



Alcohol Facts:

The worldwide pandemic has created the “perfect storm” for substance use, misuse, dependence, and relapse.

21 million people in the U.S. will meet the criteria for a substance use disorder (SUD).

Only 21% of those who need treatment are receiving it - the lowest penetration of any major disease.

Alcohol Use Disorder is the primary SUD in Michigan. Alcohol packaged goods sales have increased 55% since March of 2020.

88,000 per year will die from alcohol related causes, 3.3 million worldwide.

70% of those with alcohol use disorder are employed, causing challenges and increased cost in the workplace.

If no one drank until the age of 25 (the brain’s executive functions are the last to mature), alcohol use disorders would be reduced by 50%.

40% of those with SUDs have a co-occurring mental health/brain health disorder such as depression and/or anxiety.

NIH: “Suicide is an escalating public health problem, and alcohol use has consistently been implicated in the precipitation of suicidal behavior.”

Surgeon General’s Report on Alcohol, Drugs & Health 2016: “...addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease...involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment and an individual’s life experiences.”

Dr. Nora Volkow, Director NIDA: “People suffering from addiction suffer from a disease that has compromised something that the rest of us take for granted, the ability to exert will and follow through with it.”

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM): “Research shows that the disease of addiction affects neurotransmission and interactions within reward circuitry of the brain, leading to addictive behaviors, that supplant healthy behaviors...brain circuitry that governs impulse control and judgment is altered, resulting in dysfunctional pursuit of rewards such as alcohol and other drugs.”

Addiction is not a moral failing or character flaw. Addiction is a chronic brain disease.

The defining feature of addiction is a loss of control due to impairment of the brain’s executive function.

The impact of addiction goes well beyond the lives of those with a SUD, impacting families, friendships and the workplace.

50% of relapses happen in the first three months of recovery. Relapses are not a weakness, rather a chemical imbalance.

SUDs can be effectively treated with behavioral therapy and medications.

Advances in neuroscience guide treatment and practices, both clinically and medically. With brain scans and MRI, we can see the chemical changes that happen in the brain.

The brain has a remarkable ability to heal and the disease of addiction can be managed successfully.

Addiction is a disease of isolation; active management and community connection is needed to heal.

If we intervene at the point of misuse, before it progresses to the chronic disease state, we dramatically increase successful outcomes.

A one-year continuum of care raises success rates in recovery. Addiction requires life-long management, with acute care being a small part of the overall process. Recovery oriented systems of care (ROSC) involve the whole community.

SANFORD ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTERS

844.776.9651 (for admissions and information)