

SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACTS



Misuse of alcohol and illicit drugs affects society through costs incurred secondary to crime, reduced productivity at work, and health care expenses.

The overall costs of alcohol abuse amount to \$224 billion annually, with the costs to the health care system accounting for approximately \$25 billion.

Substance abuse costs the health care system about \$11 billion, with overall costs reaching \$193 billion.

Substance abuse and addiction also affects other areas, such as broken families, destroyed careers, death due to negligence or accident, domestic violence, physical abuse, and child abuse.

Drug abuse and addiction is a chronic, relapsing, compulsive disorder that often requires formal treatment, and may call for multiple courses of treatment.

28.7 million people or 10.9% of the population over 12 drove while intoxicated at least once in 2013.

Approximately 27 million Americans, or 10.2% of the American population over the age of 12 reported using illicit drugs in 2014.

Drug abuse and addiction changes your brain chemistry. The longer you use your drug of choice, the more damage is done—and the harder it is to go back to “normal” during drug rehab.

Estimates showed that in 2014, nearly 140 million Americans over the age of 12 were, at the time, currently using alcohol, with 16.3 million having reported heavy alcohol use in the prior month, and 60.9 million having reported binge drinking in the prior month, reflecting an increase from previous years.

Cocaine use declined among Americans over the age of 12 – from about 2.3 million people in 2003 to approximately 1.5 million people in 2014.

In 2014, 21.5 million Americans aged 12 or older met the criteria for a substance use disorder (or addiction) in the previous year.

Nearly 4.6 million ER visits in the United States were related in some way to drugs in 2009.

About half of those visits were caused by reactions to medications that were taken according to a doctor’s prescription and 45%, or 2.1 million ER visits were related to the abuse of illicit substances.

ER visits caused by non-medical use of prescription drugs increased more than 98% between 2004 and 2009.

(Cited from Drug Abuse Symptoms, Facts, and Statistics <http://luxury.rehabs.com/drug-abuse/#facts>)

In Florida, 53.4% of youth disposed by the courts to residential commitment were identified as recently using drugs.

(Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, PACT Profile Report FY 2013-14)