

Introduction: Common Signs of Addiction

Using drugs or other substances is categorized as a "disorder", "misuse" or "abuse" when the use causes continuing or growing problems in the user's everyday life and functioning. The problems that a lot of addicts encounter include missing work or school, driving under the influence, legal problems and problems with friends or family relationships.

Addiction or dependency usually becomes noticeable in substance abusers when they continue their pattern of drug use in spite of suffering significant problems in their lives.

Mood swings

☐ Individuals who are addicted to drugs are prone to sudden mood swings depending upon whether or not they are currently under the influence.

☐ Depression. During the "lows" of drug addiction, many individuals will fall into a deep depression as they ponder their situation, or await their next dose of the drugs.

Euphoria

☐ Drug use can take individuals to points of extreme euphoria – making them seem giddy or elated at socially unacceptable times.

Criminal Behavior

When an individual is addicted to drugs, he or she will do anything to obtain more. This may include robbery, selling drugs or other that can land the individual in jail.

Sleeplessness

Many individuals who are addicted to stimulants may find it difficult to sleep while they are under the influence of the drug. Opiate addicts, on the other hand, may experience sleeplessness when they are going through withdrawal.

Unexplained absences

For many people, drug addiction is all about secrecy. These men and women use drugs in private in the hopes of keeping their habit a secret from loved ones or co-workers. As such, a drug addict may disappear for hours (or even days) on end without speculation. They have the option of seeking an exclusive private addiction treatment facility.

Anxiety

Almost every type of drug addiction causes some form of anxiety in the user. Whether it is nervous behavior caused by the drug itself, or anxiousness over finding one's next "fix", anxiety remains one of the hallmark symptoms of drug addiction.

Strong drug cravings

Once addiction takes over, the individual's body will shut down with access to more drugs. That leads to very strong drug cravings that can take over the life of almost anyone – no matter how physically or emotionally strong they are.

Change in appearance

Men and women who are addicted to drugs often look different than before they began using. Drugs such as cocaine, crystal meth or heroin may cause individual to become emaciated – while marijuana may lead to weight gain for some.

New peers

Commonly, adolescent and teen drug addicts will begin hanging around with a different peer group when they are immersed in drug use. This means parents should be aware of the potential for trouble when their child begins spending time with an unfamiliar group of kids.

Physical Symptoms

Parents or others close to an individual potentially addicted to crack may benefit from knowing what some of the warning signs or such an addiction are. Some of the physical signs of crack abuse include:

- ☒ Dilated pupils.
- ☒ Insomnia.
- ☒ Increased heart rate.
- ☒ Hypertension (raised blood pressure).
- ☒ Suppressed appetite and weight loss.
- ☒ Fasciculations / twitching of the muscles.
- ☒ Nosebleeds.



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Published 4th February, 2018.
Last updated 4th February, 2018.
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