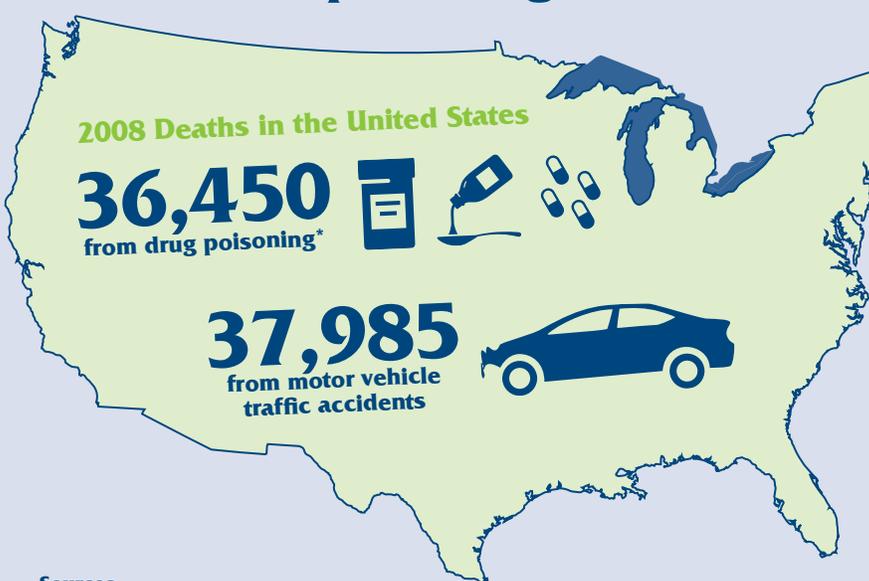


Focus on Prescription Drugs

Nearly as many people die each year from drug poisoning* as from motor vehicle traffic accidents¹

*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 drugs²**
- **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 2009-2010³

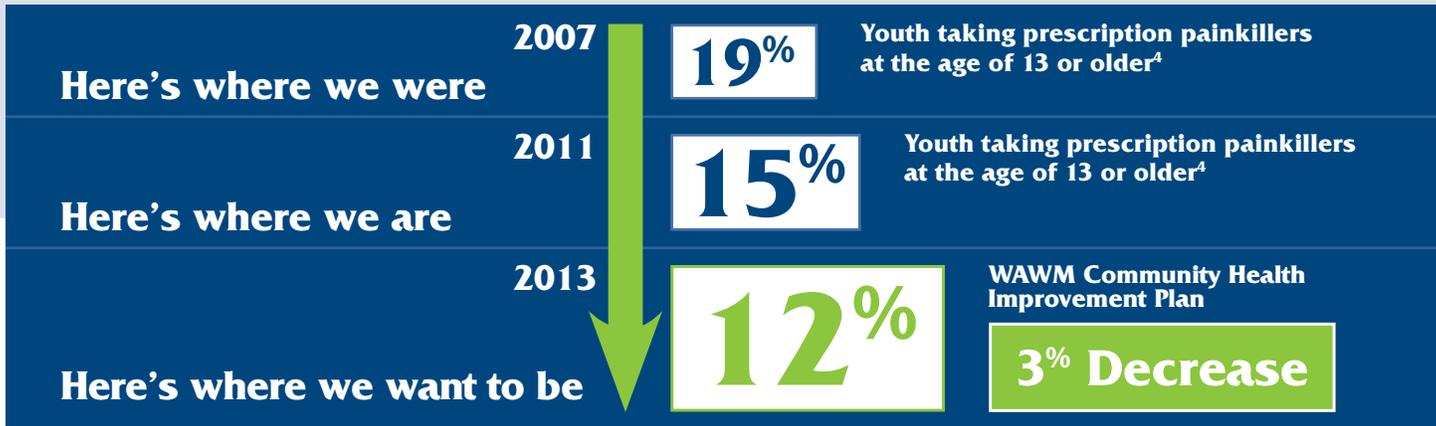
60.1% from friend or relative for free

27.1% from a doctor

11.2% took from friend or relative without asking

Sources

¹Cesar Fax - January 23, 2011 Vol. 21, Issue 3
²NIDA Research Reports: Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction, Revised Oct. 2011
³Cesar Fax - October 31, 2011 Vol. 20, Issue 41
⁴2011 WAWM Youth Risk Behavior Survey
⁵CDC Vital Signs - November 4, 2011
⁶Office 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 annually⁵**



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



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.⁶

WAWMCC Snapshot Focus on Prescription Drugs



Did you know...

- ▶ Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States.¹
- ▶ Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use & Health showed 6,600 Americans per day start to misuse prescription drugs.²
- ▶ 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

¹CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, January 13, 2012 / 61(01);10-13 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6101a3.htm>.
²NIDA 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

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) 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.