

Prescription Drug Abuse FAST FACTS

Prescription drug abuse is an epidemic in America, including Pennsylvania. In October 2013, a national study revealed that Pennsylvania ranks 14th in the nation in the number of drug overdose deaths. There has been an 89 percent increase in the number of drug overdose deaths between 1999 - 2010.

- ✓ 3 million teenagers will become new prescription drug abusers this year. *(America's Addiction To Illicit Drugs Declining And Prescription Painkiller Abuse Growing, Narcanon Drug Education & Rehabilitation).*
- ✓ In 2010, the number of deaths from prescription opioids was greater than the number of deaths from heroin and cocaine overdoses combined. *(Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic; Trust for America's Health.)*
- ✓ In Pennsylvania, the drug overdose death rate (15.3) was greater than the motor vehicle death rate (11.0) in 2010. *(Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic; Trust for America's Health.)*
- ✓ Nearly one-third of those aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time in 2009 began by using a prescription drug non-medically. *(Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, SAMHSA).*
- ✓ More than a quarter of teens (27 percent) mistakenly believe that misusing and abusing prescription drugs is safer than using street drugs. *(2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, The Partnership for Drug Free America.).*
- ✓ One in four teens has misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime – a 33% increase over the past 5 years. *(2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, The Partnership for Drug Free America).*
- ✓ One third of teens say they believe that it is okay to use prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them to deal with an injury, illness or physical pain. *(2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, The Partnership for Drug Free America).*
- ✓ 20 percent of Americans over the age of 12 have admitted to abusing prescription drugs. *(America's Addiction To Illicit Drugs Declining And Prescription Painkiller Abuse Growing, Narcanon Drug Education & Rehabilitation).*

