

# The Streets Aren't The Only Place Kids Find Drugs



**STOP Prescription Drug  
Abuse In The Flathead  
Coalition**



**Sometimes They Find Them Right At Home.  
Who's In Your Medicine Cabinet?**

# Who's In Your Medicine Cabinet?

Every day, nationwide, 2,500 teenagers begin abusing prescription drugs to get high or to help them with a specific problem, such as lessening anxiety, staying awake to study, or losing weight. Each year prescription drug abuse contributes to the death of more than 300 Montanans, and Montana teens report the third highest rate of prescription drug abuse in the nation. Additionally, 18% of Montana's Middle and High School students report abusing prescription drugs.

***Teens are accessing prescription drugs most frequently from a home medicine cabinet or from a friend or family member. Prescription drugs don't hold the same stigma as illegal recreation drugs, even though they can be just as deadly, leading teens to regard them as a "safe" way to get high.***

The risks of your teens misusing and abusing prescription drugs are both immediate and long term. Immediate concerns include overdosing (especially on prescription pain relievers) which can be fatal, as can mixing prescription drugs with over-the-counter medication and/or alcohol. In the long term, prescription opioids (pain relievers) are potentially addictive and can lead to a life-long pattern of dependency. Teen misuse and abuse of prescription drugs (as well as marijuana and alcohol) can adversely affect youth brain development, which may impact your teen's education and employment potential. It can also lead to serious problems for teens, such as impaired driving accidents, criminal mischief and truancy, to name just a few.

***Parents – please listen to your teen and pay attention to who they are hanging out with. Keep your prescription drugs LOCKED UP in a safe place, and watch for abnormal behavior in your own teen.***



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