

Youth Rx Abuse

Recent trends indicate that kids are increasingly misusing prescription (Rx) or over-the-counter (OTC) medicines to get high, stop pain, or do better in school. Teens report getting many of these medications from the home medicine cabinet and mistakenly believe that abusing them is "safer" than other drugs

20% of teens say they have taken a prescription drug without having a prescription for it themselves, and 5% report abusing OTC cough medicine to get high-- surveys from the National Institute on Drug Abuse



Commonly Abused Rx Drugs

- Opioids/pain relievers (painkillers like Vicodin, OxyContin, or codeine)
- Depressants (like those used to relieve anxiety or help a person sleep, such as Valium or Xanax)
- Stimulants (like those used for treating ADHD, such as Adderall and Ritalin)

Why Teens Abuse Rx? Common Misconceptions:

- It's legal
- Fewer side effects than illicit drugs
- Safer than illicit drugs
- Parents don't care as much if you get caught
- Less shame attached

Taking Rx drugs in a way not prescribed by your doctor is DANGEROUS. Abusing Rx drugs can cause severe side-effects and short-term and long-term health problems-- as well as physical dependence and ADDICTION

Help Prevent Rx Abuse!

TALK to your teen

SAFEGUARD your medicine cabinets

SHARE what you have learned

SPEAK UP about the dangers to your community and others active in your teens day-to-day activities



For more information
contact Info@lradac.org
or call
803.726.9411
LRADAC.org