

Oregon Healthy Teens: Spotlight – Prescription (Rx) Drug Abuse

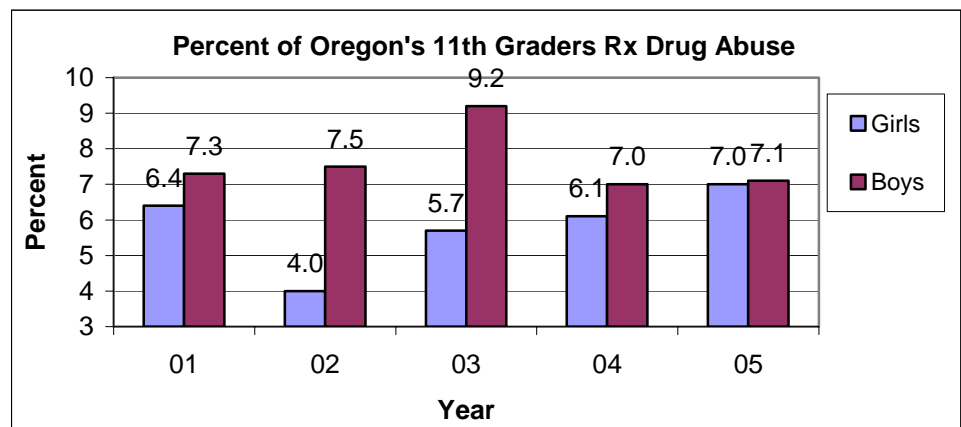
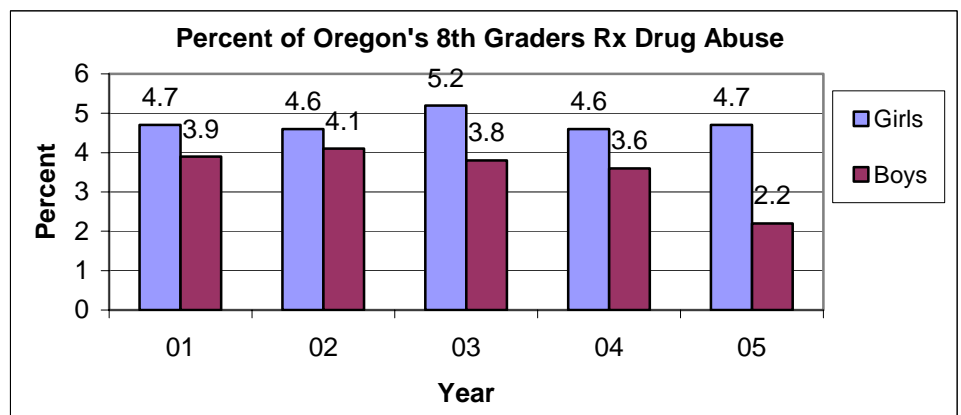


30-Day Rx drug abuse among 8th and 11th Graders from the Oregon Healthy Teen (OHT) Survey

- From 2001 to 2005 8th grade Rx drug abuse decreased 1.7 percentage points among boys.
- 8th grade Rx drug abuse remained consistent at 4.7% among girls for 2001 through 2005.
- 8th grade girls are twice as likely to abuse a Rx drug as 8th boys in 2005.

Nationally illegal use of prescription (Rx) drugs is increasing, and youth are the fastest growing abusers of Rx drugs. Rx drug abuse is increasing fastest among girls nation wide (Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University www.casacolumbia.org). In Oregon Rx drug abuse is decreasing for boys, but increasing for 11th grade girls.

Teens who report abusing Rx drugs are twice as likely to use alcohol; 5 times as likely to use marijuana; 12 times as likely to use heroin; 15 times as likely to use ecstasy, and 21 times as likely to use cocaine (www.casacolumbia.org).

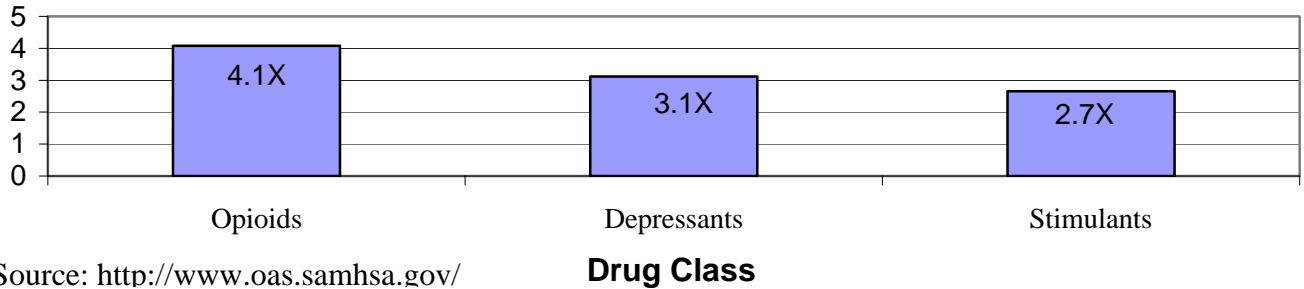


Common Drug Class Names

Opioids: Codeine, OxyContin, Percocet, Vicadin, Demerol
Depressants: Valium, Xanax, Ativan, Librium
Stimulants: Ritalin, Concerta, Adderall, Dexedrine, Meridia

For more information on Rx drug abuse, please contact the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services Resource Center at 1-800-822-6772, www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/resource_center.shtml For Free, Confidential help! Call the Youthline 1-877-533-TEEN or <http://www.oregonyouthline.com/>

Growth of New Rx Drug Abuse: Youth vs. Adult



Abuse of Rx drugs is relatively new among youth. The growth of different classes of Rx drug abuse by youth is two to four times that of adults. For example the growth of opioid abuse is four times higher for youth, than for adults.

The presence of Rx drugs in family and friends homes has increased dramatically in recent years. Teens who abuse prescription drugs are also likely to abuse alcohol (79.8%) and illicit drugs (59.9%). Youth who abuse prescription drugs are more likely to experience social problems with school, friends, family, and have legal problems.

Percent Increase in Prescriptions Filled. Between 1992 and 2002.

Opioids: 221.9%
 Depressants : 48.2%
 Stimulants: 368.5%

Source: www.casacolumbia.org

Percent of Teens Experiencing Problems in School and Community

Problem	No Rx Abuse	Rx Abuse Only	Rx and other Substance(s) Abuse
Arrested and Booked for a Crime	4.1	7.3	27.2
Received Drug/Alcohol Treatment	0.3	3.5	11.8
Talked with School Counselors in Past Year	8.7	15.5	15.0
Seldom/Never Felt Schoolwork was Important in Past Year	17.0	20.6	37.8
D or Lower Average Grade	4.8	6.6	12.7

Source: NSDUH, 2003 <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/>

Methods: The data source is the Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) Survey for 2001 through 2005 (<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/youthsurvey/>) unless otherwise noted. The responses of the survey are self-reported Rx abuse based on the question ‘on how many occasions (if any) have you used prescription drugs (without a doctor’s order) to get ‘high’ during the PAST 30 DAYS?’ The percent calculations used statewide weights developed by the Oregon Public Health.

If you need this fact sheet in an alternate format, please call 503-945-5763(Voice) or 503-945-5895(TTY)

Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services