

## WHAT ARE TEENS UP TOO NOW? USING ILLEGAL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.

Using prescription medication is on the rise! This includes:

**Pain killers (OxyContin, Percocet)**

**Antianxiety medications (Valium, Xanax)**

**Stimulant medications (Ritalin, Adderall, Concerta, Medidate)**

### QUOTES

One mother from Texas said “I couldn’t believe it; I found a little blue pill in my son’s *blue jeans*.”

A Miami father said, “My son started to steal money to buy his friends medication.”

“My daughter was selling her medication for at least a year before I caught her” said a St. Louis mother of four.

Today, I will concentrate on a more prevalent abuse—**STIMULANTS**.

The percentages seem small but there are BIG!

### FACTS:

- 50% Junior and Senior High school students have see a peer being asked to sell or give away their medication.
- 16 % of Junior and senior high school students have been approached to sell, give, or trade their medications

## New Findings

National Survey on Drug Use and Health—50,000 person sample.

- 3% percent of 12-17 years olds have misused a stimulant at least once.  
**{3 % is about 1-2 classmates in every class.}**
- 75,000 teens will have **Abuse** diagnoses and 25, 000 will have **Dependence** diagnoses.  
**{Dependence is a more serious diagnoses---withdrawal symptoms, can stop or cut back, activities are neglected.}**
- About 11% of teenagers who are given a stimulant prescription sell their medication.

## **WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO?**

1. Kid should not get their own medications. IT'S THE PARENT JOB.
2. Any child or teenager who has medications for psychiatric problems, especially stimulant medications that treat ADHD/ADD, should be given there medications by their parents. Doctor should order this!
3. Keep medication locked up in a simple safe.
4. What out for any pills in your kid's cloths or in their room.
5. Take any pill to your pharmacists, they can identify it easily!

## **WATCH OUT FOR THESE SYMPTOMS...**

- For pain killers and antianxiety medications: **FATIGUE, SLEEPINESS**
- For stimulant abuse watch for sleeping patterns changing, i.e, **AWAKE ALL NIGHT; INCREASED ANGER.**