

## Working with an Addicted Client or Opposing Party

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### Statistics: 2011 ([www.addictioncenter.com](http://www.addictioncenter.com))

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- 20.6 million people in the US over the age of 12 have an addiction
- 100 people die every day from drug overdoses
- over 5 million emergency room visits were drug related
- 2.6 million people have a dependence on both alcohol & illicit drugs
- 9.4 million people reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs
- 6.8 million people with an addiction have a mental illness
- Rates of illicit use is highest among those aged 18 to 25
- Over 90% of those with an addiction began drinking, smoking, or using illicit drugs before the age of 18

## 2011 Statistics cont'd

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- 16.6 million people with alcoholism; 2.6 million also dependent on another illicit substance
- Marijuana is the most common illicit drug used for the first time & had the highest rate of dependence out of all illicit substances in 2011
- Over 800,000 Americans reported having an addiction to cocaine
- The number of Americans with an addiction to heroin nearly doubled from 2007 to 2011
- Nearly half of those who use heroin reportedly started abusing prescription pain killers prior to heroin use

## 2011 Statistics cont'd

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- Tens of millions of Americans use prescription medications non-medically every year
- The number of people receiving treatment for addiction to painkillers and sedatives has doubled since 2002
- In 2010, around 13 million people have abused methamphetamines in their life with approx. 350,000 regular users; this number increased by over 80,000 in 2011
- Over 1.8 million Americans 12 or older used a hallucinogen or inhalant for the first time; nearly 300,000 Americans received treatment for hallucinogens in 2011

## American Society of Addiction Medicine: Opioid Addiction 2016 Facts & Figures

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- 21.5 million Americans 12 or older with a substance use disorder in 2014
- 1.9 million had a substance use disorder involving prescription pain relievers
- 586,000 had a substance use disorder involving heroin
- 47,055 lethal drug overdoses in 2014
- Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the US

## Ohio Statistics

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- Estimated 200,000 opioid addicts statewide
- US Senator Rob Portman: “roughly the size of the city of Akron”
- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016
- “In the last 18 months we have treated over 4,000 babies (statewide) for neonatal abstinence syndrome” Dr Michele Walsh
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome – babies born to mothers addicted to opioids; they are going through withdrawal as they are born

*“Addiction City: Ohio’s opiate addicts would make the fifth largest city in the state” by Christopher Evans,  
Cleveland.com*

## Opioid Withdrawal Signs/Symptoms

Reference: Principles of Addiction Medicine, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2009, Ries RK, Miller SC, Fielin DA, Saitz R, Lippincott, Williams and Sikins

### Signs

- Dilated Pupils
- Goose bumps
- Sweating
- Runny Nose
- Watery eyes
- Yawning
- Sneezing
- Restlessness/irritability
- Decreased level of consciousness

### Symptoms

- Sweats/chills
- Joint pain
- Muscle pain
- Leg cramps/jerks
- Stomach cramps
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Insomnia
- Anxiety
- Craving/Drug seeking

## Things to consider:

- Is the parent's ability to care for his/her child impaired?
- Prescribed medications can hinder a person's ability to care for others (benzodiazepines, opiates)
- OTC medications (Benadryl, PM medications)
- Co-occurring disorders: between 70 and 80 percent of clients in drug and alcohol services have common mental health problems (anxiety, depression, and trauma).
- Socio-economic factors (education levels, unemployment, low salaries, housing, reliance on government assistance)
- Social stigma, fear of legal retribution, fear of Children's Services involvement

## When addiction is suspect/known:

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- AoD assessment
- Psychiatric and/or Parenting Assessment
- Urine Drug Screens and/or Hair Follicle tests
- Parenting classes
- Coordination of services with CPS caseworker and counselors, including copies of case plans
- Treatment
- Recovery meetings
- Consistent communication between all parties involved (case worker, counselor, guardian ad litem, client)

## Drug Screens

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- Alcohol – Etg testing (80 hour test): 2-3 times per week
- Marijuana – THC levels – early on, not recommended more than once per week; stays in system for 30-45 days for chronic use
- Cocaine/Crack – stays in the system 2-30 days
- Benzodiazepines (Xanax, Ativan, Klonopin) – up to 6 weeks
- Opioids – 1-6 days
- Fentanyl – 8-24 hours
- Acetyl Fentanyl - ?????

\*\*\*Fentanyl & Acetyl Fentanyl are not included in normal 8-12 panel tests

## Recovery Services available

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- Ambulatory detoxification
- Medication-Assisted Treatment/Recovery – Suboxone, Subutex, Vivitrol, Methadone
- Alternative Detoxification (residential)
- Individual & Group counseling
- Residential Services

Call county of residence Mental Health & Addiction Board to locate services available in that county

## How can you help?

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- Remember that addiction is a disease – not a choice
- The disease doesn't stop the parent from loving the child
- The disease is stronger than the parent's willpower
- Encourage recovery & cooperation
- Check your bias
- Remember that addicts are the most manipulative people on the planet!!!