DRUG GUIDE FOR PARENTS: LEARN THE FACTS TO KEEP YOUR TEEN SAFE

































| Important to Know | Signs of Abuse | Teen Usage (Grades 9-12) | Dangerous Because | What Teens Have Heard | How It's Used/Abused | Looks Like | Street Names / Commercial | |
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| Being a child of an alcoholic places children at greater risk for developing alcohol problems | Slurred speech, lack of coordination, nausea, vomiting, hangovers | 1 in 2 teens drank alcohol in the last year | Impairs reasoning, clouds judgement. Long-term heavy drinking can lead to alcoholism and liver and heart disease | Makes a boring night fun | Alcohol is drunk | Liquid (types include beer, wine, liquor) | Booze | Alcohol |
| Cocaine is one of the most powerfully addictive drugs | Nervous behavior, restlessness, bloody noses, high energy | 1 in 9 teens has abused cocaine or crack in their lifetime | Can cause heart attacks, strokes and seizures. In rare cases, sudden death on the first use | Keeps you amped up; you'll be the life of the party | Cocaine can be snorted or injected; crack can be smoked | White crystalline powder, chips, chunks or white rocks | Big C, Blow, Bump, Coke, Nose Candy, Rock, Snow | Cocaine/Crack |
| The "high" from cough medicine is caused by ingesting a large amount of dextromethorphan (DXM), a common active ingredient | Slurred speech, loss of coordination, disorientation, vomiting | 1 in 8 teens has abused cough medicine in their lifetime | Can cause abdominal pain, extreme nausea, liver damage | Causes a trippy high with various plateaus | Swallowed | Liquid, pills, powder, gel caps | Dex, Red Devils, Robo, Triple C, Tussin, Skittles, Syrup | Cough Medicine/DXM |
| Can be addictive. A popular club drug because of its stimulant properties which allow users to dance for long periods of time | Teeth clenching, chills, sweating, dehydration, anxiety, unusual displays of affection | I in 8 teens has abused Ecstasy in their lifetime | Can cause severe dehydration, liver and heart failure and even death | Enhances the senses and you'll love everyone | Swallowed | Branded tablets (Playboy bunnies, Nike swoosh) | Adam, Bean, E, Roll, X, XTC | Ecstasy/MDMA |
| Heroin overdose is a particular risk on the street, where the purity of the drug cannot be accurately known | Track marks on arms, slowed and slurred speech, vomiting | 1 in 20 teens has abused heroin in their lifetime | Chronic heroin users risk death by overdose | Full-on euphoria, but super risky | Injected, smoked, freebased or snorted | White to dark brown powder or tar-like substance | Big H, Black Tar, Dope, Junk, Skunk, Smack | Heroin |
| More than 1000 common products are potential inhalants that can kill on the first use or any time thereafter | Missing household products, a drunk, dazed or dizzy appearance | 1 in 6 teens has abused inhalants in their lifetime | Chronic exposure can produce significant damage to the heart, lungs, liver and kidneys. Can induce death | A cheap, 20-minute high | Inhaled through nose or mouth | Paint thinners, glues, nail polish remover, whipped cream aerosal, air conditioner fluid (Freon) and more | Whippets, Bagging, Huffing, Poppers, Snappers, Dusting | Inhalants |
| Contray to popular belief, marijuana can be addictive | Slowed thinking and reaction time, impaired coordination, paranoia | 1 in 3 teens has abused marijuana in their lifetime | Can cause memory and learning problems, hallucinations, delusions and depersonalization | Relaxing, not dangerous and often easier to get than alcohol | Smoked, brewed into tea or mixed into foods | A green or gray mixture of dried, shredded flowers and leaves of the hemp plant | Blunt, Boom, Dope, Grass, Hash, Herb, Mary Jane, Pot, Reefer, Skunk, Weed | Marijuana |
| Meth has a high potential for abuse and addiction, putting children at risk, increasing crime and causing environmental harm | Nervous physical activity, scabs and open sores, decreased appetite, inability to sleep | I in 14 teens has abused methamphetamine in their lifetime | Chronic long-term use, or high dosages, can cause psychotic behavior (including paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, violent behavior, insomnia and strokes) | Can keep you going for days | Swallowed, injected, snorted or smcked | White or slightly yellow crystal-like powder, large rock-like chunks | Ice, Chalk, Crank, Crystal, Fire, Glass, Meth, Speed | Methamphetamine |
| Abusing prescription painkillers is just as dangerous, addictive and deadly as using heroin | Medicine bottles present without illness, Rx bottles missing, disrupted eating and sleeping patterns | I in 5 teens has abused prescription pain relievers in their lifetime | A large single dose can cause severe respiratory depression that can lead to death | A free high, straight from the medicine cabinet | Swallowed or injected | Tablets and capsules | Codeine OxyContin (Oxy, O.C.), Percocet (Percs), Vicodin (Vike, Vitamin V) | Prescription Pain Relievers |
| Using prescription sedatives and tranquilizers with alcohol can slow both the heart and respiration and possibly lead to death | Slurred speech, shallow breathing, shallow breathing, sluggishness, discrientation, lack of coordination | 1 in 11 12th graders has abused seda- tives and/or tranquil- izers in their lifetime | Slows down the brain's activity and when a user stops taking them, there can be a rebound effect, possibly leading to seizures and other harmful consequences | A great release of tension | Swallowed or injected | Multi-colored tablets and capsules; some can be in liquid form | Mebaral, Quaaludes, Xanax, Valium | Prescription Sedatives and/or Tranquilizers |
| Many teens abuse this prescribed medication to help them cram for exams or suppress their appetite | Lack of appetite, increased alertness, attention span and energy | 1 in 10 teens has abused Ritalin or Adderall in their lifetime | Taking high doses may result in dangerously high body temperatures and an irregular heartbeat. Potential for heart attacks or lethal seizures | Keeps you attentive and focused | Swallowed, injected or snorted | Tablets and capsules | Adderall, Dexedrine, Ritalin | Prescription Stimulants |
| Teens who abuse steroids before the typical adolescent growth spurt risk staying short and never reaching their full adult height | Rapid growth of muscles, opposite sex characteris- tics and extreme irritability | 1 in 20 teens has abused steroids in their lifetime | Boys can develop breasts, girls can develop facial hair and a deepened voice. Can cause heart attacks and strokes | Will guarantee a spot on the starting lineup | Swallowed, applied to skin or injected | Tablet, liquid or skin application | Juice, Rhoids, Stackers, Pumpers, Gym Candy | Steroids |
| Secondhand smoke contributes to more than 35,000 deaths related to cardiovascular disease | Smell on clothes and hair, yellowing of teeth and fingers that hold cigarettes | 1 in 4 teens smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days | Cigarette smoking harms every organ in the body and causes coronary heart disease, and stroke, as well as many forms of cancer | An oral fixation and appetite suppressant | Smoked or chewed | Brown, cut up leaves | Cancer Sticks, Chew, Cigarettes, Dip, Fags, Smokes | Tobacco |

