



Prescription Drug Safety Saves Lives

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), America is in an opioid epidemic. Almost half of opioid overdose deaths happen to someone who is taking these drugs by prescription for pain relief – drugs like OxyContin®, Vicodin®, Percocet® and morphine.

IN LOUISIANA:

- In 2015, there were more prescriptions for opioid drugs than there were state residents
- 861 Louisianians died from opioid overdoses (Rx and illegal) in 2015
- The state drug overdose rate is higher than the national average

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Always follow your doctor's or pharmacist's directions when taking a prescription drug.
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are worried about possible side effects of a drug, including physical dependence and addiction.
- Never take a drug prescribed for someone else or share your prescribed drugs with others.
- When you finish taking a drug, if you have any pills left over, get rid of them safely so they aren't stolen or misused. Many pharmacies and law enforcement agencies will let you turn in leftover drugs through secure disposal boxes. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about options in your area.

RESOURCES | www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose
www.EndtheEpidemicLA.org