Addiction... A Family Disease



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Learner Outcomes

• Describe the disease concept of addiction, and how addiction impacts the family system.

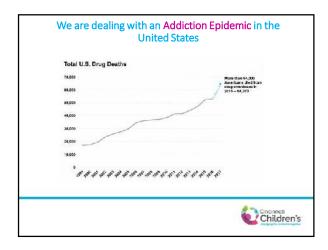


Each day, nearly five Ohioans die because of drug-related overdose.

- From 1999 to 2012, the number of deaths in Ohio due to unintentional drug overdose increased 485 percent, and the increase has been driven largely by prescription drug overdoses.
- In Ohio, since 2007, there have been more deaths from drug overdose than from motor vehicle traffic crashes.
- There were 327 fatal drug overdoses in 1999 and the number grew to 1,914 deaths in 2012.
- Females represent the fastest growing group at risk for fatal prescription drug overdose.

Ohio Department of Health, 2014





What is addiction?

- Addiction is a chronic, relapsing brain disease that causes a person to compulsively seek out drugs, despite the harm they cause.
- The first time a person uses drugs, it's usually a free choice they've made.
- Brain changes occur with drug use and drive a person to seek out and use drugs over and over, despite negative effects such as stealing, losing friends, family problems, or other physical or mental problems brought on by drug use THIS is addiction.



How addiction happens

- "All drugs that are taken in excess have in common direct activation of the brain reward system, which is involved in the reinforcement of behaviors and the production of memories.
- They produce such an intense activation of the reward system that normal activities may be neglected."



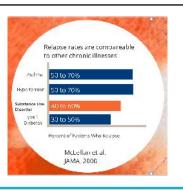








Addiction is a chronic, relapsing, brain disease.





What role do genetics play?

- Genetic factors account for 40 to 60% of a person's vulnerability to addiction.
- Adoption research shows people who have birth parent with a substance use disorder are 4x more likely to develop substance use disorder themselves.



Prevention Research Institute, 2015



Environmental Risk Factors...

- If person's community has favorable attitudes toward drug use, firearms and crime, risk is increased.
- Family conflict and home management problems contribute to drug misuse risk.
- Parental attitudes: those with favorable attitudes towards drug use or use themselves may have children more likely to misuse drugs.
- School: a student's performance, lack of participation and commitment to school can be a major factor in development of substance use disorders.





Social Pressures & Social Conformity

- The single biggest contributing factor to substance abuse risk is having friends who engage in substance abuse.
- If an individual's friends have favorable attitudes towards drug use, this can increase risk.

University of Utah, Genetic Science Learning

https://youtu.be/o8BkzvP19v4





Why is Addiction a Family Disease?

- Stresses the family to the breaking point
- Impacts the stability of the home
- Deconstructs the family's unity
- Damages the family's mental health
- Impacts the family's physical health
- Depletes finances
- Creates Family Dysfunction

This means healing is needed for all family members.





Characteristics of a Family Dealing with Addiction: Dysfunctional Family Rules and Roles

Different Rules Exist

- May not acknowledge that problems exist
- May not express emotions.
- Ignore their own needs.
- Develop behaviors that help deny, ignore, or avoid difficult emotions.
- Do not talk, touch, confront, feel, or trust.

Unhealthy Roles Emerge



Family Roles Can Became Co-Dependent

- Learned behavior that can be passed down from one generation to another.
- Also known as "relationship addiction".
- Co-dependent behavior is learned by watching and imitating other family members who display this type of behavior.

Mental Health America





Characteristics of Co-Dependent People

- Exaggerated sense of responsibility for self and others
- Feel the need to "rescue" the addict and maybe other affected family members as well
- A tendency to confuse love with pity
- Want to "love" the people they can pity and rescue.





Characteristics of Co-Dependent People

Enablers

- · Compulsive care takers
- Will do anything to hold on to a relationship, to avoid feeling abandoned.
- Extreme need for approval and recognition
- A sense of guilt when asserting oneself
- A compelling need to control others
- · Lack of trust in self/others







Who Does Co-Dependency Affect?

Affects Stems From

- ☐ Parents ☐ Alcoholism
- ☐ Siblings ☐ Other drug addictions
- ☐ Spouse ☐ Mental illness
- ☐ Friends ☐ Medical illness
- ☐ Co-Workers ☐ Any dysfunctional family



Addictions Effect on Children

Children of an addicted parent become adversely affected and use unhealthy ways to cope.

They may ...

- Avoid activities with friends.
- Stay away from the family home
- Feel deprived of emotional and physical support
- Develop counter-productive ways of dealing with life
- Feel torn between parents, feeling loyalty toward one and anger toward
 the other.



- Feel a diminished sense of self-worth & value
- Experience confusion & sense of loss
- Develop inability to trust others
- May resort to drugs or other addictive behaviors
- 4x more likely to develop substance abuse problems

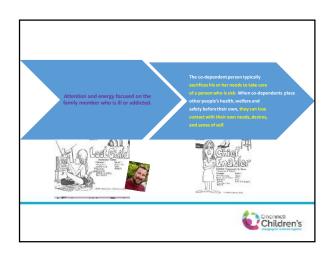


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Addiction is a Family Disease: A Mother's Story Concluded Concl





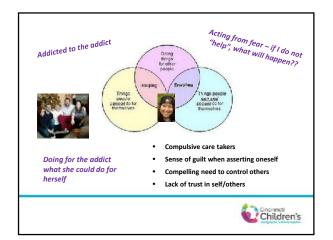
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- Creates family dysfunction











RIP Let it not be in vain. Let's learn how we can help – for Dan and all

the others



"Even when they know what will happen when they take the first drink, pill or fix, they will do so....THIS is the disease of addiction."

Nar-Anon Family Group

As a nurse/healthcare provider: What can you do?

- Educate ourselves: addiction is a disease; there is help & there is hope
- Create awareness
- Enhance our own compassion
- Know signs of potential drug addiction: in your patients or in their family
- Be observant of family interactions, comments your patient may share with you
- Listen to concerns; some may not be readily apparent
- Work with Social Services Dept. as needed



- Know what resources available to share with
 - o Counseling services\ Employee Assistance Programs (EAP's) Narcotics Anonymous
 - o AA/NA
 - o Al-Anon/Nar-Anon: support for families, friends
 - o Local S.O.L.A.C.E. group (Surviving Our Loss And Continuing Everyday)
 - o Narconon
 - o Social Services & Child Protective Services





Please feel free to contact us Health Services



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Ohio Department of Health

