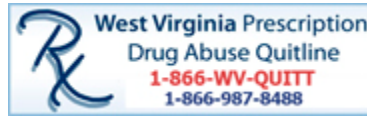


WV Prescription Drug Abuse Quitline Operates Throughout West Virginia



We are delighted to announce new services for prescription drug abusers in the state: the West Virginia Prescription Drug Abuse Quitline launched recently and is ready to help any caller. The phone lines are up and calls are now being accepted.

The Quitline, **1-866-WVQUIT**, works 24 hours a day for 7 days a week. It aims to educate prescription drug abusers and their families about the problem and services in their areas.

Telephone staff Educators can give referrals to treatment centers, provide information about Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and mail self-help materials. They can also make up to four follow-up calls over the course of several months.

Please liberally share this information with any contacts who greet, assist, educate, prescribe to, treat, or counsel West Virginians. Information is also available at: www.wvrxabuse.org.

“Prescription drug abuse in West Virginia is a silent epidemic that is wreaking havoc on communities throughout the state,” said Rolly Sullivan, M.D., co-principal investigator for the Quitline project and medical director of addiction services at WVU.

The greatest increases of deaths from drug overdoses are not in urban areas but in rural areas. In five years (1999-2004), deaths resulting from drug overdose in West Virginia rose 550 percent. This was the largest increase of any state in the country.

The line is funded by a \$1 million grant WVU received from the state’s multimillion dollar OxyContin settlement with Purdue Pharma. For your convenience, the contact at the WVU School of Medicine Department of Community Medicine is Clara Shockley at 304-293-3560.

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