

Leading the Fight to Prevent Drug Diversion and Drug Abuse

Drug abuse continues to be a public health and safety risk. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated 6.5 million Americans misused a prescription drug in 2014, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported nearly 50,000 prescription and illicit drug overdose deaths in the same year—a 140% increase since 2000. Most people who misuse prescription drugs first obtain them from a family member or friend, often from a home medicine cabinet, and can eventually graduate to using illicit drugs such as heroin. Federal, state, and local policymakers are seeking solutions to aid their efforts to combat drug abuse and overdose deaths in communities across America, and Walgreens stands ready to help.

Our Commitment

Walgreens is leading the fight against prescription drug abuse with new programs to help curb misuse of medications and the rise in overdose deaths. Our pharmacists play a significant role in counseling patients on the safe use of medications, and we understand the challenges our communities face in the fight against drug abuse.



Safe Drug Disposal

- We are committed to helping our patients and customers lead safe, healthy lives. As a reflection of that commitment, Walgreens will install safe medication disposal receptacles in more than 500 pharmacies in 39 states and Washington, DC.
- Customers and patients can safely and conveniently dispose of unwanted, unused or expired prescriptions, including controlled substances
- Receptacles will be available during regular pharmacy hours.



Increasing Access to Naloxone

 Walgreens will also make Naloxone, a life-saving opioid antidote, available without a prescription in 35 states and Washington, DC, in accordance with each state's pharmacy regulations.



We Ask Lawmakers

To work with us to implement voluntary, statewide safe medication disposal programs and to increase access to Naloxone by eliminating prescription requirements



Key Facts

An estimated 6.5 million Americans misused a prescription drug and nearly 50,000 died of an overdose in 2014.

Most people who misuse prescription drugs first obtain them from a family member or friend, often from a home medicine cabinet.