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Prescription Drug Abuse

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Overview

What is Prescription Drug Abuse?

- Some medications have mind-altering effects that lend themselves to be more likely to be abused
- Prescription drugs can be abused in multiple ways:

1. Using a medication that is not prescribed to you

2. Taking a drug in a higher dosage or different form than originally prescribed

3. Taking a drug for a different reason than prescribed

- Most commonly abused drug categories
 - 1. Pain relievers
 - 2. Stimulants

3. Anxiety relievers that affect the central nervous system

Importance of the Issue

- Many prescription drug abuses receive the drug from a relative or friend Important for prevention
- More people die yearly from overdoses on prescription opioids than any other drugs combined

Health Impact

- Effects of Abuse and Overdoses
 - Opioids can lead to brain damage
- Stimulants can impair the cardiovascular system
- All have potential for addiction, and overdoses can lead to death
- Prescription drug abuse can lead to the use of illicit drugs
 - Ex: Opioids -> heroin

("Drug Facts: Prescripton and Over-the-Counter Medications", 2014)



 Individual behavior choices People may choose to take their prescribed drugs appropriately or they may choose to abuse them in the 3 ways mentioned in the overview

 Social Factors 70% of people that abused or misused drugs got them from a friend or relative ("Drug Facts: Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications," 2014)

Example: Students may obtain Adderall from someone in their social environment to improve their academic performance (stressful environment makes it more tempting for them)

- Financial status
- Access to treament
- Access to Medicaid
- Treatment program availability
- Number of physicians involved in treatment

- Mean Drug Sales

Other Indicators Used: Cluster Analysis

- Other societal factors

Prescription Drug Abuse

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Contributors to Prescription Drug Abuse

Biggest Contributors

Indicators

Main Indicators:

- Demand for drug treatment
- Drug treatment medication
- prescribed/dispensed
- Rates of death
- Rates of disease
- Rates of infectious diseases
- Rates of crime
- Doctor-Shopping Indicator
 - Ex: Study of homeless men

Impacts of Prescription Drug Abuse

Specific Role and Impact in Pharmacy

Recommendations to Reduce Problem

- shopping")

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52 million people in the United States have abused a prescription drug in some way (Collins, 2015) Overdoses from prescription drugs cause more than a million emergency room visits per year and cause more deaths than car accidents

Children are more likely to develop drug addictions or mental illness if parents are addicted and also more likely to be abused or neglected

The cost of prescription drug abuse in 2006 was \$53.4 billion (Hansen, 2011)

Pharmacists play a direct role in fighting prescription drug abuse because they are involved in making policy about regulation and prescribing methods of prescription drugs as well as patient education According to the DEA, pharmacists are required to ensure a prescription for a controlled substance is legitimate (Collins, 2015)

Pharmacists can stop drug abuse by refusing to fill a prescription, counseling a patient, or referring a patient for treatment



Link to a short video about the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

Theory to

2015

Retrievec

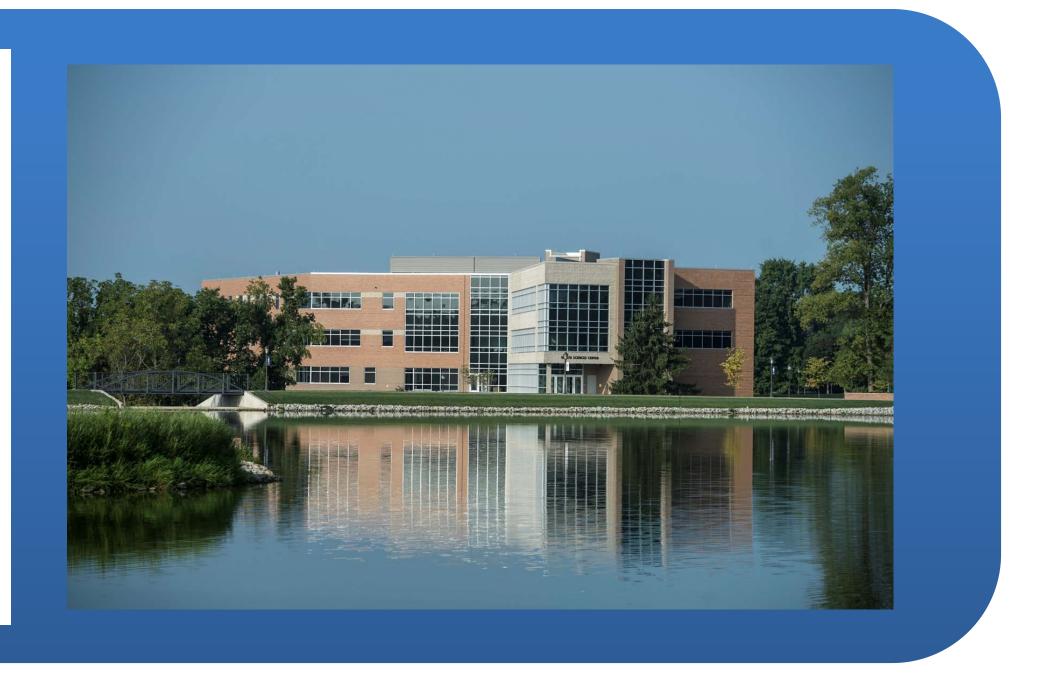
High

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• Make better use of prescription drug monitoring programs Make sure pharmacists and prescribers are using real time tools for prescription histories that are current up to the minute they are entered (this will help identify "doctor"

• Raise awareness of prescription drug abuse by educating parents, youth, patients, and even healthcare providers about the dangers of prescription drugs





This QR code links to a webpage which has differing facts concerning the overview on prescription drug abuse, particularly in teenagers.



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