



LEARN ABOUT THE MISUSE/ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Prescription drugs are the 2nd most commonly used substance among high school students in NYC after marijuana.

7% of NYC High School students (1 in 14 students) reported misusing opioid painkillers in the past year. It's an epidemic that has fueled an illegal prescription drug trade.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse of Columbia University states that teens who abuse prescription drugs are twice more likely to use alcohol, 5 times more likely to use marijuana, and 12 to 20 times more likely to use illegal street drugs such as heroin, ecstasy, and cocaine than teens who do not abuse prescription drugs.

WARNING SIGNS OF POSSIBLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Physical Signs

- Dramatic changes in behavior and appearance
- Pinpoint pupils, Bloodshot eyes
- Tremors, slurred speech, or impaired coordination

Behavioral Signs

- Drop in attendance from school
- Involved in secretive or suspicious behaviors
- Frequently getting into trouble (ex., fights, accidents, and illegal activities)

Psychological Signs

- Sudden mood swings, irritability, or angry outburst
- Lack of motivation; appears lethargic or "out of it"
- Periods of unusual hyperactivity, agitation, or giddiness

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Telephone Numbers

1-800-LIFENET

1-855-DRUGFREE

Websites

www.drugabuse.gov

www.samhsa.gov

TO LEARN MORE

The School Safety Community Outreach Unit offers an interactive PowerPoint presentation to bring awareness to this growing epidemic of the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs.

To schedule a presentation or for more information please call (718) 730-8550 or visit our website www.nypdcommunityaffairs.org