

# **MYTH:** PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE COMPLETELY SAFE BECAUSE THEY ARE PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR.



## **DOSE OF REALITY:**

**IN THE U.S., PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE INVOLVED WITH MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS THAN HEROIN AND COCAINE COMBINED.**

Prescription painkillers that contain opioids or narcotics, such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, can be highly addictive and even deadly. Everyone is at risk of becoming addicted, especially young people ages 12-25.

### **What Can You Do?**

- There are highly effective non-narcotic painkiller alternatives. Ask your doctor, physician, dentist or prescribing medical professional
- Don't share your prescription painkillers with anyone
- Take only as needed, and never more than directed by your prescribing medical professional
- Keep track of how many pills are left in bottles
- Talk to your kids about the dangers of taking prescription painkillers that are not prescribed for them
- Store prescription painkillers securely – a locked cabinet or drawer is ideal
- Safely dispose of expired, unused or unwanted prescription medications – see the website below for a listing of Drug Take Back locations in Wisconsin



**DOSE OF REALITY**  
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.

Learn more at:  
**DoseOfRealityWI.gov**

A message from Wisconsin Department of Justice, Brad Schimel, Attorney General, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services



Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services