

# PILLS CAN KILL

Abuse • Addiction • Arrest

## Prescription drug abuse is dangerous and can lead to addiction and arrest

Tennessee consistently ranks as one of the top states in the country for prescriptions written per person with a rate approximately 1.5 times the national average. The state's prescription drug overdose rate is 26 percent above the country's average.

- Prescription drug misuse is taking medication in a way other than the doctor intended or for a condition other than which the medication was prescribed.
- Prescription drug abuse is the intentional and inappropriate use of prescription drugs for purposes other than prescribed, or in a quantity other than directed.
- Abuse of prescription drugs stems from the availability, the lack of stigma associated with street drugs and the false belief they are always safe to use.
- Prescription drugs are the most commonly abused drugs among young people and hold a high street value.

## Illegally obtaining prescription drugs is against the law in Tennessee

- Attempting to obtain or obtaining a controlled substance by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge is a Class D Felony in the State of Tennessee punishable by not less than 2 years not more than 12 years in prison and fines up to \$100,000.



Tennessee Drug Diversion Task Force  
[www.tndrugdiversion.org](http://www.tndrugdiversion.org)

To report criminal activity related to  
prescription drug diversion call  
1-877-FOR-RXTN

## Common Signs of Prescription Drug Abuse

- Changes in attendance at work or school
- Change from normal activities
- Medication missing from a prescription bottle (even if it's only a few pills)
- Seeing multiple doctors for multiple prescriptions known as "Doctor Shopping"
- Possessing a real or fake prescription pad
- Inattention to physical appearance and personal hygiene
- Constantly wearing sunglasses to hide dilated or constricted pupils

## "The Usual Suspects"

These prescription drugs are commonly listed on Tennessee death certificates where overdose is the cause of death. Color and size may vary depending on dosage strength.



### Hydrocodone

Prescribed for pain relief



### Alprazolam

Prescribed for anxiety



### Oxycodone

Prescribed for pain relief



### Carisoprodol

Prescribed as a muscle relaxer



### Morphine

Prescribed for pain relief



## Tennessee Drug Diversion Task Force

Help save the environment. Please dispose of your prescription medication appropriately. Don't flush.