

Rx Abuse Statistics

- Overdose deaths involving prescription drugs in the US have **more than tripled** since 1990
- Each day in the US, **2,500 youth** ages 12-17 abuse a prescription painkiller for the first time
- The number of Americans who abuse prescription drugs is greater than the those who abuse cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, and heroin combined
- According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, teenagers who abuse prescription drugs are **twice as likely** to abuse alcohol



Find treatment near you:

1-877-822-7504

Visit us at:

ALLTREATMENT.com



Facebook.com/AllTreatment



Twitter.com/AllTreatment

This brochure is not intended as a substitute for
your health care professional's opinion or care

ALL  TREATMENT



Prescription Drug Abuse

Facts, Treatment, and Prevention

What is prescription drug abuse?

In our modern world, there exists a myriad of prescription medications, and countless doctors eager to prescribe them. Unfortunately, the number of individuals who are susceptible to abusing prescription drugs is so high that **the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have named it an epidemic**. The National Institute on Drug Abuse defines prescription drug abuse as “the use of a medication without a prescription, in a way other than as prescribed, or for the experience or feelings elicited.” Commonly abused drugs in this category include **opioids** like Oxycontin, **central nervous system depressants** like Xanax, and **stimulants** like Adderall.



Signs of Abuse

Simply being prescribed a medication does not put someone at risk for addiction. However, recognizing the signs of abuse is essential in its prevention. If you believe that you or someone you know may be abusing a prescription medication, keep an eye out for the following signs:

- Excessive mood swings or irritability
- Impulsive behavior
- Frequently “losing” prescriptions
- Taking higher doses than prescribed
- Doctor shopping (seeking prescriptions from multiple physicians)
- Stealing medications and cash from family members or housemates

- Store pill bottles out of reach of children and visitors
- Ask your doctor about the effects of each medication they prescribe to you, and carefully follow their directions for use
- Do not share your medicine with anyone—it is illegal, and you could be contributing to another’s addiction
- If you order prescriptions online, only do so from a trustworthy pharmacy
- Properly dispose of any leftover medication (check your patient information guide for instructions)

Treatment

Prescription drug addiction is not easy to overcome. But, with the help of an addiction specialist, recovery can be yours.

Inpatient facilities, outpatient programs, counseling services, and detox centers are available nationwide that cater specifically to prescription drug addiction. Find your path to recovery at www.AllTreatment.com.

Prevention

Families, healthcare professionals, and individuals all have the responsibility to prevent prescription drug abuse and addiction. To keep your family safe and ensure that you are taking your own medicine safely, follow these guidelines:

