Know More.
Do More.

Understanding Substance Misuse in Teens

The facts on teens and prescription drug misuse

These numbers all have names and faces. With our help, our kids can have healthy, happy futures.

13.9% of 12th graders have ever used a prescription drug non-medically

6.8% of 12th graders have used a prescription drug non-medically in the past month.

14.3% of U.S. students have misused a prescription drug in their lifetime.

800,000+ KIDS AGES 12-17

In the United States, about a third of the 2.4 million Americans who used prescription drugs non-medically for the first time, were kids ages 12 to 17.

12.2% of teens have used prescription pain relievers without a doctor's prescription one or more times.

12% were 9th graders
14.6% were 10th graders
10.6% were 11th graders
11.1% were 12th graders

Prescription drugs are among the most commonly used drugs taken non-medically by 12th graders.

About 1 in 13 12th graders used the prescription stimulant Adderal® non-medically in 2020.

Adderall affects chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and lack of impulse control. The drug contains FOUR amphetamines!

Where do teens get prescription drugs?

3.9% FROM A drug dealer

70.9% FROM A friend or relative

20% FROM A doctor

VICODIN **Nearly 1 in 23 12th graders misused the opioid pain reliever Vicodin®.**

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey on Drug Use and Help, Partnership for Drug Free Kids, 2013 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Science and Management of Addiction, The Teen Treatment Center, Addictionsandrecovery.org, The Stand Project

Dublin ACT Coalition

Nationwide Children's

This information was made possible by the Dublin ACT Coalition in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital.