

Chapter 1 : Easy to Read Drug Facts

Narcotics are a class of drugs that sooth pain, ease discomfort and are widely prescribed for treatment of moderate to severe pain associated with previous illness, injury, disease or other condition.

In fact, prescription narcotic analgesics -- pain medications that have been legally prescribed to a patient from a healthcare provider -- sits at the heart of the U. On average, Americans die every day from an opioid overdose based on data from the U. From to , more than , people died from drug overdoses. In alone, there were more than 63, drug overdose deaths in the U. Causes of addiciton are multifaceted: Research from reveals that when U. Plus, a study revealed many people who experience an overdose are given another prescription for an opioid with 6 months. A Significant Problem The abuse of prescription drugs has risen to unprecedented levels. In fact, death from narcotic prescription painkillers -- drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, and fentanyl -- have increased fivefold since , as noted by the CDC. These opioids primarily involved hydrocodone, oxycodone and fentanyl. Eight percent of opioid misusers used heroin. Opioid abuse is a significant problem that must be addressed. But opioid painkillers are not the only prescription drug subject to abuse and addiction. The Science of Addiction: Addiction is a chronic brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful effects to the individual and others. Drug dependence is a complex disease process and the drug abuser cannot voluntarily stop their use of illicit or prescription drugs. People who become addicted to drugs are not necessarily immoral or lacking in character; in fact, drug addiction occurs throughout the mainstream of society. Environmental and social signals can also trigger further misuse of drugs. While someone who becomes addicted to drugs is always at risk for relapse, there are effective treatments for drug detoxification and maintenance. The Monitoring the Future Survey is a yearly survey conducted since of teen substance abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and related attitudes funded and run by the National Institute of Health NIH and the University of Michigan. The results are available. Over 43, students -- 8th, 10th and 12th graders -- were surveyed from U. Marijuana and hash Synthetic marijuana Spice or K2 use declined for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, documented at about 3. E-vaporizer use is on the rise, with one in three 12th graders reporting use, but not usually for marijuana; they say they are inhaling primarily flavorings and nicotine. And for 12th grade students who smoke traditionally, more are smoking marijuana 5. Binge drinking -- defined as having five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks -- was reported by These numbers seem high, but compare this to a peak of What about prescription drugs, also a concern for teens. Tranquilizers and opioids other than heroin account for 4. However, misuse of Vicodin has dropped dramatically in the last 15 years. ADHD medications and painkillers like hydrocodone Vicodin, Lortab are often easily accessible from the home medicine cabinet. Put them under lock and key or safely dispose of them if not needed. In general, illicit drug use showed a decline in use for adolescents, although relatively few drugs individually exhibited a significant decline in use in based on the Monitoring the Future Survey. Marijuana use continue to be more accepted in the U. In the National Survey on Drug Use and Health , illicit drug use estimates continue to be driven primarily by marijuana use and the misuse of prescription pain relievers. This equates to about 1 in 10 Americans age 12 and over overall, but can be as high as 1 in 4 for young adults aged 18 to Among people aged 12 or older, 24 million were current users of marijuana. The percentage of people aged 12 or older who were current marijuana users in was higher than the percentages from to Lesser amounts of people were misusing drugs like cocaine, heroin, or hallucinogens. In , an estimated More than half who used pain relievers stated they got them from a friend or relative, and 6 out of 10 respondents said they used them for pain. If and how quickly you become addicted to a drug depends on many factors, including your biology your genes , age, gender, and environment. While one person may use a drug one or many times and suffer no ill effects, another person may overdose with the first use, or become addicted after just a few uses. There is no way of knowing in advance how quickly this will happen -- but there are some clues -- for example, whether you have a family or self history of addiction. Each person is different in their vulnerability to drug addiction. Talk to your doctor about this. Any opioid-based painkiller can lead to addiction. Opioid derivatives -- or narcotics -- are commonly used in prescription painkillers.

Chapter 2 : Drug Information and Facts About the Side Effects of Drugs & Substance Abuse

FACT: A narcotic is an addictive depressant drug (such as opium and derivatives such as morphine) that in moderate doses works on the central nervous system, dulling senses, relieves pain, these are the Narcotics Use Facts that make people abuse them.

Speak with an addiction treatment specialist anytime. Please call us now at ! Narcotic is derived from the Greek *narkotikos*, which means "numbing" or "deadening. Narcotics are commonly classified into three groups according to their origin: Natural derivatives of opium: Narcotics in this group include morphine itself and codeine. Partially synthetic drugs derived from morphine, including heroin, oxycodone OxyContin , hydromorphone Dilaudid , and oxymorphone Numorphan. Synthetic compounds that resemble morphine in their chemical structure, such as fentanyl Duragesic , levorphanol Levo-Dromoran , meperidine Demerol , methadone, and propoxyphene Darvon. Narcotics taken in many different ways. Fentanyl is used by applying a patch directly to the skin. A narcotic is an addictive depressant drug such as opium and derivatives such as morphine that in moderate doses works on the central nervous system, dulling senses, relieves pain, these are the Narcotics Use Facts that make people abuse them. Narcotics can be used to put someone to sleep. When abused and misused, narcotics can cause causes stupor, convulsions, or coma. These Narcotics Use Facts should not be avoided. Drugs like LSD or marijuana, subject to similar legal restrictions are also sometimes referred to as narcotics. In a stricter sense, Narcotics are opiates manufactured from the Asian opium poppy plant. The opium poppy plant produces two natural alkaloids, codeine and morphine. These are manufactured into drugs for medical purposes and are available only by prescription. Narcotic drugs are heavily restricted by the government. Narcotic analgesics pain reducers which work by depressing the central nervous system and can also depress the respiratory system; include the opiates and synthetic opiates: These are the Narcotics Use Facts to be aware of. Narcotics are addictive, either psychologically or physically. Addiction is when a person cannot stop using the drug. Narcotic use can lead to addiction, MANY health problems and if untreated death. Among the health issues for narcotic users include high blood pressure, respiratory distress, cardiac arrest. Narcotics will decrease responsiveness, cause drowsiness, insensitivity to pain by slowing down the central nervous system. Narcotic abusers often experience withdrawal after going off th drug. Withdrawal is characterized by sleeplessness, muscle and bone pain, involuntary muscle movement, like a kicking leg,. Another of these Narcotics Use Facts are that narcotic users whose use has turned into addiction, may experience unpleasant withdrawal symptoms, but medically supervised detoxification can help ease that process. A higher percentage of African-Americans and Hispanics enter treatment than do whites. Self-Destructive Patterns by Dee How do you get the energy to combat an old pattern in your addiction recovery? It is helpful to write out or sit meditatively and ask yourself where the former pattern takes you and how you feel afterward. How do you feel after having a few chocolate bars or calling someone back to scream at them? Compare that to how you feel after taking a run, doing some journal writing or something that increases your energy and awareness. A very important factor for addiction recovery is being able to have tools for dealing with difficult situations, rather than going into an escape route such as taking drugs. Initially it is hard to use new tools rather than old habits but as time goes on, the old habits appear to offer no solution and the new tools give one a sense of accomplishment and enrichment. It is similar to the feeling one might have where someone might have chosen to jog for 20 minutes for relief instead of running out to buy chocolate and ice cream to deal with an argument they just had with someone. You get a momentary relief but you aggravate the initial problem. Motivation is very important to keep going and trying to put the two routes you can take in front of you is helpful for making healthy choices for recovering from an addiction. Often not long-term solutions Thinking about the unhelpfulness of scratching a mosquito bite can help to outline what solutions appear to the mind during stress that really are not long term solutions. Our bodies want to heal and our emotions and spiritual sides want wholeness. Thinking about what solutions are truly helpful versus only provide momentary relief can help you take the right fork in the road in trying moments while in the addiction recovery process. Reading the journeys of others who have overcome their own addictive patterns is also very

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helpful for inspiration and motivation. Though we know that people relapse, there are many true accounts of those who have crossed the bridge to the other side. Their courage and stories are a wonderful support and useful for a true turning point. That completes our look Narcotics Use Facts please visit our home page for more information. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Nov 12, 18 Nov 10, 18 When I try to talk to her about it, she either gets mad or just walks off. Synthetic Insanity Nov 09, 18

Chapter 3 : Drug Abuse – 10 Interesting Facts and Stats on Drug Abuse

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Substance abuse in teens is an ongoing reality in the United States. Close to 5 million American adolescents suffer from a substance abuse or alcohol use disorder. Here are 10 facts you might not know about teenage drug abuse. Nearly half of college students use illicit drugs. Teen drug use is common among college students. In , 45 percent of male college students and 42 percent of female college students used an illegal drug. The Top Five Reasons for Teen Drug Abuse Peer pressure and social influence Escape or self-medication Academic or performance pressure Coping with trauma, anxiety, depression or another underlying mental health issue Media influences: Studies show that teens who watch movies that depict smoking or alcohol consumption are more likely to engage in those behaviors themselves. For one, teen drug experimentation can descend into teenage addiction. Moreover, drug use at a young age can impact the likelihood of adult addiction. Children and teens who use alcohol and drugs are more likely to have a substance use disorder as adults. According to a report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration SAMHSA , 74 percent of adults participating in a substance abuse treatment program started using alcohol or drugs before the age of Furthermore, those who began using at 11 years old or younger were more likely to have multiple addictions, as compared to those who did not use drugs or alcohol until they were 25 or older. There is a clear link between depression and substance abuse. Mental health professionals who work with teens observe the link between depression and substance abuse in teens on a daily basis. They know from interacting with teens how closely mental health and substance use are related. However, researchers are now exploring this connection, too. A study that surveyed adolescents found that emotional vulnerability increases the likelihood of trying a variety of drugs in early adolescence. In other words, teaching children how to regulate their emotions, as well as addressing teen depression at the first signs of trouble, may keep kids from trying drugs. Learn how to recognize teen depression symptoms. Marijuana use is at a year high among college students. According to the most recent Monitoring the Future Survey from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 39 percent of college students use marijuana—the highest levels of use among college students in the past three decades. In terms of regular marijuana use in high school, 36 percent of high school seniors use marijuana, similar to past years, and 6 percent report daily use. According to teen substance abuse statistics, more high school students used marijuana than cigarettes in Furthermore, drug use in teens goes up in states with medical marijuana laws, compared to states without them. In , 38 percent of high school seniors in states with medical marijuana laws reported marijuana use, compared to 33 percent in nonmedical marijuana states. Last year, only 31 percent of 12th graders reported that regular marijuana use is harmful, compared to 58 percent in This is a worrying statistic, as regular marijuana drug use in teens can lead to the following short- and long-term effects: Changes in mood Cognitive difficulties thinking and problem-solving Respiratory problems coughing, lung infections, etc. One study showed that people who started smoking marijuana heavily in their teens and continued to use it lost an average of eight IQ points between the ages of 13 and Alcohol is the substance most widely used by teenagers. Teenage alcohol and drug abuse surveys reveal the following statistics: Binge drinking is a real problem among college students. According to the last 10 years of data from the Monitoring the Future Survey, one in eight college students 12 percent reported having 10 or more drinks in a row at least once in the two weeks before the survey. Moreover, one in 25 reported having 15 or more drinks in a row at least once in those two weeks. Furthermore, males are more likely to binge drink. College-age men were three times as likely as women to have 10 or more drinks in a row.

Chapter 4 : Narcotics Facts

Illicit drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription drugs used without a prescription. And, despite the numbers, for many people, the facts about drugs are not clear.

Click the graphic for nationwide meeting map Information about NA October Narcotics Anonymous is an international, community-based association of recovering drug addicts with more than 33, weekly meetings in over countries worldwide. In , Narcotics Anonymous published its self-titled Basic Text book, which contributed to tremendous growth. Narcotics Anonymous books and information pamphlets are currently available in 27 languages, with translations in process for 16 languages. We meet regularly to help each other stay clean. We are not interested in what or how much you used There are no social, religious, economic, racial, ethnic, national, gender, or class-status membership restrictions. There are no dues or fees for membership; while most members regularly contribute small sums to help cover the expenses of meetings, such contributions are not mandatory. Narcotics Anonymous provides a recovery process and support network inextricably linked together. Members share their successes and challenges in overcoming active addiction and living drug-free productive lives through the application of the principles contained within the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of NA. These principles are the core of the Narcotics Anonymous recovery program. Principles incorporated within the steps include: Central to the Narcotics Anonymous program is its emphasis on practicing spiritual principles. As an organization, NA does not employ professional counselors or therapists nor does it provide residential facilities or clinics. Additionally, the fellowship does not provide vocational, legal, financial, psychiatric, or medical services. NA has only one mission: In Narcotics Anonymous, members are encouraged to comply with complete abstinence from all drugs including alcohol. It has been the experience of NA members that complete and continuous abstinence provides the best foundation for recovery and personal growth. NA as a whole has no opinion on outside issues, including prescribed medications. Most groups rent space for their weekly meetings in buildings run by public, religious, or civic organizations. Individual members lead the NA meetings while other members take part by sharing in turn about their experiences in recovering from drug addiction. Group members also share the activities associated with running a meeting. In a country where Narcotics Anonymous is a relatively new phenomenon, the NA group is the only level of organization. In places where a number of Narcotics Anonymous groups have had the chance to develop and stabilize, groups will have elected delegates to form a local service committee. These local committees usually offer a number of services. Included among them are: An international delegate assembly known as the World Service Conference provides guidance on issues affecting the entire organization. The mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and website address appear at the end of this pamphlet Return to top Positions on related issues or institutions In order to maintain its focus, Narcotics Anonymous has established a tradition of non-endorsement and does not take positions on anything outside its own specific sphere of activity. Narcotics Anonymous does not express opinions either pro or con on civil, social, medical, legal, or religious issues. Narcotics Anonymous is entirely self-supporting and does not accept financial contributions from non-members. Based on the same principle, groups and service committees are run by NA members, for members. Its primary competence is in providing a platform upon which drug addicts can share their recovery and experiences with one another. To remain free of the distraction of controversy, NA focuses all of its energy on its particular area of purpose, leaving other organizations to fulfill their own goals. Return to top Cooperating with NA Although certain traditions guide its relations with other organizations, Narcotics Anonymous welcomes the cooperation of those in government, the clergy, the helping professions, and private voluntary organizations. NA strives to cooperate with others interested in Narcotics Anonymous by providing contact information, literature, and information about recovery through the NA Fellowship. Additionally, NA members are often available to make panel presentations in treatment centers and correctional facilities, sharing the NA program with addicts otherwise unable to attend community-based meetings. Return to top Membership demographics To offer some general informal observations about the nature of the membership and the effectiveness of the program the following

observations are believed to be reasonably accurate. The socioeconomic strata represented by the NA membership vary from country to country. Members of one particular social or economic class start most national NA movements, but as their outreach activities become more effective, the membership becomes more broadly representative of all socioeconomic backgrounds. All ethnic and religious backgrounds are represented among NA members. Once a national movement reaches a certain level of maturity, its membership generally reflects the diversity or homogeneity of the background culture. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to provide interested parties with comprehensive information about NA membership. There are, however, some objective measures that can be shared based on data obtained from members attending one of our world conventions; the diversity of our membership, especially ethnic background, seems to be representative of the geographic location of the survey. The following demographic information was revealed in a survey returned by almost half of the 13, attendees at the NA World Convention held in San Diego, California: Return to top Rate of growth Because no attendance records are kept, it is impossible to estimate what percentages of those who come to Narcotics Anonymous remain active in NA over time. In , there were fewer than registered groups in three countries. In , more than a dozen countries had 2, meetings. In , 60 countries had over 13, groups holding over 19, meetings. In , countries had 20, groups holding over 30, meetings. In , there are over 21, registered groups holding over 33, weekly meetings in countries More information may be obtained by contacting:

Chapter 5 : Drugs of Abuse | National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Narcotic (say: nar-KAH-tik) – A narcotic dulls the body's senses (leaving a person less aware and alert and feeling carefree) and relieves pain. Narcotics can cause someone to sleep, fall into a stupor, have convulsions, and even slip into a coma.

Medicines are legal drugs, meaning doctors are allowed to prescribe them for patients, stores can sell them, and people are allowed to buy them. Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana Cigarettes and alcohol are two other kinds of legal drugs. In the United States, adults 18 and older can buy cigarettes and those 21 and older can buy alcohol. Marijuana is generally an illegal drug, but some states allow doctors to prescribe it to people for certain illnesses, and some have passed laws making it legal to sell marijuana to adults for personal use. **Illegal Drugs** When people talk about a "drug problem," they usually mean abusing legal drugs or using illegal drugs, such as marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, LSD, crystal meth, and heroin to get "high." Illegal drugs can damage the brain, heart, and other important organs. Cocaine, for instance, can cause a heart attack – even in a kid or teen. While using drugs, people are also less able to do well in school, sports, and other activities. People can do dumb or dangerous things that could hurt them – or other people – when they use drugs. Sometimes kids and teens try drugs to fit in with a group of friends. Or they might be curious or just bored. Someone may use illegal drugs for many reasons, but often because they help the person escape from reality for a while. But this escape lasts only until the drug wears off. And using drugs often causes other problems on top of the problems the person had in the first place. Somebody who uses drugs can become dependent on them, or addicted. Stopping can cause withdrawal symptoms, such as vomiting, throwing up, sweating, and tremors shaking. If someone is using drugs, you might notice changes in how the person looks or acts. Somebody using drugs might: If you think someone is using drugs, the best thing to do is to tell an adult that you trust. This could be a parent, other relative, teacher, coach, or school counselor. The person might need professional help to stop using drugs. A grownup can help the person find the treatment needed to stop using drugs. Another way kids can help kids is by choosing not to try or use drugs. **Words to Know** Understanding drugs and why they are dangerous is another good step for a kid to take. Here are some words that may be new to you: **Depressants** Doctors prescribe depressants to help people be less angry, anxious, or tense. Depressants relax muscles and make people feel sleepy, less stressed out, or like their head is stuffed. Some people may use these drugs illegally to slow themselves down and help bring on sleep – especially after using various kinds of stimulants. **High** – A high is the feeling that drug users want to get when they take drugs. There are many types of highs, including a very happy or spacey feeling or a feeling that someone has special powers, such as the ability to fly or to see into the future. **Inhalants** produce a quick feeling of being drunk – followed by sleepiness, staggering, dizziness, and confusion. Narcotics can cause someone to sleep, fall into a stupor, have convulsions, and even slip into a coma. Certain narcotics – such as codeine – are legal if given by doctors to treat pain. Heroin is an illegal narcotic because it has dangerous side effects and is very addictive. **Stimulants** – A stimulant speeds up the body and brain. Stimulants, such as methamphetamines and cocaine, have the opposite effect of depressants. Usually, stimulants make someone feel high and energized. When the effects of a stimulant wear off, the person will feel tired or sick.

Chapter 6 : The Truth About Drugs - Illegal Drug Use Statistics - Drug-Free World

1.)Narcotics amount for nearly one quarter of all crimes. 2.)Nearly 10% of the United States population is addicted to narcotics. 3.)The word Narcotics is derived from the Greek word, narkotikos which means "numbing" or "deadening".

No one factor can predict if a person will become addicted to drugs. A combination of factors influences risk for addiction. The more risk factors a person has, the greater the chance that taking drugs can lead to addiction. Gender, ethnicity, and the presence of other mental disorders may also influence risk for drug use and addiction. Although taking drugs at any age can lead to addiction, the earlier that drug use begins, the more likely it will progress to addiction. This is particularly problematic for teens. Because areas in their brains that control decision-making, judgment, and self-control are still developing, teens may be especially prone to risky behaviors, including trying drugs. Can drug addiction be cured or prevented? However, addiction is treatable and can be successfully managed. People who are recovering from an addiction will be at risk for relapse for years and possibly for their whole lives. Research shows that combining addiction treatment medicines with behavioral therapy ensures the best chance of success for most patients. Results from NIDA-funded research have shown that prevention programs involving families, schools, communities, and the media are effective for preventing or reducing drug use and addiction. Although personal events and cultural factors affect drug use trends, when young people view drug use as harmful, they tend to decrease their drug taking. Therefore, education and outreach are key in helping people understand the possible risks of drug use. Teachers, parents, and health care providers have crucial roles in educating young people and preventing drug use and addiction. Points to Remember Drug addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences. This is why drug addiction is also a relapsing disease. Relapse is the return to drug use after an attempt to stop. Relapse indicates the need for more or different treatment. Surges of dopamine in the reward circuit cause the reinforcement of pleasurable but unhealthy activities, leading people to repeat the behavior again and again. Over time, the brain adjusts to the excess dopamine, which reduces the high that the person feels compared to the high they felt when first taking the drug—an effect known as tolerance. They might take more of the drug, trying to achieve the same dopamine high. No single factor can predict whether a person will become addicted to drugs. A combination of genetic, environmental, and developmental factors influences risk for addiction. Drug addiction is treatable and can be successfully managed. More good news is that drug use and addiction are preventable.

Chapter 7 : 10 Facts About Teen Drug Abuse | Newport Academy

11 Facts About Teens And Drug Use Welcome to www.nxgvision.com, a global movement of 6 million young people making positive change, online and off! The 11 facts you want are below, and the sources for the facts are at the very bottom of the page.

Here we hope to explain what Narcotics Anonymous is and what its recovery program offers to drug addicts. We will describe how NA services are organized at the local, national, and international levels. We will talk about how Narcotics Anonymous cooperates with others concerned about drug abuse in their countries and communities. For many years the society grew very slowly, spreading from Los Angeles to other major North American cities and Australia in the early s. An assembly of local delegates was first established in In Narcotics Anonymous published its self-titled basic text, and growth rates have since skyrocketed. There are no social, religious, economic, racial, ethnic, national, gender, or class-status membership restrictions. Narcotics Anonymous membership is completely voluntary; no membership rolls or attendance records are kept, either for NA or anyone else. Members live in the community and attend meetings on their own time. There are no dues or fees for membership; most members regularly contribute small sums to help cover expenses at group meetings, but contributions are not mandatory. The core of the Narcotics Anonymous recovery program is a series of personal activities known as the Twelve Steps, adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous. These "steps" include admitting there is a problem, seeking help, self-appraisal, confidential self-disclosure, making amends where harm has been done, and working with other drug addicts who want to recover. Central to the program is an emphasis on what is referred to as a "spiritual awakening," emphasizing its practical value, not its philosophical or metaphysical import, which has posed very little difficulty in translating the program across cultural boundaries. Narcotics Anonymous itself is nonreligious and encourages each member to cultivate an individual understanding, religious or not, of this "spiritual awakening. In meetings, each member shares personal experience with others seeking help, not as professionals but simply as people who have been there themselves and have found a solution. Narcotics Anonymous has no professional therapists, no residential facilities, and no clinics. NA provides no vocational, legal, financial, psychiatric, or medical services. The closest thing to an "NA counselor" is the sponsor, an experienced member who gives informal assistance to a newer member. The primary service provided by Narcotics Anonymous is the NA group meeting. There is no hierarchical authority structure in Narcotics Anonymous. Most groups have no permanent facilities of their own, instead renting space for their weekly meetings in buildings run by public, religious, or civic organizations. Meetings may be "open," meaning anyone may attend, or "closed," meaning only people who are there to address their own drug problem may attend. Meetings are led by NA members; other members take part by talking in turn about their experiences in recovering from drug addiction. The Narcotics Anonymous program uses a very simple, experience-oriented disease concept of addiction. Narcotics Anonymous does not qualify its use of the term "disease" in any medical or specialized therapeutic sense, nor does NA make any attempt to persuade others of the correctness of its view. The NA movement asserts only that its members have found acceptance of addiction as a disease to be effective in helping them come to terms with their condition. However, Narcotics Anonymous takes no absolute stand as a society on the use of caffeine, nicotine, or sugar. Similarly, the use of prescribed medication for the treatment of specific medical or psychiatric conditions is neither encouraged nor prohibited by NA. While recognizing numerous questions in these areas, Narcotics Anonymous feels that they are matters of personal decision and encourages its members to consult their own experience, the experience of other members, and qualified health professionals in making up their minds about these subjects. One more thing needs to be said about the Narcotics Anonymous program. Its members recognize that NA is but one organization among many addressing the problem of drug addiction. Members feel they have had significant success in addressing their own addiction problems, but Narcotics Anonymous does not claim to have a program that will work for all addicts under all circumstances or that its therapeutic views should be universally adopted. If Narcotics Anonymous can be useful to addicts in your care or in your community, it stands ready to be of service. In a

country where Narcotics Anonymous is a relatively new phenomenon, the NA group is the only level of organization. In a country where a number of Narcotics Anonymous groups have had the chance to develop and stabilize, groups will have elected delegates to form a local service committee. A number of services are usually offered by these area committees, among them: Area committees, whether serving a network of groups in a single city or all groups in a given country, are run almost exclusively by volunteer NA members, who serve on a rotating basis. In some countries, especially the larger countries or those where Narcotics Anonymous is especially well established, a number of area committees have joined together to create regions. These regional committees handle services affecting the entire national movement, while the area committees handle local services. For additional information, contact either the World Service Office headquarters in Los Angeles or the European branch office in Brussels; their mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers appear at the end of this article. Narcotics Anonymous does not express opinions, either pro or con, on civil, social, medical, legal, or religious issues, nor does it take any stands on secondary addiction-related issues such as criminality, law enforcement, drug legalization or penalties, prostitution, HIV infection, or free-needle programs. The NA movement does not even oppose the use of drugs, stating only that if an addict desires to stop using, Narcotics Anonymous stands ready to help. Narcotics Anonymous is entirely self-supporting and accepts no financial contributions from nonmembers. In a similar vein, it is generally understood that groups and service committees are run by members, for members. Narcotics Anonymous believes its sole competence is in providing a platform upon which drug addicts can share their recovery with one another. However, to remain free of the distraction of controversy, NA focuses all its energy on its particular area of competence, leaving others to fulfill their own goals. In turn, NA is happy to cooperate with others interested in Narcotics Anonymous by providing information, literature, and contact information about recovery through the NA Fellowship. However, it is possible to offer some general, informal observations about the nature of the membership and the effectiveness of the program, observations believed to be reasonably accurate.

Socioeconomic background The socioeconomic strata represented by the NA membership varies from country to country. Most national movements are founded by members of one particular social or economic class, but as their outreach to the entire range of the drug-addicted population in each country becomes more effective, the membership becomes more broadly representative of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Age Of the 5, NA members responding to an informal poll taken in In a given national movement, the membership generally reflects the diversity or homogeneity of the background culture.

Rate of growth Because no attendance records are kept, it is impossible even to estimate what percentage of those who come to Narcotics Anonymous ultimately achieve long-term abstinence. In , there were fewer than registered groups in three countries. In , more than a dozen countries had 2, meetings. In , we knew of groups holding 19, weekly meetings in seventy countries.

Chapter 8 : What You Need to Know About Drugs

Information about NA (October) Narcotics Anonymous is an international, community-based association of recovering drug addicts with more than 33, weekly meetings in over countries worldwide.

Chapter 9 : Domestic Arrests

Here are 10 facts about drug abuse. 10 Drug Abuse Facts 1 - Drug addiction and abuse takes its toll on all Americans - Regardless of whether you struggle with addiction in a personal manner, the emotional and financial impact effect stems throughout every town, community, and state.