Teens Mix Prescription Opioids with Other Substances

Nonmedical use of prescription (Rx) opioids by teens remains high, and a new study shows that 7 out of 10 teen nonmedical users combine opioid medications with other drugs and/or alcohol. This puts teens at much greater risk of overdose.

7 out of 10 teen nonmedical users combine Rx opioids with other substances¹

The substances most commonly co-ingested were...

- marijuana: 58.5%
- alcohol: 52.1%
- cocaine: 10.6%
- tranquilizers: 10.3%
- amphetamines: 9.5%

Teens who reported co-ingestion of Rx opioids with other drugs were²...

- 8X more likely to report abusing marijuana
- 4X more likely to report being drunk ≥ 10 times

Percent of teens that usually or always combine Rx opioids with marijuana or alcohol³

- Marijuana: 24%
- Alcohol: 15%

¹ McCabe et al., Drug Alcohol Dep., 2012; ² Compared to no past year nonmedical use; ³ Among nonmedical users of Rx opioids