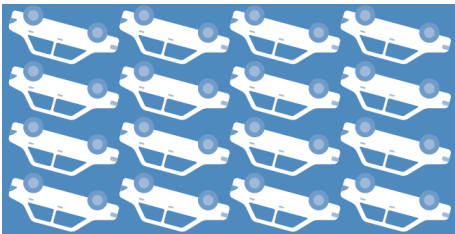




THE  
MEDICINE  
ABUSE  
PROJECT™



2012  
Report

THE PARTNERSHIP®  
AT DRUGFREE.ORG



THE PARTNERSHIP  
AT DRUGFREE.ORG

# The Medicine Abuse Project 2012 Report

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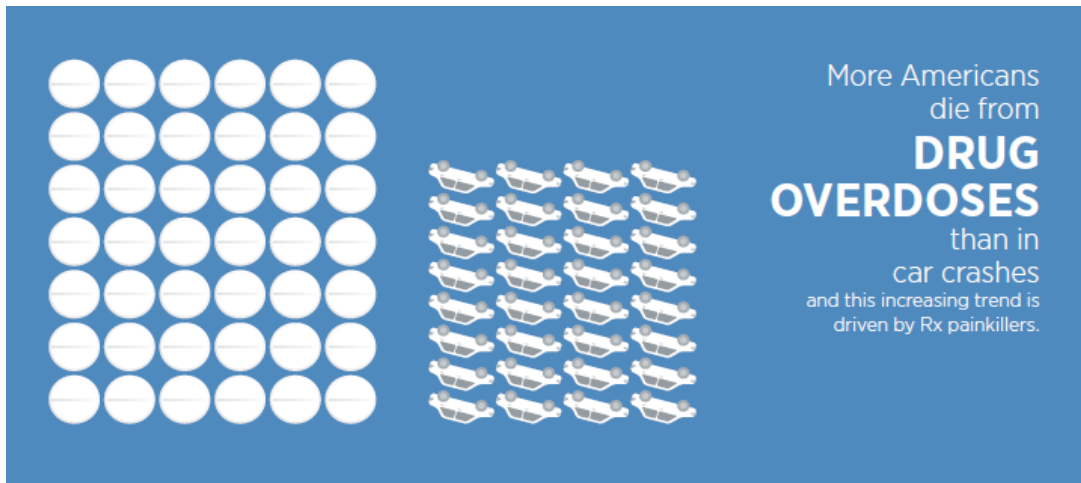
# BACKGROUND

THE CONSEQUENCES OF MEDICINE ABUSE, including emergency room episodes, treatment admissions and overdose deaths, have increased dramatically, and it is a behavior that is starting in adolescence.

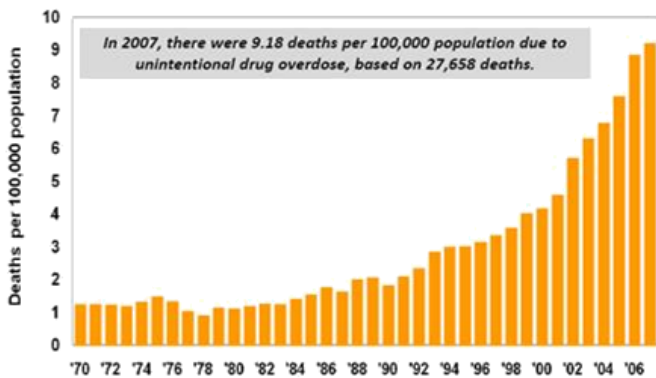
Every day, 2,500 teens use a prescription or over-the-counter medicine to get high or change their mood for the first time, and the death toll from prescription painkillers alone has tripled in the past decade.

Due to these high levels of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drug abuse, drug overdoses are now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, outpacing fatalities from car crashes.

If the human toll were not enough, all of this has an enormous drain on the nation's economy, with the health care costs related to this behavior totaling \$72.5 billion annually.

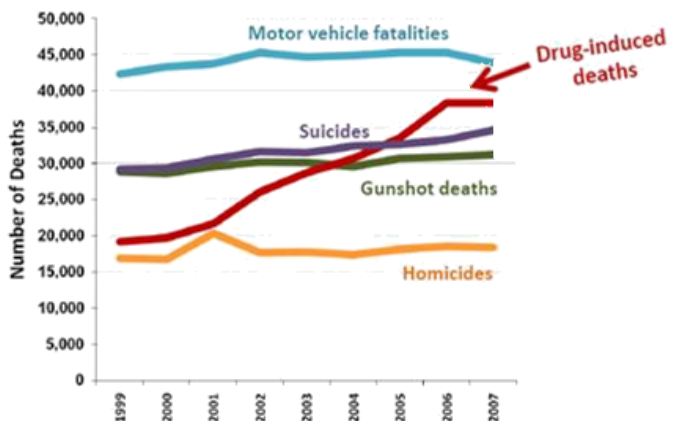


**Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths United States, 1970-2007**



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Unintentional Drug Poisoning in the United States* (July 2010).

**Drug-Induced Deaths Second Only to Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 1999-2007**



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Vital Statistics Reports Deaths: Final Data for the years 1999 to 2007 (2001 to 2010)*.



EPIDEMIC:  
RESPONDING TO AMERICA'S  
PRESCRIPTION  
DRUG ABUSE CRISIS

2011



The need for a serious and sustained national prevention effort related to medicine abuse is well documented, and The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) 2011 *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan* calls for a four-pillar approach.

It includes education of parents, youth, patients and prescribers, monitoring of prescriptions to reduce doctor shopping, proper medication disposal and empowering enforcement to eliminate improper prescribing and dispensing practices.

THE PARTNERSHIP AT DRUGFREE.ORG, in collaboration with a diverse group of committed partners, launched a first-of-its-kind public awareness and mobilization campaign. The Medicine Abuse Project kicked off the week of September 23 to 29, 2012, and aims to curb the abuse of medicine, the most significant drug problem facing the United States today, and one which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified as an epidemic.

The campaign encourages parents and the public to take action: first, by talking with their kids about the dangers of abusing prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and second, by safeguarding and properly disposing of unused medications.

We have made a five-year commitment to this effort with the goal of preventing at least 500,000 teens and young adults from abusing medicines while advancing intervention, helpline and treatment resources to help those who have already begun to abuse these products.

Further, The Medicine Abuse Project has enlisted key constituents including parents, health care professionals, educators and community leaders, and assembled science-based content targeted to each of these constituencies, enabling them to play a role in ending the epidemic of medicine abuse.

# LAUNCH WEEK ACTIVITY

## National and Local Advertising

THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP'S LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS with the advertising industry and the media, a key element of The Medicine Abuse Project launch was a concentration of powerful public service advertising focused on the tragic impact of medicine abuse on real families. These messages called parents and all concerned citizens to action, encouraging them to visit The Medicine Abuse Project site to find out how they could help end the epidemic at [MedicineAbuseProject.org](http://MedicineAbuseProject.org)

\$10 million in donated television, radio, print and digital advertising time and space supported The Medicine Abuse Project in its initial phase. With the help of partner Horizon Media, our television messages ran on the CBS, Fox and ABC broadcast networks and *more than 50 national cable networks* including the Turner, A&E and Discovery networks. ▶

In addition, banner advertising linking directly to The Medicine Abuse Project site ran in major parent-targeted web destinations from September through November. ▼



◀ Yahoo! Health donated banner ad space to promote The Medicine Abuse Project.





# Last year, millions of parents learned they were their teen's drug dealer.

A new kind of drug abuse is killing our kids. What every parent needs to know.

**44 PERCENT OF TEENS** have at least one friend who abuses prescription drugs. But this epidemic isn't unfolding on our streets. Our kids are accessing these drugs – absolutely free – right in our own homes. How big is the problem? Unintentional drug overdoses in the U.S. now outnumber traffic fatalities, and prescription drug abuse is the sad reason why.

**FREE DRUGS FROM PARENTS?** Nearly four billion prescriptions are filled in America every year. Some experts estimate 1/3 of these prescriptions are never used. (How many pills were unused from your last Rx?) But for many of us, it seems wrong to throw away extra pills and not-quite-empty bottles. And that's too much for millions of curious teenagers to resist.

**HOW KIDS ABUSE R<sub>x</sub> DRUGS:** It's no secret that many prescription drugs have unintended alternate uses. Many teens know which painkillers can get you high, especially when mixed with alcohol. Many students cram for exams by misusing drugs that treat ADHD or sleeplessness. Sedatives, anti-depressants, amphetamines, barbiturates, OTC cough medicines with dextromethorphan...you may not know how to misuse them, but others do.

**IS YOUR KID MISUSING?** By their senior year of high school, one in five teenagers will have abused prescription painkillers. Nine percent will have abused sedatives and tranquilizers; another ten percent will misuse prescriptions for treating ADHD. More teens misuse painkillers every year than use cocaine. Many



kids think prescription drugs are 'safer' than illegal drugs. And it's so much easier to avoid suspicion with prescription drugs.

**IS YOUR HOME SAFE?** The short brutal answer? No. Pharmacists keep drugs locked away, but the rest of us certainly don't. One industry group estimates that our nation's medicine cabinets contain more than 200,000,000 pounds of leftover prescriptions.

**THIS IS THE NEW DRUG EPIDEMIC.** In the mid-1970s, an international heroin epidemic pushed overdose deaths to 1.5 per 100,000 US population. The cocaine epidemic of 1989-1993 doubled drug

deaths to almost 3 in 100,000. Today's prescription drug epidemic is three times deadlier than that: over 10 deaths per 100,000 population in 2009.

**THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT** aims to raise awareness among kids, parents, law enforcement and government officials, health care professionals, and educators. Our goal: cut teen medicine abuse in half in five years, but two things have to happen: First, safeguard your meds. Second, talk to your kids.

**SAFEGUARD YOUR MEDS NOW.** Our first step, as parents, is to change our behaviors. Please remove any current prescriptions from the 'public' spaces in your home. Clear out your medicine cabinets and closets of unfinished prescriptions, especially in bathrooms that visitors use. It's hard to change the patterns of a lifetime, but we must start throwing away prescriptions when we're finished with them. Every pharmacist tells us that, and it's time to heed their words.

**TALK WITH YOUR KIDS.** When you safeguard your house, tell your kids what you're doing and why. Ask what they're seeing at school, and how it affects their friends and classmates. Next time you pick up a prescription for someone in the family, raise the subject again. When you give your kids cold medicine or a painkiller, that's another perfect teaching moment. Make sure you say the most important thing a parent can say to their child: "I don't want you to do drugs." And be sure to point out that misusing legal drugs can be just as deadly as using illegal drugs. Because it is.



Safeguard your medications and talk with your kids. Visit [drugfree.org](http://drugfree.org) to learn more.

**THE PARTNERSHIP<sup>®</sup>  
AT DRUGFREE.ORG**

**THIS PROVOCATIVE AND HIGHLY INFORMATIVE FULL** page print ad ran in *The New York Times*, *Staten Island Advance*, *Time Magazine* and *New York*

*Magazine* during launch week, and was made available in poster form to doctors and other health care professionals across the country.



**THE PARTNERSHIP<sup>®</sup>  
AT DRUGFREE.ORG**

# National Public Relations

**IN CONCERT WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISING blitz**, The Partnership worked with PR firm CRT/Tanaka to achieve maximum possible visibility for the issue in both national and local media. Significant outreach was anchored around a few key, live events, including a major display and press event in Grand Central Terminal, New York, on Tuesday, September 25; the NYSE Closing Bell, also on Tuesday, September 25; a webinar co-hosted by media partner A&E Networks at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>; and the DEA's National Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Significant New York City-based news coverage on the 25<sup>th</sup> included: WPIX-TV New York (Interview with The Partnership CEO Steve Pasierb), WCBS-Radio and WCBS-TV New York ("Live From the Couch").

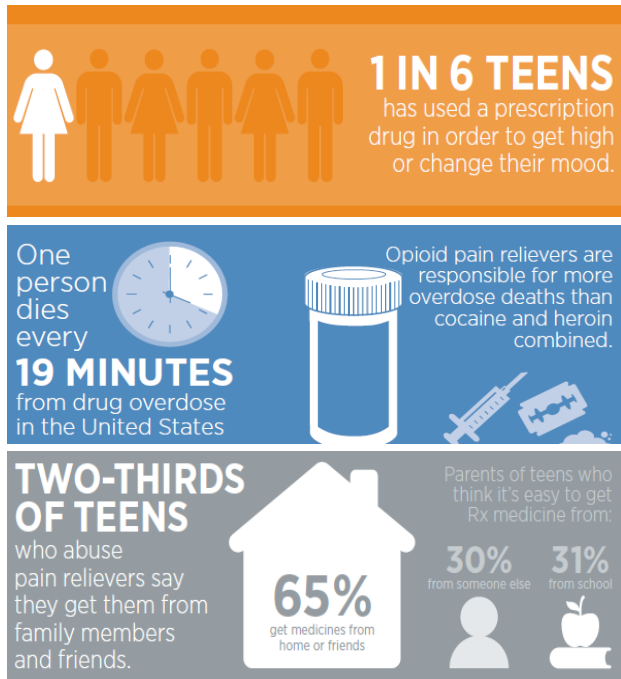
The speaking event at Grand Central Terminal featured New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley and actress and The Partnership spokesperson Melissa Gilbert, along with The Partnership CEO Steve Pasierb National Parent Network member Phil Bauer.



From L to R: New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley; The President at Drugfree.org President and CEO, Steve Pasierb; and actor/advocate, Melissa Gilbert at Grand Central Terminal on September 25, 2012

All those passing through Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal were offered an informational card promoting our webinar with A&E later the same week, and were invited to visit The Medicine Abuse Project site at one of four iPad stations and take the Pledge to help end the epidemic of medicine abuse. Nearly 5,000 cards were distributed and approximately 700 Pledges were signed by end of day.

Later the same day, at CVS's 42nd Street store, there was another awareness event which included a display featuring an [infographic](#) illustrating the extent and severity of the medicine abuse epidemic. CVS and The Partnership employees distributed leaflets promoting the webinar and provided an opportunity for shoppers to sign the Pledge. [The infographic is also featured on MedicineAbuseProject.org.](#)



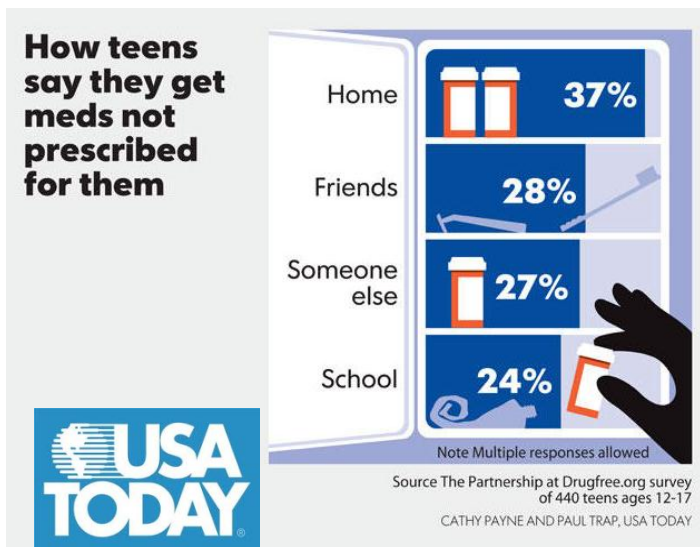


Top regional stories included:

- WCBS-TV (New York)
- WNBC-TV (New York)
- WPIX-TV (New York)
- KTLA-TV (Los Angeles)
- KGO (San Francisco)
- Chicago Parent*
- WFTS-TV (Tampa/St. Petersburg)
- Dallas Morning News*
- Kansas City Star*
- Miami Herald*
- Honolulu Star-Advertiser*
- Tampa Tribune*
- The News and Observer*
- Roanoke Times*
- Charleston Gazette*
- Evansville Courier and Press*
- The Cincinnati Enquirer*
- Des Moines Register*
- Louisville Courier-Journal*
- Staten Island Advance*

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT**, led by Melissa Gilbert and Partnership CEO Steve Pasierb, rang the closing bell on September 25, 2012 at the [New York Stock Exchange](#) and the video of the closing received hundreds of views on the web, showing that large, public events are effective in gaining attention for the campaign.

Among The Medicine Abuse Project representatives at this event were Phil Bauer and Avi and Julie Israel, who lost their sons Mark Bauer and Michael Israel to prescription drug overdoses. The closing bell that day was dedicated to the memory of Mark and Michael and the goal of preventing other families from experiencing their pain at the loss of a child.







“HOPE FOR RECOVERY,” our [webinar](#) with A&E Networks, was promoted extensively by The Medicine Abuse Project’s strategic partners to their networks, and reached about 16,000 students, teachers and concerned citizens. The webinar also featured a question from the actor Matthew Perry about the role of drug courts in promoting recovery. ►



Partnership CEO Steve Pasierb (center) moderated a panel made up of (left to right) Gil Kerlikowske, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director; Sofia, a young woman in recovery; Jeff van Vonderen, interventionist on A&E’s show “Intervention”; and Dr. Bertha Madras of Harvard Medical School.



(left to right) Steve Pasierb, President and CEO of The Partnership at Drugfree.org; Dr. Libby O’Connell, Chief Historian and Senior Vice President, A&E Network; Jeff Von Vonderen, interventionist on A&E’s “Intervention”; Harvard Medical School’s Dr. Bertha Madras; Sofia, a young woman in recovery; DEA Administrator Michelle Leonhart; Gil Kerlikowkse, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Hope for Recovery webinar was preceded by a reception where The Partnership recognized the funders and strategic partners who made The Medicine Abuse Project possible. The reception was attended by representatives from many of our federal partner agencies. ▲

Overall, via an extensive outreach to both national and local media, The Medicine Abuse Project launch generated more than 45,000,000 media impressions, including the following major features:





THE “CALL TO ACTION” in all the advertising and public relations activity was to go to [MedicineAbuseProject.org](http://MedicineAbuseProject.org), take the Pledge to help end the medicine abuse epidemic and find out what you can do—whether you’re a parent, a health care professional, an educator, a community leader or a concerned citizen—to help reduce by 500,000 the

number of American teenagers starting to abuse medicine over the next five years. In the coming year, The Partnership and its strategic partners will continue to promote the site and encourage visitors to take action, but here are some key metrics that capture the extent of The Project’s success in its first months.

Resources For: [Parents & Grandparents >](#) [Health Care Providers >](#) [Communities & Law Enforcement >](#) [Educators >](#)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Medicine Abuse Project website. At the top, there are logos for 'THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT' and 'THE PARTNERSHIP AT DRUGFREE.ORG'. Below the logos is a navigation menu with items: HOME, THE PROBLEM, WHAT YOU CAN DO, STORIES, NEWS & EVENTS, DRUG GUIDE, and DONATE. A banner at the top states: 'Prescription pain relievers have contributed to more overdose deaths than “street drugs” such as cocaine and heroin'. The main content area is divided into four large orange boxes: 'Take the Pledge' (with a dropdown menu set to 'Citizen' and a 'TAKE THE PLEDGE' button), 'Take Action Against Rx' (with a house icon and a link to download an Rx Toolkit), 'Protect Your Kids' (with a padlock icon and a link to 3 steps to safeguard medicines), and a counter showing '5 8 9 7 people have signed the pledge'. Below these are four smaller content boxes: 'Quiz' (with a clock and pills image), 'Ronnie's Story' (with a photo of a young man), 'Recent News' (with a CNN headline), and 'Parents360 Rx Toolkit' (with a photo of two women). Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the bottom row.

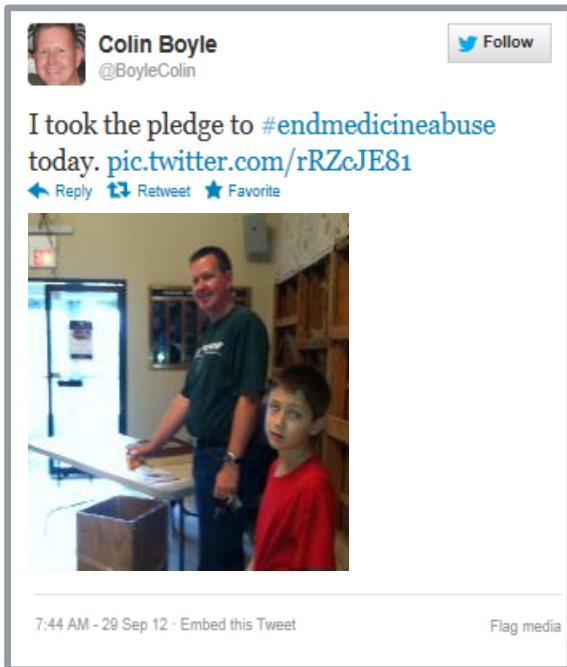


### SITE TRAFFIC & SOCIAL MEDIA

[MedicineAbuseProject.org](http://MedicineAbuseProject.org) received 86,076 visits, 68,910 of these unique and 22,984 from mobile phones and tablets from September through December 2012. Over the same period, about 1,600 people visited The Medicine Abuse Project quiz to find out how much they know about the issue of medicine abuse. Also during this time, nearly 6,350 people visited The Partnership's Facebook page to receive more information about The Medicine Abuse Project.

### THE PLEDGE

From September through December, more than 5,000 people took the Pledge to end medicine abuse and gave us their email address so that they can be an active part of the Project moving forward. ▼



### DEA TAKE-BACK DAY

One of our major objectives and engagement opportunities was participation in the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to DEA's activation of its nearly 5,300 take-back locations nationwide and extensive promotion of the September 29<sup>th</sup> Take-Back Day, over 488,395 pounds (244 tons) of prescription medications were collected from members of the public.

To encourage additional participation in the Take-Back, The Partnership ran a contest asking people to Tweet a picture of themselves dropping off medication at their local Take-Back location in order to be submitted in a raffle to win one of two iPads. Picture of winners above. ▲



Did you know that **70%** of teens that abuse prescription drugs get them from family and friends?

**THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Prescription medicines are now the most commonly abused drugs among 12-13 year olds.

**HELP END THIS EPIDEMIC**  
Safeguard your medicine. Talk with your teens about the dangers of medicine abuse.

Learn more at [MedicineAbuseProject.org](http://MedicineAbuseProject.org)

THE PARTNERSHIP AT DRUGFREE.ORG

Additionally, The Medicine Abuse Project secured **24,000** pharmacy bags distributed in eight states with The Partnership at Drugfree.org as the exclusive advertiser, a value of 13,700.

New York Magazine also issued an e-blast to more than 50,000 subscribers promoting one of our premiere launch week activities.



**THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT**

# THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT LIVE

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
8 A.M. - 9 P.M.  
GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL  
VANDERBILT HALL

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- Prescription medicines are now the most commonly abused drugs among 12 to 13 year olds
- One person dies every 19 minutes from a drug overdose in the United States
- More Americans die from drug overdoses than in car crashes

Join us to prevent half a million teens from abusing medicine within the next five years, and ultimately save lives.

Visit **The Medicine Abuse Project LIVE: Grand Central Exhibit, New York City** to learn more about the issue of teen medicine abuse, view and share stories and take the Pledge to help #endmedicineabuse.

THE PARTNERSHIP AT DRUGFREE.ORG





OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAUNCH WEEK, leaders in the substance abuse field blogged or provided features for The Partnership at Drugfree.org’s [Join Together newsletter](#), which provides news about the substance abuse field, and reaches more than 50,000 professionals in health care, education and public policy. Contributing experts included some of the most preeminent individuals in our field, including Dr. Thomas McLellan of the Treatment Research Institute; Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); and Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pictured below. ▼

There were more than 4,000 social media mentions and a total of 41,265,758 social media impressions (Twitter, Facebook, blogs and videos) through the course of the launch period. This, in part, was driven by influentials who showed social media support for the campaign, including Dr. Oz, Larry King, Maria Shriver, To Write Love on Her Arms, LIVESTRONG, Andrew Zimmern and the organization’s own celebrity spokesperson, Melissa Gilbert.

## [Join Together](#)

### Commentary: Defining The Epidemic of Prescription Painkiller Abuse

By Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH | September 28, 2012 | [Leave a comment](#) | Filed in [Addiction](#), [Prescription Drugs & Research](#)



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has described the country’s sharp rise in overdoses over the last decade from prescription painkillers, or opioids, as an epidemic. But it can be

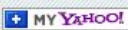

## Subscribe

Get the latest news from Join Together & The Partnership at Drugfree.org

SUBSCRIBE

Join Together is the leading online news service dedicated to bringing effective drug and alcohol prevention news, research and treatment programs to communities nationwide.

Follow Us:   

 MY YAHOO!  NEWSGATOR

 Add to My AOL  BLOGLINES

 NETVIBES  GOOGLE+



# Expansive Social Media and Online Dialogue



facebook



twitter

iVillage

**The Partnership at Drugfree.org**  
Welcome to "The Medicine Abuse Project LIVE: Meet The Parents Hour." For the next hour we invite you to chat with Dr. Drew Pinsky and Amber Smith as we discuss medicine abuse and recovery. PLEASE NOTE: Questions that are off topic will not be answered.

Like · Comment · Share · Edit · September 27

59 people like this.

14 shares

**The Partnership at Drugfree.org** Welcome Amber and Dr. Drew. Let's begin... Amber, can you please introduce yourself and then Dr. Drew...

September 27 at 4:00pm · Like

**Amber Smith** Hello! Its Amber Smith here...

September 27 at 4:00pm · Like · #01

**The Partnership at Drugfree.org** Great to see you Amber Smith! Dr. Drew, are you in yet?

September 27 at 4:01pm · Like

**The Partnership at Drugfree.org** Let's give Dr. Drew a few minutes to join. In the meantime, Here is a pre-submitted question for Amber from our online community. Craig asks "Amber, I think it's great you realized you were addicted and got help! Can you talk about whether others - friends, family, etc. - enable you? How that happened and perhaps, could you have pulled them out if you weren't enabled. If you would, please discuss how other can recognize it and therefore helped you sooner. Keep up the great work on this important issue."

September 27 at 4:02pm · Like

**Amber Smith** I believe DENIAL is very convenient. They don't have to deal with the problem if they don't see it!

September 27 at 4:02pm · Like

**Barbara Jenkins Basey** how do you help a child (adult) get off meth

September 27 at 4:02pm · Like

**DrDrew Pinsky** Parental denial is a very powerful mechanism. It is literally too painful to acknowledge that your child has a dangerous condition

September 27 at 4:02pm · Like · #01



**Cassie Lynne** Dr. Drew, what are some of the biggest challenges you've seen in your patients when it comes to maintaining recovery and sobriety?



**Dr. Drew Pinsky** Cassie the biggest challenge today I am sorry to say is the medical system. Today when my patients die it is virtually always because of pills given to my patients by my peers

**WORKING WITH ITS NETWORK OF ENGAGED PARENT** advisors and ambassadors, experts in the field of medicine abuse and addiction treatment and well-known individuals who have been touched by addiction, The Partnership made extensive use of social media led by Facebook and Twitter to promote The Medicine Abuse Project. On Monday, September 24, parents, teens and concerned citizens

participated in an iVillage chat focusing on medicine abuse and featuring The Partnership President and CEO Steve Pasierb, along with parent specialist Jerry Otero and Assistant Director of Public Affairs Candice Besson. On Thursday, September 27, nearly 1,600 members of [The Partnership's Facebook community](#) were engaged in an hour-long conversation with Dr. Drew Pinsky and Amber Smith of "Celebrity Rehab."

# PART 2 SURVEY

**THE PARTNERSHIP AT DRUGFREE.ORG** conducted a survey of key target audience segments. Our objectives were to uncover newsworthy aspects of the medicine abuse epidemic that could help to attract attention from the news media, and obtain benchmark measures as we begin The Medicine Abuse Project's five-year effort to cut in half the number of teens who initiate the dangerous abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications.

The audience segments surveyed included adults (18 years old and above) in the general population, parents of teens aged 12-17, parents of college students and teens 12-17. Additionally, physicians and dentists were surveyed.

Survey questionnaires asked adults about their awareness and perceptions of the medicine abuse problem, and their practices with regard to storage and disposal of medications at home. In addition to these areas of questioning, parents were asked about their communication with their children with regard to

medicine abuse, their own misuse or abuse of medicine, and their provision of medication to their children. Teens answered questions about their perceptions of their peers' misuse and abuse of medicine, the ease or difficulty of obtaining medicine for nonmedical use, and the extent to which they had talked with their parents or others about medicine abuse.

Physicians and dentists answered questions about their awareness and perceptions of the medicine abuse problem, their prescribing practices, and familiarity with tools to prevent patient abuse of medications, including Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), prescriber/patient agreements and prescription drug monitoring programs.

Results were folded into an [e-Book](#) and distributed to top-tier media and available on the Project's website. Sample pages from the book told, in graphic form, the survey findings:

## THE DISCONNECT

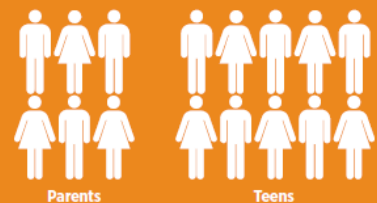
The issue of teen medicine abuse is more widespread than parents think. Still, 22 percent of adults and 19 percent of teens say they know someone who has died due to medicine abuse. So, where is the disconnect? This issue is simply not on their radar. Parents rank medicine abuse 13th among their greatest concerns for

teens, below both alcohol abuse and drug abuse.

While 25 percent of parents of teens believe it is easy to access prescription medicines at home, 37 percent of teens believe the same. Parents may not always be aware of how accessible their medications are to their kids, and how

easy they could be making it for them to find these medicines and potentially abuse them. Since 79 percent of teens know where their parents store their prescription medicines, the easiest place for kids to get drugs is often right in their own home.

Only **6 percent of parents** say they have a child who abused medicine, however **10 percent of teens** admit to misusing/abusing medicines in the past 6 months.

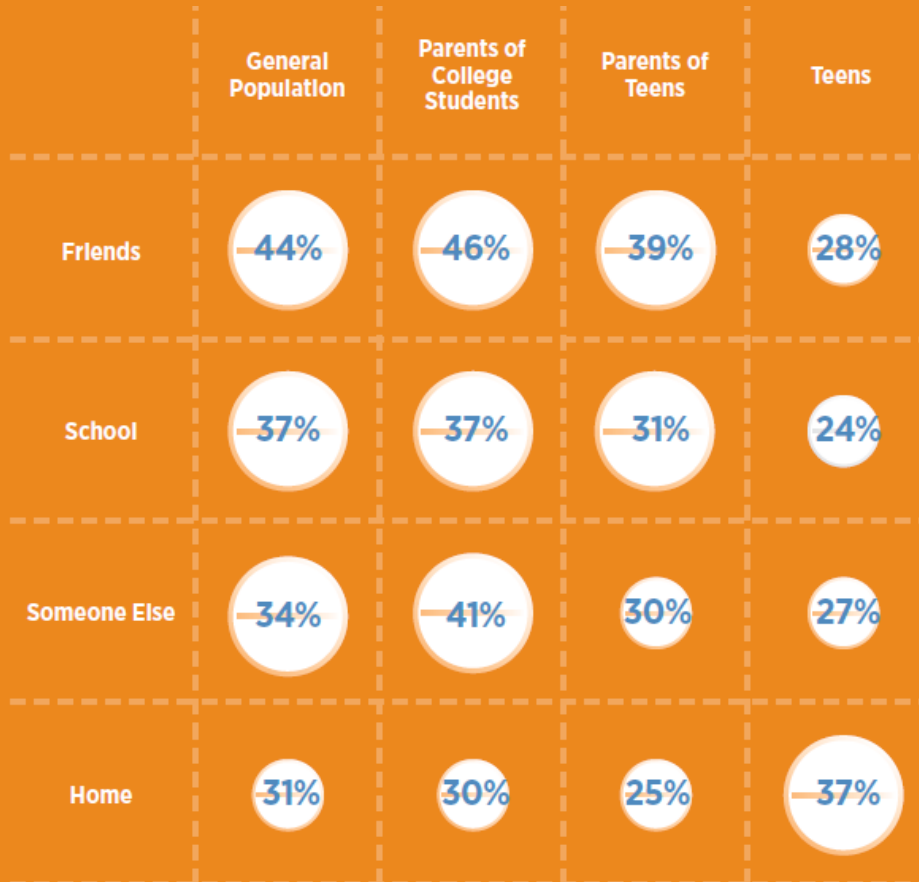




## Teen Accessibility of Prescription Medicine

Adults in the general population and parents of college students believe it's relatively easy for teens to obtain prescription medications from friends, school or other people they know.

If teens wanted to take prescription drugs, they think the easiest place to find them would be at home.







## It's Difficult to Identify At-Risk Kids

Doctors and dentists think it is relatively easy to identify at-risk adult and teen patients, but much more difficult to spot kids who may be at risk for addiction.



**3 in 10**  
believe it is difficult  
to spot at-risk teens



**Close to half**  
find it difficult  
to identify at-risk kids

Doctors and dentists see themselves as influential, but not primarily responsible, when it comes to their patients potentially developing addictions to prescription medicine. In their opinion, they play a smaller, secondary role when it comes to educating patients about the potential for misuse and abuse of medication – their role in combating this issue lies in:

- Limiting access to addictive medicine and prescribing smaller quantities
- Screening for and counseling at-risk patients
- The fact that a relatively small percentage of the prescriptions they write are for potentially addictive medications (although it is a higher percentage among dentists)



## DIFFERING STORIES

The research shows that only 3 percent of parents admit to giving their child/children medication not prescribed for them. Yet, 22 percent (one in five) of teens say they were given a prescription medicine not meant for them by their parents.

It's no wonder that teens underestimate the danger of taking a medication not prescribed for them.

Two out of five adults (42 percent) say they have leftover medicine from a past prescription and nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of these adults report keeping their medicine in case they or someone else needs it in the future.

**Only 3 percent of parents of teens admit giving their child medication not prescribed for them.**



**Yet, 22 percent of teens say they were given a prescription medicine not meant for them by their parents.**





## THE CONVERSATION ISN'T HAPPENING

Parents are considered the most influential force for combating prescription medicine abuse. Of those surveyed, 91 percent of parents believe that it is their responsibility to teach their children about proper medication use; 69 percent of parents also agree that conversations with their children are effective at combating medicine abuse. But, many parents are failing to act as the first line of defense. While, 75 percent of parents of teens say they have discussed medicine abuse with their children, conversations about over-the-counter and prescription medicine abuse have taken place in the past six months with 31 percent and 34 percent of teens, respectively. Teens often do not understand the severity of the possible consequences associated with abusing medication. Most teens recognize that there is some risk of abuse when taking prescription medication, but only 36 percent feel it poses a great risk. Therefore, it is crucial that parents and loved ones talk to the teens in their lives about the dangers of abusing medications. They may seem less dangerous than illicit drugs like heroin and cocaine, but the consequences can be just as devastating. We talk about alcohol, smoking, drinking and driving and sex with our kids — why not medicine abuse?



**75% of parents of teens**

say they have discussed medicine abuse  
with their children



**31% of teens**

have had someone talk to them  
about OTC medicine abuse

**34% of teens**

have had someone talk to them  
about prescription medicine abuse



# THE GREAT DIVIDE



**6 percent of parents of teens** say they have a child who abused medicine...



however **10 percent of teens** admit misusing/abusing medicines in the past six months

**25 percent of parents of teens** believe it is easy to access prescription medicines at home...

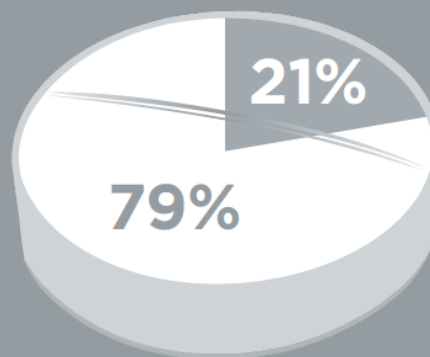
**37 percent of teens** believe the same

**3 percent of parents of teens** admit giving their child/children medication not prescribed for them...

but **22 percent of teens** say their parent gave them a medicine not prescribed to them

## Teen Awareness of Prescription Medication Storage

Most teens (79%) know where their parents keep their prescription medications; 21% do not know.









### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

In September 2012, we distributed our PSAs to our national media partners. In the spring of 2013, those PSAs will be distributed to our local partners in the top 20 media markets so that we can have a second burst of exposure. In addition, we are creating new PSAs - both for television and print media - that will run from September 2013 through year end.

### MEDICINE ABUSE DOCUMENTARY

We are partnering with GenArt, an arts and entertainment organization that showcases emerging fashion designers, filmmakers, musicians and visual artists, bringing added cache and awareness to our Project. GenArt will work with us to create a documentary that will premiere at a film festival in New York City in late summer. Giving voice to the teen experience with medicine abuse, it will be a valuable tool to engage the press as well as educate parents, health care providers, teachers, community leaders and policy makers about the problem and can be the centerpiece of local events in communities across the country.



### WORKING WITH PARTNERS

We will coordinate with our partner organizations to continue to push out to their members the content on MedicineAbuseProject.org through their regular communications as well as at their conferences and events.

We also plan to create an enhanced grassroots kit for 2013 that will feature more customized materials for different audiences.

### ADVOCACY

In 2013, The Medicine Abuse Project will also expand its footprint and incorporate advocacy as a program goal. Our ongoing communication with individuals who have signed the Pledge will begin to include opportunities to weigh in with policymakers on issues related to medicine abuse. We will also have social media opportunities for people to show their support for advocacy actions.



# FUNDERS and PARTNERS

## THE SUCCESS OF THE MEDICINE ABUSE PROJECT

launch is due in large part to the tremendous efforts of our funders, federal agency partners and strategic partners who promoted the Project, driving awareness and action. From the corporate CEOs who sent out company-wide letters urging employees to participate in the effort to the community groups that persuaded local pharmacies to hand out information about medicine abuse to their customers, our partners were

dogged in spreading the word. We thank them for their blast emails, Tweets, press releases and Facebook posts. We also are grateful for their insights and educational content that helped populate MedicineAbuseProject.org. We look forward to continuing to work with all of them as we move toward our common goal of reducing half a million teens from abusing medicine in the next five years.

### GOLD SPONSORS



Mallinckrodt



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### SILVER SPONSORS



### BRONZE SPONSORS



### CHAMPION SPONSORS





## FEDERAL PARTNERS

Office of National Drug Control Policy  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Food and Drug Administration  
United States Attorneys

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pain Management  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Poison Control Centers  
American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Medicine Chest Challenge  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies  
Caron Treatment Centers  
The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA)  
Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies  
Healthcare Distribution Management Association  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
National Association of Attorneys General  
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals  
National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of State Controlled Substance Abuse Authorities  
National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse  
National Council on Patient Information and Education  
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition  
NEA Health Information Networks  
Phoenix House  
SIMmersion  
Treatment Research Institute



## LOCAL / STATE PARTNERS

ACT Missouri

Any Lab Tests Now

Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families, Houston

Behind the Orange Curtain

California Friday Night Live Partnership

Lifepan Institute

C.A.R.E. Services

The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse-  
Dallas Alliance

Denver RAP

DrugFreeAZ.org

F.A.T.E. (Fighting Addiction Through Education)

Governor's Prevention Partnership, Connecticut

HC DrugFree

Hope2gether.org

Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

Major Country Sheriffs

Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse

Mt. Airy Police Department

Northern Surry Hospital

Palm Beach County Substance Awareness  
Coalition

P.E.A.C.E. Foundation

Partnership at DrugFreeIowa.org

Partnership for a Drug-Free NC

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Partnership for a Drug-Free Ohio

Pine Street Marketing

Power of Pain Foundation

Prevent! Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
of Clark County

Prevention First

Project Lazarus

Recovered4Life

Save a Star Drug Awareness Foundation

Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Program

Substance Abuse Free Environment Inc.

Tackling Youth Substance Abuse Initiative-  
A Project of the Staten Island Partnership  
for Community Wellness

University of Cincinnati





To find out more about The Medicine Abuse Project,  
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