

JUST THE FACTS

Prescription Drugs

Prescription drugs are stronger than other drugs and you need a prescription from a doctor to get them. They can be very addictive, especially when misused.

Identification

Street Names:

Sleeping pills, Captain Cody, Perks, Uppers, Special K

What Do They Look Like?

Most prescription drugs come in pill form.

How're They Used?

Users typically swallow prescription drugs, but there are some that are liquids.

What Do They Do?

Depressants are prescribed for psychotic patients who need to be tranquilized. Antidepressants are given to people who suffer from depression. Painkillers are for people who have extreme physical pain. When a person becomes addicted to their prescribed drugs and can't manage their symptoms on their own, it becomes a serious problem.

Prescription Drug Misuse and the Law

Anyone who uses a drug in a way that is not how their doctor told them, is committing prescription drug misuse. If you're caught misusing your prescriptions while driving, you can be arrested for a DUI. If you're caught using a prescription that is not yours, you could be sent to jail.

Facts about Prescription Drugs

- Deaths from prescribed painkillers are higher than deaths from cocaine and heroin combined.
- 52 million people over the age of 12 have used prescription drugs for a non-medical reason.
- Over 50% of prescription drugs are given to a person by their friend or relative.



Side Effects

Side Effects of Prescription Painkiller Abuse:

- Drowsiness
- Slowed breathing
- Constipation
- Nausea
- Death
- Withdrawal symptoms include insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, and cold flashes

Side Effects of Prescription Depressant Abuse:

- Lower pulse and breathing
- Fatigue
- Weight gain
- Fever
- Dizziness

Tips if you are prescribed drugs:

- Sharing is definitely not caring. Your prescription was given to you for you.
- Only take what is prescribed to you by your doctor. If you have a history of drug dependence, ask your doctor to start you on a weaker dose.
- If you start to feel dependent, talk to your doctor immediately.
- Have a parent or guardian be in charge of giving you your medication.