

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

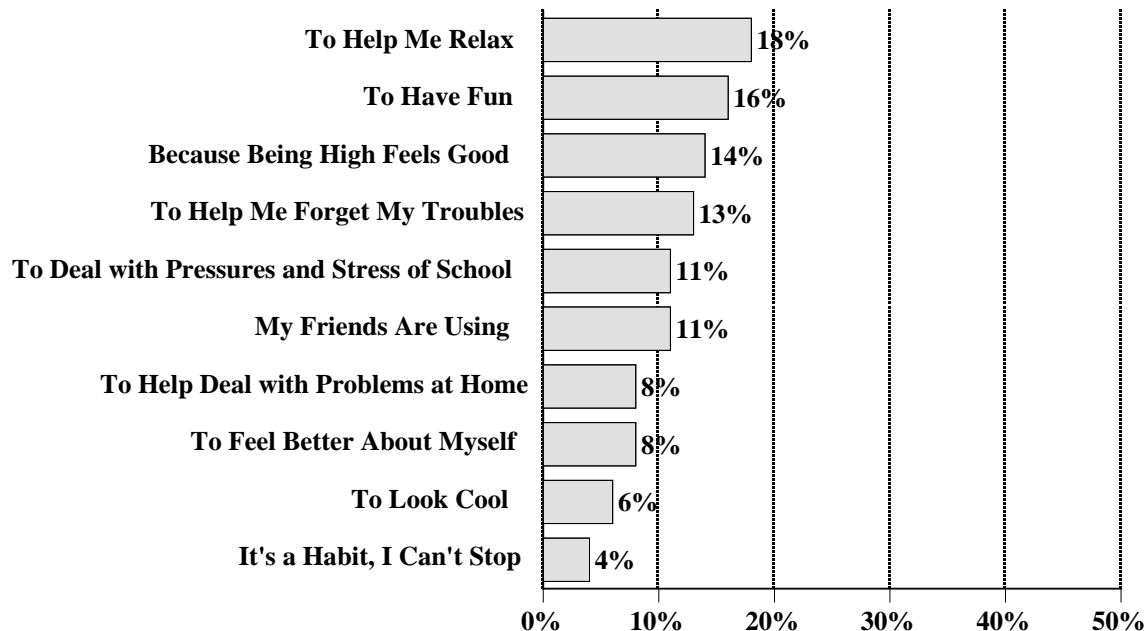
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U.S. High School Students Report Relaxation, Having Fun, and Feeling Good as Top Reasons for Misusing Prescription Drugs

Nearly one-fourth (24%) of U.S. high school students reported using prescription drugs without a prescription in order to get high or change their mood, according to data from a recently released survey. Of these students, nearly one in five (18%) reported that the main reason they last misused a prescription drug was to help them relax, 16% reported it was to have fun, and 14% reported it was “because being high feels good.” Other responses included to help forget troubles, to deal with the pressures and stress of school, and because their friends were using. Perhaps the most surprising finding was that 70% of these students did not respond to the question, which is an unusually high percentage. When this same question was asked about alcohol use in a previous survey, only 28% did not respond to the question*.

“What Was the Main Reason Why You Last Used a Prescription Drug Without a Prescription?”

(N=3,884 U.S. High School Students Reporting Lifetime Use of a Prescription Drug Without a Prescription)



*The Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the MetLife Foundation, *The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS): Teens and Parents*, 2011. The question asked was “What is the main reason why you last used alcohol?” which was asked of past year drinkers.

NOTE: Responses do not add to 100% because respondents could choose more than one response.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the MetLife Foundation, *The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS): Teens and Parents*, 2013. Available online at <http://www.drugfree.org/newsroom/research-publication/full-report-and-key-findings-the-2012-partnership-attitude-tracking-study-sponsored-by-metlife-foundation>.