

IN THE KNOW:



# Prescription Drug Abuse

## How It Affects the Body

All of the commonly-abused **prescription drugs** are addictive. This includes prescription opioids, such as Vicodin and OxyContin, central nervous system depressants, such as Xanax and Valium, and prescription stimulants, such as Ritalin and Adderall. All of these medications carry the risk of severe side effects, addiction, or death when abused.



### BRAIN

#### Stimulants Cause:

- Psychosis
- Paranoia
- Insomnia
- Seizures

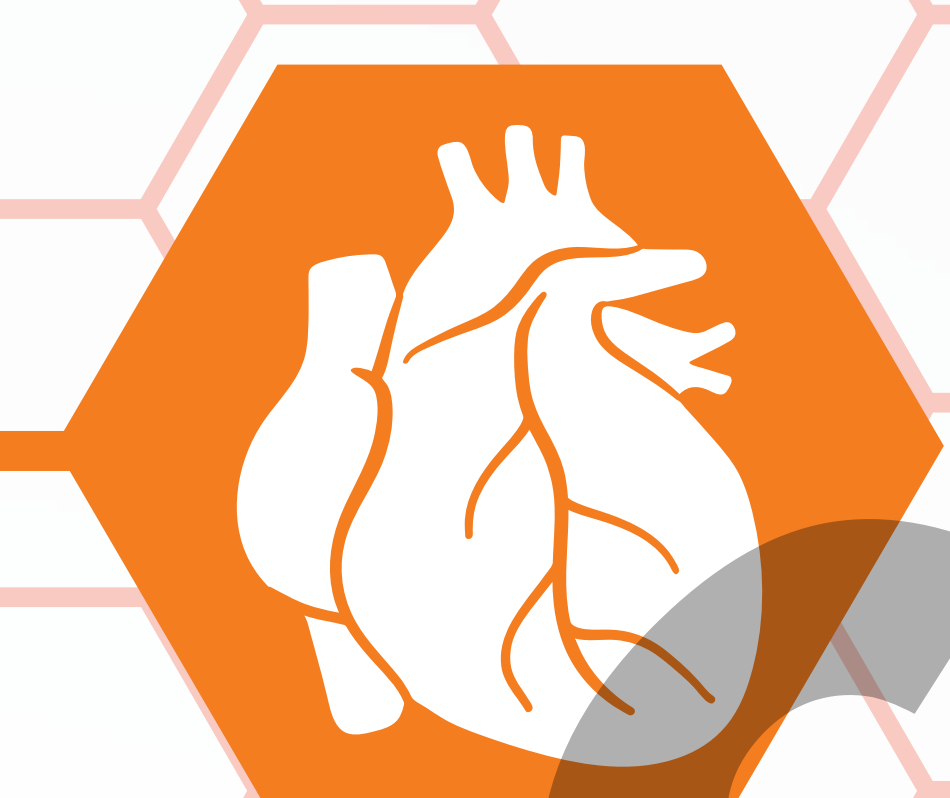
#### Depressants Cause:

- Withdrawal
- Seizures
- Suicidal thoughts
- Death



### LUNGS

- Fluid build-up
- Shortness of breath
- Infections/pneumonia
- Death



### HEART

- Abnormal heart rate
- Heart attack
- Heart failure



### STOMACH

- Nausea
- Bloating
- Reduced appetite
- Stomach pain
- Weight loss



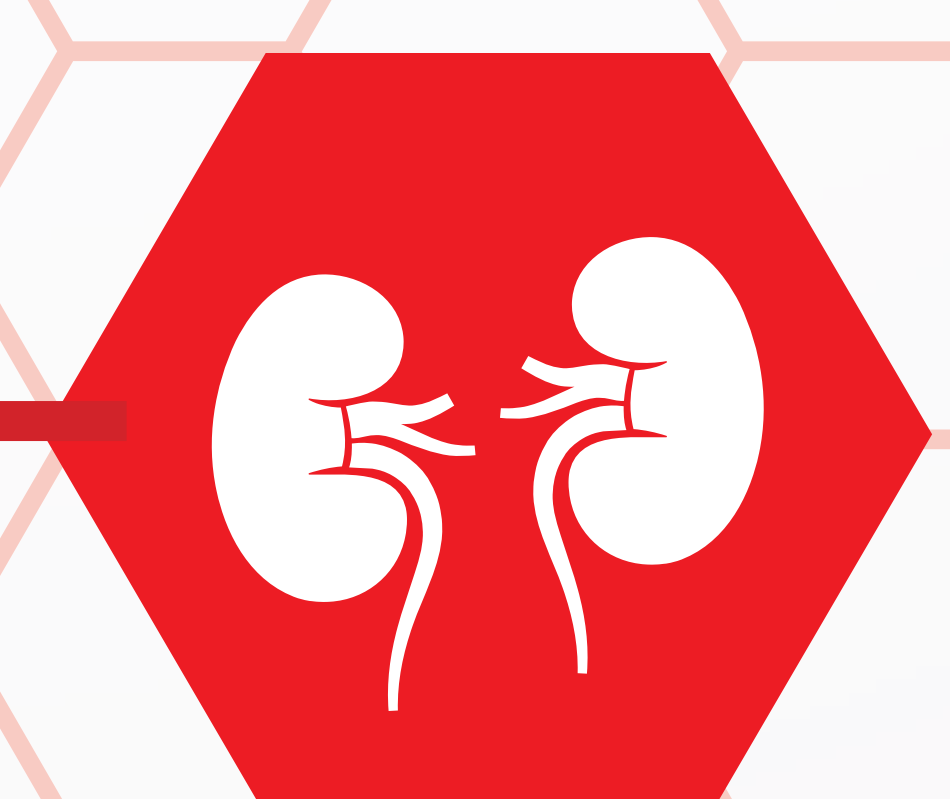
### LIVER

- Acetaminophen in most painkillers causes severe liver damage and liver failure



### INTESTINES

- Constipation
- Laxative dependency



### KIDNEYS

- Renal failure
- Dialysis



### IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Lowers your defense system
- Puts you at risk for other illnesses

### ABUSING RX DRUGS WHILE PREGNANT RAISES THE RISK OF:

- Contractions - pre-term labor/birth
- Birth Defects or Fetal Death
- Underdeveloped or underweight babies



Take control of your health - Don't abuse prescription drugs