

Opioids

- Used most often to treat pain
- Prescription narcotics
- Examples
 - Morphine
 - Codeine
 - Oxycodone (“oxy”, “percs”)

Effects on brain and body

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid receptors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brain – Spinal cord – GI tract • Block pain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drowsiness – Nausea/constipation – Respiratory depression – Euphoria |
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Possible consequences of use and abuse

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use despite adverse consequences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Body adapts to the drug, often goes through “withdrawal” with discontinuation |
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Drug interactions - opioids

- Alcohol
- Antihistamines
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepenes
- General anesthetics

CNS depressants

- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
 - Valium, librium, xanax
 - Halcion, prosom (sleep disorders)

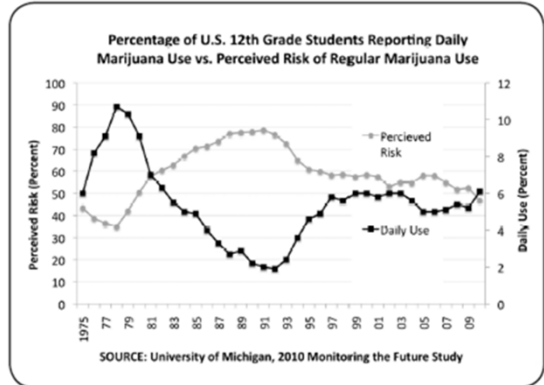
Stimulants

- Increase alertness, attention, energy
- Elevate BP, heart rate, respiration
- Uses
 - Narcolepsy
 - ADHD
 - Depression not responsive to other treatments

Stimulants

- Dextroamphetamine (adderall)
- Methylphenidate (ritalin, concerta)

- Effect: enhance norepi and dopamine effects in the brain
 - Dopamine → euphoria



Stimulants

- High BP, arrhythmia
- Seizures
- Cardiovascular failure

- Withdrawal issues

Trends in prescription medication abuse

- 5.7 million new abusers each year
- Older adults more vulnerable
 - More Rx's for sleep disorders and depression
- Adolescents

Trends in prescription medication abuse

- Highest rates of abuse in 18-25 year old group
- 12-13 year olds use psychotherapeutics more often than marijuana
- 9.3% 12th graders Vicodin
- 10% 12th graders Ritalin
- In adults, women = men
- In adolescents, girls > boys