Prescription drug abuse continues to be one of the nation’s fastest growing drug problems. These trends can be attributed to the sharp increases in prescribed medications and the ease of access to obtain them, primarily from family and friends. Many young people, and adults, mistakenly believe prescription and over-the-counter medication use to be “safer” than illicit drug use because these medications are prescribed by a doctor or sold in local stores.

There was a significant decrease from 2014 to 2016 in 7th graders using painkillers without a doctor’s prescription and a large decrease in all prescription drug use among 11th graders.

Reference: Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth

Substance Abuse Council
Parents in Calhoun County are making a difference. The majority of youth reported that their parents felt using prescription drugs not prescribed to them to be very wrong. Kids who continue to learn about the risks of drugs at home are 50% less likely to use drugs than those not taught about the dangers. *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)*

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**% OF PERCEIVED RISK AND PERCEPTION OF DISAPPROVAL-(7th grade)**

- Using prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them has moderate or great risk: 71.6% (2014) vs 66% (2016)
- Parents felt using prescription drugs not prescribed to them to be wrong or very wrong: 97% (2014) vs 97.8% (2016)
- Friends felt using prescription drugs not prescribed to them to be wrong or very wrong: 91.6% (2014) vs 95% (2016)

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**% OF PERCEIVED RISK AND PERCEPTION OF DISAPPROVAL-(9th & 11th grade)**

- Using prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them has moderate or great risk: 79.7% (2014) vs 74.8% (2016)
- Parents felt using prescription drugs not prescribed to them to be wrong or very wrong: 96.6% (2014) vs 95.6% (2016)
- Friends felt using prescription drugs not prescribed to them to be wrong or very wrong: 79% (2014) vs 83.9% (2016)

Reference: Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth