

IN THE KNOW:

Prescription Drug Abuse



How It Affects the Body

All of the commonly-abused **prescription drugs** are addictive. This includes prescription opioids, such as Vicodin and OxyContin, central nervous system depressants, such as Xanax and Valium, and prescription stimulants, such as Ritalin and Adderall. All of these medications carry the risk of severe side effects, addiction, or death when abused.



BRAIN

Stimulants Cause:

- Psychosis
- Paranoia
- Insomnia
- Seizures

Depressants Cause:

- Withdrawal
- Seizures
- Suicidal thoughts
- Death



LUNGS

- Fluid build-up
- Shortness of breath
- Infections/pneumonia
- Death



HEART

- Abnormal heart rate
- Heart attack
- Heart failure



STOMACH

- Nausea
- Bloating
- Reduced appetite
- Stomach pain
- Weight loss



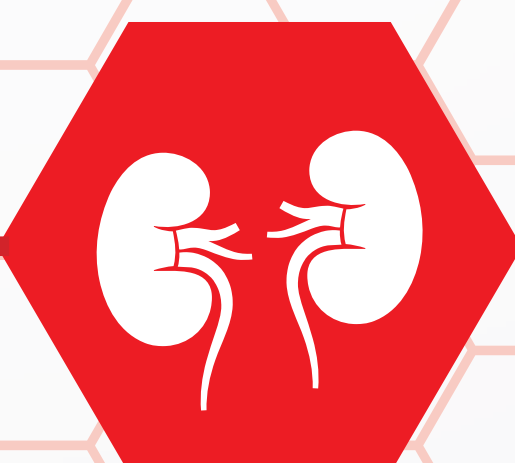
LIVER

- Acetaminophen in most painkillers causes severe liver damage and liver failure



INTESTINES

- Constipation
- Laxative dependency



KIDNEYS

- Renal failure
- Dialysis



IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Lowers your defense system
- Puts you at risk for other illnesses

ABUSING RX DRUGS WHILE PREGNANT RAISES THE RISK OF:

- Contractions - pre-term labor/birth
- Birth Defects or Fetal Death
- Underdeveloped or underweight babies



Take control of your health - Don't abuse prescription drugs