

# AZ Rx DRUG MISUSE AND ABUSE INITIATIVE



## Awareness.Action.Outcomes!

Prescription drug misuse and abuse effects every county, city and town in Arizona. Consider the facts:

- **Arizona currently ranks 6th highest in the nation for individuals misusing and abusing prescription drugs.\***
- **3 out of 4 Arizona youth who have misused prescription drugs in the past 30 days report getting them from friends, family or right out of the home.\*\***
- **Hospitalizations and emergency department visits for poisonings (Rx drugs are a leading cause) cost Arizona nearly a half a million dollars per day in 2012. \*\*\***

This toolkit is designed with the theme Awareness. Action. Outcomes! It provides the roadmap to move your community forward beyond that initial awareness stage into action and outcomes. Communities and coalitions cannot wait another day here in Arizona to implement this initiative. Every day that we do, we lose more lives to death and addiction. The time has come to address this public health crisis and we need your commitment.

The toolkit is easy to use and is color coded for better navigation. The Rx Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative toolkit's eight sections include:

**Strategy 1** - Reduce illicit acquisition and diversion of prescription drugs

**Strategy 2** - Promote responsible prescribing and dispensing policies and practices

**Strategy 3** - Enhance Rx drug practice and policies in law enforcement

**Strategy 4** - Increase public awareness and patient education about Rx drug misuse and abuse

**Strategy 5** - Enhance assessment and referral to substance abuse treatment

**Action Plan** - The Action Plan is color coded by strategy and provides easy to follow goals, objectives and action items.

**Efficacy Report and Evaluation** – This section provides data and data sources used throughout the initiative and in the toolkit. In addition, a full report of initiative outcomes in the pilot counties is included. The report provides background and history of the Arizona Rx Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative.

**Other Documents** - Items in this toolkit will continue to be updated and new items will be added. Use this section of your toolkit to print and add information to support your efforts.

Thank you for taking on this important initiative!  
Let's get started!

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# THANK YOU!

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## **Arizona Rx Drug Misuse and Abuse Core Group**

Arizona Board of Pharmacy  
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)  
Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families  
Prevention Works AZ

## **Additional Thanks to Arizona Contributors:**

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Pinal County Substance Abuse Council  
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## **National Contributors:**

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Abuse