

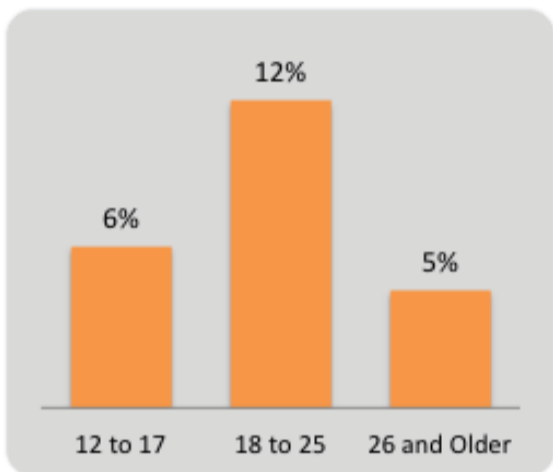
# Abuse of Prescription (Rx) Drugs

## Affects Young Adults Most

Young adults (age 18 to 25) are the biggest abusers of prescription (Rx) opioid pain relievers, ADHD stimulants, and anti-anxiety drugs. They do it for all kinds of reasons, including to get high or because they think Rx stimulants will help them study better. But Rx abuse is dangerous. In 2014, more than 1,700 young adults died from prescription drug (mainly opioid) overdoses—more than died from overdoses of any other drug, including heroin and cocaine combined—and many more needed emergency treatment.<sup>1</sup>



### PAST-YEAR USE



In 2014, the nonmedical use of prescription drugs was highest among young adults.<sup>2</sup>

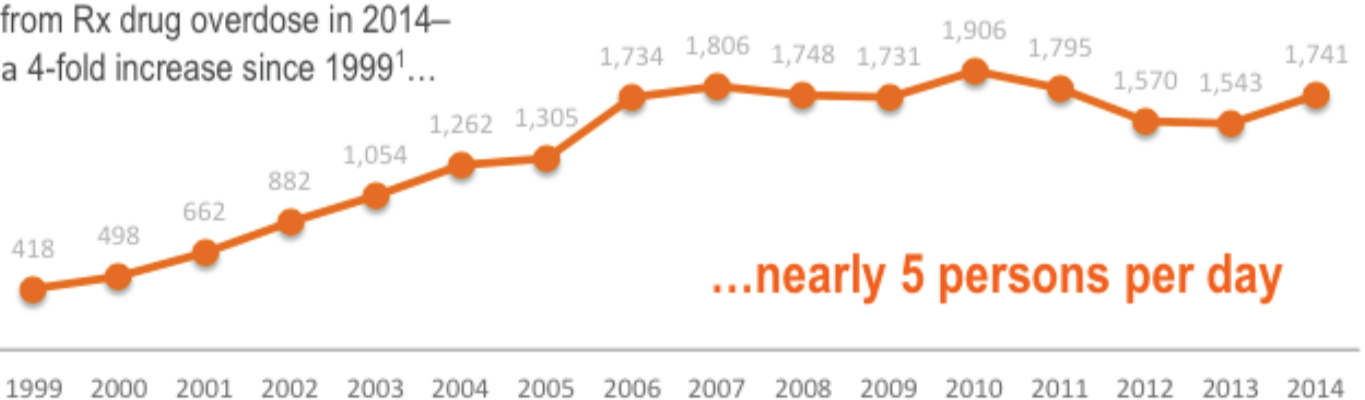
### MOTIVATIONS FOR USE

Most young adults say they use Rx drugs to<sup>3,4,5</sup>



### CONSEQUENCES

More than 1,700 young adults, ages 18-24, died from Rx drug overdose in 2014—a 4-fold increase since 1999<sup>1</sup>...



Among young adults, for every death due to Rx drug overdose, there were:

**119**

Emergency Room Visits<sup>6</sup>

&

**22**

Treatment Admissions<sup>7</sup>



1. CDC Wonder, 2015; 2. SAMHSA, NSDUH, 2015; 3. Rabiner et al., 2009; 4. McCabe et al., 2007; 5. Lord et al., 2011; 6. SAMHSA, DAWN, 2014; 7. SAMHSA, TEDS, 2015