



Prescription Drug Use in Nevada

Prescription Drug Misuse: A Crisis Facing Nevadans



Among Nevada adults, the following groups were most likely to report using pain killers to get high in the last month: Washoe County Residents, those aged 45 to 64 years, females, Blacks, those with a high school diploma, and those within the income range of \$35,000 to \$49,999

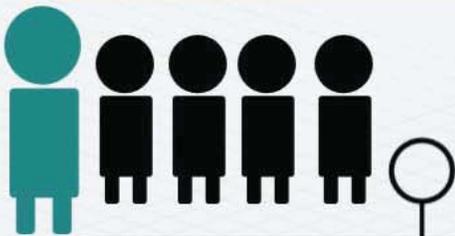


Nevada has some of the highest rates of prescription painkillers sold and drug overdose deaths per capita. Nevada ranks:
- 2nd highest for hydrocodone (Vicodin and Lortab)
- 2nd highest for oxycodone (Percodan and Percocet)
- 4th highest for methadone
- 7th highest for codeine
- 4th highest drug overdose mortality

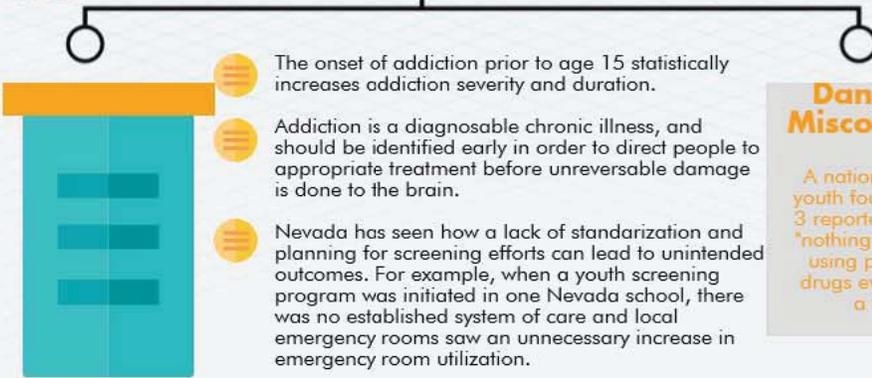


In 2013, there was an age-adjusted rate of 5.5 per 1,000 emergency department visits among Nevada residents that were a result of heroin/opioid dependence, abuse, or poisoning emergencies. This equates to 4,539 visits statewide that year; there were 18,543 visits over the 5-year period of 2009 to 2013

Youth and Prescription Drug Use: A Scary Story



The 2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS) found that 1 in 5 (19.4%) high school respondents reported that they have taken prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription. The highest rates in Nevada were among females, older students, American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and regionally in Carson City and Douglas Counties.



Dangerous Misconception

A national study of youth found that 1 in 3 reported there was "nothing wrong" with using prescription drugs every once in a while.

Treatment and Interventions



- Treatment is essential and critical to breaking the cycle of addiction.
- Every dollar invested in addiction treatment programs yields a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and theft.
- Nevada's two largest counties have established drug court systems. Studies have found that not only do drug court participants report less drug use, they also report less criminal activity and have fewer arrests
- In 2014 Trust for America's Health released a study containing 10 key policy indicators. These policy indicators were developed from pulling data from a number of states and resources, public health, medical and law enforcement experts. Of the 10 key policy indicators, the report found that Nevada falls short in 3 key areas, including Good Samaritan laws, Naloxone programs, and required prescriber education.