Adolescent foster kids in California are 3.5 times more likely to be on psychotropic drugs than all adolescents in the U.S.

Foster kids 12-18 in California* 22%

All kids 12-19 in the U.S. 6%

California prescribes more powerful drugs
Over the last decade, nearly $313 million was spent on the 10 most costly groups of drugs for foster kids. Most of the funds went to psychotropic drugs.*

Psychotropic drugs 72%
Other drugs 28%

Antipsychotic drugs 50%

*Based on fee-for-service Medi-Cal records

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey