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Substance Use Roadmap

How to know where to go and when to get support for your child.



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What are the risks of underage substance use?

Underage substance use can lead to the following physical, mental, and emotional symptoms and health risks.

Symptoms of occasional substance use:

Possible signs of intoxication:

- Drastic changes in energy levels
- Slurred speech
- Inability to walk in a straight line
- Lack of focus

Possible symptoms of use and/or abuse:

- Decline in personal hygiene
- Uninterested in hobbies. Dropping out of activities, sports, or clubs.
- Talk more about feeling worried, stressed, or anxious
- Abrupt change of peer groups
- Change in sleep habits
- Unusually irritable or angry
- Grades slipping
- Taking money from family members
- Drastic changes in energy
- Have you suspected your child was intoxicated or high?
- Have you found items suggestive to substance use or abuse?



Scan the QR code on the left or go to srsly.org/substance-abuse-guide to view our full Substance Abuse Support Guide.

Symptoms of substance abuse or addiction:

Symptoms of abuse and addiction are cumulative. If your child is exhibiting a disruptive pattern of 2–5 of the below symptoms over a 12-month period, they may be struggling with <u>significant substance abuse</u>. If they are exhibiting 6 or more of these symptoms over a 12-month period, they may be experiencing <u>addiction</u>. Addiction should be immediately addressed. See other side of page for appropriate steps you can take.

- They're using the substance more often or in greater amounts than they intended.
- They're unable to control or stop use even though they want to or have attempted to quit.
- They spend a majority of their time obtaining, using, and recovering from the substance.
- They have a strong urge/craving to use the substance.
- Use of substance has caused them to fail in fulfilling obligations at work, school, or home.
- They've continued to use despite it regularly causing social or interpersonal problems.
- They give up or reduce important social or recreational activities because of the use.
- They repeatedly use in situations that are physically dangerous or harmful.
- They continue to use despite experiencing recurring psychological problems they know are likely caused by the substance.
- They use the substance to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.
- They need to continually increase the substance amount to still achieve intoxication/high.
- They use the substance to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.
- They're becoming paranoid.
- They're not making sense.
- They show signs of severe intoxication.

Cited Sources: SAMHSA, DSM-5



If you're concerned your child may overdose, Chelsea Wellness Center now has a **FREE naloxone (NARCAN® Nasal Spray) dispenser**. There are no harmful effects on those not overdosing so can be administered in case of suspected overdoses. For signs of an overdose and steps to administer, scan the QR code on the right.

