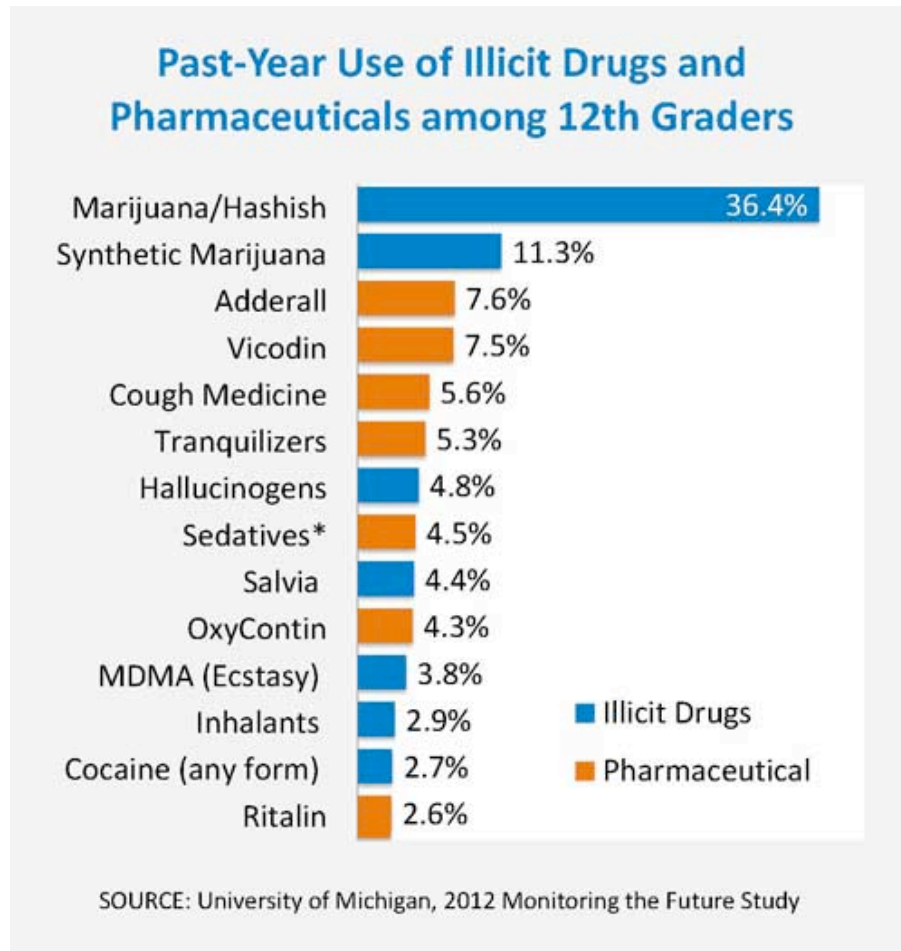


Addiction

Obj. 3.8: Use data to provide evidence for the prescription drug abuse epidemic



Use the graph below to answer the questions:



- Which 3 pharmaceutical drugs did 12th graders use most in the past year?
- What pharmaceutical drug most closely matches the rate of use among 12th graders for each of the following illicit drugs:
 - Cocaine (any form): _____
 - MDMA (Ecstasy): _____
 - Synthetic marijuana: _____
- Why do you think pharmaceutical drugs (prescription drugs) are being abused at these levels among 12th graders?

NEW
INFO**Prescription Drug Abuse**

If you take a medicine in a way that is different from what the doctor prescribed, it is called prescription drug abuse. It could be

- Taking a medicine that was prescribed for someone else
- Taking a larger dose than you are supposed to
- Taking the medicine in a different way than you are supposed to. This might be crushing tablets and then snorting or injecting them.
- Using the medicine for another purpose, such as getting high

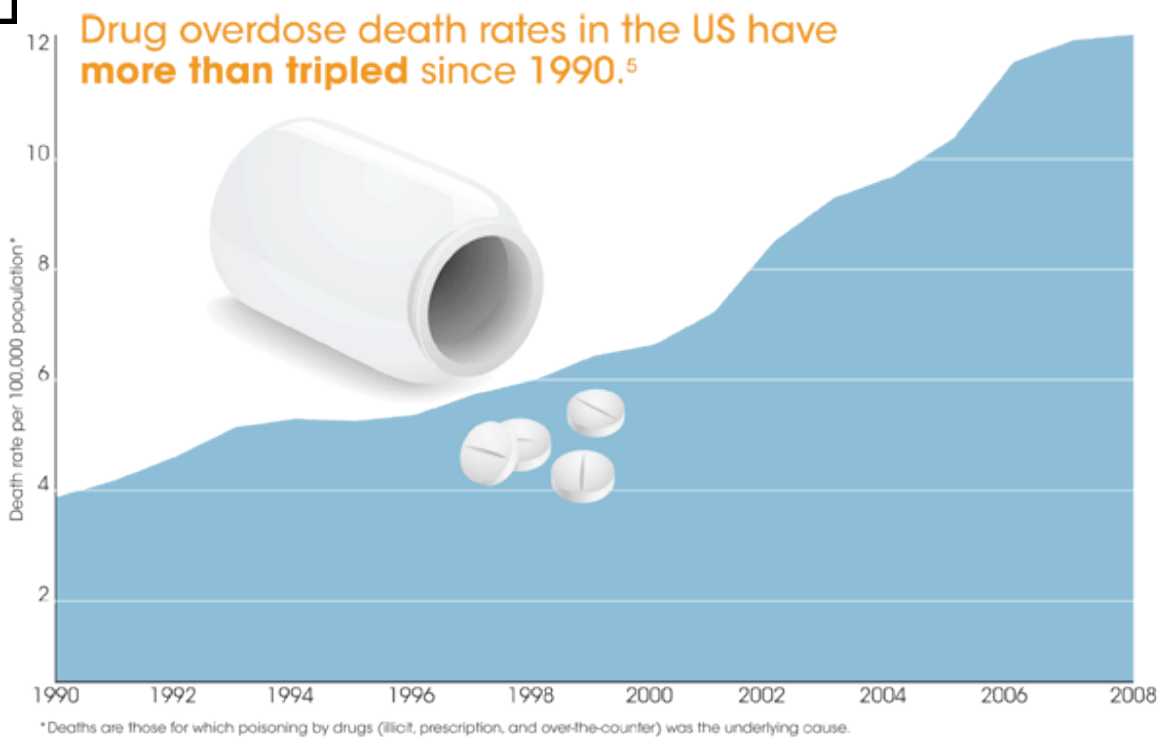
Abusing some prescription drugs can lead to addiction. These include narcotic painkillers, sedatives, tranquilizers, and stimulants.

Every medicine has some risk of side effects. Doctors take this into account when prescribing medicines. People who abuse these drugs may not understand the risks. The medicines may not be safe for them, especially at higher doses or when taken with other medicines.

Source: NIH: National Institute on Drug Abuse



Use the graph to answer the questions below:



1. In what year did drug overdose deaths double the number of deaths in the year 1990? _____
2. Why do you think drug overdose deaths have been rising in the past few decades?

DISCUSS

With a partner, examine the following info-graphic. Make a list of problems that this data highlights, beyond the most serious cases where death results from prescription drug overdose. Consider problems for the individuals addicted, their family and friends, health care providers, institutions, and society as a whole.

For every **1** death there are...



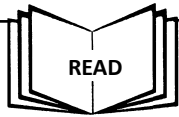
10 treatment admissions for abuse⁹

32 emergency dept visits for misuse or abuse⁶

130 people who abuse or are dependent⁷

825 nonmedical users⁷

Problems:



How Prescription Painkiller Deaths Occur

Prescription painkillers work by binding to receptors in the brain to decrease the perception of pain. These powerful drugs can create a feeling of euphoria, cause physical dependence, and, in some people, lead to addiction. Prescription painkillers also cause sedation and slow down a person's breathing.

A person who is abusing prescription painkillers might take larger doses to achieve a euphoric effect and reduce withdrawal symptoms. These larger doses can cause breathing to slow down so much that breathing stops, resulting in a fatal overdose.

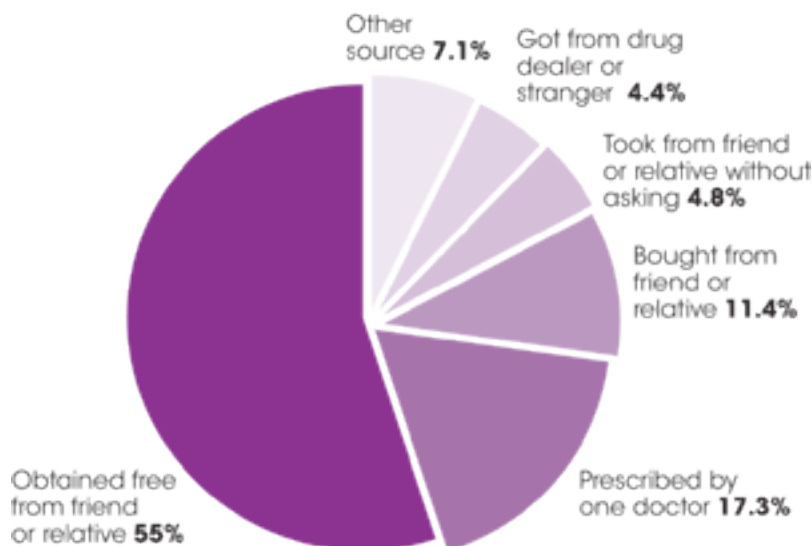
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/rxbrief/>

Where the Drugs Come From

Almost all prescription drugs involved in overdoses come from prescriptions originally; very few come from pharmacy theft. However, once they are prescribed and dispensed, prescription drugs are frequently diverted to people using them without prescriptions. More than three out of four people who misuse prescription painkillers use drugs prescribed to someone else.

Primary care and internal medicine doctors and dentists, not specialists, prescribe most prescription painkillers. Roughly 20% of prescribers prescribe 80% of all prescription painkillers.

People who abuse prescription painkillers get drugs from a variety of sources⁷





Use the data presented in this lesson to describe the prescription drug abuse problem, in a clear and compelling paragraph. Use at least 4 pieces of evidence from the data in your explanation.



Find two additional data sets (in graph, chart, table form) on the prescription drug abuse problem. Add an additional short paragraph below using the new data to continue your explanation of the prescription drug abuse problem.