

National Association of School Nurses

# Safeguarding Your Community

Responding to the Opioid Epidemic

# How Did the Opioid Epidemic Occur?





Since 1999, the amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. nearly quadrupled, yet there has not been an overall change in the amount of pain that Americans report

(CDC, 2016)





(Volkow, 2014)



Misuse and abuse of prescription medicine continues to be the third most prevalent drug abuse behavior measured among teens, following use of marijuana and alcohol

(Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, 2013)



There is a misconception that prescription drugs are safe when in fact they are dangerous to use recreationally

(Feliz, 2014)



Graphic source: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, 2011



"The scariest thing I ever hear a parent say about drug abuse is 'Not My Kid."

Dr. Drew Pinsky



# **Commonly Abused Prescription Drugs**

Opioids (for pain)

Stimulants
(ADHD
medicines)

Benzodiazepines/
CNS Depressants
(for anxiety and sleep
disorders)



### You May Know Them As...

#### **Benzodiazepines**

Xanax

Valium

Nembutal

#### **Opioids**

Hydrocodone

Vicodin

Percocet

Oxycontin

Demerol

Fentanyl

#### **Stimulants**

Ritalin

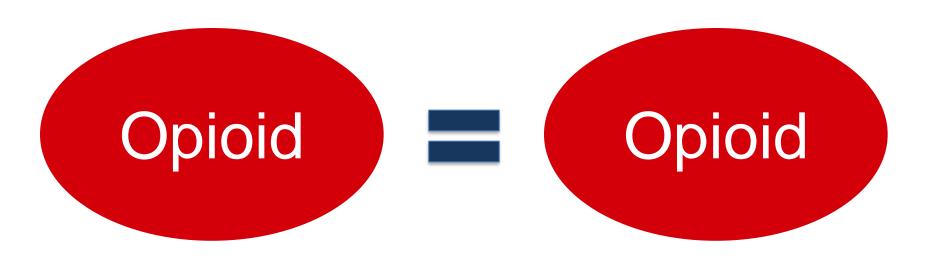
Concerta

Adderall

Dexadrine



# Important to understand the body doesn't know the difference



From a prescription

From heroin





Most teens get their hands on prescription drugs from the homes of friends and relatives

(Driscoll-Malliarakis, 2009)



### Why Kids Abuse Prescription Medicines?

- Easy access
- Perceive them to be safer
- To get high
- To help them study
- To relieve stress and anxiety
- To experiment
- To fit in





## The Heroin Epidemic

 A trend exists for adolescents using prescription opioid agents to substitute heroin because it is significantly cheaper than pills (approximately half of the cost) and is often more readily available

(Fogger & McGuinness, 2015)



# There has been a significant rise in the number of people aged 12 and older who received treatment for a heroin problem—from 277,000 in 2002 to 526,000 in 2013

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015)





# What can our community do to prevent teen drug abuse?





### Dispose of Unused Medications

# Community Drug Take-Back Days and Drug Drop Boxes





Graphic source: U.S. Department of Justice, 2016





Dispose of medications properly, as soon as the course of treatment is done. Do not keep prescription medications around "just in case."



Graphic source: CDC, 2014

### **Provide Education**





Graphic source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2016

#### **Smart Moves/Smart Choices**

Sponsored by

Janssen Pharmaceuticals in

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The National Association of

**School Nurses** 





# A Comprehensive Program for Schools

Smart Moves Smart Choices





#### When you take it the right way, medicine can be safe and make you feel better.

When you are not feeling well, the doctor or nurse will tell your parents, or the person who cares for you, which medicine you should take, how much to take, and when to take it.







When you take prescription (Rx) medications to get high, you put yourself in danger

#### Don't get bitten.

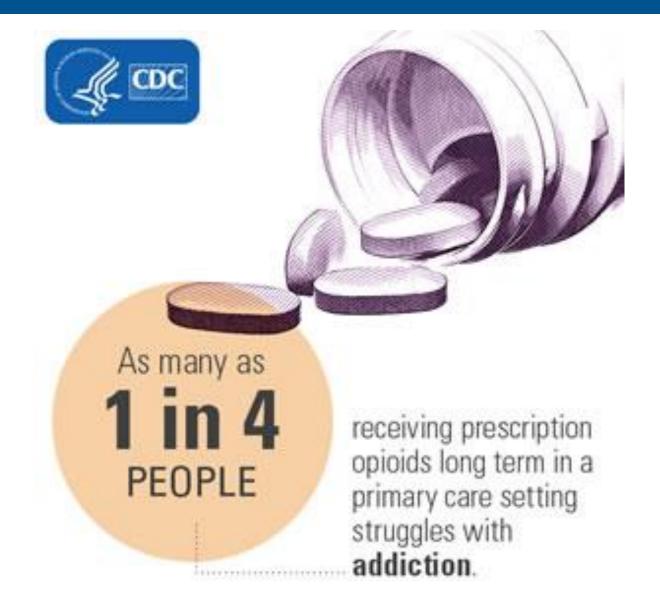


Find out about the serious risks of teen Rx drug abuse at SmartMovesSmartChoices.org











#### Know What to Watch For

- Starts behaving differently for no apparent reason
- Acting withdrawn
- Frequently tired or depressed, or hostile
- Change in peer group
- Carelessness with grooming
- Decline in academic performance



(National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2016)



#### Know What to Watch For



- Missing classes or skipping school
- Loss of interest in favorite activities
- Trouble in school or with the law
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Deteriorating relationships with family members and friends



Teach friends and family-

# DON'T RUN-CALL 911





# EXTREME SLEEPINESS, DIFFICULT TO AROUSE

Cold, clammy, confused

Blue fingernails See An Overdose?

**Call 911** 

Be A Hero Make The Call!

Slurred speech

Trouble breathing

Pinpoint pupils



# Overdose is common among persons who use opioids, including heroin users

(CDC, 2012)

#### **Naloxone Saves Lives!**



#### Overdose

Oxygen starvation leads to:

Unconsciousness
Coma
Death

Within 3-5 minutes without oxygen, brain damage starts to occur, soon followed by death



## Safety of Using Naloxone

- Naloxone is the first line treatment for opioid overdose
- Should be administered IMMEDIATELY
- Parents & school administrators should not be concerned about adverse health effects of naloxone
  - If the person has not overdosed on an opioid, there is no effect on the body!

(Green, Heimer, & Grau, 2008)



### Community Access to Naloxone





### **THANK YOU!**

Questions??



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