YOU Can Help Reduce Opioid Abuse

OVERDOSE DEATHS

now surpass deaths from **car accidents**.

MORE THAN 80%

of people who misuse prescription drugs are using pain medications prescribed to someone else.*

This crisis touches **EVERY COMMUNITY**

and claims victims of all ages, genders, races, and economic backgrounds.

It's estimated that **FOUR PEOPLE** are dying in the state **EVERY DAY** from overdoses related to opioid abuse.

*Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

In 2016, **Massachusetts**set a law that, for the first time,
limits opioid prescriptions
to a seven-day supply.

Massachusetts is the ((first state in the nation to adopt this legislation.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP KEEP YOUR MEDICATIONS SAFE:

- Monitor how many pills are in each of your prescription bottles and keep track of your refills.
- Secure your prescriptions in the same way you would other valuable items. Keep medications in a safe place that only you know about.
- **Do not allow children** to manage their own medications. Make sure to either oversee them taking their medicine or give it to them directly.
- **Discard expired unused medications.** Unless otherwise instructed, do not flush medications down the toilet. Instead, mix them with things such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter and discard them in an empty can or bag in your household trash.
- To protect your privacy and prevent unauthorized refills, **scratch out all personal information** on prescription labels from empty pill bottles before discarding them.
- Check for medication take-back programs with your local police or fire department.

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