to child abuse and neglect.
- Nationwide, more than 1 in 10 children live with a substance abusing parent.