



For too many New Jerseyans **addiction begins** in the **medicine cabinet**

- ▶ The number of admissions to N.J. addiction treatment programs due to prescription drug abuse, **rose by 200 percent** over the past five years, and **700 percent** over the past decade
- ▶ Prescription **painkiller overdose** now kills more people in the U.S. than heroin and cocaine combined
- ▶ Two in five **teenagers** mistakenly believe prescription drugs are “**much safer**” than illegal drugs
- ▶ In a growing trend, New Jersey teens who abused prescription drugs went on to become addicted, and turned to heroin use

SOURCES: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; New Jersey State Commission of Investigation.



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