Consequences

Prescription drug abuse burdens our courts, fills our jails, drains our healthcare system, and creates lifelong addicts. It also devastates families, ruins communities and robs the future of our youth.

**Addiction:** Long-term use of opiates and depressants (e.g., Xanax) can lead to physical dependence and addiction. Even short-term use of certain medications (e.g., Oxycontin) can lead to addiction, especially when abused (e.g., snorted). Young people become addicted more quickly than adults.

**Crime:** Pharmacy robberies are increasing nation-wide. According to the Manatee County Sheriff, crimes related to prescription pills have reached epidemic proportions. Burglars are breaking into homes looking for prescriptions, jewelry and other valuables.

**Overdose:**

- In 15 states and the District of Columbia, unintentional overdoses have replaced motor-vehicle incidents as the leading cause of accidental death.
- In Florida, the death rate for prescription drugs increased 84.2% from 2003 to 2009. The greatest increase in death rate was observed for oxycodone (264.6%).
- In Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto counties, at least one person dies every other day.

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<th><em><strong>Alert</strong></em></th>
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<td>If a person who took pills, alcohol or other drugs does not respond, <strong>call 911 or seek immediate medical attention.</strong> Never let them sleep it off. It could result in death.</td>
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<td>Mixing prescriptions with alcohol and/or other drugs can have severe consequences. See &quot;Choices&quot; PSAs</td>
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**Child abuse:**

- Drug abuse contributes to child abuse and neglect.
- Nationwide, more than 1 in 10 children live with a substance abusing parent.
- Prescription drug abuse is the primary reason for needing to shelter children in Manatee County (over 50% of removals).
Substance-exposed newborns

- Across the state newborns experiencing withdrawal from narcotics has increased 160% since 2005.
- In Manatee County, newborn babies born addicted to drugs have doubled from 2005 to 2008.
- The lifetime cost of caring for a substance-exposed newborn is estimated at $1.4 million.