

# What You Need to Know

Young people are misusing prescription drugs, which puts them at risk of encountering counterfeit drugs. Pills are being laced with harmful substances like fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

Depending what's inside, one pill can be deadly. Talk to your kids today!

## Where Do They Get the Pills?

### Friends & Family

- Nearly half (49%) of teens report getting prescription drugs from a friend. While 42% reported getting them from their parent's medicine cabinet.
- Even if the pills are from a friend, nobody knows for sure where the friend got them.

### Social Media

- Some teens and young adults have turned to social media, mostly Snapchat and Instagram, to buy what they believe are prescription drugs, however, they are often counterfeit.
- If purchased on social media, many dealers send packages directly to the buyer's home and parents are unaware unless they intercept the package.

## Why Are They Using Them?

There isn't a certain "type" of kid who is impacted by overdoses from counterfeit pills. It affects everyone; from the A-student to the football team captain. Many factors can drive a young person to try drugs including:

- Self-medicating for anxiety & depression
- Study aid or improve professional success
- Stress
- Boredom
- Ease social anxiety and have fun
- Weight loss
- Improve sports performance or ease pain
- To fall asleep or stay awake

## What You Can Do

Conversations and modeling good behavior are keys to prevention! Your kids are listening and watching you even when you don't think they are.

- Have an honest conversation about the dangers of prescription drug misuse.
- Make them aware of that ANYONE can encounter a counterfeit pill and it only takes one pill to cause serious illness or death.
- If your kids take prescription drugs, let them know it's dangerous to share their medications.
- Lock up all prescription medications in your home and safely dispose of unused/expired ones.

## Looks Are Deceiving!

