The Complex Problem of Prescription Drug Abuse

CVS Health is committed to preventing prescription drug abuse by understanding public sentiment and working closely with our partners to design solutions.

2M Americans misused or were dependent on prescription opioids in 2014.1

40 people die each day from prescription opioid overdoses.2

Americans agree prescription drug abuse is a major concern.

82% think prescription drug abuse is a problem in the United States.

41% personally know someone who is or has abused prescription drugs.

Public perception of contributing factors:

54% Increased prescriptions of commonly abused drugs
42% More drugs being manufactured with addictive properties
30% Low awareness about how to combat prescription drug abuse
29% Drugs being improperly stored and/or disposed of

How we’re making a difference

Expanding access to naloxone without a prescription to 35 states by end of 2016

Preventing teen drug abuse with nearly 100K high school students through education programs, like Pharmacists Teach

Providing safe disposal of more than 35 metric tons of unused or unwanted prescription drugs with Medication Disposal for Safer Communities

Learn more at: cvshealth.com/thought-leadership/prescription-drug-abuse

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014.