

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Use and Abuse

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is working with area pharmacies, healthcare providers, and treatment programs to address the use and abuse of prescription drugs. Pain killers in all forms have become the most abused drugs. They are easily available and can have tragic consequences alone, or if mixed with alcohol or other medications.

Your pharmacy has provided you with instructions for the appropriate use of your prescription. The majority of pharmacies dispense their prescriptions responsibly to informed pharmacy customers. However, the growing numbers of prescription pill mills and drug abusers have made prescription drug related crime the single largest enforcement challenge in recent memory.



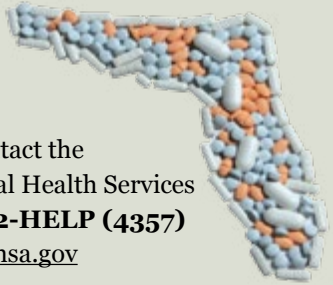
Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

What Can You Do?

Keep your medication in a secure place and away from children, teens, and other persons who may frequent your residence. The medicine cabinet is the first place prescription drug abusers or the curious will look.

Has someone overdosed or abused prescription drugs?

- In an emergency call 911
- For crisis intervention, call Tampa Bay Cares at 211
- For a treatment center, contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, **1-800-662-HELP (4357)** or www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov



If you have information on the illegal sale or use of prescription drugs...

- Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS (Anonymously)
- Call the Sheriff's Narcotics Division, 727-582-2828, or go online to www.pcsoweb.com to submit a tip online.

Have expired or unused prescription drugs?

The Sheriff's Central and North District Offices have prescription drug drop boxes available daily during business hours. Call 727-582-6221 for more information. Check the Sheriff's Office website for upcoming "Operation Medicine Cabinet" collection events.

Remember, having prescription medication in your possession that is not prescribed for you is illegal. Sharing your prescription with others is also illegal.

Want to learn more?

Visit the Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Task Force website at: <http://www.nopetaskforce.org>.

The National Drug Intelligence Center – US Dept. of Justice at: www.usdoj.gov/ndic

With your help we can make a difference.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri



"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"
www.pcsoweb.com