

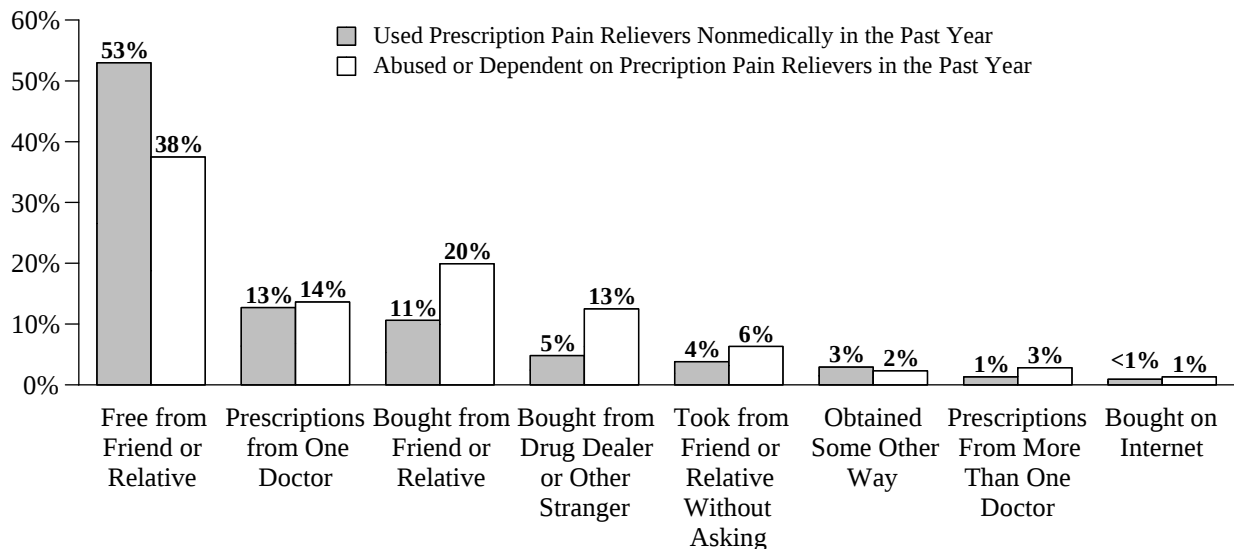
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Majority of Young Adults Who Use Prescription Pain Relievers Nonmedically Obtain the Drugs Free from a Friend or Relative; Few Obtain Over Internet

In 2005, more than 4 million adults ages 18 to 24 reported using prescription pain relievers nonmedically in the past year, according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). More than one-half (53%) of these young adults obtained the pain relievers free-of-charge from a friend or relative. The other most commonly mentioned methods were obtaining them from prescriptions from one doctor (13%) and buying them from a friend or relative (11%). Users who also met the criteria for prescription pain reliever abuse or dependence were less likely to report obtaining the drugs free from a friend or relative (38%) but were more likely to report buying the drug either from a friend or relative (20%) or a drug dealer (13%). This report is available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k6/getPain/getPain.cfm>.

Reported Method of Obtaining Prescription Pain Relievers Among Adults Ages 18 to 25, All Users vs. Those Who Abused or Were Dependent, 2005



NOTE: The response options "Wrote a fake prescription" and "Stole them from a health facility" were reported by less than one percent of both those who used and those who abused or were dependent on prescription pain relievers in the past year and are not shown in the figure above.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "How Young Adults Obtain Prescription Pain Relievers for Nonmedical Use," *The NSDUH Report*, Issue 39, 2006.

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