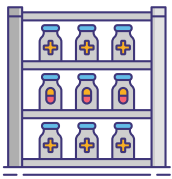


# Prescription & OTC Medications

Prescription Drug abuse is highly misunderstood. Because doctors are trusted professionals, many people underestimate the dangers of medicine a health care professional prescribes. Prescription abuse includes taking medication prescribed to someone else, taking more than your prescribed dose, administering the medicine in a different way than intended (snorting pills), and using the medication with the intention of getting high.

## Medication Abuse Facts



### Over the counter medication can also be abused

Due to the accessibility and convenience of OTC medications, these medications are easy to obtain and abuse. Although seemingly harmless, the abuse of OTC can lead to serious health complications.



### Certain medication types are commonly abused

Opioid pain relievers, central nervous system depressants, and stimulants are among the most commonly abused prescription medications, leading to significant health and societal consequences.



### Tolerance is dangerous effect of medication abuse

Misusing prescription medications can also lead to the development of tolerance, meaning higher doses are needed to achieve the same effects, increasing the risk of overdose and other health complications.



## Prevalence

# 16.3 Million

people misuse prescriptions in a year.



Approximately 40% of prescription drug abusers list **Sleep Aid** and **Tension Relief** as a reason for prescription drug abuse.