

## THE PROBLEM

Two-thirds of teens who report abuse of prescription medicine are getting them from friends, family and acquaintances. Make sure the teens in your life don't have access to your medicine. Find out how to monitor, secure and properly dispose of unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter cough medicine in your home.

### 3- STEPS MONITOR SECURE DISPOSE



**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ONLY**

- NO SYRINGES • NO MAIL •
- NO OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS •

*Remove or black out personal information on pharmacy label, otherwise leave in the original package or container.*

### Sandusky County Drop-off Locations

<b>Bellevue Police Department</b> 3000 Seneca Industrial Pkwy. <b>OPEN AT ALL TIMES</b>	<b>Clyde Police Department</b> 222 N. Main Street <b>OPEN AT ALL TIMES</b>	<b>Fremont Police Department</b> 1141 W. State Street <b>OPEN AT ALL TIMES</b>
<b>Gibsonburg Police Department</b> 214 W. Madison Street <b>OPEN AT ALL TIMES</b>	<b>Sandusky County Sheriff's Office</b> 2323 Countryside Dr., Fremont, Ohio 43420 <b>OPEN AT ALL TIMES</b>	<b>Woodville Police Department</b> 219 W. Main Street Monday - Friday: 9:00a - 4:30p

**Questions?** Contact the Prevention Partnership of Sandusky Co. at 419-334-6377.

*Always*  
choose health

Sandusky County Health Department

Sandusky County Health Department  
2000 Countryside Drive  
Fremont, Ohio 43420  
Phone: 419-334-6377  
Fax: 419-334-6380  
E-mail: [alwayschoosehealth.com](mailto:alwayschoosehealth.com)

## PROTECT YOURSELF: 3 Steps to Safeguard Your Home



**PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP**  
OF SANDUSKY COUNTY  
*Working towards a drug-free community*

## STEP 1: MONITOR

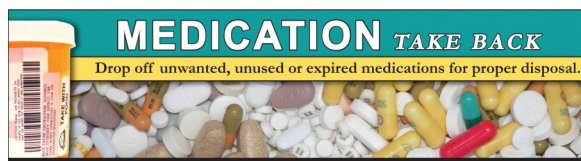
Parents are in an influential position to immediately help reduce teen access to prescription drugs because these drugs are found in the home. But how aware are you? Think about this: would you know if some of your pills were missing? From this day forward, make sure you can honestly answer, 'yes.'

- Start by taking note of how many pills are in each of your prescription bottles or pill packets.
- Keep track of your refills. This goes for your own medication, as well as for your teens and other members of the household. If you find you need to refill your medication more often than expected, that could indicate a problem.
- If your teen has been prescribed a drug, be sure you control the medication, and monitor dosages and refills.
- Make sure your friends and relatives — especially grandparents — are also aware of the risks. Encourage them to regularly monitor their own medicine cabinets.
- If there are other households your teen has access to, talk to those families as well about the importance of helping safeguard medications.

## STEP 2: SECURE

Teens abuse prescription drugs because they are easily accessible, and either free or inexpensive. In fact, 70 percent of kids age 12 to 17 who have abused pain relievers say they got them from their friends or relatives, typically without their knowledge. Approach securing your prescriptions the same way you would other valuables in your home, like jewelry or cash. There's no shame in helping protect those items. The same holds true for your medications.

- Take prescription medications out of the medicine cabinet and hide them in a place only you know about.
- If possible, keep all medicines, both prescription and over-the-counter, in a safe place, such as a locked cabinet your teen cannot access.
- Tell relatives, especially grandparents, to lock their medications or keep them in a safe place.
- Talk to the parents of your teenager's friends. Encourage them to secure their prescriptions



## STEP 3: DISPOSE

Safely disposing expired or unused prescription medications is a critical step in helping protect your teens. Here's how to help safeguard your family and home, and decrease the opportunity for your teens or their friends to abuse your medications.

- Take an inventory of all of the prescription drugs in your home. Start by discarding expired or unused prescription drugs, when your teens are not home.
- Unbelievable though it may seem, teenagers will retrieve discarded prescription drugs from the trash. To help prevent this from happening, mix the medication with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. Put the mixture into an empty can or bag and discard.
- Unless the directions on the packaging say otherwise, do not flush medication down the drain or toilet.
- To help prevent unauthorized refills and protect you and your family's privacy, remove any personal, identifiable information from prescription bottles or pill packages before you throw them away.