

DRUG FACT SHEET

Prescription Drugs

More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana.

Classes of drug:	Painkillers: Vicodin, Tylenol with Codeine, OxyContin, Percocet Depressants: Klonopin, Nembutal, Soma, Valium, Xanax Stimulants: Adderall, Concerta, Dexedrine, Ritalin
What it looks like:	They come in tablet and capsule form (some depressants are also available in liquid and suppositories). They are taken orally or crushed, dissolved in water and injected.
Sources of drug for nonmedical use:	Of people who abuse prescription painkillers, 56 percent say they get them free from relatives and friends; 19 percent from one doctor; 9 percent bought them from friends or relatives; 5 percent bought from drug dealer; 4 percent stole from friends or relatives and 7 percent from other sources.
Withdrawal symptoms:	Painkillers: Restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia Depressants: Anxiety, irritability, insomnia, nausea, tremors, seizures Stimulants: Mood changes, sleep and appetite disturbances
Effects:	Painkillers: Decrease motor skills and judgment, difficulty breathing, death Depressants: Depressed heart rate, difficulty breathing, death Stimulants: Irregular heart beat, high body temperature, hostility, paranoia, heart failure, fatal seizures



In 2006, more than 2.1 million teens ages 12 to 17 reported abusing prescription drugs. Among 12- and 13 years-olds, prescription drugs are their drug of choice.

Illinois information

More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. Daily, 2,500 youths ages 12 to 17 abuse pain relievers for the first time. 14.9 percent of high school students in Illinois report taking prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription during their lifetime.

(theantidrug.com/ U.S. Centers for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011)

Sources: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Office of Applied Studies, NIDA Info Facts, Office of National Drug Control Policy