

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For Medication Abuse: 800-222-1222

Brochures and General Information: 800-804-0909 (NH) or 603-271-2677

Website Resource: www.drugfreeNH.org

FACT SHEET

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Clearinghouse

NH Department of Health and Human Services

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Promoting Prevention and Recovery

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