

Drug Addiction is a Chronic Disease

According to WebMD, drug addiction is a chronic disease that causes the compulsive use of drugs, despite the consequences. Drug addictions can be the result of many psychological or physical circumstances. Many people may fall prey to prescription drugs or opioids after having an injury or surgery. Some may buckle under peer pressure to use drugs while others may seek them out to manage their stress, depression, and/or other mental health problems.

There are many types of drug abuse addictions that can cause co-occurring health problems. It is not uncommon for mental illnesses or behavioral issues to cause the onset of addiction. Because of the complexity of drug addictions, there are a variety of treatment options that target the root of substance abuse.

A person suffering from a drug addiction feels controlled by a substance or substances, but their identity can be restored by taking preventative measures. In the United States, young adults are becoming more at risk to heroin addictions, and, in recent years, the use of marijuana and methamphetamines have spiked. With more people taking advantage of rehabilitation treatment and practices, these statistics can be defeated.

What Is Drug Addiction?

A [drug addiction](#) is a dependence on a legal or illegal substance. When a person is addicted to a substance, they may not be able to control their cravings, which leads to a change in their behavior. When a person becomes addicted to a substance, including prescription medication and alcohol, they may engage in unusual and unsafe activities, such as stealing and prostitution. Drug addictions often cause a major rift in a person's household and their stability. Explore our [addictionary](#) today to learn more about other addiction subjects.

Depending on the substance being abused by a person, the effects of that substance could cause harm and death. People with an alcohol disorder may be prone to violence and irrational behavior when drunk. On the other hand, a heroin abuser experiences a slowed heart rate and shallow breathing, which could cause the person to stop breathing altogether and die. The more a person is exposed to a substance, the higher the tolerance they build for it. Therefore, the risk of overdose is more prominent as the addiction progresses.

A drug addiction can be detected by family or friends who suspect a person is abusing a substance. Some of the symptoms of drug addictions include physical health issues, frequently missed days at work or school, neglected appearance, change in behavior, and constantly spending money.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, scientists estimate that genetic factors account for 40 and 60% of a person's vulnerability to addiction.

Do You Have a Drug Addiction?

If you have fallen into the realm of addiction, the easiest way to begin a new life is by admitting that you have an addiction. Many people with addictions deny their disease and the effects of it. Although each drug has different effects on the brain and body, over-consumption of substances can result in overdose. If a person has experienced an overdose from a substance, then they could be suffering from an addiction.

Whether it's MDMA, cocaine, opioids, heroin, meth, or alcohol, the physical signs of substance abuse will appear with an addiction to these substances. Some of the signs of addictions are red or glossy eyes,

mood swings, withdrawal symptoms, hygiene carelessness, and a change in sleeping patterns. If you notice these symptoms, then you should seek treatment from the addiction.

When dealing with an addiction, a person's physical health suffers just as much as their psychological health. Signs of addiction could also manifest via physical appearance. Some of the health problems that can be contracted through addictions are HIV and other STDs, heart attack and irregular heart rate, respiratory problems, abdominal pain, kidney and liver damage, and brain damage.

The Dangers of Drug Addiction

Drug addictions can have serious side effects on a person's social and physical life. When a parent or guardian develops an addiction, they may be prone to verbal and/or physical abuse when dealing with their child and/or spouse. A teenager or young adult who develops an addiction may become homeless because they have lost their family's trust or they are unable to keep a job.

Some types of the physical damage done by substance abuse are irreversible and can cause long-term effects. Certain psychological effects of long-term substance abuse include depression, paranoia, and anxiety. Long-term drug abuse affects many organs in the body, such as the kidneys, liver, heart, and lungs.

Overall, drug abuse is considered a mental disorder for the individual, but it can also cause harm to innocent people in the individual's life. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, between 2013 and 2014, more than 22 percent of drivers tested positive for illegal, prescription or over-the-counter drugs. In 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that more than 28,000 people died from an opioid overdose, more than any year on record.

According to the CDC, from 2000 to 2014, nearly half a million people died from drug overdoses.

Seeking Treatment

Treatment for drug addictions ranges from inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, and sober-living homes. At residential rehab facilities, detox is the first step in treatment. After a five- to seven-day detox, medical specialists delegate therapy sessions and individual practices to wean a person off their addiction mentally and physically.

Outpatient treatment is available to those who want the option of undergoing treatment without being isolated from family and friends. Outpatient sessions often are offered by medical clinics. Sober-living homes and 12-step programs, also known as aftercare, are helpful for people who have undergone treatment and are looking to remain sober. At Drug Treatment Center Finder, a specialist is available 24-7 to assist the client with trying to find the best treatment option for his or her addiction. The bridge to a new life is just a phone call away. The number is 855-619-8070.