

# Care Enough **Not** to Share



**Don't Share  
Prescription Drugs**

Sharing prescription drugs with family or friends, even when you intend to help them, is a dangerous misuse that could cause serious consequences.

**Learn More.  
PA**Stop**.org**

**CPA** Commonwealth Prevention Alliance  
**Stop Opiate Abuse Campaign**

# Young Adults Are Most Impacted

**If you are a young adult,** you and your friends are more likely than any other age group to misuse opioid pain relievers, ADHD stimulants and anti-anxiety drugs.

Even though it may seem harmless to share prescription drugs with a friend or family member, doing so involves many risks with potentially dangerous consequences.

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- **It's Illegal:** Federal and state law prohibits the sharing of prescription drugs that are controlled substances. Controlled substances include opioids (like Percocet), stimulants (like Adderall), and benzodiazepines (like Xanax).
  - **Different Doses:** Drugs are prescribed in different dosages with different instructions based on the individual. So even if a person has a prescription for the drug you planned to share with them, their doctor may have them on a different dose or medication schedule.
  - **Serious Side Effects:** All medications have side effects, which doctors take into consideration when they choose a certain medicine for their patient. Medications will have different results on each individual, based on their health needs and how they interact (potentially badly) with other medicines.
  - **Connection to Other Drug Use:** Misusing prescription opioids like Percocet or OxyContin has been linked with eventual heroin use, which can lead to many problems with your health and the legal system. By only taking drugs prescribed to you, you can help break the connection between prescription painkiller misuse and heroin addiction.