

Adolescent Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction

Curriculum Overview

For many adults, adolescence was one of the most agonizing times of their lives. Adolescents are bombarded with multiple internal changes, both physical and psychological. With hormones raging and brain development in flux, they are often expected to respond to multiple external systems with a mastery not yet achieved. During adolescence, the use of drugs and alcohol is not uncommon, and may be part of a healthy curiosity. Regardless of the many reasons adolescents may have for using, substance misuse, abuse, and dependence can delay and seriously impair bio-psychosocial development.

This curriculum is designed for multidisciplinary groups that include program managers, case managers, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, physicians, and any professional interested in work with adolescents who use drugs and alcohol.

Presenter's Goals:

1. To offer comprehensive training on adolescent substance use
2. To pass on the latest research regarding the impact of substance use and complex trauma on the developing mind and body of the adolescent
3. To endorse an integrated and comprehensive approach to prevention and treatment

Participant Objectives:

1. Become familiar with the latest research and theories on the etiology of addiction.
2. Understand the unique differences between adolescent and adult substance use.
3. Utilize tools to distinguish misuse from abuse and dependence.
4. Understand the medical aspects of chemical dependency within the context of adolescent development and complex trauma.
5. Conceptualize the challenges faced by youth serving providers that endorse abstinence only programs within the context of public health.
6. Apply evidenced based practices and techniques to enhance readiness and motivation to change while improving outcome measures.
7. Recognize the signs of trauma exposure response and the value of provider self-care.

Learning Methods:

- Power point lecture and class discussion
- Case vignettes, handouts and references

Length of training: 4 hours

Free CEUS for LCSWs and MFTs plus certificates of attendance