

Chapter 17

OTC (Over The Counter drugs)

- ✓ Legally sold in pharmacies/stores
- ✓ No doctors prescription required
- ✓ EX: pain relievers, aspirin, cold med, sleep aid, cough suppressant
- ✓ EX name brands: Tylenol, Aleve, Robintussin, Nytol, Advil, Dayquil
- ✓ Government monitors

Prescription Drugs

- ✓ Legally sold in pharmacies, behind the counter
- ✓ Doctor's prescription needed
- ✓ Move government control

Illegal Drugs

- ✓ Illegally sold in private, "street drugs"
- ✓ Not regulated by government
- ✓ Illegal to manufacture, possess, buy, sell

Drug Abuse

- Any use of illegal drugs
- Inappropriate use of legal drugs (OTC, prescription)
- Abuse of tobacco or alcohol
- Inappropriate use of household products

Reason for Abuse

- Alter feeling behavior, mood
- Social pressure
- Experimenting/ curious
- Bored
- To "relax" or "chillout"
- Depressed
- Escape personal problems
- Believe drugs help achieve goal

How Drugs affect the Brain

- Psychoactive drugs
 - "mood-altering" drugs
 - Brain greatly affected by drug
 - Create pleasurable feeling
 - Trigger activity along pathway of cells in brain = "reward pathway"
- Reward Pathway
 - Brain cell released dopamine
 - Dopamine = chemical, causes pleasurable sensation
 - While on drugs = cells release great amounts of dopamine
 - Drug abuse over time = signal weaken, more drugs needed to get same effect = tolerance

Dangers of increase amounts of dopamine released into your system

- User ignores harmful effects of drug
- Want to keep abusing drug, crave drug for pleasure effect
- Dull brain reaction time

Dangers of Drug Abuse

- Experimenting leads to regular use
- Gateway drugs-lead to use of other drugs
 - Beer, wine
 - Hard liquor, cigarettes
 - Marijuana
 - Any other illegal drug
- Regular use increases tolerance = need larger amounts as tolerance increases = spending more money on habit
- Addiction – physical and mental dependencies, crave substance
- Withdrawal symptoms – depression, anxiety, fever, chills, sweating, diarrhea, nausea, trembling, paranoia, panic, seizures, death

Drug antagonism vs synergism

A – cancel each other out

S – effects greater when combined

Other DANGERS

Impurities

- Illegal drugs not regulated by law
- No guarantee to what you are actually getting
- “cut” drug = dilute drug
- Vary concentration or potency

Risks

- Blood contamination – sharing needles
- HIV – causes AIDS, immune system
- Hepatitis – liver diseases
- Fetus & Newborns – developmental
 - Drugs reach baby through placenta and blood
 - Born depend on drug
 - Also pass through breast milk

Legal Risks

- Prison
- Heavy fines
- Criminal record
- Difficulty getting job
- Difficulty getting accepted to college
- Drug abuses tend to commit other crimes