

ATTENTION SHOPPERS: KEEP YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OUT OF SIGHT



A 52-year-old woman reported to the police that contents in her purse were stolen from her shopping cart. She had walked away from her cart after receiving a call on her cell phone, leaving her purse unattended. When she was about to leave the store, she realized several bottles of prescription medication were missing from her purse. All of her money and credit cards were left in the purse undisturbed.¹

In 2011, 6.1 million Americans took prescription drugs in the past month for nonmedical purposes.² Although most people got these drugs from a friend, relative, or doctor, pharmacies and grocery stores are ideal places for people to steal prescription medication.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration supports the Preventing Prescription Abuse in the Workplace Technical Assistance Center. For more information, contact PAWTArequest@PIRE.org.

Thieves may wait until you are distracted and take your prescription package from your cart or purse. Safeguard them by

- picking up your prescriptions at the end of your shopping trip, and
- keeping prescriptions with you at all times.

Keep your prescriptions safe—and out of the hands of thieves.

Sources:

1. Cleveland Live. "Woman Learns Cold Truth about Crime in the Ice Cream Isle." Brunswick Sun Times. March 26, 2009. <http://www.cleveland.com/nie/index.ssf?/brunswicksun/policeblotter/index.ssf?/base/cops-0/1238038632140360.xml&coll=4>
2. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2012). Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of national findings (HHS Publication No. SMA 12-4713, NSDUH Series H-44). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



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