



You Think You Know

What You Need to Know

Young people are misusing prescription drugs, which puts them at risk of encountering counterfeit drugs. Pills are being laced with harmful substances like fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

Depending what's inside, one pill can be deadly. Talk to your kids today!

Where Do They Get the Pills?

Friends & Family

- Nearly half (49%) of teens report getting prescription drugs from a friend. While 42% reported getting them from their parent's medicine cabinet.
- Even if the pills are from a friend, nobody knows for sure where the friend got them.

Social Media

- Some teens and young adults have turned to social media, mostly Snapchat and Instagram, to buy what they believe are prescription drugs, however, they are often counterfeit.
- If purchased on social media, many dealers send packages directly to the buyer's home and parents are unaware unless they intercept the package.

What You Can Do

Conversations and modeling good behavior are keys to prevention! Your kids are listening and watching you even when you don't think they are.

- Have an honest conversation about the dangers of prescription drug misuse.
- Make them aware of that ANYONE can encounter a counterfeit pill and it only takes one pill to cause serious illness or death.
- If your kids take prescription drugs, let them know it's dangerous to share their medications.
- Lock up all prescription medications in your home and safely dispose of unused/expired ones.

Why Are They Using Them?

There isn't a certain "type" of kid who is impacted by overdoses from counterfeit pills. It affects everyone; from the A-student to the football team captain. Many factors can drive a young person to try drugs including:

- Self-medication for anxiety & depression
- Study aid or improve professional success
- Stress
- Boredom
- Ease social anxiety and have fun
- Weight loss
- Improve sports performance or ease pain
- To fall asleep or stay awake

Looks Are Deceiving!



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What You Need to Know

If you take any medications that are given to you by a friend, purchased on the street, or through social media, you are at risk of getting counterfeit drugs. Pills may contain harmful substances like fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

Depending what's inside,
ONE PILL CAN BE DEADLY.

Common Myths

MYTH: Prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs.

FACT: If the medication is not prescribed for YOU and it doesn't come from a retail pharmacy, it is not safe.

MYTH: It's okay to take a prescription medication from a friend because I know them.

FACT: Even if it's from a person you know, you don't know where they got the pill from.

MYTH: You can't overdose on prescription drugs.

FACT: If you purchase pills from a third-party or get them from a friend, you don't know where it came from, so it could contain deadly substances like fentanyl, which cause an overdose.

MYTH: If it looks real, it probably is.

FACT: People who produce counterfeit pills go out of their way to make them look real. Without lab tests, it can be hard to tell the difference.

MYTH: Taking Adderall or other stimulants can help me get better grades.

FACT: ADHD drugs, like Adderall and Ritalin, do not improve academic performance in teens who don't have ADHD, but it still affects the body and brain.

Looks Are Deceiving

The only way to know a pill has deadly substances is with lab tests.



It Only Takes This Much!

This is a lethal dose of fentanyl.
Don't risk your life for a pill.



DEA

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& young adult
resources





You Think You Know

Talking to Your Kids About Counterfeit Prescription Drugs

Depending what's inside, one pill can be deadly. Talk to your kids today!

Dispel the Myths

MYTH: Prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs.

FACT: If the prescription drug is not prescribed for YOU and it doesn't come from a retail pharmacy, it is not safe.

MYTH: It's okay to take a prescription medication from a friend because I know them.

FACT: Again, if the prescription drug is not prescribed for YOU, it is not safe. Additionally, even if it's from a person you know, you don't know where they got the pill from.

MYTH: You can't overdose on prescription drugs.

FACT: Yes you can! If you don't take the medication as prescribed, you can overdose. If you purchase it from a third-party or get it from a friend, you don't know where it came from, so it could contain deadly substances like Fentanyl.

MYTH: If it looks real, it probably is.

FACT: Definitely not! People that produce counterfeit pills go out of their way to make them look real. They use special pill presses to make the same imprints as real pills have. To the untrained eye, they look real. Don't take that chance! The only safe place to get prescription pills from is a retail pharmacy.

MYTH: Taking Adderall or other stimulants can help me get better grades.

FACT: According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, researchers have found that ADHD drugs, like Adderall and Ritalin, do not improve academic performance in teens who don't have ADHD. However, it still affects their body and brain.

Talking Points

EXPLAIN THE DANGER: Kids have already heard "drugs are bad." Let them know prescription drugs aren't bad when taken as prescribed by the person they were prescribed for. However, they need to know it can be dangerous to take a pill from a friend, off the street or online because it could contain harmful substances that have the potential to cause a fatal overdose.

LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE THERE FOR THEM:

We know many teens and young adults who try prescription drugs (without a prescription) are doing so to try to manage anxiety, stress, depression, do better in school or sports, or out of boredom. Let them know they can come to you if they are struggling and that you will connect them with the help they need.

IT REALLY DOES ONLY TAKE ONE PILL: Young people need to know that when substances, like Fentanyl, are added to a pill, there aren't always second chances.

PILLS THAT ARE BOUGHT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

ARE TYPICALLY COUNTERFEIT: The majority of pills sold on social media are fake. Even if the pill doesn't contain Fentanyl, it may contain other harmful substances that can make you very sick. No matter how real they look, don't take that chance and put your life at risk!