

Prescription Drugs

Throughout the state, the abuse of prescription drugs continues to be a significant problem. Not only does the abuse of prescription drugs create a health hazard for the users, it creates a financial impact upon the communities. The drugs vary in price and can cost anywhere from one dollar per milligram to two dollars per milligram depending on availability. With the increased demand for the drugs and a shortening of supply, many abusers may not have the money or insurance to pay for their addiction; thus increasing property and violent crimes in these communities. It has been reported that tens of thousands of dollars are being spent to feed this growing abuse and addiction.

The abuse of Oxycontin/Oxycodone and Hydrocodone and other opioid type medications continued to be a significant issue in 2013. These drugs are sought for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system.

Prescription drugs have been linked to the following crimes - homicide, assault, prescription fraud, home invasion thefts and pharmacy robberies. People who are addicted to prescription drugs facilitate their addiction by doctor shopping, pharmacy shopping, forgery, and purchasing the drugs via the internet. Law enforcement is especially concerned for the welfare of particularly vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with severe long-term illnesses such as cancer.

It is the intent of SDEU to increase pressure on those involved in the non-medical use, abuse, and sales of these addictive drugs, by applying tried and true narcotics investigation techniques, and when ever prudent partnering with the DEA to charge these crimes in the federal system.

Hydrocodone seized (dosage units)

2011	2012	2013
1,051	141	1,311

Oxycontin/Oxycodone seized (dosage units)

2011	2012	2013
1,836	609	1,419

All other prescription drugs seized (dosage units)

2011	2012	2013
2,548	2,839	2,485

