

Citations for *Prescription Drug Abuse & Poisonings: The Facts*

- Washington State has one of the highest teen prescription drug abuse rates in the nation -- 12% of high school seniors used prescription pain medicines to get high in the last 30 days.
Source: Data Compiled from: Washington State Department of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Commerce, Family Policy Council and Liquor Control Board. (2010). Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2008 Analytic Report. Available online at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/healthyouth/docs/08analyticreprt.pdf>; United State Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (2008). State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2007-2008 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health. Rockville, Md. Available online at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8State/AppD.htm#TabD-8>
- Three fifths (57%) of all new prescription drug abusers were younger than age 18 in 2009. Over 20% of high school students have taken medicine for a nonmedical reason.
Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2010). Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Volume I. Summary of National Findings (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-38A, HHS Publication No. SMA 10-4586Findings). Rockville, MD. , Available online at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k9NSDUH/2k9ResultsP.pdf>
- More than three out of five teens say prescription pain relievers are easy to get from parents' and grandparents' medicine cabinets. Over half of teens abusing medicines get them from a family member or friend, often without their knowledge.
Source: Washington State Department of Health. (2008). "Poisoning and drug overdose." Washington State Injury and Violence Prevention Guide. DOH Publication No: 530-090. Available online at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury/pubs/icpg/DOH530090Poison.pdf>
- Youth admissions to state-funded treatment for prescription opiate abuse are now 18 times higher than in 2001.
Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. (2009). Tobacco, Alcohol, & Other Drug Abuse Trends in Washington State, 2009 Report. Available online at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/HRSA/DASA/2009%20Trends%20Report.pdf>

- Abuse of prescription opiates, like OxyContin and Vicodin, can lead to heroin use. 39% of heroin users said they got addicted to prescription painkillers before starting to use heroin, in a recent study in King County.
Source: Banta-Green, C., et al. (2010). Drug Abuse Trends in the Seattle/King County Area: 2009. Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse. Prepared for the Community Epidemiology Work Group, June 2010. Available online at:
http://depts.washington.edu/adai/pubs/tr/cewg/CEWG_Seattle_June2010.pdf
- Fatal poisonings in Washington State increased 395% from 1990 to 2006; 85% of these deaths involved medicines.
Source: Washington State Department of Health. (2008). "Poisoning and drug overdose." Washington State Injury and Violence Prevention Guide. DOH Publication No: 530-090. Available online at:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury/pubs/icpg/DOH530090Poison.pdf>
- In 2007, 18,000 people went to Washington State emergency rooms because of nonmedical use of medicines.
Source: Data compiled from: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (2010). Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2007: National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits. Rockville, MD. Available online at:
<http://www.odmhsas.org/resourcecenter/ResourceCenter/Publications/Current/2005.pdf>;
U.S. Census Bureau (2007). National and State Population Estimate Archives. Available online at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est2007.html>
- 32% of child poisoning deaths in Washington were caused by someone else's prescription medication and 26% were caused by over-the-counter medications.
Source: Sabel, J. (2004). Washington State Childhood Injury Report – Poisoning Chapter. WA DOH. Available online at:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury/pubs/wscir/WSCIR_Poisoning.pdf