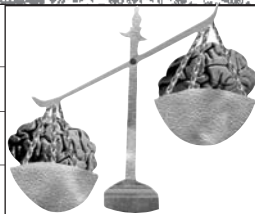


HEADS UP REAL NEWS ABOUT DRUGS AND YOUR BODY



A Prescription for Pain

Most people who take prescription drugs do so in a form and dose that a doctor orders. But some people take medicine for non-medical purposes. That's drug abuse, and it can have serious health consequences. Here's some info on a few commonly abused prescription drugs. Once you've reviewed it, complete the true/false quiz based on the graph at right.

- **OxyContin** and **Vicodin** are painkillers. They belong to the same class of drugs as heroin. When used for non-medical purposes, OxyContin and Vicodin can cause addiction, slowing or stopping of breathing, and death.
- **Tranquilizers** and **barbiturates** are used to treat anxiety, panic attacks, and sleep disorders. They are depressants, which means they slow down brain activity. This produces a calming effect. When they're abused, they create the potential for addiction.
- Methylphenidate, also known as **Ritalin**, is a stimulant used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Stimulants increase brain activity and can lead to greater alertness and attention. If used inappropriately (not as medically prescribed), stimulants can cause dangerously high body temperatures, irregular heartbeat, seizures, and heart attack.

TRUE/FALSE QUIZ

- The graph shows the percentage of 10th graders who abuse prescription drugs.
TRUE FALSE
- Of all of the prescription drugs shown on the graph, Vicodin has the greatest percentage of users.
TRUE FALSE
- More than five percent of 12th-graders surveyed in 2002 said they'd abused Ritalin in the past 30 days.
TRUE FALSE
- More 12th-graders surveyed said that they have abused OxyContin rather than Vicodin.
TRUE FALSE
- OxyContin and Ritalin show the same percentage of abusers.
TRUE FALSE

PAST 30-DAY ABUSE BY 12TH-GRADERS, 2002

The bar graph below shows the percent of 12th-graders who had abused different prescription drugs during a 30-day period in 2002.

