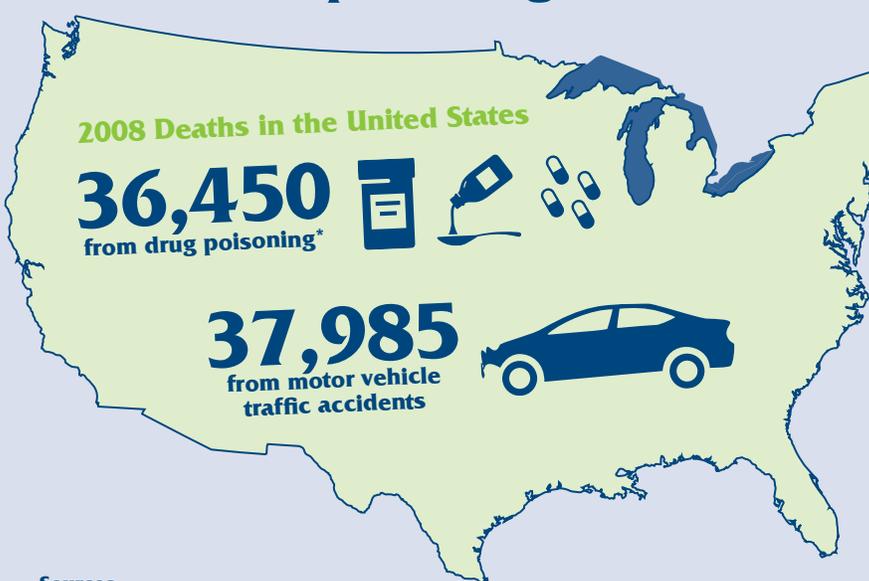


# Focus on Prescription Drugs

## Nearly as many people die each year from drug poisoning\* as from motor vehicle traffic accidents<sup>1</sup>

\*From illegal, prescription and over-the-counter drug misuse



**Prescription drug abuse means taking a prescription medication that is not prescribed for you, or taking it for reasons or in dosages other than prescribed.**

- Most widely abused prescription drugs<sup>2</sup>**
- **Pain relievers:** Hydrocodone, Vicodin and OxyContin
  - **Sedatives and tranquilizers:** Valium, Xanax, Ambien
  - **Stimulants:** Adderall and Ritalin

**Sources to obtain prescription drugs for nonmedical use.** Averages from 2009-2010<sup>3</sup>

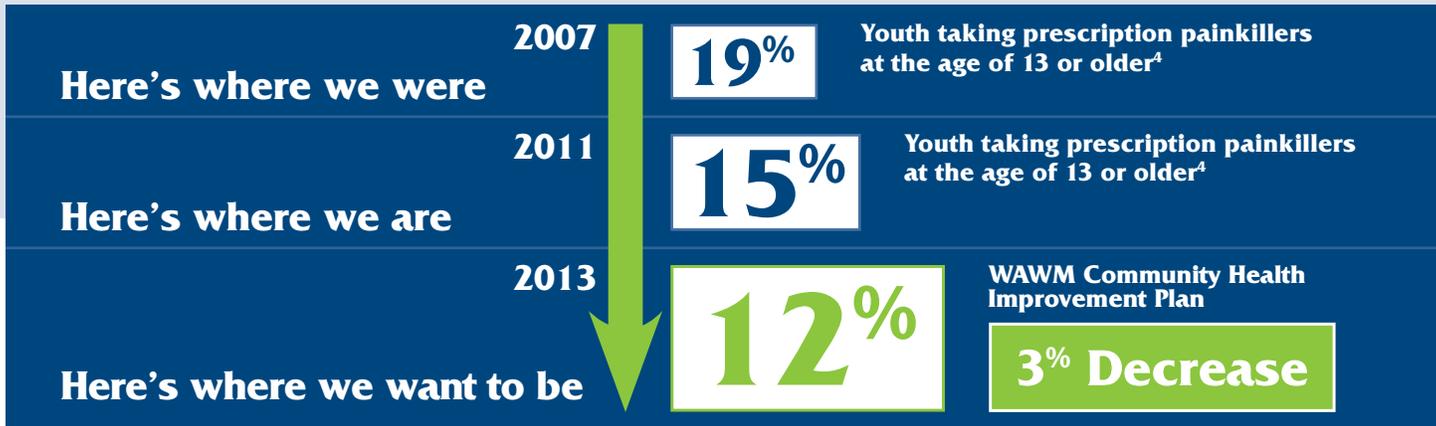
**60.1%** from friend or relative for free

**27.1%** from a doctor

**11.2%** took from friend or relative without asking

**Sources**

<sup>1</sup>Cesar Fax - January 23, 2011 Vol. 21, Issue 3  
<sup>2</sup>NIDA Research Reports: Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction, Revised Oct. 2011  
<sup>3</sup>Cesar Fax - October 31, 2011 Vol. 20, Issue 41  
<sup>4</sup>2011 WAWM Youth Risk Behavior Survey  
<sup>5</sup>CDC Vital Signs - November 4, 2011  
<sup>6</sup>Office of National Drug Control Policy <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/prescription-drug-abuse>



Non-medical use of prescription pain relievers costs insurance companies up to **\$72.5 billion dollars annually<sup>5</sup>**



**16%** Youth Ages 13-18 took prescription drugs like Ritalin, Adderall, or Xanax without a prescription at least once in their lifetime.<sup>4</sup>

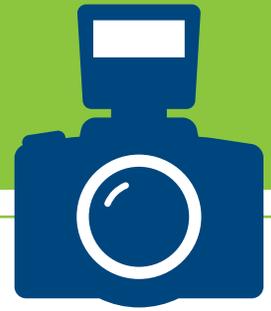


**Unfortunately, youth mistakenly believe that drugs prescribed by a doctor are safer than illicit drugs.**



Nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time in 2009 began by using a prescription drug non-medically.<sup>6</sup>

# WAWMCC Snapshot Focus on Prescription Drugs



## Did you know...

- ▶ Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use & Health showed 6,600 Americans per day start to misuse prescription drugs.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ The West Allis - West Milwaukee Community Coalition is a group of community leaders and partners working together to prevent underage alcohol use and substance abuse in our community.
- ▶ **YOU** make a difference in our community whenever you support and encourage a teen to make positive and healthy decisions.

### Sources

<sup>1</sup>CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, January 13, 2012 / 61(01);10-13 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6101a3.htm>.  
<sup>2</sup>NIDA Research Reports: Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction, Revised Oct. 2011

## What can you do?

- Lock up your medicine.
- Dispose of your medicine properly at the West Allis Police Department\* 24 hour drug drop-off box.

Amount collected in 2011:

**OVER 300 lbs!** of misc. medications



\*Located at 11301 West Lincoln Avenue.

Become one of the powerful voices encouraging positive choices to create a safer and healthier community

West Allis • West Milwaukee  
Community Coalition



Powerful Voices, Positive Choices

1135 South 70 Street, Room 406  
West Allis, WI 53214

Phone: 414-604-3506  
Email: [coalition@wawm.k12.wi.us](mailto:coalition@wawm.k12.wi.us)

[www.wawmcc.org](http://www.wawmcc.org)

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## Become Informed

- Receive email updates from the Coalition about underage substance abuse issues.
- Visit the Coalition's website ([www.wawmcc.org](http://www.wawmcc.org)) for Important News, Community Resources and Parent Tips.
- Join the Forum on the Coalition's website.

## Become Involved

- Read the Parent brochure for ways to talk with your children about alcohol and drugs.
- Sign the Family Pledge.
- Host alcohol-free parties and attend alcohol-free family events.
- Voice your ideas and concerns at Coalition meetings.
- Spread the word by sharing the Coalition's mission with others.
- Attend bi-monthly Coalition Meetings in 2012 – July 18th, September 19th and November 21st.

## Become Invested

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Meet your children's friends and introduce yourself to their parents.
- Look for signs of drug use or suspicious activity in your neighborhood.
- Join your neighborhood block watch.