

### **Commonly Abused Prescription Drugs**

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National Institutes of Health U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

| Substances Cotamen and Name   | Evennes of Commercial and Street Names  | DEA Cobadulo*/How Administered                                  | Interviention Effects/Health Disks  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Substances: Category and Name   | Examples of Commercial and Street Names   | DEA Schedule*/How Administered                                  | Intoxication Effects/Health Risks   |
| <b>Depressants</b> Barbiturates   | Amytal, Nembutal, Seconal, Phenobarbital: barbs, reds, red birds, phennies, tooies, yellows, yellow jackets   | II, III, IV/injected, swallowed                                 | Sedation/drowsiness, reduced anxiety, feelings of well-being, lowered inhibitions, slurred speech, poor concentration, confusion, dizziness, impaired coordination and memory/slowed pulse, lowered blood pressure, slowed breathing, tolerance, withdrawal, addiction; increased risk of respiratory distress and death when combined with alcohol |
| Benzodiazepines   | Ativan, Halcion, Librium, Valium, Xanax, Klonopin: candy, downers, sleeping pills, tranks   | IV/swallowed  |   |
| Sleep Medications   | Ambien (zolpidem), Sonata (zaleplon), Lunesta (eszopiclone)   | IV/swallowed  | for barbiturates—euphoria, unusual excitement, fever, irritability/life-threatening withdrawal in chronic users   |
| Opioids and Morphine Derivatives**  |   |   |   |
| Codeine   | Empirin with Codeine, Fiorinal with Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Tylenol with Codeine: Captain Cody, Cody, schoolboy; (with glutethimide: doors & fours, loads, pancakes and syrup)   | II, III, IV/injected, swallowed                                 | Pain relief, euphoria, drowsiness, sedation, weakness, dizziness, nausea, impaired coordination, confusion, dry mouth, itching, sweating, clammy skin, constipation/slowed or arrested breathing, lowered pulse and blood pressure, tolerance, addiction, unconsciousness, coma, death; risk of death increased when combined with alcohol or       |
| Morphine  | Roxanol, Duramorph: M, Miss Emma, monkey, white stuff   | II, III/injected, swallowed, smoked                             | other CNS depressants   |
| Methadone   | Methadose, Dolophine: fizzies, amidone, (with MDMA: chocolate chip cookies)   | II/swallowed, injected  | for fentanyl—80–100 times more potent analgesic than morphine   |
| Fentanyl and analogs  | Actiq, Duragesic, Sublimaze: Apache, China girl, dance fever, friend, goodfella, jackpot, murder 8, TNT, Tango and Cash   | Il/injected, smoked, snorted                                    | for oxycodone—muscle relaxation/twice as potent analgesic as morphine; high abuse potential   |
| Other Opioid Pain Relievers: Oxycodone HCL Hydrocodone Bitartrate Hydromorphone Oxymorphone Meperidine Propoxyphene | Tylox, Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet: Oxy, O.C., oxycotton, oxycet, hillbilly heroin, percs Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet: vike, Watson-387 Dilaudid: juice, smack, D, footballs, dillies Opana, Numorphan, Numorphone: biscuits, blue heaven, blues, Mrs. O, octagons, stop signs, O Bomb Demerol, meperidine hydrochloride: demmies, pain killer Darvon, Darvocet | II, III, IV/chewed, swallowed, snorted, injected, suppositories | for codeine—less analgesia, sedation, and respiratory depression than morphine  for methadone—used to treat opioid addiction and pain; significant overdose risk when used improperly   |
| Stimulants  |   |   |   |
| Amphetamines  | Biphetamine, Dexedrine, Adderall: bennies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers   | II/injected, swallowed, smoked, snorted                         | Feelings of exhilaration, increased energy, mental alertness/increased heart rate, blood pressure, and metabolism, reduced appetite, weight loss, nervousness, insomnia, seizures, heart attack, stroke   |
| Methylphenidate   | Concerta, Ritalin: JIF, MPH, R-ball, Skippy, the smart drug, vitamin R  | Il/injected, swallowed, snorted                                 | for amphetamines—rapid breathing, tremor, loss of coordination, irritability, anxiousness, restlessness/delirium, panic, paranoia, hallucinations, impulsive behavior, aggressiveness, tolerance, addiction   |
|   |   |   | for methylphenidate—increase or decrease in blood pressure, digestive problems, loss of appetite, weight loss   |
| Other Compounds   |   |   |   |
| Dextromethorphan (DXM)  | Found in some cough and cold medications: Robotripping, Robo, Triple C  | not scheduled/swallowed   | Euphoria, slurred speech/increased heart rate and blood pressure, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, paranoia, distorted visual perceptions, impaired motor function   |

<sup>\*</sup> 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 and require a new prescription for each refill. 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.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Taking drugs by injection can increase the risk of infection through needle contamination with staphylococci, HIV, hepatitis, and other organisms. Injection is a more common practice for opioids, but risks apply to any medication taken by injection.

## Facts About Prescription Drug Abuse

Medications can be effective when they are used properly, but some can be addictive and dangerous when abused. This chart provides a brief look at some prescribed medications that—when used in ways or by people other than prescribed—have the potential for adverse medical consequences, including addiction.

In 2010, approximately 16 million Americans reported using a prescription drug for nonmedical reasons in the past year; 7 million in the past month.

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

Three types of drugs are 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.

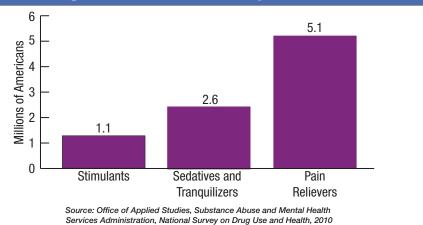
#### How can you help prevent prescription drug abuse?

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist about your medication, especially if you are unsure about its effects.
- Keep your doctor informed about all medications you are taking, including over-the-counter medications.
- Read the information your pharmacist provides before starting to take medications.
- Take your medication(s) as prescribed.
- Keep all prescription medications secured at all times and properly dispose of any unused medications.



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### ~7.0 Million Americans Reported Past-Month Use of Rx Drugs for Nonmedical Purposes in 2010



# After Marijuana, Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications\* Account for Most of the Commonly Abused Drugs

