



NEW DAY NEWS

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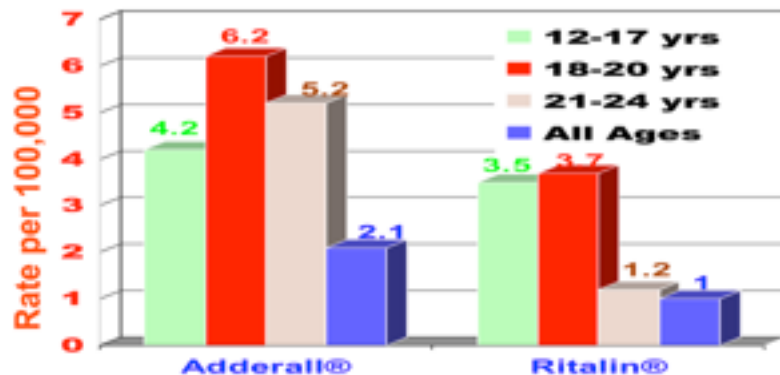


NONMEDICAL USE OF ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- Full-time college students aged 18 to 22 were twice as likely as their counterparts who were not full-time college students to have used Adderall® nonmedically in the past year (6.4 vs. 3.0 percent)
- Full-time college students who were nonmedical users of Adderall® were almost 3 times as likely as those who had not used Adderall® nonmedically to have used marijuana in the past year (79.9 vs. 27.2 percent), 8 times more likely to have used cocaine in that period (28.9 vs. 3.6 percent), 8 times more likely to have been nonmedical users of prescription tranquilizers (24.5 vs. 3.0 percent), and 5 times more likely to have been nonmedical users of prescription pain relievers (44.9 vs. 8.7 percent).
- Nearly 90 percent of full-time college students who used Adderall® nonmedically in the past year were past month binge alcohol users, and more than half were heavy alcohol users.

Emergency Department Reports of Nonmedical Prescription Stimulant Use

Rate per 100,000 of Emergency Department Reports for Nonmedical Use of Adderall® and Ritalin® Type Medications USA 2008



SOURCE: Analysis by Center for the Study and Prevention of Substance Abuse, NSU Based on 2008 DAWN Estimates from the US Dept. of Health & Human Services -SAMHSA, OAS: 2010

A New Social Norm?



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CEO

At a recent meeting I attended at one of our local colleges there was a representative from one of the college's graduate programs. We got into a discussion about prescription drug abuse. The graduate representative talked about the competitive academic environment in the graduate program. The students perceive that their peers are using attention deficit disorder drugs like Adderall to get ahead academically. Students feel that in order to have "a level playing field", they need to use the same "study drugs" to effectively compete.

One of the early episodes of a popular TV sitcom had one of the female characters "borrowing" attention deficit disorder medication that had been prescribed for one of her children. The story line had her doing this in order to be "superwoman" and the prescription drug facilitating being able to juggle all the many challenging responsibilities in her life.

Is this a new phenomenon or possible new social norm? I think not. Stimulant abuse for improved performance and for "getting ahead" has been around for a while. The growing epidemic of nonmedical use and abuse of prescription drugs may be a contributing factor in fueling this stimulant problem. This epidemic may also have helped to bring heightened attention to nonmedical use and abuse of stimulant medications.

We want to make a difference

Christian was referred to TSP based on his marijuana use, skipping classes, skipping school, and legal involvement. He lives with his mother and younger sister. At the time of assessment, he had 2 charges; the first one was for domestic violence against his mother and the second one was for stealing. Christian started smoking Cannabis at age 14. He started drinking alcohol at age 16 and drank about 1-3 times per month. He and his mother reported that he has a history of extreme anger and aggression. Upon admission to the program, he continued to display self-destructive behaviors. The intensive outpatient team worked with the family, and over time Christian decided to stop smoking. He was provided with a lot of support as well as coping strategies. After he achieved abstinence, he reported he was getting along much better with his mother, doing well in school, and felt better physically and emotionally. His mother reported that he was doing much better as well. He will be turning 18 in a couple weeks and he is looking forward to graduating from high school. He plans to attend Broward College.

Our services and how to contact us

We currently provide outpatient substance abuse and mental health services to youth and adults. Our services include assessments, individual counseling, relationship and couple counseling, family counseling, case management, psycho-educational and therapy groups, school based services, and aftercare services. Services are office -based and in-home and school-based. Our hours are tailored to meet the needs of our clients. Fees are based on a sliding scale and we also accept a few different insurances.

If you would like to set up an appointment or speak to someone further about our services, please contact us at (954) 327-4060. You can also check us out at our website at www.startingplace.org