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Written by, [Beaver County Substance Abuse Coalition](#)

Raise Your Hand.

If you are a parent, raise your hand. If you are a teenager, raise your hand. If you have the cutest grandkids in the world, raise your hand. If you've ever been subscribed a painkiller from a doctor, raise your hand. If you have any old prescription medications in your house, raise your hand? If you know that 17-year-olds abuse prescription drugs more than ecstasy, cocaine, heroine and meth COMBINED, raise your hand. If you know that Utah is a leader in the nation in nonmedical painkiller abuse raise your hand. If you know that 317 people died in Utah from prescription drug overdose in 2007 raise your hand. If you know that this is twice the amount that died from illegal drug use, raise your hand.



If you stopped raising your hand a few sentences ago, please keep reading. A silent and sneaky killer has swept our nation, state, towns and families. It comes to us legally and most likely ethically. It comes from a trusted source and is common. That killer is prescription drugs and more specifically those prescription drugs that are addictive. No, prescription drugs aren't bad, but serve a very valuable service when used as prescribed. But when these are not used as prescribed or someone uses a prescription that is not theirs, bad things can result. Addiction can result. Death can result. We are trusting in small towns. We trust our kids and grandkids. We trust our kids' friends. We trust our neighbors. We don't lock our doors. We leave our medications on our kitchen window seal above the sink. This creates easy access to prescription drugs for those who are addicted or selling them. Citizens of Beaver County need to be aware of this epidemic and do the little things that will help stop it.

Lock your doors. Throw your old medications away. Lock up current medications. Know what your kids, grandkids and their friends are doing in your house. Tell your friends about this article. Creating awareness of this issue will help law enforcement and everyone involved curb this wave of abuse.



No age group is exempt from this type of addiction. One could be 12 or one could be 80. Whether the addiction happened consciously or unconsciously, there is help out there. A person can go to the web site www.southwestprevention.com. Regarding prescription drug abuse, everyone needs to raise their hand in an effort to keep this silent and sneaky killer from ruining more lives. This article is brought to you by the Beaver County Substance Abuse Coalition. Most of which are volunteers who simply care about the community and want to maintain the great quality of life that we have. If you are interested in being a part of this coalition, please contact Ronda Hutchings at 435-438-5537."