

# DFCC

ACTION TEAM TO PREVENT  
PRESCRIPTION &  
OPIOID MISUSE/ABUSE



# PRESCRIPTION & OPIOID MISUSE/ABUSE FACT SHEET

## **Statistics:**

- 13.5% of Garrett County high school youth have taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription. (MD YRBS 2016 – ever used)
- Garrett County females are more likely to have misused prescription drugs than Garrett County males. (16.3% vs. 10.8%) (MD YRBS 2016)
- 3.2% of Garrett County high school youth have injected an illegal drug. 4% have used heroin. (MD YRBS 2016)

## **Core Messages:**

- The classes of prescription drugs most commonly abused are opioid pain relievers such as Vicodin or Oxycontin; stimulants for treating ADHD such as Adderall or Ritalin; and central nervous system depressants for relieving anxiety such as Valium or Xanax.
- People mistakenly believe that prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs because they are prescribed by a doctor. But they can be as addictive and dangerous as illegal drugs, especially when taken with other drugs or alcohol.
- More than 75% of pain medication addicts will eventually switch to heroin because it is cheaper and easier to get. [American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2015]
- To prevent others from misusing your prescription drugs, safeguard your current medications and properly dispose of unwanted or expired medications.
- Unwanted or expired medications can be taken to drop boxes at the MD State Police Barracks, Garrett County Sheriff's Office, or Oakland Town Hall.



*For more information, resources, and community tools, visit*

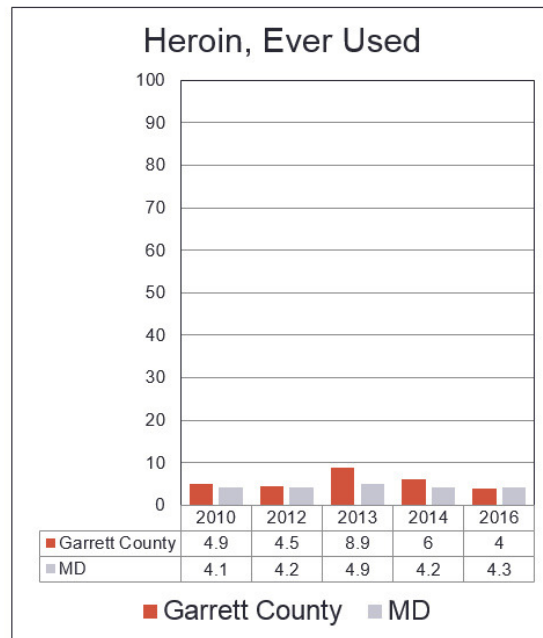
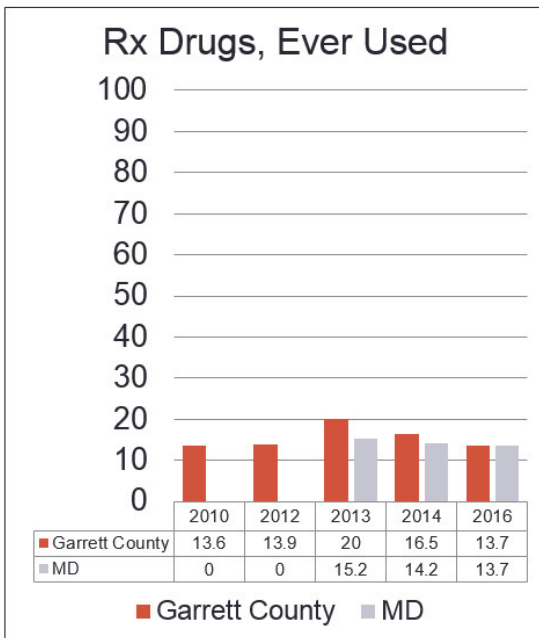
**[drugfreegarrettcountry.org](http://drugfreegarrettcountry.org)**





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## Prescription Drug (Rx) Misuse, High School



Note: Wording of question changed in 2013

Source: Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey

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