Prescription Drug Abuse

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/prescriptiondrugabuse.html

Most people take medicines only for the reasons their doctors prescribe them. But an estimated 20 percent of people in the United States have used prescription drugs for nonmedical reasons. This is prescription drug abuse. It is a serious and growing problem.

Abusing some prescription drugs can lead to addiction. You can develop an addiction to:

- Narcotic painkillers
- Sedatives and tranquilizers
- Stimulants

Experts don’t know exactly why this type of drug abuse is increasing. The availability of drugs is probably one reason. Doctors are prescribing more drugs for more health problems than ever before. Online pharmacies make it easy to get prescription drugs without a prescription, even for youngsters.

*NIH: National Institute on Drug Abuse*

**Start Here**

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/publicaciones/drugfacts/los-medicamentos-con-y-sin-prescripcian-medica]

**Overviews**


**Latest News**


**Treatment**

- Facts about Buprenorphine for Treatment of Opioid Addiction [http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA09-4442/SMA09-4442.pdf] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - PDF
- Facts about Naltrexone for Treatment of Opioid Addiction [http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA12-
Prevention/Screening


Specific Conditions

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/anabolicsteroids.html]

Related Issues

- Combating Misuse and Abuse of Prescription Drugs [http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm220112.htm] Food and Drug Administration

Tutorials

- Get Smart About Drugs - Your Home [http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/your_home.html] Drug Enforcement Administration

Games


Research

(National Institute on Drug Abuse)

**Journal Articles**

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

**Directories**
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator [http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/TreatmentLocator/faces/quickSearch.jspx] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

**Organizations**
- Drug Enforcement Administration [http://www.justice.gov/dea/]
- Food and Drug Administration [http://www.fda.gov/]
- National Institute on Drug Abuse [http://www.drugabuse.gov/] **NIH** 
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/inicio]
- Partnership at Drugfree.org [http://www.drugfree.org/] (Partnership for a Drug-Free America)

**Statistics**
- CDC Vital Signs: Prescription Painkiller Overdoses [http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/PrescriptionPainkillerOverdoses/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- CDC Vital Signs: Prescription Painkiller Overdoses in the US [http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/PainkillerOverdoses/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Emergency Department Visits Involving Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Stimulant Medications [http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k13/DAWN073/sr073-ADD-ADHD-medications.htm] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Emergency Department Visits Involving Drug Misuse or Abuse by Children Aged 12 to 14 [http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k12/DAWN_Short_Report_058/DAWNSR058EDAges12to142012.htm] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Non-Medical Use and Abuse: Prescription-Type and Over-the-Counter Drugs [http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/prescription.htm] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Trends in Emergency Department Visits Involving Nonmedical Use of Narcotic Pain Relievers [http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/DAWN016/OpioidED.htm] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Trends in Prescription Drug Abuse [http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/prescription-
drugs/trends-in-prescription-drug-abuse] NIH (National Institute on Drug Abuse)


MedlinePlus Magazine


Teenagers

  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/drogas/prescription_drug_abuse_esp.html]

Seniors


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The primary NIH organization for research on Prescription Drug Abuse is the National Institute on Drug Abuse [http://www.nida.nih.gov/]

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