

## Aren't medications for ADHD just different versions of illegal drugs?



Unlike illegal drugs, prescription stimulants are effective and safe treatments for ADHD in many people.

The active ingredients of most ADHD medications impact the brain regions that can improve self-control of attention and behavior.



However, these medications can also have strong effects on brain regions that register chemical reward, producing effects similar to illegal drugs if not taken as prescribed.

Individuals on stimulants should receive a comprehensive evaluation and be closely monitored by a prescribing physician for signs of dependence and abuse.



If a person has a history of substance misuse or dependence, other nonstimulant medications or non-medication supports for ADHD should be used instead.

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Learn more at [ADHDAwarenessMonth.org](https://ADHDAwarenessMonth.org)