

Prescription Drug Use

During your life, how many times have you taken a **prescription drug** (such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription?

From: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **2016**
(SHDHD Schools)

OVERALL	Total		9 th Grade		10 th Grade		11 th Grade		12 th Grade	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0 times	999	88.8%	266	93.0%	253	89.4%	205	84.0%	274	88.1%
1 or 2 times	44	3.9%	9	3.1%	12	4.2%	14	5.7%	9	2.9%
3 to 9 times	34	3.0%	7	2.4%	6	2.1%	9	3.7%	12	3.9%
10 to 19 times	26	2.3%	1	0.3%	6	2.1%	9	3.7%	10	3.2%
20 to 39 times	8	0.7%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	1.2%	4	1.3%
40 or more times	14	1.2%	2	0.7%	6	2.1%	4	1.6%	2	0.6%
Totals	1125	100.0%	286	100.0%	283	100.0%	244	100.0%	311	100.0%

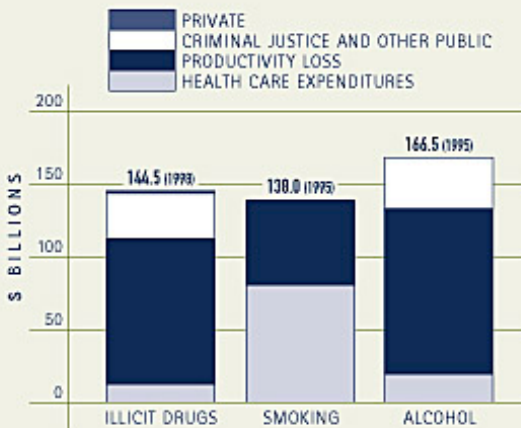
During your life, how many times have you taken **prescription pain medicine** without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it? (Count drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet.)

From: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **2014**
(SHDHD Schools)

OVERALL	Total		9 th Grade		10 th Grade		11 th Grade		12 th Grade	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0 times	1101	88.9%	312	91.5%	242	90.6%	283	84.7%	263	89.5%
1 or 2 times	64	5.2%	15	4.4%	8	3.0%	29	8.7%	12	4.1%
3 to 9 times	31	2.5%	3	0.9%	8	3.0%	9	2.7%	11	3.7%
10 to 19 times	19	1.5%	3	0.9%	5	1.9%	9	2.7%	2	0.7%
20 to 39 times	9	0.7%	4	1.2%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%	3	1.0%
40 or more times	14	1.1%	4	1.2%	3	1.1%	3	0.9%	3	1.0%
Totals	1238	100.0%	341	100.0%	267	100.0%	334	100.0%	294	100.0%

Productivity Losses from Substance Abuse are Substantial

FIGURE 1
Societal Costs from Substance Abuse



SOURCE: Center on an Aging Society tabulations of published data from The Economic Costs of Drug Abuse in the United States, 1992-1998, Office of National Drug Control Policy, September 2001 and Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ, February 2001 Update.

Community Burden of Substance Abuse

The societal costs of substance abuse in disease, premature death, lost productivity, theft and violence, including unwanted and unplanned sex, as well as the cost of interdiction, law enforcement, prosecution, incarceration, and probation are, however, greater than the value of the sales of these addictive substances (see Figure 1.) Everyone pays for these costs. Consumers pay in the form of higher prices for goods and services. Employers and employees pay higher health insurance premiums. Taxpayers pay higher taxes for the public expenditures of health care, law enforcement, the judicial system, incarceration as well as prevention and treatment programs. The price is also reflected in the need for foster care and homeless shelters. Substance abuse also hinders economic growth and diverts resources away from future investments.

Substance Abuse: Facing the Costs: Issue Brief Number 1, August