

PHARMACISTS: WARN YOUR CUSTOMERS ABOUT PRESCRIPTION DRUG THEFT



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 thieves to steal prescription medication.



Customers often place their prescription drugs in the shopping carts while they shop. Thieves will wait until customers are distracted and take the prescription drug package out of a cart or purse.

When customers come to your pharmacy, advise them to keep prescriptions out of sight while shopping or to pick up their prescription last, right before leaving the store.

**Help prevent prescription drug theft.
Make your customers aware!**

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.



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.

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