

# Teen Prescription Drug Abuse in North Carolina

## Prescriptions Drugs

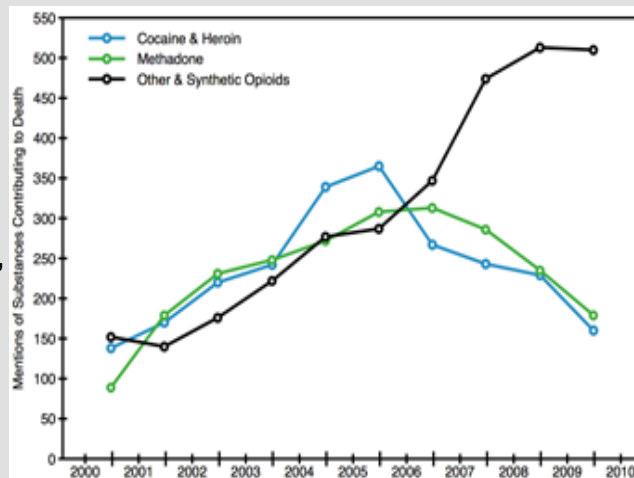
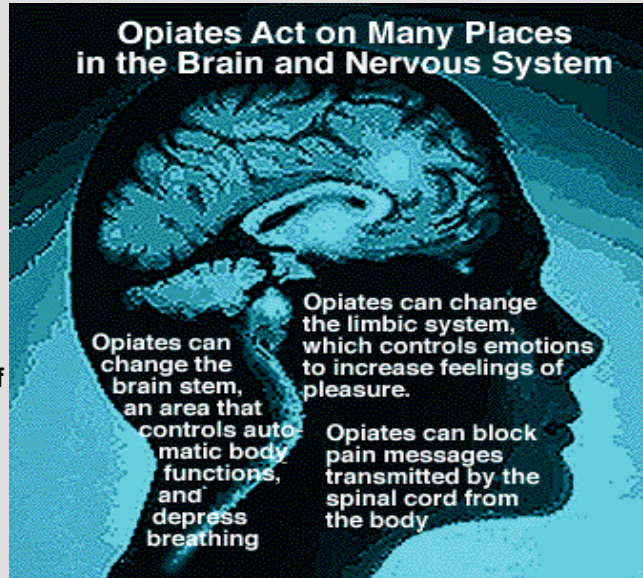
-Prescription drug abuse is on the rise in North Carolina and across the country. Prescription drugs such as painkillers can be highly addictive and every bit as dangerous as street drugs(DOJ, 2015).

### False Security

-Many teens mistakenly think prescription drugs are safer than illicit drugs. According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services national survey, among people ages 12-17 prescription drugs are the second most abused drug behind marijuana. The survey also found that most people age 12 or older who abuse prescription drugs get them from a friend or family member for free (HHS, 2015).

### Overdose

-Nearly all deaths involving prescription drugs include prescription opioid pain relievers such as methadone, and oxycodone, fentanyl, morphine, tramadol, or hydromorphone, collectively called "other and synthetic narcotics" (Project Lazarus, 2014).



## How many teens are doing this?

--As many as 1 in 5 teens say they have taken a prescription drug without having a prescription themselves(NIDA, 2015).

### Why are some teens doing this?

-To party and get high in some cases but also to regulate their lives. They're abusing some stimulants such as Ritalin and Aderall to give them additional energy to focus when they're studying or taking an exam. They're abusing pain relievers like Oxycotin and tranquilizers such as Xanax to cope with academic, social or emotional stress.

### What are some solutions?

- More open discussions about problems caused by prescription abuse
- Safeguard Your own Medicines. Keep prescription medicines in a secure place