

Drug Abuse/Dependency – Illegal and Prescription

More than 10 million Americans are drug addicts and chemically dependent.

At least 8 million people need treatment for illegal drug dependency.

In 2007, chemical dependency and alcoholism cost the US economy almost 250 billion dollars. More than the cost to treat cancer, heart disease and diabetes combined.

70% of all violent crime, 90% of all poverty crime, 50% of homicides, 50% of traffic fatalities, 50% of fires and 33% of all traffic accidents are directly related to people abusing drugs and alcohol

Drug abuse and dependency are directly related to spousal abuse and child abuse

A significant percentage of suicides are chemical dependency related.

Prescription drug addiction is the fastest growing area of chemical dependency

In the US, Crystal Meth has been called the "walk away drug" because the user will walk away from spouses, children, work, etc, to use.

Drugs are chemicals that have a profound impact on the neurochemical balance in the brain which directly affects how you feel and act. People who are suffering use drugs to escape from their problems. They are trying to self-medicate themselves out of depression, loneliness, low self-esteem, unhappy relationships, or stress.

Drug abuse involves the repeated and excessive use of prescription or street drugs. In one way or another, almost all drugs over stimulate the pleasure center of the brain, flooding it with the neurotransmitter dopamine which produces euphoria. That heightened sense of pleasure can be so compelling that the brain wants that feeling back, again and again.

Some of the Signs and Symptoms of Drug Abuse and Dependency

Continuing to use drugs even though you have health problems that are affected or caused by your drug use.

Irritability, anger, hostility, fatigue, anxiety, depression, difficulty concentrating

Paying bills late, inability to keep track of your money

Strong and overwhelming desire to use your drug of choice at a specific time of day or several times a day.

Repeatedly trying to stop using the drug but failing.

Feeling that you must have the drug to deal with your problems

Losing interest in activities and hobbies that were once pleasurable

Missing work or school, or going in late due to drug use

Using drugs while alone

Scheduling your day around using drugs