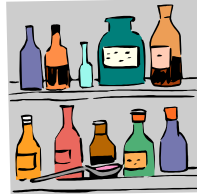


## You can help prevent injury and death from medicine!



Deaths in Colorado due to commonly abused prescription drugs almost doubled from 228 in 2000, to 445 in 2009. In 2009, more than twice as many people in Colorado died from prescription drug abuse (445) than from drunk-driving related crashes (158). A 2009 survey in a Denver-Metro community revealed that a third of high school students had abused prescription drug medication. This is higher than the national data average of 1 in 5 teenagers.<sup>1</sup> R.Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP) has declared the rising abuse of prescription drugs a national epidemic.

<sup>1</sup>Peer Assistance Services, Inc. funded by the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health November 3, 2010

### You can take action to prevent medicine poisoning!

- ✓ Keep medicine locked up; keep out of sight of young children as well as older children.
- ✓ Don't share your medicine; only take medicine prescribed for you.
- ✓ Dispose of medicines that are expired or no longer being used.
- ✓ Dispose of medicines at the **DEA medication take-back event on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- ✓ For the disposal location closest to you: [www.DEA.gov](http://www.DEA.gov). In Colorado, call the **CO HELP** line at **1-877-462-2911** M-F 9AM – 10PM and 9AM – 5PM on weekends.
- ✓ **Denver Health Drive-Thru site: Rita Bass Trauma & EMS Institute 190 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver**
- ✓ If unable to drop off your medicine at the event, call **Rocky Mountain Poison Center (RMPC)** at **1-800-222-1222** anytime night or day for proper medicine disposal tips.

### More tips to prevent poisonings

- ✓ Check that you received the right prescription before you leave the pharmacy; ask your pharmacist if you have questions about your medicine.
- ✓ Before you take the first dose, call **RMPC** if you need to ask questions about your medicine.
- ✓ Medicine patches remain active after use; do not place in trash where kids or pets can find them.

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