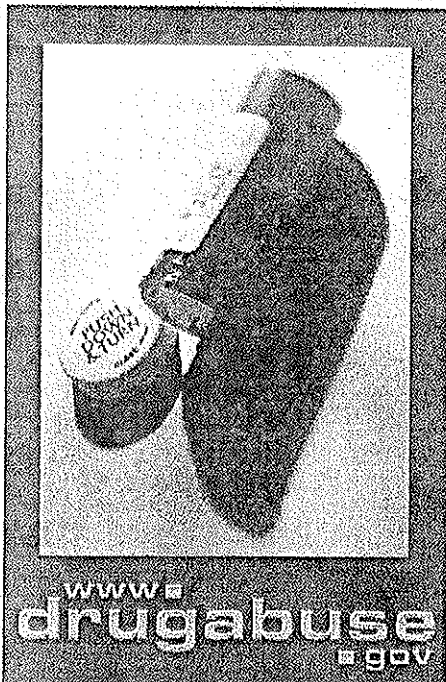


# Facts About Prescription Drug Abuse

Medications can be effective when they are used properly, but some can be addictive and dangerous when misused. This chart provides a brief look at some prescribed medications that—when used in ways other than they are prescribed—have the potential for abuse and even addiction.

Fortunately, most Americans take their medications responsibly. Addiction to prescription drugs is rare. However, in 2003, approximately 15 million Americans reported using a prescription drug for nonmedical reasons at least once during the year.



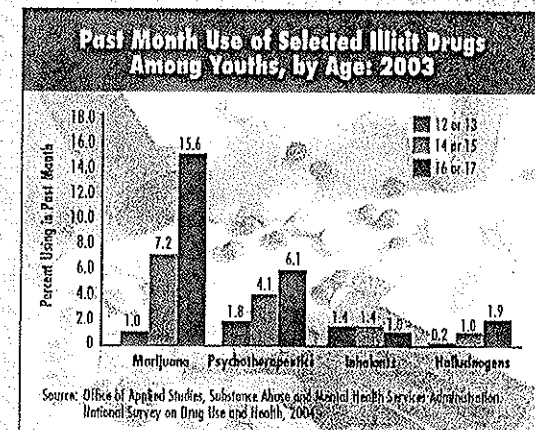
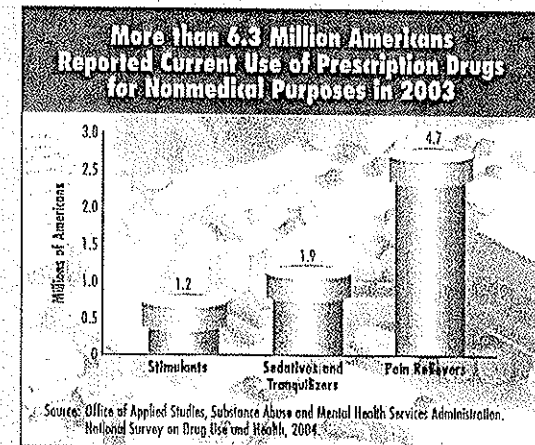
## What types of prescription drugs are misused or abused?

Three types of drugs are misused or abused most often:

- Opioids—prescribed for pain relief
- CNS depressants—barbiturates and benzodiazepines prescribed for anxiety or sleep problems (often referred to as sedatives or tranquilizers)
- Stimulants—prescribed for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the sleep disorder narcolepsy, or obesity.

## How can you help prevent prescription drug misuse or abuse?

- Keep your doctor informed about all medications you are taking, including over-the-counter medications.
- Take your medication(s) as prescribed.
- Read the information your pharmacist provides before starting to take medications.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist about your medication, especially if you are unsure about its effects.



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# Selected Prescription Drugs With Potential for Abuse

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Substances: Category and Name	Examples of Commercial and Street Names	DEA Schedule*/ How Administered**	Intoxication Effects/Potential Health Consequences
<b>Depressants</b>			
barbiturates	<i>Amytal, Nembutal, Seconal, Phenobarbital</i> ; barbs, rods, red birds, phennies, tooles, yellows, yellow jackets	II, III, V/injected, swallowed	<i>reduced pain and anxiety; feeling of well-being; lowered inhibitions; slowed pulse and breathing; lowered blood pressure; poor concentration/confusion, fatigue; impaired coordination, memory, judgment; respiratory depression and arrest, addiction</i>
benzodiazepines (other than flunitrazepam)	<i>Ativan, Halcion, Librium, Valium, Xanax</i> ; candy, downers, sleeping pills, tranks	IV/swallowed	<i>Also, for barbiturates—sedation, drowsiness/depression, unusual excitement, fever, irritability, poor judgment, slurred speech, dizziness</i>
flunitrazepam****	<i>Rohypnol</i> ; forget-me pill, Mexican Valium, R2, Roche, roofies, roofinol, rope, rophies	IV/swallowed, snorted	<i>for benzodiazepines—sedation, drowsiness/dizziness</i> <i>for flunitrazepam—visual and gastrointestinal disturbances, urinary retention, memory loss for the time under the drug's effects</i>
<b>Dissociative Anesthetics</b>			
ketamine	<i>Ketalar SV</i> ; cat Valium, K, Special K, vitamin K	III/injected, snorted, smoked	<i>increased heart rate and blood pressure, impaired motor function/memory loss; numbness; nausea/vomiting</i> <i>Also, for ketamine—at high doses, delirium, depression, respiratory depression and arrest</i>
<b>Opioids and Opioid Derivatives</b>			
codeine	<i>Empirin with Codeine, Fiorinal with Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Tylenol with Codeine</i> ; Captain Cody, Cody, schoolboy; (with glutethimide) doors & fours, loads, pancakes and syrup	II, III, IV/injected, swallowed	<i>pain relief, euphoria, drowsiness/respiratory depression and arrest, nausea, confusion, constipation, sedation, unconsciousness, coma, tolerance, addiction</i>
fentanyl	<i>Actiq, Duragesic, Sublimaze</i> ; Apache, China girl, China white, dance fever, friend, goodfella, jackpot, murder 8, TNT, Tango and Cash	II/injected, smoked, snorted	<i>Also, for codeine—less analgesia, sedation, and respiratory depression than morphine</i>
morphine	<i>Roxanol, Duramorph</i> ; M, Miss Emma, monkey, white stuff	II, III/injected, swallowed, smoked	
opium	laudanum, paregoric; big O, black stuff, block, gum, hop	II, III, V/swallowed, smoked	
other opioid pain relievers (oxycodone, meperidine, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, propoxyphene)	<i>Tylox, OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet</i> ; oxy 80s, oxycotton, oxycet, hillbilly heroin, percs <i>Demerol, meperidine hydrochloride</i> ; demmies, pain killer <i>Dilaudid</i> ; julca, dillies <i>Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet; Darvon, Darvocet</i>	II, III, IV/swallowed, injected, suppositories, chewed, crushed, snorted	
<b>Stimulants</b>			
amphetamines	<i>Biphentamine, Dexedrine</i> ; bennies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers	II/injected, swallowed, smoked, snorted	<i>increased heart rate, blood pressure, metabolism; feelings of exhilaration, energy, increased mental alertness/rapid or irregular heart beat; reduced appetite, weight loss, heart failure</i>
cocaine	<i>Cocaine hydrochloride</i> ; blow, bump, C, candy, Charlie, coke, crack, flake, rock, snow, toot	II/injected, smoked, snorted	<i>Also, for amphetamines—rapid breathing; hallucinations/tremor, loss of coordination; irritability, anxiousness, restlessness, delirium, panic, paranoia, impulsive behavior, aggressiveness, tolerance, addiction</i>
methamphetamine	<i>Desoxyn</i> ; chalk, crank, crystal, fire, glass, go fast, ice, meth, speed	II/injected, swallowed, smoked, snorted	<i>for cocaine—increased temperature/chest pain, respiratory failure, nausea, abdominal pain, strokes, seizures, headaches, malnutrition</i>
methylphenidate	<i>Ritalin</i> ; JIF, MPH, R-ball, Skippy, the smart drug, vitamin R	II/injected, swallowed, snorted	<i>for methamphetamine—aggression, violence, psychotic behavior/memory loss, cardiac and neurological damage; impaired memory and learning, tolerance, addiction</i> <i>for methylphenidate—increase or decrease in blood pressure, psychotic episodes/digestive problems, loss of appetite, weight loss</i>
<b>Other Compounds</b>			
anabolic steroids	<i>Anadrol, Oxandrin, Durabolin, Depo-Testosterone, Equipoise</i> ; roids, juico	III/injected, swallowed, applied to skin	<i>no intoxication effects/hypertension, blood clotting and cholesterol changes, liver cysts and cancer, kidney cancer, hostility and aggression, acne; adolescents, premature stoppage of growth; in males, prostate cancer, reduced sperm production, shrunken testicles, breast enlargement; in females, menstrual irregularities, development of beard and other masculine characteristics</i>

\*Schedule I and II drugs have a high potential for abuse. They require greater storage security and have a quota on manufacturing, among other restrictions. Schedule I drugs are available for research only and have no approved medical use; Schedule II drugs are available only by prescription (unrefillable) and require a form for ordering. Schedule III and IV drugs are available by prescription, may have five refills in 6 months, and may be ordered orally. Most Schedule V drugs are available over the counter.

\*\*Taking drugs by injection can increase the risk of infection through needle contamination with staphylococci, HIV, hepatitis, and other organisms.

\*\*\*Associated with sexual assaults.

\*Not available by prescription in U.S.