



SOBERING FACTS ABOUT YOUTH & ADDICTION.

The earlier substance use starts, the greater the risk for addiction. And, because their brains are still developing, young people are especially vulnerable to alcohol and drugs.

WHO IS USING? THE FACTS.

- 75 percent (75%) of high school students have used addictive substances.²
- Almost half (46%) of all high school students currently use addictive substances.²
- 16 percent of American ages 12 and older are addicted to nicotine, alcohol or drugs (that's more of us than suffer from diabetes, heart disease or cancer).²
- Nearly 7 million Americans ages 18-25 were classified as needing treatment in the past year. 93 percent (93%) of these young adults did not receive the help they needed.³
- 1.6 million high school students (12%) meet the medical criteria for a substance use disorder.¹
- 1.8 million full-time college students meet the medical criteria for a substance use disorder.¹

ADDICTION STARTS YOUNG.

- 1 in 4 (25%) Americans who began using any addictive substance before age 18 is addicted.²
- Most of the Americans (90%) suffering from addiction started smoking, drinking or using other drugs before age 18.²

THE COST OF ADDICTION: IN NUMBERS.

- Addiction and risky substance use are responsible for more than 20 percent (20%) of deaths in the U.S.²
- Costs per year of teen substance use include an estimated \$68 billion associated with underage drinking and \$14 billion in substance-related juvenile justice costs.²
- Total costs (of addiction and risky substance abuse) to federal, state and local governments are at least \$468 billion per year (\$1,500 for every person in America).²
- In 2010, only \$28 billion (1%) of total healthcare costs was spent on addiction treatment.²

¹ According to U.S. Government's Office of National Drug Control Policy

² According to CASA Columbia

³ According to SAMSHA