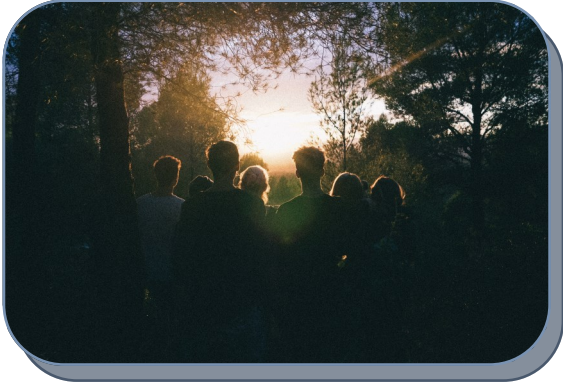


What's the Big Deal?

Prescription pills are safer than “street drugs,” right? Take a look at the possible consequences and decide for yourself.

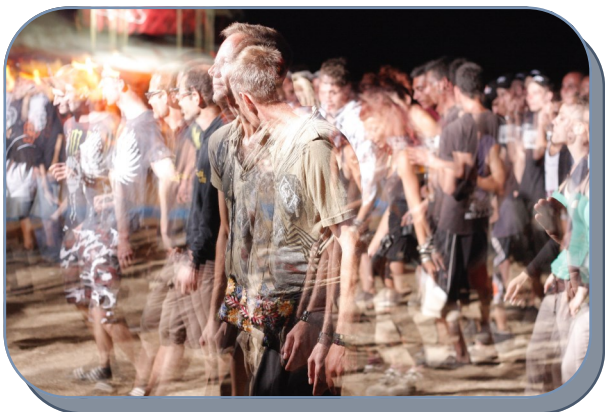


Abusing Pills Can Hurt Your Family

When a family member uses drugs, it affects the whole family. You may become rebellious and disrespectful with your parents and siblings. You may verbally and physically assault others. You may start stealing things from your family or others to pay for drugs.

Abusing Pills Can Affect Your Health

After alcohol and marijuana, pills are the most commonly abused substance. When abused, pills can cause many different health problems, depending on the pill. They can make it hard to breathe properly, make you feel paranoid, cause your body temperature to go dangerously high, make your heart beat too fast, cause slurred speech, and lack of coordination. In addition to these side effects, many prescription pills are addictive.



Abusing Pills Can Lead to Accidental Overdose

Drug overdose happens. Depending on the drug, symptoms can include trouble breathing, convulsions, vomiting, or unconsciousness. Some people are lucky and they come out of it okay. Other times they come out of their overdose with physical or mental problems. The worst cases end in coma or death.

Abusing Pills Costs Money

Using drugs costs money. Depending on what drugs you use, they can cost anywhere from <\$100 to several thousand per month. It's hard to hold down a job if you have a pill problem, so users may steal to trade for drugs, mortgage their house, sell their valuables, or run up credit card debt.



Abusing Pills Can Affect Your Future

Using drugs can affect all parts of your life—your health, your social life, your family, your grades, and your future. An addiction can change the course of your life. It affects your potential for college and for jobs. If you are caught driving under the influence of pills, you face the same consequences as if you were caught driving under the influence of alcohol. If you are caught with an illegal prescription, you face many legal consequences that could remain on your record for good.

People take drugs because they want to change something in their life. They want to fit in. They want to escape or relax. They want to experiment. They want to legitimately relieve pain, but end up getting hooked. Difficult as it may be to face one's problems, the consequences of drug use are always worse than the problem you are trying to solve. The real answer is to get the facts and make the best choice to protect your future.

Choose family. Choose fresh air. Choose adrenaline. Choose anything but drugs.