

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ARE STILL DRUGS



Why is it so dangerous to take prescriptions that aren't yours?

Because doctors look at your health history before prescribing medication to make sure you can handle the drug, dosage and side effects. So, unless a drug is prescribed directly to you, you won't know:

- If the drug is safe for you.
- How your body will handle it.
- How it might interact with other medications you may be taking.

Misusing prescription drugs can be as risky as taking illegal drugs.

CALL: (855) 581-8111

TEXT: (855) 895-8398

CHAT: YourLifelowa.org



The Dangers of Fake Pills

There are now fake pills on the illegal market that look almost exactly like the real thing. So, if you take someone else's "prescription," it can be almost impossible to know if what you're taking is real or counterfeit.

These fake pills can contain possibly deadly levels of fentanyl and/or methamphetamine. It's another way you could be risking your life by taking pills that aren't yours.

How Can You Stay Safe?

There are many things you can do to help stay safe from the dangers of prescription misuse and fake pills, like:

- Only take pills that have been prescribed to you by a licensed medical professional.
- Be sure to take your prescriptions only as directed.
- Make sure you get prescriptions dispensed by a licensed pharmacy.
- Beware of websites that let you buy medicine without a prescription.

Help is Available, 24/7

If you or someone you know is facing a problem with substance use, Your Life Iowa is here for you with **FREE**, confidential support. Our compassionate counselors can connect you to the help you need to get your life back on track.

*Iowa Substance Abuse Brief: Substance Use Among Young Adults June 2022