

# The Opioid Crisis

Opioid overdose deaths accounted for **81% of all drug overdoses in Ohio in 2018** and have now become the leading cause of death for Ohioans under the age of 55.

**One in four teens will misuse or abuse a prescription drug** at least once in their lifetime and nearly half will get them from a family medicine cabinet.



## It Starts with Pills

**80% of heroin users** in the United States **report misusing prescription opioids** prior to using heroin.

## COVID-19 is Exacerbating the Opioid Crisis

**Since the onset of COVID-19, suspected overdoses increased by nearly 18%** after stay-at-home orders were implemented across the country.

Many mental health experts fear that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to lead to increased mental health and substance use crises.



Ohio funeral directors serve and protect their families with care and compassion. Together we can make an impact on safely disposing of unused prescription drugs.

## Get Rid of Unused Prescription Medications

Drug misuse often begins in the home medicine cabinet. That's why it's important to **immediately dispose** of a deceased loved one's leftover pills.

The best way to safely dispose of unused medicine is to **participate in a drug take-back program** or **purchase a safe drug deactivation bag**.



## Drug Drop-off Locations

Ohio offers several medication drop box locations to dispose of leftover pills.

**Find the nearest location to you at [dontliveindenial.org](http://dontliveindenial.org).**

## Drug Deactivation Bags

Drug deactivation systems like Deterra® are a convenient way to dispose of unwanted medications in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. These bags allow for proper deactivation and disposal in a few easy steps. Just **toss your pills into the bag, add water, shake well and throw away!**

To buy drug deactivation bags visit, **[deterrasystem.com](http://deterrasystem.com).**



## About the Ohio Opioid Education Alliance

The Ohio Opioid Education Alliance is a coalition of business, education, nonprofit, civic and government organizations and associations. The Alliance's primary goal is to educate and prevent the next generation of young people from misusing and abusing prescription opioids.

**[Dontliveindenial.org](http://Dontliveindenial.org) [OFDAonline.org](http://OFDAonline.org)**

