

NATIONAL FACTS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

- ✓ Abusing prescription drugs for the first time before age 16 leads to a greater risk of dependence later in life.

Source: SAMHSA. "Misuse of Prescription Drugs." National Surveys on Drug Use and Health; 2006 Treatment Episode Data Set; 2004

- ✓ Most young people who misuse prescription medications report that they obtain the drugs from friends or family. Many of these medications, particularly prescription painkillers, sit unused and unsecured in medicine cabinets, thereby making them readily available.

- ✓ Unfortunately, young people often mistakenly think these drugs are safer than so-called street drugs.

Source: ONDCP. Fact Sheet, 2009 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health Highlights

- ✓ Opioid painkillers now cause more drug overdose deaths than cocaine and heroin combined.

- ✓ Nearly 1 in 10 high school seniors admits to abusing powerful prescription painkillers. A shocking 40 percent of teens and an almost equal number of their parents think abusing prescription painkillers is safer than abusing "street" drugs.

- ✓ Prescription pain relievers are new drug users' drug of choice, vs. marijuana or cocaine.

Source: http://www.justice.gov/dea/concern/prescription_drug_fact_sheet.html

- ✓ Treatment admissions for opiates other than heroin rose from 19,870 in 1998 to 111,251 in 2008, over a 450-percent increase.

- ✓ The number of fatal poisonings involving prescription opioid analgesics more than tripled from 1999 through 2006, outnumbering total deaths involving heroin and cocaine.

- ✓ The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), which monitors emergency department (ED) visits in selected areas across the Nation, estimates that in 2008, roughly 305,000 ED visits involved nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers; 19,000 involved CNS stimulants; and 325,000 involved CNS depressants (anxiolytics, sedatives, and hypnotics). Over half involved more than one drug. These numbers have more than doubled for pain relievers, and nearly doubled for stimulants and CNS depressants since 2004.

Source: NIDA. Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, September 22, 2010

- ✓ From 2002 to 2009, there were net increases in young adults' past month nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs (from 5.5 to 6.3 percent) and nonmedical use of pain relievers (from 4.1 to 4.8 percent).

Source: SAMSHA. "Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Volume I. Summary of National Findings" September 2010

- ✓ It is estimated that 46 million people in the U.S. have drugs in their drinking water.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26662637/>

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