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 substances[1]

The substances most commonly co-ingested were…

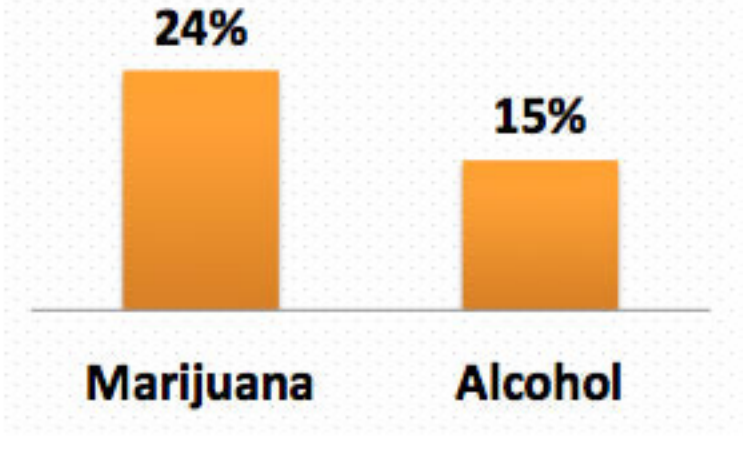
marijuana	alcohol	cocaine	tranquilizers	amphetamines
58.5%	52.1%	10.6%	10.3%	9.5%

Teens who reported co-ingestion of Rx opioids with other drugs were[2]…

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 alcohol[3]



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