

# Can you pass this drug test?

**Question: What is our nation's most abused drug? Need a hint? It is legal and may be sitting in your medicine cabinet.**

Fatal drug overdoses are an epidemic. Opioid prescription painkiller overdoses account for the majority of these deaths. The National Safety Council revealed these startling facts many people do not know, but need to, about prescription painkiller use:

- Forty-five people die every day from opioid prescription painkillers—more deaths than from heroin and cocaine overdoses combined.
- In 2010, enough prescription painkillers were provided to medicate every American around the clock for an entire month.
- More than 70% of people who abused prescription pain relievers got the pills from friends or relatives.
- The U.S. contains only 4.6% of the world's population but consumes 80% of the world's opioids and 99% of the world's hydrocodone.
- While middle-aged men and women have the highest prescription painkiller fatal overdose rates, the rates are increasing most rapidly among women. Teen use also is rising. One in 8 high school seniors admits to using prescription painkillers for fun.



***Remove painkillers from your home. Talk with your kids about drugs, including common medications in your home. If you need pain meds, work with your doctor to cut back.***