

Initiative Strategies

The following strategies are proposed to reduce prescription drug misuse and the consequences associated with this epidemic to improve the health of Arizona's communities and families:

Strategy 1: Reduce Illicit Acquisition and Diversion of Prescription Drugs

- Proper storage and disposal options and public messaging (e.g., permanent drop boxes, take-back events)
- Increased use of the [Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#) (sign-up, use)

Strategy 2: Promote responsible prescribing of Rx opioids, benzodiazepines and carisoprodol.

- Develop and Implement a research-based "Best Practice" curriculum for prescribers and pharmacists
- Recognition of responsible prescribers and dispensers

Strategy 3: Enhance Rx drug practice and policies in law enforcement.

- Education and training on Rx drug abuse and diversion crimes
- Improve coding structure of data management systems for tracking Rx crimes

Strategy 4: Increase public awareness and patient education about the risks of Rx drug misuse and pain management expectations.

- Media dissemination to create a sense of urgency about the Rx misuse and abuse problem in Arizona
- Education (Rx 360 curriculum) for adults and youth about the risks of Rx drug misuse and abuse
- Patient Education module

Strategy 5: Enhance assessment and referral to substance abuse treatment