

# Generation Rx

Preventing the Misuse and Abuse  
of Prescription Medications

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## Presenters

Name

Name

Date



Youth program

# Prescription for Danger

The stats, myths,  
and risks of  
prescription drug  
abuse



# What do you think?

Approximately how many prescriptions are **purchased** in the U.S. each year?

1. 3,800
2. 380,000
3. 3.8 million
4. **3.8 billion**
5. 3.8 trillion



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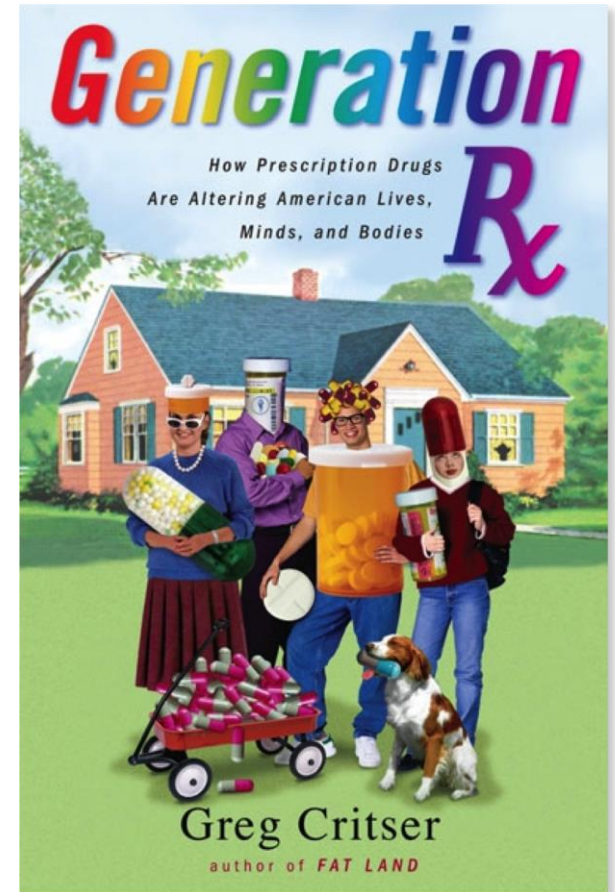
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# Generation Rx

- Pharmaceutical Populism
- ...a growing culture of self-diagnosis and prescription



# What do you think?

About how many Americans (age 12 or older) **abused a prescription medication** in a year?

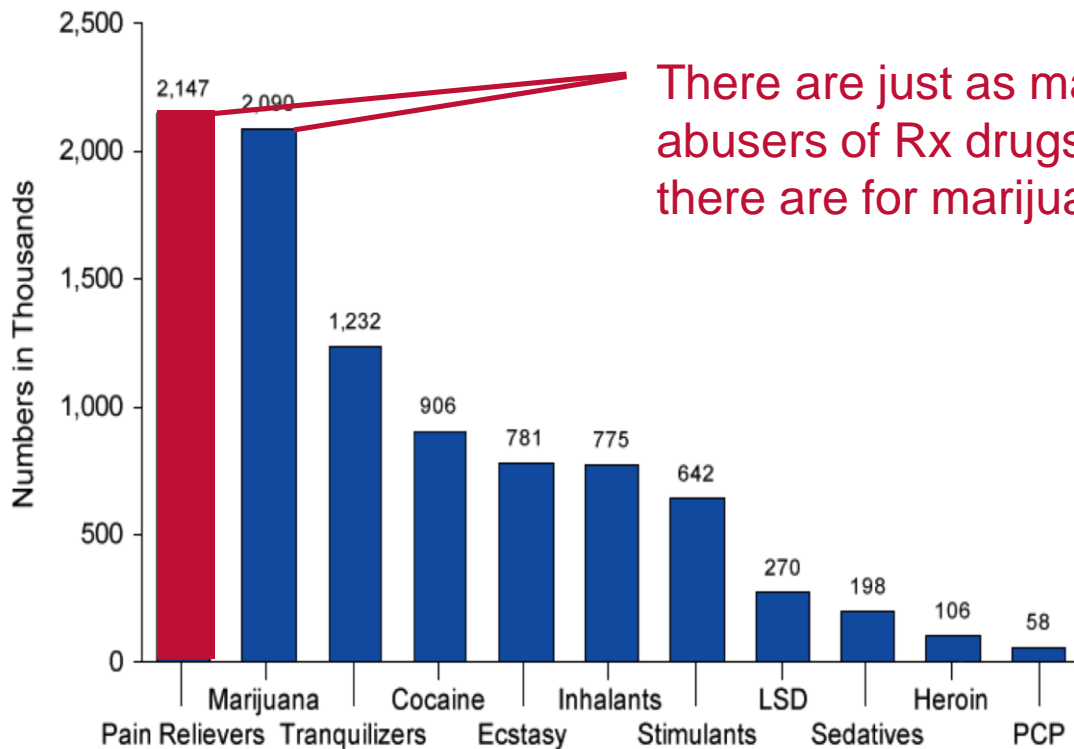
1. 7,000
2. 70,000
3. 700,000
4. **7 million**
5. 70 million



# Stats and Trends

## Prescription for Danger

In 2007, nearly **7 million** people abused prescription medications. This exceeds that for ALL street drugs (except marijuana) combined.

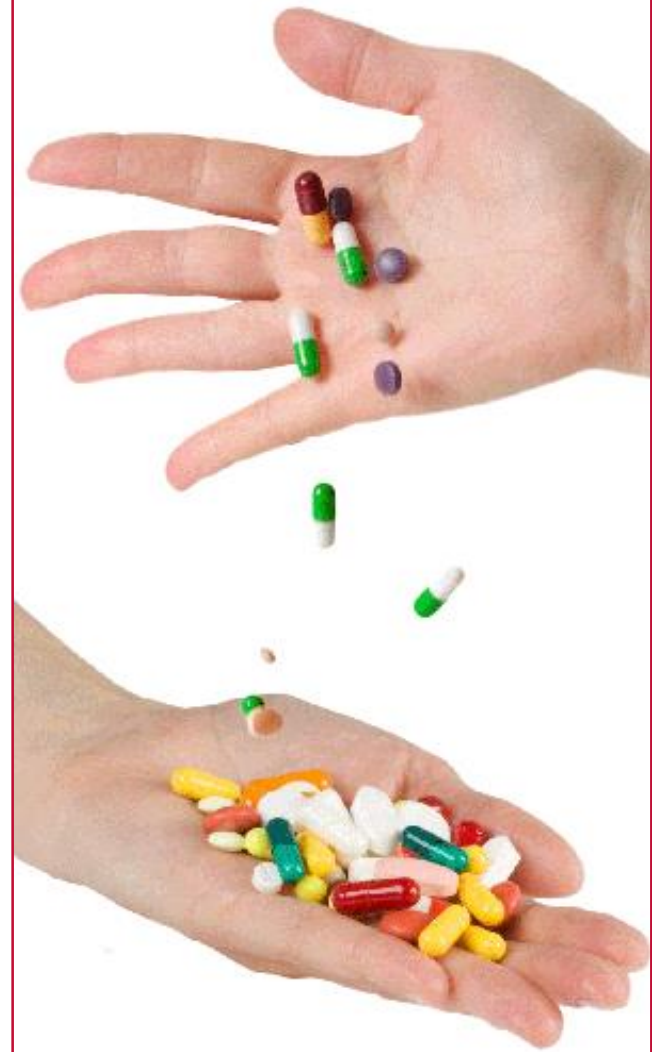


(Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2007)

# What do you think?

Which behavior(s) is considered **prescription drug abuse**?

1. Taking a prescription drug that was not prescribed for you
2. Taking more of a prescription drug than you're supposed to
3. Taking a prescription drug for a reason other than you're supposed to
4. **All of the above**





# What do you think?

Are **teens** a part of this problem?

1. Yes
2. No

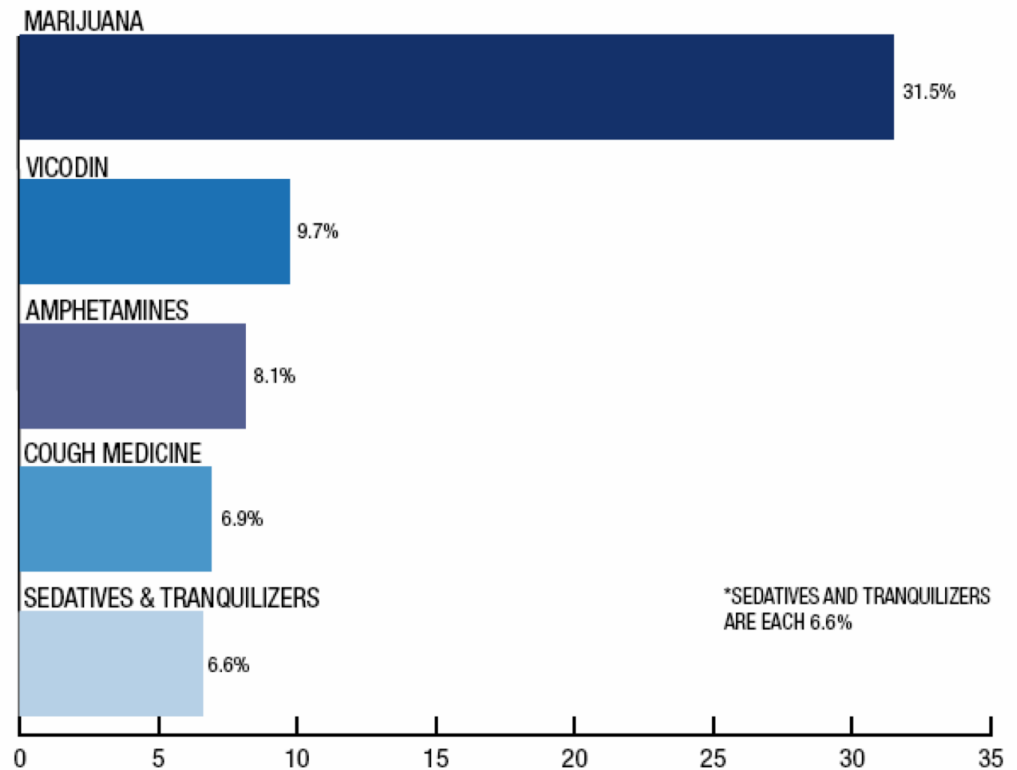


# Stats and Trends

## Prescription for Danger

Top five drugs used by 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the past year

Marijuana remains the only “street” drug whose use exceeds that of Rx drugs.



\*Monitoring the Future study, The University of Michigan, 2006

# Stats and Trends

- **Nearly 1 in 5** teens report abusing medications that were not prescribed to them.
- **1 in 3** teens reports knowing someone who abuses Rx drugs
- Every day, **2,500 youth** (aged 12-17) abuse a prescription pain reliever for the **very first time**

*\*Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2008*

# What do you think?

**Why** do teens abuse prescription drugs?

1. To get high
2. To relieve pain
3. To improve grades
4. To “fit in”
5. **All of the above**



# Stats and Trends

## Prescription for Danger

- Teens admit to abusing Rx medicine **for reasons other than getting high** (e.g. pain relief, anxiety, increase alertness)
- More than **one-third of teens** say they feel some pressure to abuse Rx drugs
- Nearly 10% say using Rx drugs is **an important part of fitting in with their friends**

(Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2007)

# What do you think?

When **justifying** their prescription drug abuse, what reasons do teens give?

1. “Rx drugs can’t be dangerous.”
2. “Rx drugs can’t be addictive.”
3. “It’s legal.”
4. **All of the above**

# Stats and Trends

## Prescription for Danger

- **40%** of teens consider the abuse of prescription drugs to be much safer than street drugs
- **29%** believe prescription pain relievers are not addictive.

\*PATS, 2006



# Prescription for Danger - **Summary**

- In terms of abuse, prescription drugs **are not safe alternatives** to street drugs
- **Addiction** can occur just as easily with prescription drugs as it does with street drugs.
- Possessing a Rx drug without a prescription is **illegal** and a **felony offense** (punishable by jail time)



# Questions or comments

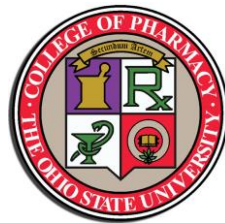
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Developed by  
The Ohio State University  
College of Pharmacy



This program is made possible  
with a grant from the  
Cardinal Health Foundation



**Youth program**