

FACTS

Prescription Drug Abuse in Colorado

1. In 2013, 1.6 people died every day from unintentional drug poisoning. Deaths involving the use of opioid analgesics such as morphine, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone and fentanyl more than tripled from 87 in 2000, to 295 in 2013.¹
2. In 2013, 35% of the drug poisoning deaths in Colorado were due to opioid analgesics.²
3. In 2013, 21% of the drug poisoning hospitalizations in Colorado were due to prescription opioid poisoning.³
4. In 2013, more people in Colorado died from poisoning due to opioid analgesics (295) than from drunk-driving related fatalities (161).⁴
5. According to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, oxycodone prescriptions for Colorado residents increased 12.5% from the 3rd quarter of 2013 through the 3rd quarter of 2014.⁵
6. According to the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 5.05% of Coloradans reported using pain relievers non-medically in the past year. This is down from 6% in 2011. The age range with the highest misuse rates is still 18 to 25-year-olds at 12.18%.⁶
7. During two National Take-Back Initiative events in 2014, hosted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement agencies, Coloradans turned in 39,849 pounds of unused medication.⁷
8. The 2013 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey revealed that 1 in 7 Colorado high school students (13.6%) had taken a prescription medication without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their life. This rate was 1 in 6 (17.8%) for Colorado high school seniors.⁸
9. Nationally, one in four teens (24%) reports having misused or abused a prescription medication at least once in their lifetime. 42% of these teens obtained it from their parent's medicine cabinet. One in five (20%) of these teens had misused or abused a prescription medication before age 14.⁹



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Call us at 303.369.0039 for more information or to schedule a presentation
www.PeerAssistanceServices.org/prescription | [facebook.com/PreventRxMedicineAbuse](https://www.facebook.com/PreventRxMedicineAbuse)

1 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Statistics Section (2013)

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

4 Ibid and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2013). *Fatality Analysis Reporting System*. Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/llovedale/Downloads/Monthly_Fatals_2013%20(2).pdf

5 Colorado Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Registrations, Board of Pharmacy Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2012). *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*. Retrieved from <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm>

7 U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Denver Field Division (November 2014)

8 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. (2013). Retrieved from http://www.chd.dphe.state.co.us/topics.aspx?q=Adolescent_Health_Data

9 The Partnership at Drugfree.org & MetLife Foundation. (2012). *Partnership Attitude Tracking Study*. Retrieved from <http://www.drugfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/PATS-2012-FULL-REPORT2.pdf>