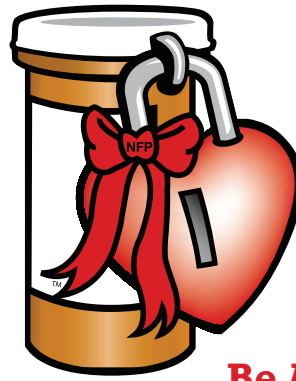


PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MISUSE FACTS



LOCK YOUR MEDS

Be Aware. Don't Share.

- **Every day**, more than **4,000 children and young adults** begin experimenting with prescription drugs (*SAMSHA, 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*);
- **The trend on Long Island** mirrors a national rise in prescription pain drug addiction. Health experts say it is the fastest-growing drug problem in America, ranking only behind alcohol and marijuana as the most-abused substance (*Newsday, July 20, 2010*);
- **70% of children** who abuse prescription drugs get them from family or friends (*SAMHSA 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health 9/07*);
- **Nearly one in five (19 percent or 4.5 million) teens** has tried prescription medication (pain relievers such as Vicodin® and OxyContin®; stimulants like Ritalin® and Adderall®) to get high and **one in 10 (10 percent or 2.4 million) teens** report abusing cough medicine to get high; (*Partnership for a Drug Free America, 2006 Partnership Attitude Tracking Survey (PATS)*);
- **Two in five teens (40 percent or 9.4 million)** believe the myth that Rx medicines, even if they are not prescribed by a doctor, are “much safer” to use than illegal drugs (*Partnership for a Drug Free America, 2006 Partnership Attitude Tracking Survey (PATS)*);
- **Nearly one-third of teens (31 percent or 7.3 million)** believe there’s “nothing wrong” with using Rx medicines without a prescription “once in a while” and **nearly three out of 10 teens (29 percent or 6.8 million)** believe prescription pain relievers—even if not prescribed by a doctor—are not addictive; (*Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine, December 2008*);
- **Among teens, 13 is the mean age of first non-prescribed use of sedatives and stimulants.** Sixty percent of teens (12-17) who have abused prescription painkillers first tried them before age 15. (*ONDCP, Prescription for Danger, January 2008*).

