

# DFCC

ACTION TEAM TO PREVENT  
PRESCRIPTION &  
OPIOID MISUSE/ABUSE



# PRESCRIPTION & OPIOID MISUSE/ABUSE FACT SHEET

## Statistics:

- 16.5% of Garrett County high school youth have taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription. (MD YRBS 2014 – ever used)
- Nearly 1 in 5 (19.4%) Garrett County high school seniors have taken a prescription drug not prescribed to them. (MD YRBS 2014)
- Garrett County females are more likely to have misused prescription drugs than Garrett County males. (18.5% vs. 14.6%) (MD YRBS 2014)
- Nearly 60% of high school youth took their prescription drug from a family member (21.2%) or someone gave it to them (37.6%). (Garrett County YRBS 2012)
- 5.2% of Garrett County high school youth have injected an illegal drug. 6% have used heroin. (MD YRBS 2014)

## Core Messages:

- The classes of prescription drugs most commonly abused are opioid pain relievers such as Vicodin or Oxycontin; stimulants for treating ADHD such as Adderall or Ritalin; and central nervous system depressants for relieving anxiety such as Valium or Xanax.
- People mistakenly believe that prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs because they are prescribed by a doctor. But they can be as addictive and dangerous, especially when taken with other drugs or alcohol.
- More than 75% of pain medication addicts will eventually switch to heroin because it is cheaper and easier to get. [American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2015]



For more information, resources, and community tools, visit

**[drugfreegarrettcountry.org](http://drugfreegarrettcountry.org)**



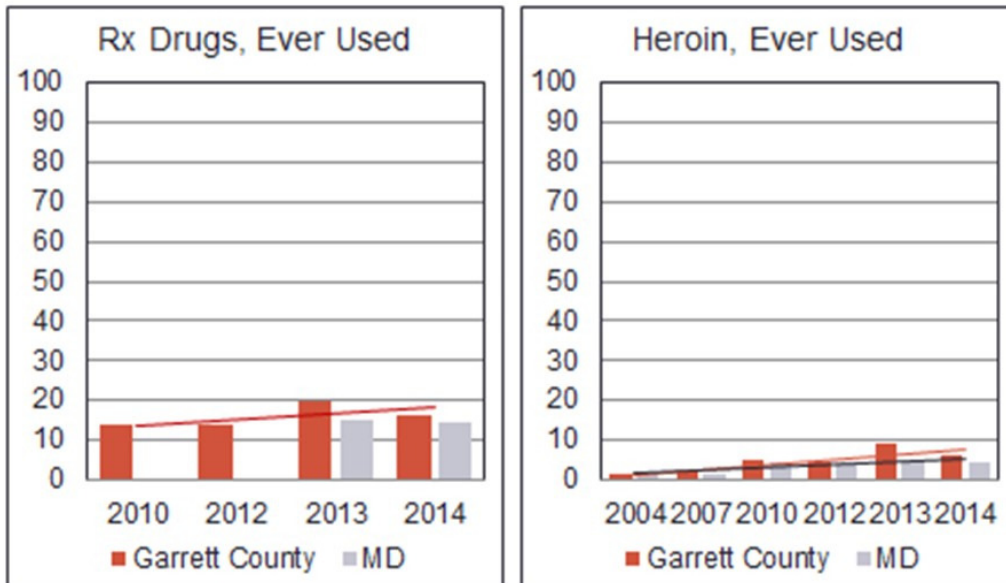
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## Prescription Drug Misuse, High School



Note: Wording of question changed in 2013

Source: Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey

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