

# Key Informant, Listening Session Questions

## Non-Medical use of Prescription Drugs / Heroin

### USE OF Rx Drugs & CONSEQUENCES OF Rx Drug Use:

Questions to ask about consumption of Rx drugs for non-medical purposes?

- Who is using the Rx drugs/heroin for non-medical purposes? What ages?
- What types Rx drugs/heroin are being consumed?
- When are they using the Rx drugs/heroin? After school, at school, weekends, around sporting events?
- Where are they taking the drugs?
- How much are they consuming?

Questions to ask around consequences:

- What consequences do we see from the use Rx drugs/heroin for non-medical purposes?
  - Health?
  - Financial?
  - Educational?
  - Legal?
  - Professional?
  - Employment?

### BUT WHY? / BUT WHY HERE? – Non-medical use of Prescription Drugs / Heroin

When identifying root causes (“but why”) and local conditions (“but why here?”) the questions should get at the context /environment in which the behavior occurs. The data collection questions should lead to local conditions that are specific, identifiable and actionable, meaning they should be something that you can see in the community – and a condition or behavior that can be changed.

### Questions about Use

- Which Rx drugs are the youth using? How are the drugs being abused (swallowed, crushed, snorted or injected)?
- In what settings are adults/youth using the drugs? Individuals alone, at parties, or other situations?
- When are the prescription drugs/heroin being used? Daily, before/after school/work, evenings at parties?
- In what quantities are the adults/youth using the prescription drugs? Heroin?

**Availability:** Where are the adults/youth getting the Rx drugs? Heroin?

- Are adults/youth getting the Rx drugs from friends who obtained the drugs legally through prescriptions?
- Are adults/youth taking the Rx drugs from their family “medicine cabinet”?
- Are adults/youth stealing the drugs from friends, family or strangers’ homes / “medicine cabinets”?
- Are youth buying the Rx drugs/heroin from strangers on the street? From classmates at school?
- What laws are in place that restrict access to and distribution of Rx drugs? Are they enforced?

### Prescription drugs & prescribing practices:

- Are there MDs/clinics that are known to prescribe drugs freely (i.e. pain clinics)?
- Are people “doctor shopping” – getting multiple prescriptions and then selling the drugs?
- Do people try to obtain multiple prescriptions from multiple pharmacies? What are pharmacies doing to limit people abusing the prescription controls?
- Do MDs/clinics provide prescriptions for large quantities (e.g. for people in rural areas or who can’t easily travel to pick up the prescriptions)?
- Are there places to go to dispose of unused Rx drugs?

### Favorable Youth Attitudes:

- Do youth feel like they will get caught using Rx drugs? By parents? By local law enforcement? At school?
- What are the legal, health, fiscal and social consequences if they get caught (by each of the above)?
- Do youth fear the consequences – are they meaningful?
- Where do youth use the Rx/heroin drugs? After school, before school, evenings, on weekends? Will they get caught at these locations?
- What are the practices around the use of Rx drugs?
- What does “peer pressure” look like? (only youth can tell this)
- How are youth seen by peers when they use Rx drugs/heroin (i.e. perception of friends)?
- Do youth know the risk of physical harm of using Rx drugs? Heroin?
- What does monitoring look like for youth when they might be using Rx drugs? After school, evenings, weekends?

### Favorable Parental Attitudes:

- Do parents know that Rx drug abuse among youth is a problem?
- Do parents monitor the Rx drugs in the house?
- Do parents of youth who have prescriptions monitor the supply of the Rx drugs?
- Are parents aware of all the possible sources of Rx drugs available to young people?
- What attitudes and behaviors toward Rx drugs and medications do parents model?
- Do parents discuss the Rx drugs issue with their children? Heroin?

### Community Laws and Norms:

#### Laws:

- What laws are in place related to the use of Rx drugs for non-medical purposes?
- What is the perception of enforcement of these laws in the community?
- How much support is provided to law enforcement by the community to support the laws?
- Are the laws adjudicated? What is the follow up to an arrest or citation?
- Do adults/youth perceive that laws are a) in place? b) enforced and c) adjudicated?

#### Community Norms?

- What are norms in the community related to Rx drugs for non-medical purposes?
- What is the exposure of young people to these norms? Advertising?

- Are youth exposed to Rx/heroin use by family members? The community at large? Peers?
- Are adults/youth exposed/aware of the extent of overdoses in the community?