



Substance Abuse and Disability

The following is an excerpt from the website for the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Disability:

http://www.hhs.gov/od/about/fact_sheets/substanceabusech26.html

Substance use disorders occur more often in persons with disabilities than in the general population. This includes problems related to the abuse of prescription medications as well as illicit drugs. In the general population, alcoholism affects 10% of individuals and 5% are addicted to drugs.

- Moore (2002) estimates that as many as 1.5 million individuals with disabilities may need treatment for substance use disorders in any given year. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) (2002) estimates that approximately 4.7 million American adults with a disability have a co-occurring substance abuse problem.
- Persons with any type of disability experience substance abuse at rates 2 to 4 times that of the general population.
- Substance abuse prevalence rates approach or exceed 50% for persons with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, or mental illness.
- Conditions such as deafness, arthritis, and multiple sclerosis have shown substance abuse rates of at least double the general population estimates.
- Where persons with spinal cord injuries, orthopedic disabilities, vision impairment, and amputations consume alcoholic beverages, approximately 40-50% can be classified as heavy drinkers.

Data indicate that rates of substance abuse vary widely across disabilities.

- Spinal cord and traumatic brain injury populations have been found to have substantially higher rates of substance abuse disorders than the general population.

Websites

www.aa.org

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

<http://www.aahd.us/best-practice-topic/substance-abuse/>

American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD): Substance Abuse

<http://www.facingdisability.com/expert-topics/substance-abuse-and-sci>

Facing Disability: Substance Abuse and SCI

Short videos featuring Allen Heinemann, PhD, Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University--Chicago

www.na.org

Narcotics Anonymous

NA offer recovery from the effects of addiction through working a twelve-step program, including regular attendance at group meetings. The group atmosphere provides help from peers and offers an ongoing support network for addicts who wish to pursue and maintain a drug-free lifestyle. Addiction from any type of drug as well as alcohol is included.

<http://www.naadd.org>

National Association on Alcohol, Drugs and Disability (NAADD)

2165 Bunker Hill Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402-3801
Phone: 650-578-8047

NAADD promotes awareness and education about substance abuse among people with co-existing disabilities. Its mission is to create public awareness of issues related to alcoholism, drug addiction, and substance abuse faced by persons with other co-existing disabilities, and to provide a peer approach to enhance access to services, information, education and prevention through the collaborative efforts of interested individuals and organizations nationwide.

<http://www.med.wright.edu/citar/sardi/>

Substance Abuse Resources & Disability Issues (SARDI)

Boonshoft School of Medicine
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Daytohn, OH 45435
Phone: 937-775-1484
Email: Jeremy.trim@wright.edu

The SARDI Program seeks to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities, including those who are concurrently affected by behavioral health issues. The SARDI Program achieves its objective by conducting collaborative and participatory research; developing intervention approaches; and training; and disseminating related information.

<http://ohiovalley.org/informationeducation/materials/programmer/recovery/>

Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation: Substance Abuse and TBI

This site presents information on substance abuse among people who have suffered traumatic brain injuries, including how common the problem is, its effects, and treatment.

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/sci/daily-living/managing-personal-health/secondary-medical-conditions/substance-abuse>

Spinal Cord Injury Information Network: Substance Abuse

This page lists publications and videos on alcohol use and abuse among people with spinal cord injuries.

<https://craighospital.org/resources/alcohol-after-traumatic-brain-injury>

Craig Hospital: Alcohol After Traumatic Brain Injury

<https://craighospital.org/resources/alcohol-after-spinal-cord-injury>

Craig Hospital: Alcohol After Spinal Cord Injury

<https://craighospital.org/resources/alcohol-tobacco-and-other-drugs-after-disability-a-guide-for-family-members>

Craig Hospital: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs After Disability

Articles and Publications

<http://www.med.wright.edu/citar/sardi/products.html#additionalresources>

Materials from the Substance Abuse Resources & Disability Issues Program

Publications that can be downloaded for free from this site include *Exploring Substance Abuse Among Minorities with Disabilities and Its Associations With Their Experiences in Vocational Rehabilitation* and *Guide to Substance Abuse & Disability Resources Produced by NIDRR Grantees*.

http://sci.washington.edu/info/newsletters/articles/03sp_alcohol.asp

Alcohol and Your Health After SCI. Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System. Spring 2003.

This article discusses the unique health problems associated with alcohol use among people with spinal cord injuries.

http://sci.washington.edu/info/newsletters/articles/96su_alcohol_abuse.asp

Alcohol Abuse and SCI. Spinal Cord Injury Update. Summer 1996.

This article discusses alcohol abuse among people with spinal cord injuries and interventions during inpatient rehabilitation.

<http://physical-therapy.advanceweb.com/Article/Substance-Abuse-among-people-with-disabilities.aspx>

Substance Abuse Among People with Disabilities. Jolynn Tumolo. Advance for Physical Therapy & Rehab Medicine. July 5, 1999.

This article uses the story of a spinal cord injury survivor to highlight the issue of substance abuse among people with disabilities and what rehabilitation therapists can do to help.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/home>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):

Publications

SAMHSA offers many free publications on substance abuse and mental health issues for patients and providers.

<https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA11-4648/SMA11-4648.pdf>

Substance Use Disorders in People with Physical or Sensory Disabilities

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorships are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.