Drug Addiction Is a Disease

Why the Teen Brain Is Vulnerable

Heads Up: Real News About Drugs and Your Body.

With Ryan-Carrey was 17, he woke each morning to the sound of his beloved drums. But then he noticed something odd. His hands started to shake. His teeth were rotting out. The doctor said he was addicted to drugs.

Daniel was not alone. "My teeth were rotting out," he says. Daniel is just one of many teenagers who struggle with drug addiction. Often, they don't even realize it. They think they're just having a good time. But their brains are being changed.

Without a dose of the drug, the abuser's brain is in a state of withdrawal. This is when the brain is trying to readjust to the absence of the drug. It's a time of tension and stress. The abuser may feel irritable or agitated. They may also experience physical symptoms like shakiness, sweating, or nausea.

Daniel's story is not unusual. Drug addiction can start with just one use. It's a disease that develops over time. And it's not just the drug user who is affected. The entire family is impacted.

Drug addiction is a chronic relapsing disease that is not easily overcome. But there is hope. With treatment, people can recover. The key is to seek help as soon as possible.

Daniel is not alone. There are millions of people like him who are battling drug addiction. But with the right treatment, they can overcome it. So if you or someone you know is struggling with drug addiction, seek help. It's not too late to change your life.

For more information about drug addiction, visit www.drugabuse.gov. And remember, the first step to recovery is admitting that you have a problem.
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Is a Disease

Why the Teen Brain Is Vulnerable

When Ryan Curry was 17, he woke each day ready to sell more drugs. His life was a blur—stealing cars, dealing drugs, getting high. He never thought about the consequences. His dad had told him, “Son, when you’re 21, you’ll be free.”

He was wrong.

During adolescence, the teen brain is still developing. Dr. Charles Renshaw, a pediatric neurologist, put it this way, “When your brain is 20, it’s not yet fully developed. It’s just older than it was at 19.”

While Ryan was developing, Dr. Nazanin Farahbakhsh was studying the development of the brain. One day, she showed Ryan a PET scan of his brain—positron emission tomography. She asked him to imagine a seagull gliding over the ocean. A positron emission tomography (PET) scan uses a radioactive isotope to create images of the brain and body organs as they function. Ryan was surprised to see where his brain was using the oxygen to produce energy. As he thought about more and more stressful things, Dr. Farahbakhsh noted, “you see more and more increased activity in the brain stem.”

Ryan didn’t realize it at the time, but he was addicted to drugs. He had become addicted to the dopamine system in his brain. Dopamine is a chemical found in your brain that makes you feel good. People who use drugs increase the amount of dopamine in their brains. The dopamine system is responsible for motivation. A well-developed limbic system gives the drug user a drive to seek out drugs. As Ryan used more drugs, his dopamine system became even more involved in his drug-seeking behavior.

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The limbic system is the primary emotional center of the brain. Scientists have known for years that heart beating faster when you see a seagull gliding over the ocean. When you look at the brain scan of a seagull, you see more and more increased activity in the brain stem. This is because the limbic system is the primary emotional center of the brain.

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WHY THE TEEN BRAIN IS VULNERABLE

Headlines: Teenagers and More of Music

When Ryan Curry was 17, he woke each morning to find himself shaking, his sheets coated in cold sweat. His body curled on the bed, a 17-year-old boy in pain. "I was suffering from withdrawal symptoms," he remembers. "I was addicted to heroin." He was very skinny and pale as he lay on the hospital bed. "I was scared," he says. "I was scared of what was going to happen next."

Headlines: Teens Love New Things and Love Them Harder

During adolescence, the brain is still developing, and no part of the brain is more vulnerable than the prefrontal cortex, which is the area of the brain that is responsible for decision-making and judgment. As a result, teens are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including drug use.

Headlines: Launch Your Brain: Launched to Know

Your body and brain have been working for 20 years to develop the brain structures necessary for adolescence. During this time, the hippocampus and the amygdala, which are part of the brain's emotional circuitry, are developing. This means that the active areas are different. With fMRI, scientists can see the contrast reveals the areas of the brain that are working. fMRI is very useful for studying how drugs change the brain in other areas. With PET, scientists can see the areas. With PET, scientists can see the changes in the brain.

Headlines: What Teens Do When They Get Relaxed

Relieving stress is important for teens. It is important to find positive things you can do to help relieve stress. For example, new research has shown that exercise can help relieve stress. If you are stressed out, try taking a walk or going for a run. It is also important to find ways to manage your stress. For example, you can try practicing relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or meditation.

A: It's tough to overcome addiction. Drug addiction is a chronic brain disease that affects the brain's reward, motivation, and decision-making systems. It is a chronic disease that affects how the brain responds to drugs. People who are addicted to drugs have a hard time overcoming natural feelings. They are more likely to engage in drug-seeking behavior. Drug addiction is a chronic disease that affects how the brain responds to drugs. People who are addicted to drugs have a hard time overcoming natural feelings. They are more likely to engage in drug-seeking behavior.

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Headlines: Heads Up: Do You Know the Danger?

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When Ryan Carr was 17, he woke each morning knowing he had to find the strength to police the doses needed to sustain his dependence on drugs. The thought was all-consuming. His body craved the drug even as his mind screamed that it was killing him. Ryan was suffering from addiction.

Addiction is a disease characterized by compulsive drug seeking and drug using despite the consequences of this behavior. It is a disorder of the brain. Addicted people often have trouble stopping drug use and can become physically and psychologically dependent on drugs. This dependence causes changes in the brain that can make it hard to control drug use even when the person wants to stop.

For a long time, addiction has been thought of as a moral failing, an expression of moral weakness. But addiction is now recognized as a brain disease. People with addiction have structural and functional changes in certain areas of the brain, including the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain that controls decisions and behavior.

The changes in the brain are not caused by a lack of willpower or the desire to be normal. Addiction is a disease that affects the brain. It is not a sign of moral weakness or failure. People with addiction are not weak or lazy. They are not choosing to use drugs. They are not free to stop using drugs. They are not doing this to get high. They are doing it to get through.

The changes in the brain are caused by the continuous use of drugs. Drugs change the brain by altering the way certain chemicals work. These chemicals control our thoughts, feelings, and actions. When we use drugs, the chemicals in our brain are changed. This changes how we think, feel, and act.

The changes in the brain are not permanent. They can be reversed by treatment. Treatment can help people stop using drugs and get their lives back on track. It can help them with the skills they need to stay clean and sober.

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