



EFFECTS OF OPIOID ABUSE: Teens in Crisis

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DRUGS

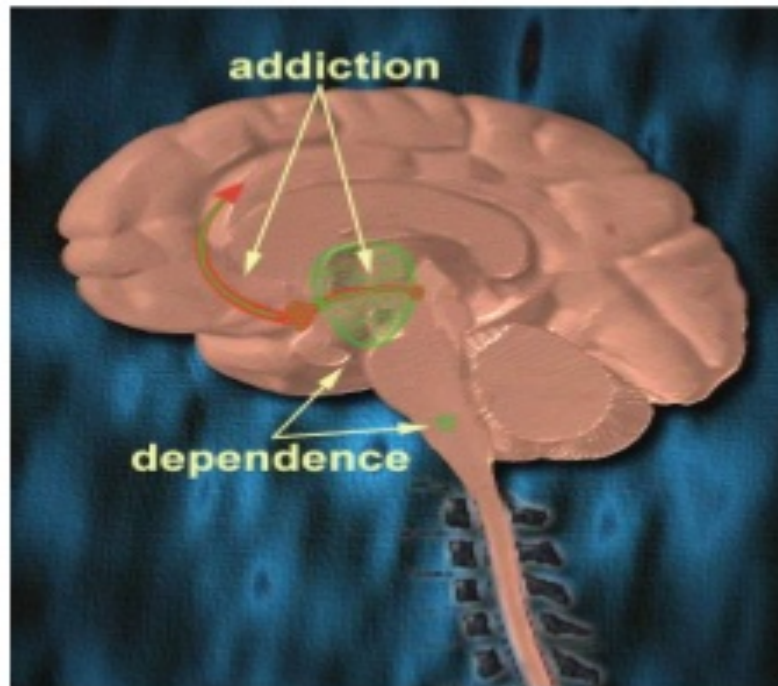
1. Drug addiction is a disorder and is now commonly seen in youth and can cause serious long term consequences including problems with physical and mental health.
2. As our lifestyle is getting change the present youth are often more experimental and willing to try anything their friends are doing.
3. Drugs are essentially poisons . The amount taken determines the effect.
4. A small amount acts as a stimulant(speeds you up).a greater amount acts as a sedative(slowly you down).An even larger amount can kill.

Types of drugs:

Marijuana ,cocaine, heroin ,opium , ecstasy , LSD.



Drug addiction and drug abuse

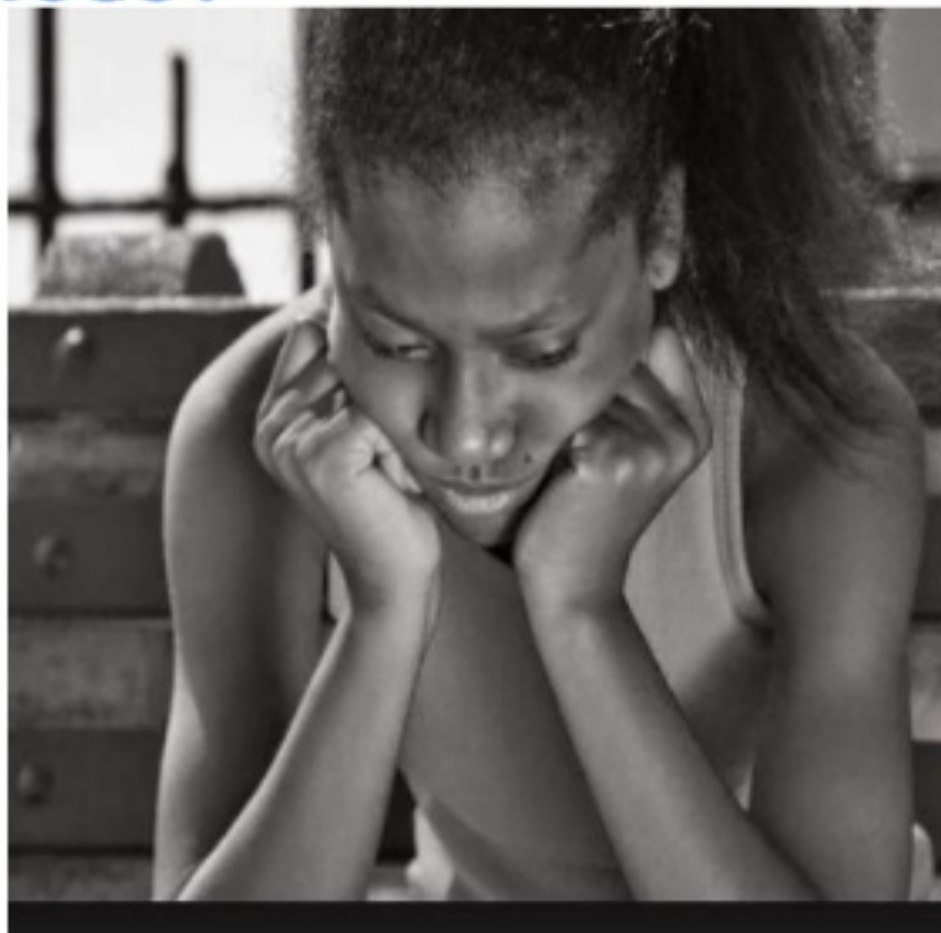


- addiction to morphine (reward pathway)
- dependence to morphine (thalamus and brainstem)

- Dependence:
 - Psychological dependence is the subjective feeling that the user needs the drug to maintain a feeling of well-being. Eg: cocaine
 - Physical dependence is characterized by tolerance (the need for increasingly larger doses in order to achieve the initial effect) and withdrawal symptoms when the user is abstinent.

Why do young people abuse substances?

- Stress relief
- To forget or escape problems
- Being a rebel and a risk-taker
- Relief of boredom/wanting to have fun
- A feeling of being special
- Being part of a significant group of people
- Addictive personality
- Curiosity
- Absence of parents (both physical and emotional)



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF OPIOID USE IN TEENS

› ***Behavioral Symptoms***

- Neglecting responsibilities at home such as chores, due to drug use
- Stopping care for personal hygiene
- Neglecting scholastic and academic responsibilities (i.e. flunking classes) due to heroin use
- Skipping school
- Sudden, inexplicable need for money
- Engaging in secretive behaviors
- Heroin use leading to legal problems
- Sudden changes in friends, favorites hangouts, and hobbies
- Heroin use causing problems in interpersonal relationships
- Wearing long sleeves and pants during warm weather to hide track marks



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF OPIOID USE IN TEENS

Physical Symptoms

- Nodding off suddenly
- Slowed breathing
- Dry mouth
- Flushed skin
- Increased sleeping
- Changes in eating
- Weight loss
- Constant runny nose
- Itching
- Nausea and vomiting
- Deterioration of personal appearance
- Unusual smells on breath, body, or clothing
- Tremors
- Slurred speech
- Impaired coordination
- Appears lethargic or stoned
- Drug paraphernalia around house-glass pipes, used syringes, rubber tubing





SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF OPIOID USE IN TEENS

› *Psychosocial Symptoms*

- Bursts of Euphoria
- Unexplained personality or attitude changes
- Sudden mood swings
- Angry outbursts
- Irritability
- Lack of motivation
- Increase in paranoia
- Fearfulness
- Anxiety
- Depression



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF OPIOID USE IN TEENS

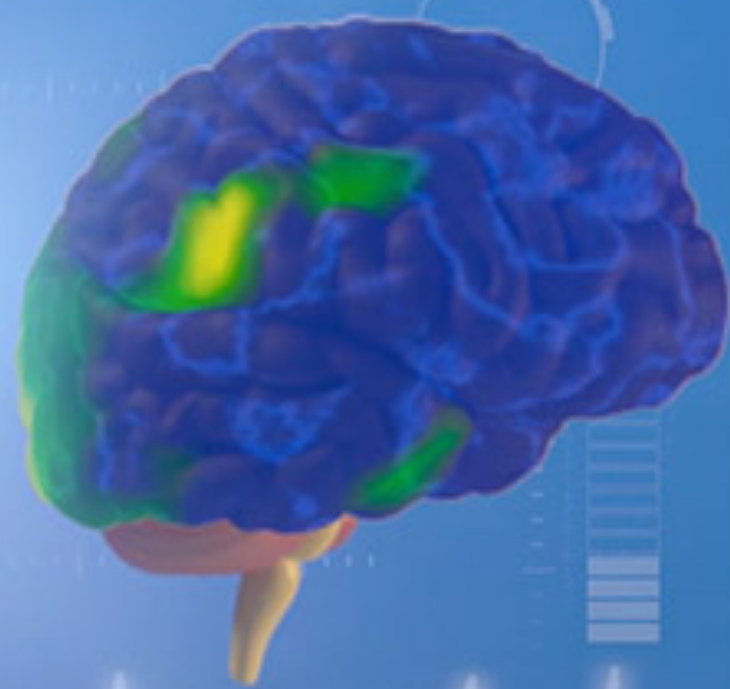
Cognitive Symptoms

- Decreased ability to problem solve
- Unclear Thinking
- Decision-making abilities decreased
- Disorientation
- Decrease in self-control
- Inability to pay attention in school
- Impairment of short-term memory

Functional Changes



Healthy Brain



Addicted Brain

Effects to the Family

- Intense feeling of humiliation and guilt are felt by family members.
- Self-esteem is generally low among the members of the family.
- The spirit of togetherness or unity is broken.
- Occurrence of domestic violence
- Loss of money or valuables



OPIOIDS DEVASTATE YOUNG LIVES

› Integrated Family Services (IFS)

- Mobile Crisis- 866.437.1821
- Outpatient-910.939.5475

› PORT Human Services

- 910.353.5354

Brynn Marr Hospital

910.577.1900

Onslow Memorial Hospital

910.577.2345