

# ARE YOU AWARE?

## **Prescription drugs can be dangerous; they are not safer than street drugs.**

Prescription drugs, including painkillers, steroids, tranquilizers, and stimulants, may seem safe because they are “legal” and prescribed, but they’re not. **They can have serious physical side effects when used improperly alone or taken with other drugs or alcohol.**

## **Prescription drugs can be addictive.**

Many prescription drugs can be addictive. Some prescription drugs, like OxyContin, are opiates, yes, like heroin. **Addiction can happen fast with opiates, especially among young people.**

**It is illegal to take prescription drugs not prescribed for you, and to distribute them to anyone for whom they are not prescribed.**

## **Prescription drug abuse can make you lose control of your body, your mind, and your life.**

Physical side effects include throwing up, diarrhea, severe shaking, and loss of consciousness – **even death. Just one pill can kill.** Taking broken, chewed, or crushed OxyContin tablets leads to a rapid release and absorption of a potentially deadly dose of oxycodone. Your self-respect, your dignity, your reputation, and the trust of people you care about are also at risk when you misuse or abuse prescription drugs.

**If you're worried about yourself or a friend,  
talk to a trusted adult or call  
Narcotics Anonymous  
24-hours a day, 7 days a week:**

*This information is provided by Project AWARE, a state-wide public awareness initiative about youth prescription drug abuse in Maine. Project AWARE is funded by a grant from PurduePharma and is being implemented by the Maine Association of Prevention Programs (MAPP). For more information on Project AWARE, contact MAPP at (207) 621-8118.*

**For more information on the harmful effects of prescription drugs and healthy alternatives to drugs, check out these websites:**

[www.painfullyobvious.com](http://www.painfullyobvious.com)

[www.rx.samhsa.gov](http://www.rx.samhsa.gov)

[www.freevibe.com](http://www.freevibe.com)

[teens.drugabuse.gov](http://teens.drugabuse.gov)

You can also call the State of Maine Office of Substance Abuse's Information & Resource Center at 1-800-499-0027.