

# War On Drugs Waged On New Front

## Kids Abuse Legal Drugs More Than Illegal Ones



By Nannette Miranda

(KGO) - More kids abuse prescription drugs than illegal ones, so a new campaign is being launched to help young people make smarter choices

Francine Haight, Mother: "I tried to resuscitate him, but I could not bring him back."

This anguished Laguna Niguel nurse still finds it hard to talk about her son, Ryan, six years after his death.

The 17-year-old jumped online, ordered Vicodin and morphine, and died from an overdose.

Francine Haight: "At a time when we were worried about our children being exposed to pornography and predators, marijuana and alcohol, we didn't know that these drug dealers were coming right into our family room."

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America sounded the alarm to all parents today.

Its research shows **nearly twenty percent of teens nationwide report abusing prescription drugs, with painkillers like Vicodin, at the top of their list.** The number is slightly less in California.

Teri Christensen, The Partnership for a Drug-Free America: "More kids try prescription drugs than ecstasy, heroine or methamphetamines combined. That's why we're calling it an epidemic." Kids are even going right to their parents' medicine chest."

The non-profit agency is launching a new ad that goes to the heart of the problem - the notion prescription drugs are safe because they're legal.

It's rare for a U.S. Attorney to lash out about the lack of federal laws, but Sacramento-based McGregor Scott did.

McGregor Scott, U.S. Attorney: "It is astounding to me that a 17-year-old boy can go on the internet, never see a doctor, never see a pharmacist and have morphine show up at his door. That is insane. That is crazy!"

Proposals to clamp down on Internet pharmacies have been stalled in Congress. The Partnership for a Drug-Free America points out teens abusing over-the-counter medicines to get high is also a growing problem.

Copyright 2007, ABC7/KGO-TV/DT.