

# **We Don't Understand the Drug Issue in America**

**Gene Gilchrist, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stay Clean**

# The Stereotype



# The Stereotype



# The Problem **We Don't Understand**

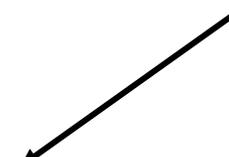
## The Common Image Is A Part of the Problem



**582,462'  
Homeless**



**378,600'  
Homeless SUD**



**40.3 Million Total -  
SUD<sup>2</sup>**

**≈1.0%**

[https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_22](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202110260320>

# What Do You Know?

## Most Dangerous Drug

**Nicotine**

## The Deadliest Drugs

Alcohol

Caffeine

Marijuana

Nicotine

Schedule I Narcotics

Schedule II Narcotics

## Mortality

**Nicotine 468,000**

**Schedule I, II 107,000**

**Alcohol 98,000**

**Marijuana 0?**

**Caffeine ≈0**

**Total 673,000**

**Heart Disease 696,962**

# The Stigma

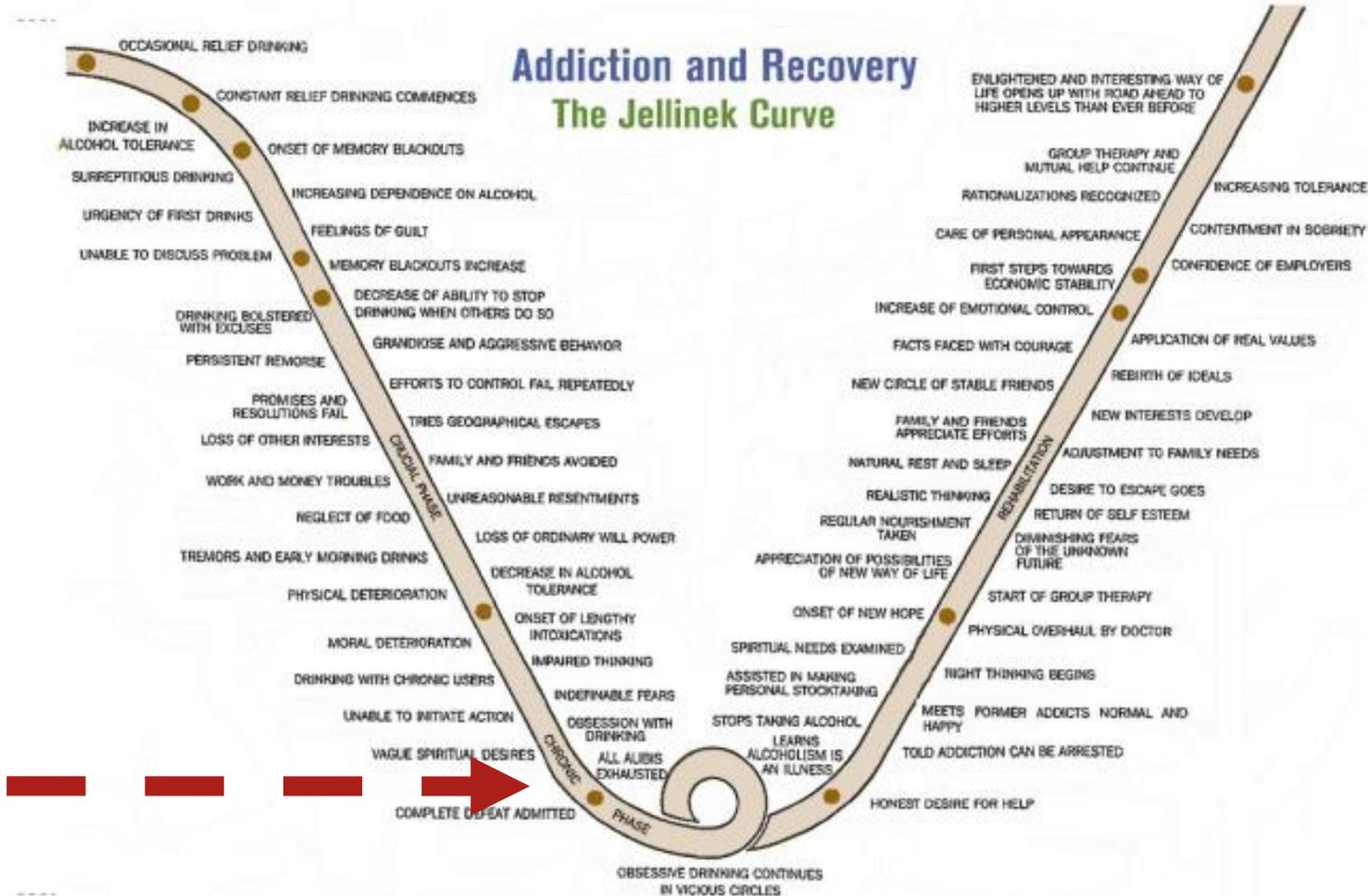
## Development of Addiction

Use: - - - - ->

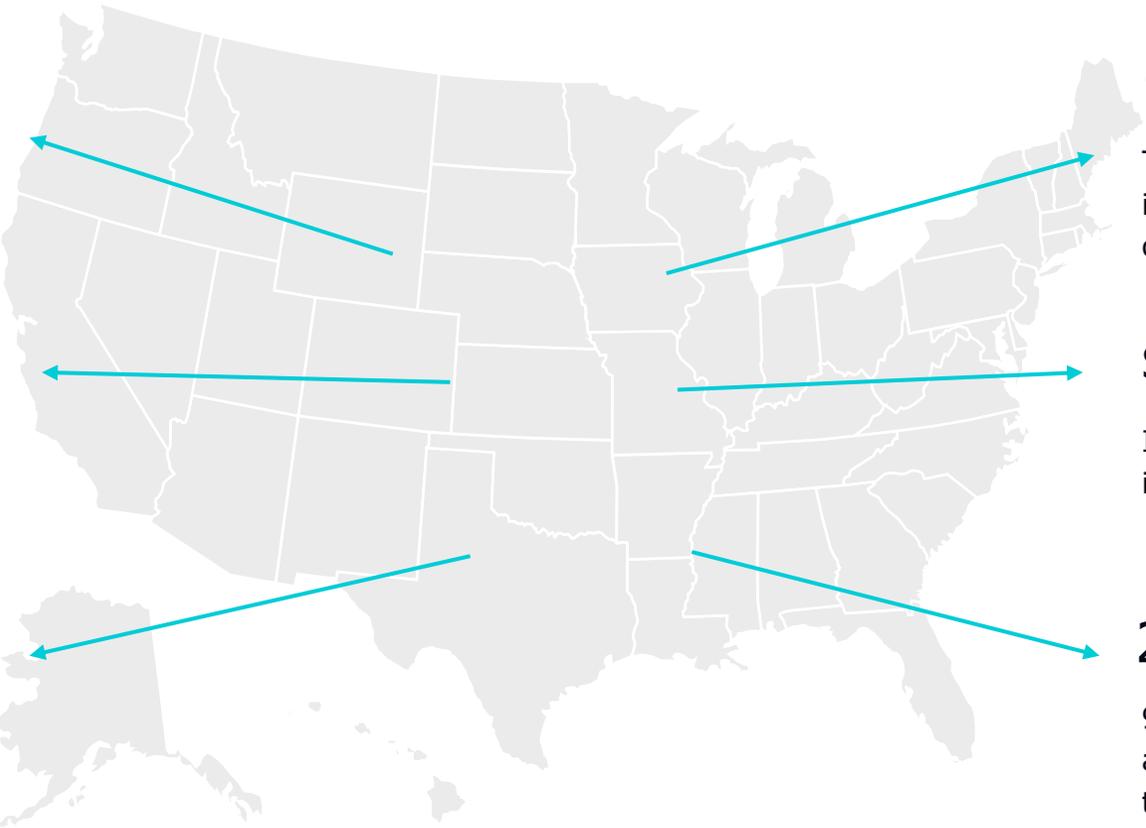
Abuse: - - - - ->

Addiction: - - - - ->

Stereotype of the Addict: - - - - ->



# The National Data



**40 Million**

≈10% of the population of the U.S. suffers from Substance Use Disorder

**<10% Recover**

The percentage of people actively in recovery who achieve one year of continuous recovery

**216 Million**

Codependents in relationship with those with Substance Use Disorders

**\$442 Billion**

Is the total cost to GDP which includes 500 Million lost workdays

**<20% Treatment**

1 in 6 people suffering from Substance Use Disorder actually encounter treatment of any sort

**205K Deaths Annually**

98K deaths from alcoholism and another 107K lost due to addiction to other drugs

*>80% Never Receive Treatment*

# Who Are The SUD Victims?



# The Reality

## 2018 member survey from Narcotics Anonymous

- Average age 46
- 57% male, 42% female
- 91% employed, enrolled in school, parenting or retired
- Ethnicity: 70% Caucasian
  - 16% African American
  - 7% Hispanic American
  - 4% Multi-racial
  - 2% Asian American
  - 1% Indigenous American

**Your Co-worker**

**Your Parishoner**

**Your Neighbor**

**Your Golf Buddy**

**Your Family Member**

# The Problem We Don't Understand

## The Reality

61.6 million binge drinkers

17.7 million heavy drinkers

59.3 million drug abusers  
*(49M marijuana)*

*And*

216 million family members

## And we are passing it on

### Using Alcohol or Drugs

**8<sup>th</sup> Graders      11.0%**

**10<sup>th</sup> Graders      21.5%**

**12<sup>th</sup> Graders      32.6%**

<https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202110260320>.

<https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2022/12/most-reported-substance-use-among-adolescent>

# The Cost

- 40% of homicides
- 40-60% of violent crime
- 30-40% of domestic abuse
- 37% of sexual assaults
- 27% of aggravated assaults
- 15% of robberies
- 60-70% of homeless population
- 1,146 Teen Overdose Deaths
- 43% Employee Under the Influence (on any given day)

<https://www.nih.gov>

<http://www.addictionhope.com/special-programs/nova-recovery-center>

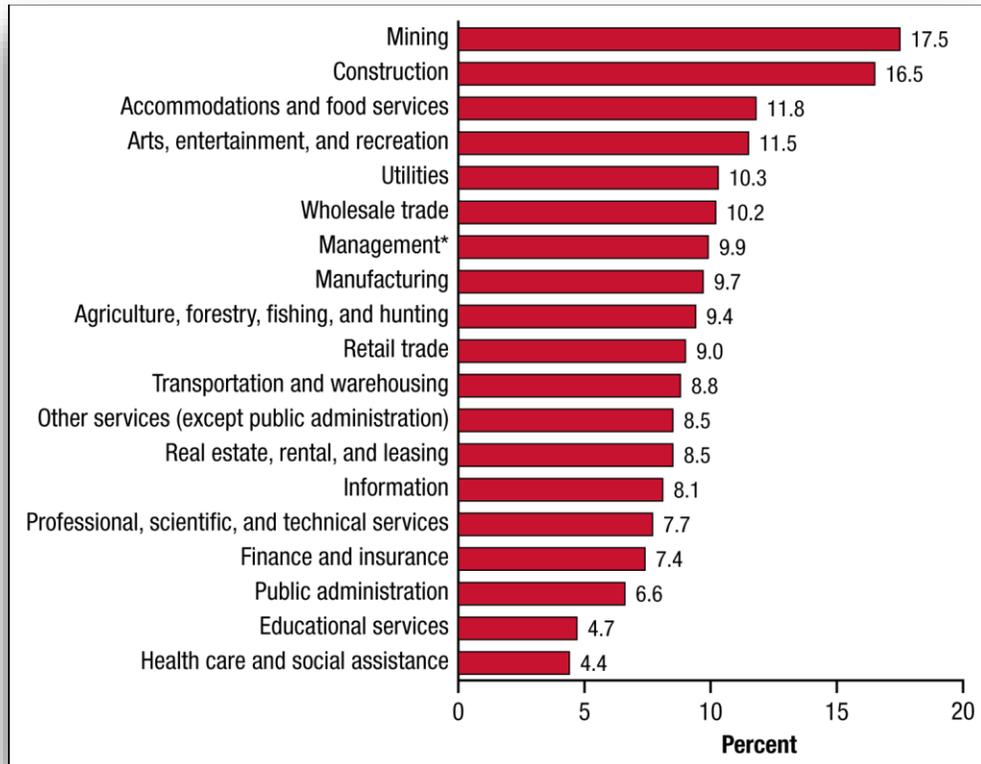
<https://www.alcoholrehabguide.org>

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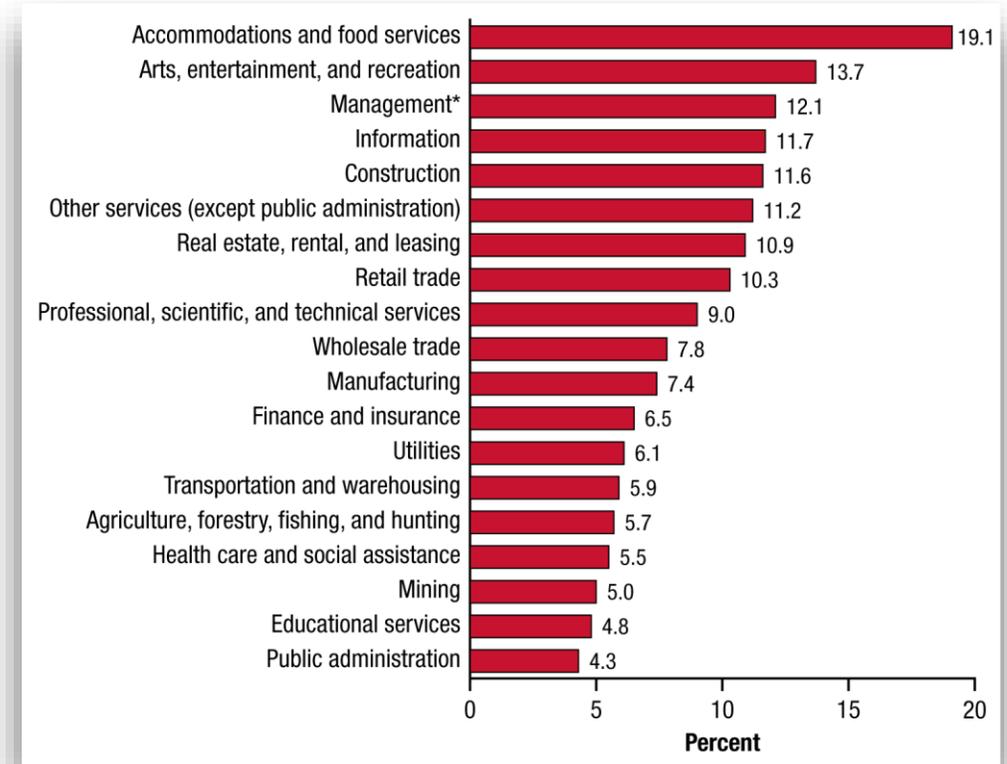


# Substance Use, Abuse, Addiction Prevail Across Industry

## Incidence of Alcohol Abuse per Month



## Incidence of Narcotics Abuse per Month



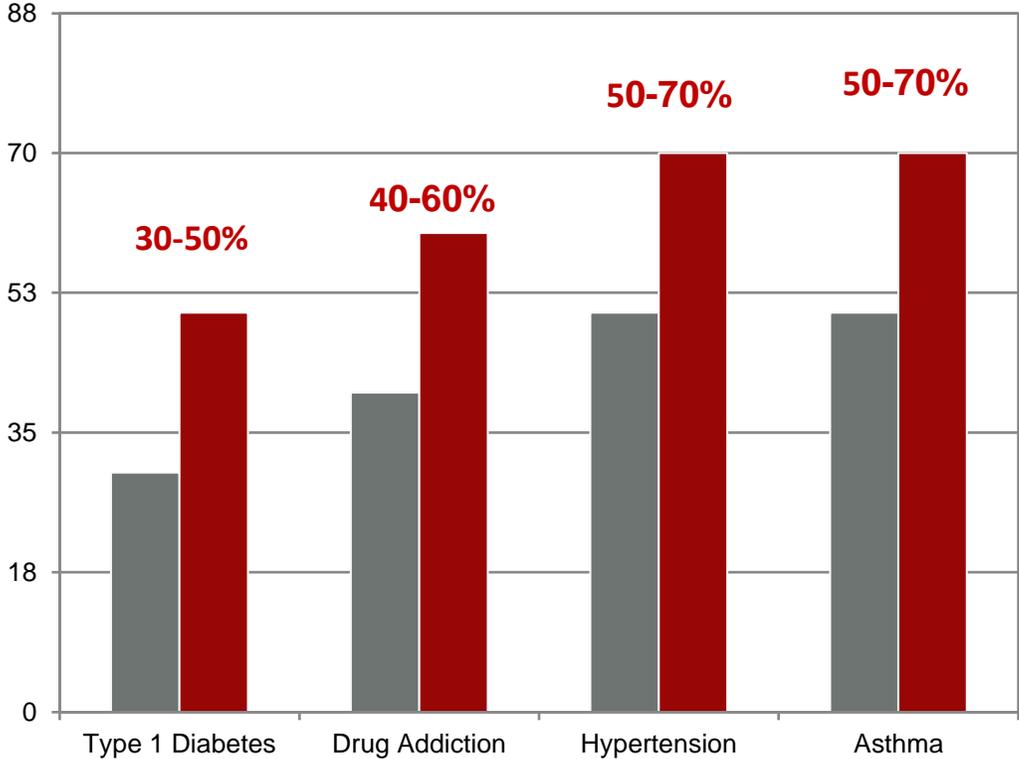
# Relapse In Chronic Disease

Comparison of Relapse Rates Among Chronic Illnesses

**Alcohol** Year 1 = 30%  
Year 2 = 51%

**Opioids** Week 1 = 54%  
Year 1 = 91%

**Cocaine** Year 1 = 24%



# Our Approach So Far

Temperance



12 Steps



Prohibition



War on Drugs



Just Say No



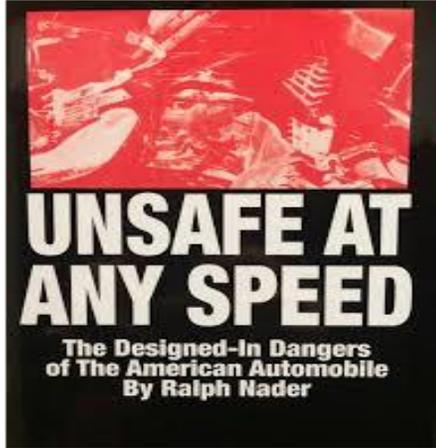
# We Have Done This Before

## Highway Deaths

54,589 1972

36,560 2018

+15% vehicles



## Smokers

42% 1965

14% 2017

# Opportunities

**Eliminate the Stigma**

**Stop the War**

**Promote Recovery**

**Promote the Facts**

**Arm Influencers**

**Epidemiology**

**Encourage Screening**

**Harm Reduction**

**Evidence Based Treatment**

**Reimburse Realistically**

**Support Employers**

**Deploy MAT**

**Focus on Adolescents**

**Enhance Safe Prescribing**

**Genetic Testing**

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**Stop the War (on users)**

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**Until We Understand the Drug Issue in America**

**We Won't Solve the Problem**

***Until then,***

**The Age-Old Plague Continues**