

What do these celebrities have in common?



They all passed away from complications stemming from prescription drug abuse!!

Where to find help:

The Open Door  
The Atrium—2nd Floor  
665 Philadelphia St.  
724-465-2605

Drug Abuse Information and Treatment  
Referral Hotline  
1-800-886-HELP (4357)

IUP Counseling Center  
631 Suites on Maple East  
724-357-2621

For more information :  
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Program  
Center for Health and Well Being  
657 Suites on Maple East  
724-357-1265  
ATOD-OASIS@iup.edu  
Information from National Institute of

# Prescription Drugs



All of these drugs can be even more dangerous if combined with alcohol and when driving under the influence.

## What are prescription drugs?

Prescription drugs are ANY drug prescribed by a doctor or other health care provider

## What is considered abuse?

Abuse occurs whenever a prescription drug is used:

- for anything other than its intended purpose
- by someone other than the intended recipient
- in a dosage other than prescribed

## Why abuse?

Most individuals use prescription drugs to get high, relieve pain and anxiety, to sleep better, experiment, and increase concentration and alertness. In fact, most characterize their use as responsible, safe and controlled.

Prescription drugs are the second most abused drug after marijuana. The National Institute of Health estimates that 20% use prescription drugs for non-medical reasons.

## 3 Most Common Types of Abused Prescription Drugs

### PAIN KILLERS

<b>Types</b>	Vicodin, OxyContin, Codeine, Percoden, Percocet, Demoral, Fentanyl
<b>Prescribed</b>	to treat pain
<b>Effects</b>	Pain relief, drowsiness, euphoria in high doses
<b>Dangers</b>	Large doses can cause severe respiratory depression or death when taken with alcohol or other CNS depressants

### STIMULANTS

<b>Types</b>	Ritalin, Adderall, Dexedrine
<b>Prescribed</b>	to treat ADHD and Narcolepsy
<b>Effects</b>	increased alertness, attention and energy; increases blood pressure and heart rate; euphoria (higher doses)
<b>Dangers</b>	Stimulants can increase blood pressure, heart rate, body temperature, and decrease sleep and appetite, which can lead to malnutrition and its consequences. Repeated use of stimulants can lead to feelings of hostility and paranoia. At high doses, they can lead to serious cardiovascular complications, including stroke.

### ANTI-ANXIETY DRUGS

<b>Types</b>	Xanax, Valium, Ativan, Ambien, Lunesta
<b>Prescribed</b>	to treat anxiety and sleep disorders
<b>Effects</b>	slows down body and brain functioning, reduces pain and anxiety, results in drowsy and calming effect
<b>Dangers</b>	Large doses can cause severe respiratory depression or death when taken with alcohol or other CNS depressants. Can also cause seizures if stop/reduce too quickly

## Are they safe?

It is a myth that prescription drugs provide a medically safe high. These drugs are more dangerous than people think. These drugs are only safe for the individual with a certain condition, at the right dose, monitored by a doctor to avoid dangerous side effects and drug combinations. When these drugs are taken by someone without the condition prescribed and at a different dose, the toxicity and effects change. **Thus, these drugs are NOT LESS addictive than street drugs and are just as illegal.**

At IUP, if you are caught with a prescription drug that is not yours, you can get suspended!!