

STAND OUT

THROW IT OUT.

THE DANGER OF AN OVERDOSE

Abusing a prescription drug puts the consumer at risk for overdose. Overdose happens when a consumer takes a dose of a drug or substance that is excessively higher than the recommended amount, leading to life-threatening symptoms and possibly even death. Is it possible to overdose on stimulants, depressants, and opioids? Yes.

Overdosing on prescription stimulants causes common symptoms like restlessness, tremors, rapid breathing, confusion, aggression, hallucinations, panic states, fever, muscle pains and weakness. It also may cause heart issues, seizures, blood pressure problems, stomach pain, nausea, convulsions, coma, and fatal poisoning. Recommended treatment for a suspected stimulant overdose is to first call 911 and alert emergency responders, then help the patient to stay well-hydrated and as calm as possible.

If a person overdoses on depressants, this can cause their breathing to slow and even stop completely, cutting off oxygen supply to the brain and putting them at risk for permanent brain damage or falling into a coma. If you suspect someone has overdosed on a depressant, call 911 immediately and stay with the affected individual until emergency responders arrive. Keep an eye on the person's body temperature, breathing, and pulse.

The trends in opioid overdoses have begun to climb over the last few years, so it is incredibly important to be aware of the symptoms and treatment. Like depressants, opioid overdose causes the body to slow or stop breathing, threatening coma, brain damage, and death. The priority is to call 911 for emergency dispatch. If you or someone on scene has Naxolone (NARCAN® Nasal Spray), administering this to the individual immediately reverses the effects of the overdose and may just save their life.

If you administer Naxolone to someone you believe to be in overdose, you are protected under Idaho's Good Samaritan Law.

