



PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION ABUSE

Many of us have come home from a doctor visit or dental procedure with a large prescription of pain medication. We've been told to stay ahead of the pain. Both of these things can be good and serve a purpose, but unfortunately can lead to bigger problems. No one is immune.

MISUSE OF MEDICATION

- taking a medication in a manner or dose other than prescribed
- taking someone else's prescription, even if for a legitimate medical complaint such as pain
- taking a medication to get high

MEDICATION MOST COMMONLY MISUSED

1. **Opioids**
 - hydrocodone (Vicodin)
 - oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet)
 - codeine
 - fentanyl
2. **Central nervous system depressants**
 - alprazolam (Xanax)
 - diazepam (Valium)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin)
 - riazolam (Halcion)
3. **Stimulants**
 - amphetamine (Adderall XR)
 - methylphenidate (Concerta)
 - methylphenidate (Ritalin)
 - methylphenidate (Focalin XR)

80 percent of people who used heroin first misused prescription opioids.

Addiction to opioids can occur within only a few days.

HOW DID OPIOIDS BECOME SO ACCESSIBLE?

Watch this!

<https://youtu.be/GOsWnVtGU10>

SIGNS OF ADDICTION

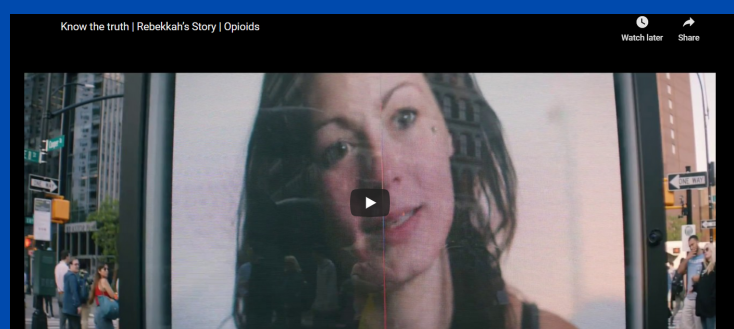
- Stealing, forging or selling prescriptions
- **Missing medications**
- Running out of medications too quickly
- Taking higher doses than prescribed
- Excessive mood swings or hostility
- Increase or decrease in sleep
- Poor decision-making
- Appearing to be high, unusually energetic or reved up, or sedated
- **Requesting early refills or continually "losing" prescriptions, so more prescriptions must be written**
- Seeking prescriptions from more than one doctor

THE NUMBERS

- Misuse of prescription drugs is highest among young adults ages 18 to 25
- After alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco, prescription drugs (taken nonmedically) are among the most commonly used drugs by 12th graders
- The majority of overdose deaths, almost 70% in 2018, involved opioids
- 2/3 of deaths from opioid overdose were caused from synthetic opioids (Fentanyl, Tramadol)

OFTEN, AN OPIOID ADDICTION BEGINS WITH A PRESCRIPTION FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT OR SURGERY

WATCH REBEKKAH'S STORE HERE:
<https://www.thetruth.com/video/rebekkah-s-story>



RESOURCES

<https://truthinitiative.org/>
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/overview>
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prescription-drug-abuse/symptoms-causes/syc-20376813>
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/what-scope-prescription-drug-misuse>

LOOKING FOR HELP?

<https://www.councilonrecovery.org/>
Contact for Assessment & Referral