

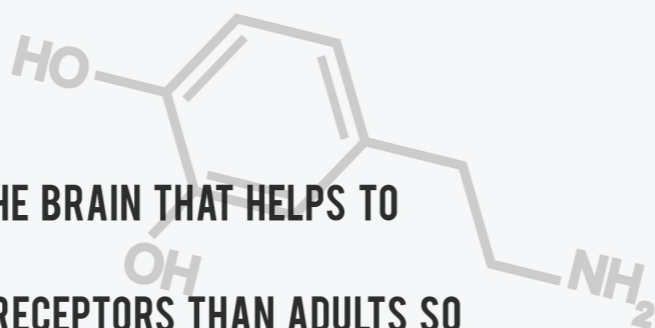
STRUGGLING WITH DRUG USE OR ABUSE?  
VISIT [WWW.EASYREAD.DRUGABUSE.GOV](http://WWW.EASYREAD.DRUGABUSE.GOV) OR

CALL 1.800.662.HELP

GET HELP IF YOU NEED IT. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO GET HELP TOO!

## BIOLOGY'S ROLE

- DOPAMINE IS A CHEMICAL IN THE BRAIN THAT HELPS TO MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPY.
- TEENS HAVE MORE DOPAMINE RECEPTORS THAN ADULTS SO THE BRAIN'S REWARD CENTER REACTS MORE STRONGLY.
- SENSITIVITY TO REWARDS CAN BE POSITIVE BY ENCOURAGING YOU TO TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES.
- IT CAN ALSO LEAD TO DANGEROUS DECISIONS... SUCH AS DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE.



DRUG DEPENDENCY IS WHEN A PERSON USES ALCOHOL OR DRUGS REGULARLY DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT CAUSES ISSUES IN THEIR LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.

BRAIN SCANS OF REGULAR DRUG USERS SHOW A SMALLER PREFRONTAL CORTEX. THIS IMPACTS THE DECISION-MAKING ABILITIES IN A DEVELOPING TEENAGE BRAIN.

## DRUG USE CAN RESULT IN

POOR GRADES

MEMORY LOSS

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

## ADDICTION:

IS A DISEASE OF THE BRAIN. IT DOESN'T DEPEND ON...

- INCOME
- JOB
- AGE
- RACE
- COLOR



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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USE ALCOHOL

SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE

MISUSE OF SUBSTANCES LIKE ALCOHOL & DRUGS IS A GROWING PROBLEM IN THE US.

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS ARE MOST AT RISK

HALF 18 OF ALL NEW DRUG USERS ARE UNDER THE AGE OF

23% USE MARIJUANA

22% USE SOME FORM OF TOBACCO COMBINED