

Prescription Drug Abuse and Teens

Abuse Facts

- The fourth most commonly misused type of addictive substance among teens in the United States is controlled prescription drugs
- The likelihood of misusing controlled prescription drugs nearly doubles between the start and end of high school

Abuse Facts

- Most high school students (90.8%) who have misused controlled prescription drugs also have used other addictive substances
- Among high school students who have ever misused prescription drugs:
 - 86.1% have drunk alcohol
 - 68.5% have smoked a cigarette
 - 63.1% have used marijuana
 - 46.6% have used another illicit drug

Abuse Facts

- Among students who are current misusers of controlled prescription drugs, 72.7% currently use another addictive substance: 60.0% drink, 50.2% smoke, 49.5% use marijuana and 20.4% use other illicit drugs
- The largest percentage of teens say drugs are their top concern, along with other social pressures

Drugs in Schools

- As has been the case since 2007, the percentage of high school students who report attending a drug-infected school (one where teens report that drugs are used, kept or sold on school grounds) exceeds 60%
- This year, almost one in four middle school students say that drugs are used, kept or sold at their school

Trends

- The earlier high school students misuse controlled prescription drugs, the more likely they are to use illicit drugs and develop a substance use disorder

Trends

- Approximately 15.3% of high school students who have misused controlled prescription drugs began before age 13
- The average age of initiation of the misuse of controlled prescription drugs among high school students is 14.2 years old
- The earlier high school students misuse controlled prescription drugs, the more likely they are to use illicit drugs and develop a substance use disorder

Where Do They Get It From?

- In 2009-2010 students aged 12 and older, who used controlled prescription drugs non-medically in the past year, said they received the drug from:
 - **55.3% from a friend or relative for free**
 - **17.6%** from one doctor
 - **4.8%** drug dealer or stranger
 - **.4%** bought over the Internet

Teens and Their Attitudes

- Many teens mistakenly believe that pharmaceuticals are safer than “street drugs” for a variety of reasons:
 - These are medicines
 - They can be obtained from doctors, pharmacies, friends or family members
 - It is not necessary to buy them from traditional “drug dealers”
 - Information on effects of these drugs are widely available

Teens and Their Attitudes

- Every day 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time
- 60% of teens who have abused prescription painkillers did so before age 15
- 56% believe that prescription drugs are easier to get than illegal drugs
- 62% believe that teens get prescription drugs from their own family's medicine cabinet

Prescription Pain Relievers

- Prescription opioids, such as oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet) and hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorecet) are the most widely misused controlled prescription drugs among high school students, constituting 86.9% of prescription drug misuse



Prescription Pain Relievers

Drug Effects

- Effects: Euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea
- Overdose effects: Slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma and possible death
- Street names:
 - Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorecet): Dillies, drugstore heroin
 - Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet): oxycotton, percs, hillbilly heroin

Prescription Stimulants

Drug Effects

- Effects: Short intense periods of high energy
- Overdose effects: Agitation, tremors, euphoria, palpitations, high blood pressure, psychotic episodes, paranoid delusions and hallucinations
- Street names:
 - Ritalin: pellets, skippy, r-ball, vitamin r
 - Dexedrine: dexies, Christmas trees, beans
 - Adderall: bennies, black beauties, cartwheels, crosstops

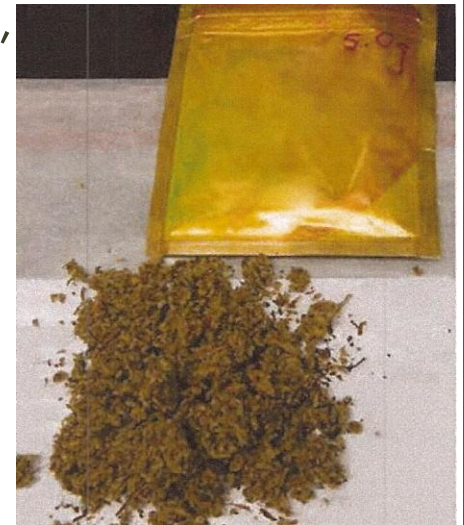
Prescription Depressants

Drug Effects

- Effects: Amnesia, hostility, irritability, vivid or disturbing dreams, tolerance and physical dependence
- Overdose effects: Shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, possible death
- Street names:
 - Valium: vals, valley girls
 - Xanax: xannies, bars, x-boxes, coffins

Synthetic Stimulants

- **K2/Spice**: mixture of herbs and spices that is sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana
- Commonly purchased in head shops, tobacco shops and over the Internet
- Suspected country of origin is China



Synthetic Stimulants

K2/Spice

- Typically sold in small silvery plastic bags of dried leaves and marketed as incense; resembles potpourri in appearance
- Usually smoked in joints or pipes, but some users make it into a tea
- Common street names: Bliss, Black Mamba, Bombay Blue, Fake Weed, Spice, Zohai

Synthetic Stimulants

Drug Effects - K2/Spice

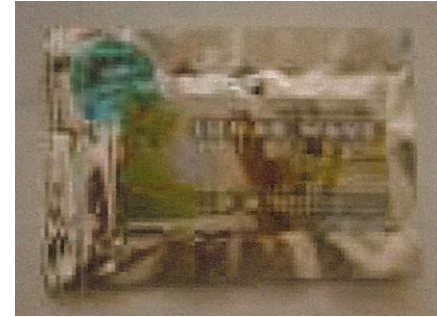
- Paranoia, panic attacks, increased heart rate, increase in blood pressure
- Currently no reported deaths by overdose

Synthetic Stimulants

- **Bath Salts:** chemical synthetic stimulants
- Chemicals which are synthetic derivatives of cathinone, a central nervous system stimulant which is an active chemical found naturally in the khat plant
- Bath Salts sold in powder form in small plastic or foil packages of 200 and 500 milligrams under various brand names

Synthetic Stimulants

Bath Salts



- Usually ingested by sniffing/snorting
- Can also be taken orally, smoked or put into a solution and injected into veins
- Common street names: Blue Silk, Cloud Nine, Energy-1, Ivory Wave, Lunar Wave, Meow Meow, Vanilla Sky, Stardust, White Lightening

Synthetic Stimulants

Drug Effects – Bath Salts

- Agitation, insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, paranoia, delusions, suicidal thoughts, seizures, panic attacks
- Impaired perception of reality, reduced motor control, decreased ability to think clearly
- Rapid heart rate, chest pains, nosebleeds, sweating, nausea, vomiting

Questions?

Check out the DEA website

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com