

# PREVENT

## Teens and Opioids

- Opioid use creates neurological changes in key areas of the brain that control decision-making, self-control and the reward/pleasure process.
- Although opioid use among teens has been declining over the past 5 years, it still represents a major health crisis.
- Nearly 11.8 million individuals age 12 and older in the US reported misuse of opioids in the last year (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2017).
- The use of prescription and illicit opioids caused the deaths of almost 9,000 children and adolescents in the United States between 1999 and 2016 (Gaither, Yale University, 2018).
- According to the latest data from 2019, 2.7% of 12th graders reported prescription opioid misuse in the past year (Monitoring the Future, 2020). Between 6% - 9% of adolescents who misuse opioids will develop an opioid use disorder 6 to 12 months after starting.
- Prescription medications that are kept in the home are a substantial source of opioids for adolescents.
- Four out of five new heroin users report misusing prescription opioids before trying heroin (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013).