



The Misuse of Ritalin

Ritalin is a drug prescribed annually to about 2.4 million kids who have attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD). It has a calming effect on these children, helping them concentrate and focus. However, Ritalin is now misused by some teenagers to get a high similar to cocaine.

The Misuse of Ritalin:

- Prescribed pills are stockpiled and used by the child, a friend or sold illegally.
- The pills are crushed with larger doses delivering a “jolt” like that of cocaine or crack.
- The effects from a single dose last 3-4 hours.
- Nicknames include “Vitamin R” or “R-ball.”

Effects of Misusing Ritalin:

- Staying awake late at night.
- Excitability and impulsiveness.
- Impaired judgment and hypersexuality.
- Extreme agitation, tremors and muscle twitching.
- Loss of appetite.
- Fevers, convulsions and headaches.
- Manic symptoms, including excessive spending.
- High doses can cause paranoia, hallucinations and even heart and brain damage.

Parents of children prescribed Ritalin, please make sure your child is taking the prescription properly.

www.DrugFreeNH.org

For more Fact Sheets please go to www.ParentHelpNH.org



Children's Hospital at Dartmouth, Injury Prevention Center, NH Department of Health and Human Services, NH Department of Education, NH Pediatric Society, SAFE KIDS NH & Partnership for a DrugFreeNH.org