

# The prescription drug abuse epidemic.

Prescription drug abuse is affecting teens from small towns to big cities across the United States. Today, teens abuse prescription drugs more than ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and methamphetamine combined.<sup>4</sup> That's why CVS Pharmacy® is committed to helping prevent prescription drug abuse by increasing education and outreach in the communities we serve.

## Pharmacists Teach

Within their local communities, our pharmacists volunteer to deliver our presentation, "One Choice Changes Everything", to students in grades 7–12 at schools, youth organizations, or faith-based groups. Students learn the facts and hear stories of other teens whose lives were forever changed by their choice to misuse or abuse prescription drugs. Research shows that children who learn about the risks of drugs from their parents are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs than those who don't get this information at home.<sup>5</sup> In response, we've expanded our outreach to create a prevention education program for parents.

*"In my 16 years in education, I have yet to see a program like this one ... It is real, it is educational, and it drives home the message. This presentation tugs at your heartstrings. I highly suggest you open your doors to the CVS team, you won't be let down."*

**Principal, Joseph Pinchera,**  
New Britain High School, Conn.

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**Over 200,000 teens  
have participated in a  
"One Choice Changes  
Everything" presentation.**

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**Request the teen or  
parent presentation.**

Email [PharmacistsTeach@CVSHealth.com](mailto:PharmacistsTeach@CVSHealth.com)  
for more information.





1,100

adolescents, on average, start to misuse prescription pain relievers each day.<sup>1</sup>



62

people die in the U.S. each day from an overdose of prescription opioids.<sup>2</sup>



90%

of people with a substance abuse problem began using an addictive substance before age 18.<sup>3</sup>



Pharmacists Teach

## Additional resources

Visit [cvs.com/prescription-drug-abuse](http://cvs.com/prescription-drug-abuse) to learn about naloxone and safe drug disposal.



1. SAMHSA, Prescription Drug Use and Misuse in the United States: Results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health
2. CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2016
3. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University Annual Report
4. National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens: Drug Facts
5. DEAVED, Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Prevention



## Pharmacists Teach

A program to educate teens and parents about prescription drug abuse, offered at no cost.