**Adolescent Substance Abuse**

Epidemiology

* Incidence and Prevalence of Substance Abuse
  + Increases with age during adolescent
  + Peaks in young adulthood
  + Substantially increases risk for persistent substance abuse
  + The younger the age of abuse, the higher the risk for future dependence
  + Social reorientation from family to peers
  + Unique brain changes that enhance risk-taking behaviors
  + Abuse is three times more likely in youths with psychiatric disorders

Risk Factors

* Socioeconomic Status
* Ineffective Parenting
* Early Aggressive Behavior
* Life Transitions
* Academic Failure
* Drug Availability

Protective Factors

* Strong family bonds
* Parental monitoring and involvement
* Positive attitude towards school
* Positive social institutions such as family, school, and community organizations

Interventions

* Micro Level
  + Prevention (Support groups and Project Magic)
  + Treatment (Rehabilitation Centers)
* Macro Level
  + Prevention (The Drug Free Communities Program and National Anti-Drug Media Campaign)
  + Treatment (Juvenile Drug Court)

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