



Reducing Illegal Diversion

Independent Pharmacists Illegal Drug Diversion Study

Background:

- Illegal drug diversion is a serious and growing problem today. The Harvard Drug Group commissioned a study among pharmacists across the country to quantify the scope of the issue, gain further insight into the problem and provide a benchmark in the battle against drug diversion.

Methodology:

- Telephone Survey among independent pharmacists across the country
- Study conducted early September 2010

Key Insights:

1. Illegal Drug Diversion is a significant issue across the country.

- 65% of pharmacists are aware of illegal diversion in their area.
- With two out of three aware of illegal drug diversion in their area, this indicates drug diversion is happening in all communities. Illegal drug diversion is not an isolated issue.

2. Pharmacists view illegal drug diversion to be a serious issue.

- Among pharmacists that are aware of illegal drug diversion in their area, 73% view it as a serious issue.

3. Pharmacists would welcome helpful assistance in preventing illegal drug diversion.

- Pharmacists are receiving limited assistance from the government and the industry.
 - 35% - DEA provides helpful assistance in preventing diversion.
 - 29% - Local agency provides helpful assistance in preventing diversion.
 - Less than 5% indicate a drug manufacturer or wholesaler is providing helpful assistance in preventing diversion.

4. While pharmacists are aware of the issue, they are not fully aware of the impact illegal drug diversion is having on society and users.

- Only about half of pharmacists were aware of the following statistics on the impact of illegal drug diversion:
 - 18-25 year-olds are the primary target for prescription drugs.
 - Approximately 7% of the population abuses prescription drugs.
 - Deaths from accidental drug overdoses are the #2 cause of accidental deaths in the US behind vehicle accidents.
 - Overdose deaths from prescription drugs exceed deaths from heroin and cocaine.



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