



News Alert

Northeast Community Challenge Coalition

Prescription Drug Abuse: A Startling New Trend

More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), everyday **2,500** kids ages 12-17 abuse a prescription drug for the first time. Although overall teen drug use has declined, more teens abuse prescription drugs than cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine *combined*.

“Prescription drugs are in practically every home and parents can have an immediate impact on stopping teen prescription drug abuse.”

Drug treatment admissions for prescription painkillers increased more than **300** percent from 1995 to 2005; this may be partly due to the misconception that prescribed medication is safer than street drugs.

ONDCP will begin its campaign with two television advertisements during this year’s Super Bowl in an effort to raise awareness about this alarming trend.

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