“BECAUSE IT’S A FUN THING TO DO”: DIFFERENTIATING YOUTH PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSERS BY MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL MOTIVES FOR RX USE

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Part 1: Literature
Part 2: Methods
Part 3: Describing Rx Users
Part 4: Comparing Rx Users
PART 2: METHODS
METHODS

- 11th Grade Students in Delaware
  + Random sample of 85% of all 11th grade classrooms in Delaware public and public-charter schools
  + Combined sample of 2006 & 2008 data
  + 11,272 participants (92% response rate)
PART 3:
DESCRIBING RX USERS
WHO USES RX?

Past Year Rx Use Without a Prescription

- **All 11th Grade**: 25%
- **Males**: 22%
- **Females**: 21%
- **White**: 20%
- **Black**: 17%
- **Hispanic**: 13%

**Legend**:
- **Blue**: All 11th Grade
- **Red**: Males
- **Green**: Females
- **Purple**: White
- **Teal**: Black
- **Orange**: Hispanic
WHY THEY USE

- Relieve pain
  - Male: 54%
  - Female: 59%
  - Total: 57%

- Infection, Allergy, Illness
  - Male: 34%
  - Female: 37%
  - Total: 36%

- Gain muscle, endurance
  - Male: 48%
  - Female: 55%
  - Total: 51%

- Concentrate better
  - Male: 12%
  - Female: 4%
  - Total: 7%

- Depression or anxiety
  - Male: 26%
  - Female: 22%
  - Total: 24%

- To lose weight
  - Male: 15%
  - Female: 23%
  - Total: 20%

- Male

- Female

- Total
WHO WANTS TO GET HIGH?
MOTIVATION BY DEMOGRAPHICS

Medical
To Get High
Both

Male
Female
Total

Medical
To Get High
Both

Medical
To Get High
Both

White
Black
Hispanic
Other/Mixed
Total
WHO WANTS TO GET HIGH?
DEMOGRAPHICS BY MOTIVE

- Medical: 38% Male, 62% Female
- To Get High: 48% Male, 52% Female
- Both: 48% Male, 52% Female
WHAT THEY’RE USING

Painkillers
75% Medical
78% To Get High
92% Both

ADHD Meds
52% Medical
46% To Get High

Downers
48% Medical
47% To Get High

Uppers
13% Medical
18% To Get High

Medical
To Get High
Both
WHERE THEY GET THEM

- **Friends**: 72% Medical, 66% To Get High, 43% Both
- **Parents with Permission**: 35% Medical, 12% To Get High, 18% Both
- **Parents w/o Permission**: 23% Medical, 28% To Get High, 16% Both
- **At Party/Rave**: 6% Medical, 13% To Get High, 16% Both
- **The Internet**: 1% Medical, 1% To Get High, 2% Both
- **Dealer under 21**: 56% Medical, 63% To Get High, 24% Both
- **Dealer over 21**: 16% Medical, 16% To Get High, 41% Both
PART 4: COMPARING RX USERS
OTHER SUBSTANCE USE

- Cigarettes:
  - Medical: 31%
  - To Get High: 74%
  - Both: 68%
  - Non-Users: 23%

- Alcohol:
  - Medical: 77%
  - To Get High: 98%
  - Both: 99%
  - Non-Users: 66%

- Marijuana:
  - Medical: 90%
  - To Get High: 87%
  - Both: 36%
  - Non-Users: 41%
OTHER SUBSTANCE USE

OTC to get high: 38%, Hallucinogens: 24%, Inhalants: 20%, Cocaine / Crack: 16%

Percentage of users and non-users for each category.
OTHER SUBSTANCE USE

- Street Uppers: 14% (Medical), 14% (To Get High), 2% (Both), 2% (Non-Users)
- Ecstasy: 7% (Medical), 10% (To Get High), 2% (Both), 2% (Non-Users)
- Heroin: 1% (Medical), 1% (To Get High), 3% (Both), 0% (Non-Users)
NON-VIOLENT DELINQUENCY

Cheated on a test: 61% Medical, 75% To Get High, 73% Both, 52% Non-Users
Shoplifted: 24% Medical, 50% To Get High, 48% Both, 19% Non-Users
Vandalized: 43% Medical, 44% To Get High, 48% Both, 20% Non-Users
CONSEQUENCES

- Skip School: 37%, 67%, 72%
- Suspended / Expelled: 11%, 24%, 24%
- Gang Membership: 5%, 12%, 16%
- Arrested: 5%, 6%, 13%

Categories:
- Medical
- To Get High
- Both
- Non-Users