

Prescription Drugs

**PA students
are using Rx drugs
at very high rates!**



**30-day Rx drug use
rates are less than 1%
for grades 6, 8, 10,
& 12 combined!**

Most prevalent used Rx drug are prescription pain relievers

Lifetime Narcotic Pain Reliever Use in PA	12th Grade	30-Day Narcotic Pain Reliever Use in PA	12th Grade
2015	12.1%	2015	3.0%
2017	8.8%	2017	1.7%
2019	6.1%	2019	1.1%

- 12th grade 30-day narcotic use decreased from 1.7% to 1.1%.
- 40.1% of 12th graders who reported using prescription drugs in the past 12 months reported that a friend or family member gave them to them.
- 45.2% of the 6th graders and 51.5% of the 8th graders who reported using prescription drugs during the past 12 months took them from a family member in their home.
- The overall percentage of students reporting it would be easy for them to obtain prescription drugs decreased from 27.8% in 2015 to 25.5% in 2017 to 23.9% in 2019.
- The sharpest decrease for prescription drug use overall was among 12th graders whose rate dropped from 38.0% to 34.3%.
- 83.2% of 12th graders reported that their friends would think it was wrong or very wrong to use prescription drugs without a doctor's script. This is up from 77.4% in 2015 and 81.5% in 2017.
- Lifetime use of prescription stimulants among 12th graders continued to decrease from 9.7% in 2015 to 6.8% in 2017 to 4.2% in 2019. The national rate for 2019 was 7.7%.