



PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY

*Help Protect Your Family and Friends:*

# Learn the Facts About Prescription Drug Abuse

About **15 million Americans** misuse or abuse prescription drugs...

*And among people 18-22 years old, full-time college students are twice as likely to use a stimulant for non-medical reasons compared to those who are part-time students or are not in college.*

## What Can You Do to Help Protect Your Friends and Family?

### Don't Share Prescription Drugs with Friends



- A person's symptoms, height, weight, allergies, and medical history are taken into account to prescribe the correct medication and dosage.
- Since no two people are exactly alike, sharing prescription medication is extremely dangerous.
- NOT sharing is caring, when it comes to prescription drugs.

### Store Your Medications Securely to Protect Younger Siblings

- Prescription medications are among the drugs most commonly used by 12- to 13-year-olds.
- The number of emergency department visits due to medication poisoning for children under age five increased 30% from 2001 to 2008, and child self-exposure to prescription products accounted for 55% of the emergency room visits.
- Don't leave your medications sitting out, store them in a safe, secure place.



### Help Inform Parents and Grandparents

- Proper disposal of unneeded, unwanted, and expired medications helps to prevent misuse.
- Every year, more than 15,000 people die from overdoses of prescription painkillers.
- More than 70% of people who abused prescription pain medicines got them from friends or family.

Visit the **Use Safely** section of [www.AWARErx.pharmacy](http://www.AWARErx.pharmacy) to learn more.



The AWARE<sub>x</sub>E® Prescription Drug Safety Program is brought to you by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation™.

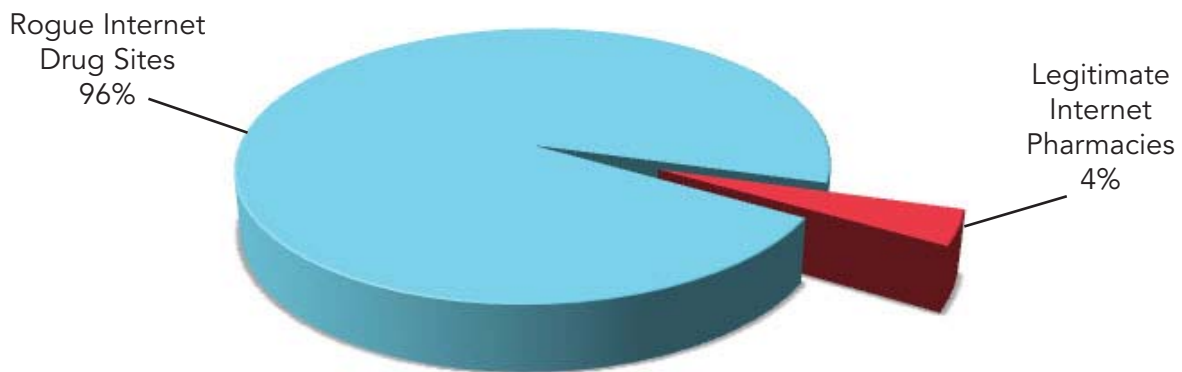


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# Internet Pharmacies and You

Buying prescription medicine online can be dangerous. Here's what you need to know to stay safe.

- The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) has **reviewed more than 11,000 websites** selling prescription drugs. By some estimates, as much as **90% of the medication bought online may be fake.**
- Only **4%** of these sites appear to be **in compliance** with state and federal laws and NABP patient safety and pharmacy practice standards.



- **96%** of these sites are considered rogue sites and are **listed as Not Recommended** on the AWARxE® website, [www.AWARxE.pharmacy](http://www.AWARxE.pharmacy).

## Look for .Pharmacy, or the VIPPS or Vet-VIPPS Seals to shop safely online

- .Pharmacy is a new Top-Level Domain, like .com, created to increase patient safety online. Learn more at [www.safe.pharmacy](http://www.safe.pharmacy).
- As seen on *60 Minutes* and *The Doctors*, look for sites with the VIPPS® (Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites®) Seal. These sites are accredited and listed as Recommended at [www.AWARxE.pharmacy](http://www.AWARxE.pharmacy).
- And don't forget about your pets! Protect them by looking for the Vet-VIPPS® Seal when purchasing their medications online.



Visit the **Acquire Safely** section of [www.AWARxE.pharmacy](http://www.AWARxE.pharmacy) to learn more.

