For too many New Jerseyans, addiction begins in the medicine cabinet.

- The number of admissions to N.J. addiction treatment programs due to prescription drug abuse, rose by 200 percent over the past five years, and 700 percent over the past decade.

- Prescription painkiller overdose now kills more people in the U.S. than heroin and cocaine combined.

- Two in five teenagers mistakenly believe prescription drugs are “much safer” than illegal drugs.

- In a growing trend, New Jersey teens who abused prescription drugs went on to become addicted, and turned to heroin use.

SOURCES: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; New Jersey State Commission of Investigation.