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Medication Abuse Facts

- ✓ During the 2009-2010 school year more Kalamazoo County middle school kids reported abusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days than reported using marijuana or alcohol (2010 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey).
- ✓ The non-medical use of prescription pain relievers by youth between that ages of 12 to 17 increased 17% between 2008 and 2009 (2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health).
- ✓ Most kids who misuse prescription medications report that they obtain the drugs from friends and family. Many of these medications, particularly prescription painkillers, sit unused and unsecured in medicine cabinets, making them readily available (2009 Office of National Drug Control Policy).
- ✓ Research indicates that youth who've abused prescription pain medication are at a higher risk for abusing illicite drugs such as heroin (Jane M Burns, Raymond F Martyres, Daniell Clode and Jennifer M Boldero, 2004).
- ✓ One in five teens (4.5 million) has abused Rx drugs (2009 Youth Risk Behaviors Survey)
- ✓ One in three teens report knowing someone who abuses prescription drugs (Partnership for a Drug-Free America's 2007 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study).
- ✓ One in three teens surveyed say there is "nothing wrong" with abusing prescription drugs "every once in a while (Partnership for a Drug-Free America's 2007 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study).
- ✓ Prescription drug abuse is specifically addressed as an *Epidemic* (2011 Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis, from the Executive Office of the President of the United States).
- ✓ October is National Medication Abuse Awareness Month

