

# Healthy Hints!

## Abuse of Prescription (Rx) Drugs Affects Young Adults Most

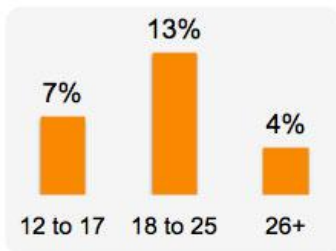
Young adults (age 18 to 25) are the biggest abusers of prescription (Rx) opioid pain relievers, ADHD stimulants, and anti-anxiety drugs. They do it for all kinds of reasons, including to get high, or because they think Rx stimulants will help them study better. But Rx abuse is dangerous: In 2010, almost 3,000 young adults died from prescription drug (mainly opioid) overdoses—more than died from overdoses of any other drug, including heroin and cocaine combined—and many more needed emergency treatment.



“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

### PAST YEAR USE



The nonmedical use of prescription drugs is highest among young adults.<sup>1</sup>

### MOTIVATIONS FOR USE

Most young adults say they use Rx drugs to<sup>2,3,4</sup>



### CONSEQUENCES

3,000 young adults died from Rx drug overdose in 2010—a 250% increase from 1999<sup>5</sup>...



Among young adults, for every death due to Rx drug overdose, there were



17

Treatment Admissions<sup>6</sup>



66

Emergency Room Visits<sup>7</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> SAMHSA, NSDUH; <sup>2</sup> Rabiner et al 2009; <sup>3</sup> McCabe et al 2007; <sup>4</sup> Lord et al 2011; <sup>5</sup> CDC Wonder; <sup>6</sup> SAMHSA, TEDS; <sup>7</sup> SAHMSA, DA