

# **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, 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?**

- Discuss alternative prescription painkiller options with your doctor, physician, dentist or prescribing medical professional
- Don't share your prescription painkillers with anyone
- Take only as directed – never adjust your schedule or dosage yourself
- 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