



Drug Abuse & Violence

CAUSES AND EFFECTS

Unit Goals and Objectives

- ▶ **Define** drug abuse.
- ▶ **Identify** the causes of drug use.
- ▶ **Identify** the major social factors promoting drug use.
- ▶ **Describe** the addictive process.
- ▶ **Identify** factors for drug abuse and how people can lower the risk.



What is Drug Abuse?

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What is Drug Abuse?

- ▶ Drug abuse is the compulsive (uncontrolled) use of one or more psychoactive (mind-altering) drugs.
- ▶ Some common drugs of abuse:
 - ▶ Nicotine (cigarettes)
 - ▶ Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)
 - ▶ Marijuana
 - ▶ Prescription drugs



What is Dependence?

- ▶ Dependence is the quality or state of being influenced by or needing to have something, either emotionally or physically.



Difference Between Drug Use and Abuse

Frequency

- How often drug use occurs

Amount

- How much is taken each time

Dependence

- Whether there is evidence of psychological or physical dependence

Social Attributes

- Toward the use of that particular drug.



How Does Drug Abuse Start?

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Common Causes of Drug Use

- ▶ Desire to fit in with friends who use drugs.
- ▶ Inability to resist peer pressure.
- ▶ Availability of drugs.
- ▶ Attitudes that condone drug use.
- ▶ Curiosity about drugs' effects.
- ▶ Advertisements (e.g. TV, movies, social media)



How Does Drug Abuse Start?

- ▶ The first drugs are usually the ones most available and used by most people (e.g. alcohol and tobacco).
- ▶ Next, people may start using other drugs (e.g. marijuana, cocaine).



Where Does Drug Abuse Occur?

- ▶ In the beginning, drug use is normally limited to social situations (e.g. parties, hanging out).
- ▶ May become a solidarity activity.





Becoming a Drug User

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Steps Leading to Drug Abuse

1

Step 1

- Experimental use.

2

Step 2

- Occasional use

3

Step 3

- Regular use

4

Step 4

- Drug abuse



Drug Abuse Risk and Effects

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Risks and Effects

- ▶ Present and future effects on the body (e.g. lung cancer, heart disease).
- ▶ Risks for accidents or violence.
- ▶ Social and legal problems.





DRUG USE AND VIOLENCE

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Causes of Violence

- ▶ Alcohol and drug use are associated with a great majority of violent acts.
- ▶ Despite what is shown in the media, violence is relatively rare.
- ▶ Most people do not carry weapons.
- ▶ Most violence arises from everyday conflicts.

