



*"I wish someone would have told me..."*

**Why I should be worried about the misuse or abuse of prescription medications.**

**Unintentional drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. with an average of 100 people dying everyday**

Know the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly  
about YOUR medications.

For more info visit: [go.osu.edu/RespectTheRx](http://go.osu.edu/RespectTheRx)



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The possession of "controlled substances" (narcotic pain relievers, sedatives, stimulants) that are not prescribed for you is against state and federal laws! **You can go to jail for taking or selling someone else's prescription medications.**

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Misusing prescription opioids (pain relievers) can lead to addiction. Your body can also develop tolerance to the drug, requiring you to take more medication for the same effect.

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**Abusing prescription medications is not a safe alternative to "street" drugs.** Emergency department visits related to prescription drug abuse now exceed those related to "street" drug use in the United States.



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**You could become addicted to some prescription medications if not used correctly as directed by your physician and pharmacist.**



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The misuse or abuse of prescription medications can have serious consequences.



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**Most Americans who abused a substance for the first time in 2011 started with prescription drugs.**



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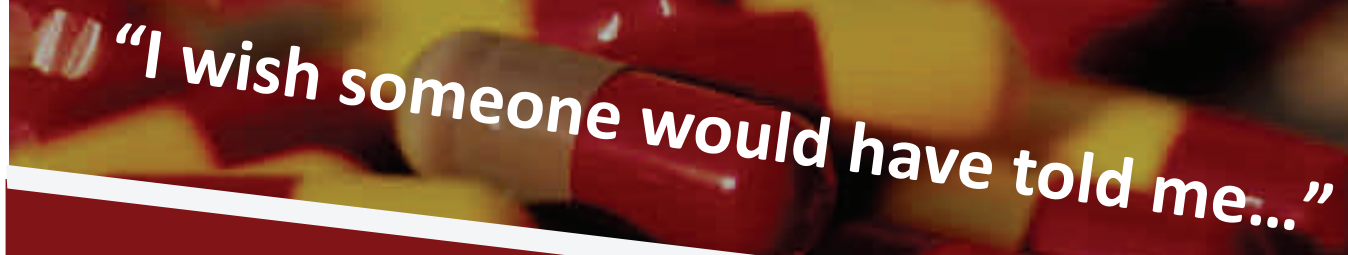
**Personal stories about the struggles of  
prescription drug misuse or abuse**

*"I think if all my friends had never  
tried OxyContin, it would have  
never led to the heroin, never.  
Everybody [that I know who uses  
heroin] started out with  
OxyContin."—Female, 18, Dayton,*

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**Personal stories about the struggles of  
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*"I was, like, 15 when I broke  
my ankle, and they gave me a  
prescription of Percs...and I just  
haven't really ever quit since."  
-Male, active user*

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**Personal stories about the struggles of  
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**Kim, now age 27, had a friend with an opioid prescription and asked to try one. Liking it, she used her friend's prescription then started buying pills on the street. Shifting to more potent preparations and larger numbers of pills, the resulting dosages rapidly increased and she could barely sustain the habit. She commented: "I heard there was this little bag of stuff for \$40 that would do more than the pills did." That was heroin. She had a friend who was already using a needle. "I forced him to shoot me up. He begged me not to do it." As with pills, her tolerance rapidly increased until her habit was at \$400 to \$600 per day.**

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John once wrote down the names of everyone he knew who sold pills. There were 60 people on the list, all from his small community. John supported his habit by stealing, which was very much contrary to his values. He became depressed, suicidal, and attempted suicide several times. After attempting suicide, being in a psychiatric hospital, and facing jail, he entered treatment. John said, "I graduated in a class of 67 people; within 10 years 15 were dead from drugs"

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