

# Will our children be safe from the threat of drugs?

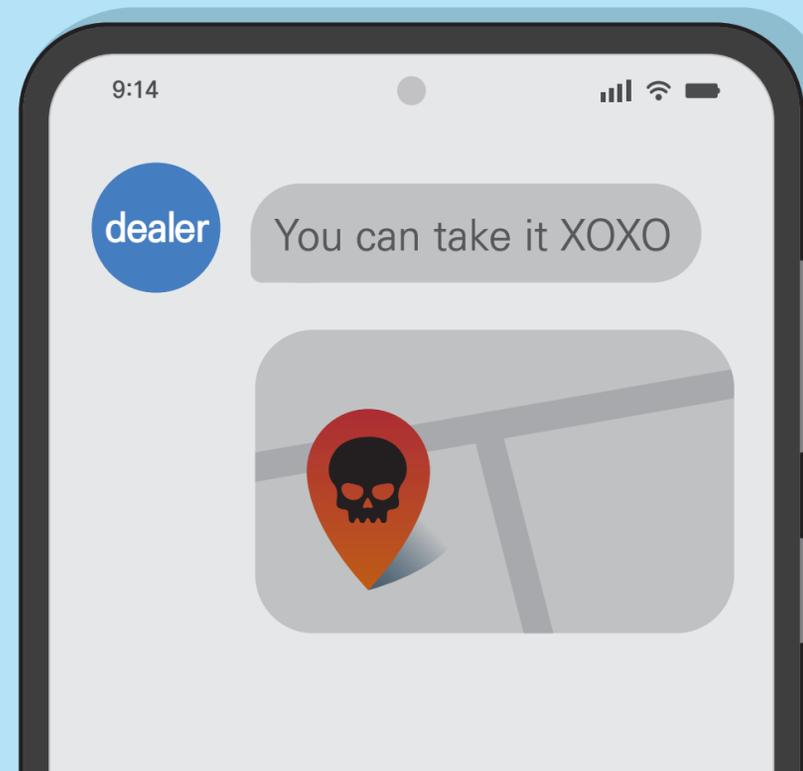


# 1 The age group of drug users is **getting younger**



-  In South Korea, the number of **drug offenses committed by juveniles under the age of 19** has **more than tripled** compared to five years ago.
-  Unfortunately, **no age group is currently safe** from drug use.

## 2 What are **the reasons for the increase** in adolescent drug users?



-  Unlike in the past when drugs were sold only in certain places through certain dealers, **today anyone can easily buy illegal drugs on the internet or via social networks.**
-  Due to the proliferation of **enticing drug-related videos**, there is an increasing number of adolescents attempt to try drugs out of curiosity.

### 3 Higher risk of harm and crimes caused by illegal drugs



Compared to full-grown adults, adolescents are more impressionable to drugs and at higher risk of physical and mental harm. In addition, adolescents develop drug addiction much faster.

Examples of mental harm: loss of memory and critical thinking abilities, an increase in aggressiveness and lying, developmental disabilities, etc.

Adolescents are heavily influenced by peer culture. For this reason, drug use can have a direct effect on the user's friends and increase the risk of involvement in crime.

Juvenile drug crimes are also on the rise.

# 4 Prevention is the **best policy**

-  To be safe from the threat of narcotics, **prevention is the top priority.**
-  **Parents/guardians are advised to pay close attention** to their children to prevent them from being exposed to drug use or involved in crimes.



## Organizations for drug counselling and education



Korean Association Against Drug Abuse (KAADA) : 1899-0893

- Drug counselling is available via phone, mail, email, or personal visits at 13 KAADA regional offices
- Referral to medical institutions for treatment



## Organizations for outpatient, hospitalized treatment and counselling



Treatment and protection centers within the local community

Addiction Management Center



## Educational materials for prevention of drug use by adolescents



Student Health Information Center

: <https://schoolhealth.kr>



## Drug Crime Reporting Agencies

Police: 112

Prosecutors' Office: 1301

- ※ Please be assured that your personal data will be strictly kept confidential.
- ※ Counselling is also available through family members or friends.