

FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOLISM YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Prepared by Sandra S. Lockhart

1. Addiction to alcohol is a predictable, progressive and chronic disease.
2. Alcoholism is the number one drug problem in the United States.
3. Alcoholism is an inherited disease, not a learned behavior.
4. Alcohol is the most dangerous drug to the human body, because it adversely affects all organs.
5. Death from alcohol problems claims 100,000 people per year, while drug related deaths are one-fifth of that number.
6. Alcohol abuse costs businesses \$80 billion a year compared to \$60 billion for all other drugs.
7. Approximately 87 million people are related to or living with an alcoholic.
8. For every dollar spent on treatment, we save society from \$4 to \$7.
9. One out of every ten persons is an alcoholic.
10. One out of every three Americans is living with or related to someone with an alcohol or drug problem.
11. Ten to twenty percent of people who have used mood-altering substances become addicted.
12. On average, families wait seven years before reaching out for help.
13. Loved ones who enable the alcoholic are at high risk for physical and mental illness.
14. Thirty percent of patients in hospitals have alcohol related illnesses.
15. Forty percent of people who begin drinking before the age of 15 years become alcoholics.
16. Seventy percent of all hospitalizations of older adults are related to alcohol or mood altering prescription drugs.
17. One in five hospitalized older adults has a diagnosis of alcoholism.
18. Alcohol is the drug of choice for the elderly.
19. Withdrawal for some drugs, such as alcohol or valium, can be fatal.