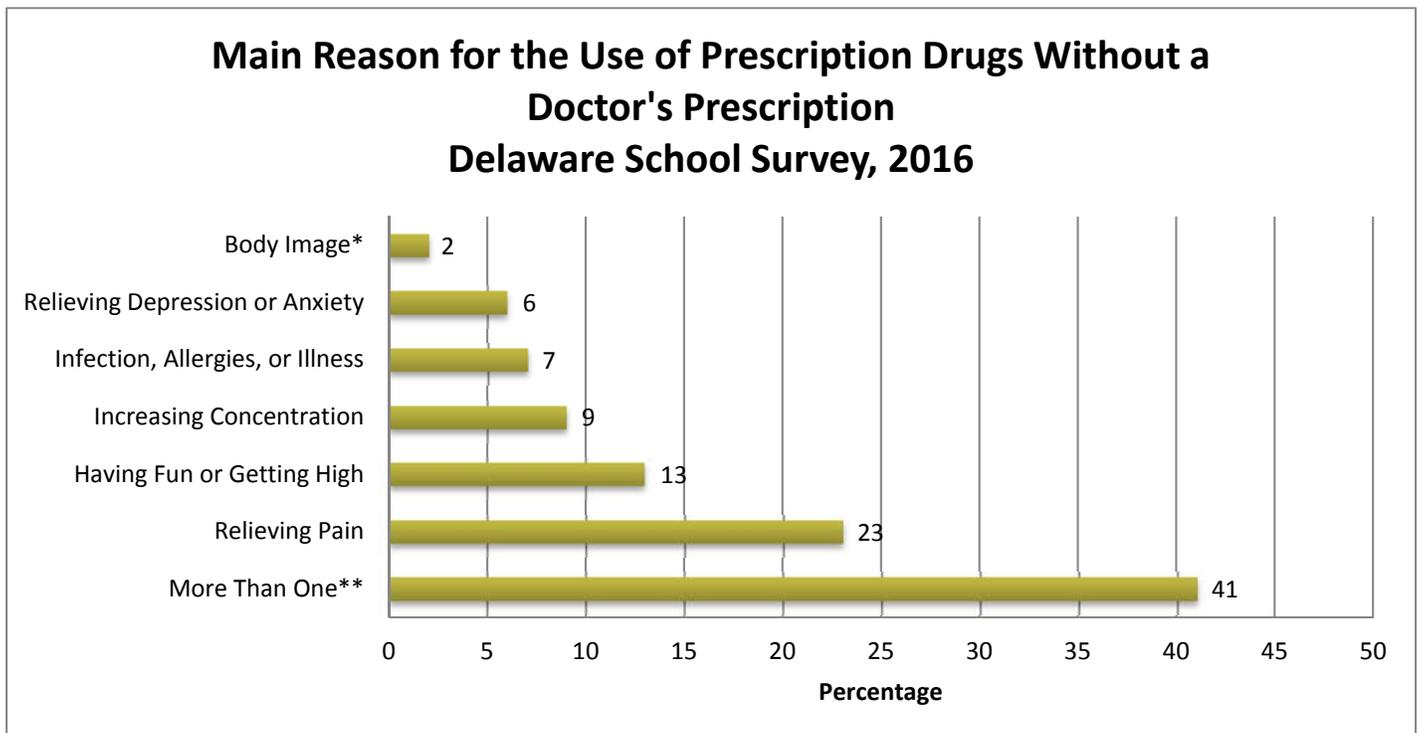


Getting high is not the only reason why high school students use prescription drugs without a prescription

It is often presumed that the major reason high school students use prescription drugs without a prescription (or differently than prescribed) is to get high or to have fun. But as the chart below illustrates, students abuse prescription medications for a variety of reasons: to increase their concentration, to relieve anxiety or depression, to relieve pain, etc. The 2016 Delaware School Survey data show that for those 11th graders who reported past year prescription drug misuse/abuse, the majority of students did not do so *just* to get high. Relieving pain was most often identified as the sole reason (23%) for abusing prescription drugs. Almost half of students surveyed (41%) reported abusing prescription drugs for more than one reason. Among students reporting multiple reasons, getting high was frequently identified as one of the factors. In addition to getting high, the evidence suggests that prescription drug abuse may indicate unmet needs of high school students.



*Includes "adding muscle" and "weight loss"

**Includes all those that said two or more of the six reasons listed.