

Drug Diversion Fraud is when your prescribed controlled substance is taken by you or another individual for reasons other than prescribed. According to the Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, prescription drug misuse/abuse causes more problems and is abused at a higher rate than common “street” drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

Prescription drug misuse/abuse causes over 100 deaths each day by using prescriptions not as prescribed by a doctor.

Montana’s deadliest drugs aren’t made in secret labs and they don’t always come from dealers on the corner. They’re in our own medicine cabinets. Our kids report the third-highest rate of prescription drug abuse in the country and more than half of them say prescription drugs are easier to get than street drugs. This deadly abuse happens in our own homes, sometimes with our own medication. Yet, most of us don’t even know prescription drug abuse is happening — until it’s too late. **Montana Department of Justice**

“Our youth are getting prescription drugs from us, from the homes of their family and friends. If we are going to protect our youth from prescription drug issues, everyone in the community has to get involved.” Detective Dean Chrestenson, Missoula Police Department



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Drug Diversion Fraud – According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Federal Government spent \$62 billion on prescription drugs in 2010. Drug diversion takes a portion of Medicare and Medicaid funds away from legitimate care. Furthermore, Federal health programs bear the added costs of additional health care as a result of patients misusing prescription drugs.

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- Keep your prescriptions locked up and stored away; ask your relatives to do the same
- Dispose of your prescriptions safely and properly; ask your relatives to do the same
- Utilize participating Police Dept. 24 hour Rx Drug Drop-off in your town if available for unused or unneeded prescriptions
- Although time-consuming, consider counting your pills when you first get the prescription filled to make sure you were not shorted on the amount.
- Do not participate in prescription drug diversion fraud. It is highly illegal and criminal behavior and can get the participating beneficiary into severe legal trouble as well.

If you feel your medical identity has been compromised and someone is billing for prescriptions in your name, contact law enforcement or Montana SMP at 1-800-551-3191.



Montana SMP is a program coordinated by Missoula Aging Services and partnered with local Area Agencies on Aging. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MP0233, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy

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