

Parents: Today's Unsuspecting Drug Dealers



A presentation by the

Westchester District Attorney's Office

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Scott Room, Scarsdale Library

- Every day 2,500 youth age 12 to 17 abuse a pain reliever for the very first time. More teens abuse prescription drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana. In 2008, more than 2.1 million teens ages 12 to 17 reported abusing prescription drugs.¹
- Among 12- and 13-year-olds, prescription drugs are the drug of choice.²
- Because these drugs are so readily available, and many teens believe they are a safe way to get high, teens who wouldn't otherwise touch illicit drugs might abuse prescription drugs. And not many parents are talking to them about it, even though teens report that parental disapproval is a powerful way to keep them away from drugs.³

1. [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) (2009).

National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2008

2. *Ibid*

3. *Partnership for Drug-Free America, Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATTS) 2007*