

EFFECTS OF DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE

Psychological dependence: This is a mental or emotional adaptation to the effects of the drug. The abuser not only likes the feeling of the drug and wants to re-experience it. He or she FEELS he or she cannot function normally without the drug.

Physical dependence: This is an adaptation whereby the body learns to live with the drug, tolerates ever-increasing doses, and reacts with certain withdrawal symptoms when deprived of it.

Medical complications (vary depending upon the drug used): Medical complications may include: nervousness, anxiety, sleep disorders, muscle aches or spasms, vomiting and other gastrointestinal disorders, mental abnormalities, and changes in blood pressure, temperature, breathing rate, changes in heart rate or rhythm, cardiac arrest, convulsions, hallucinations, stroke, death, or many other dangerous conditions.

Learning Disorders: Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the effects of drugs. Drugs threaten normal development in a number of ways, such as:

- Drugs can interfere with memory, sensation, and perception. They distort experiences and cause a loss of self-control that can lead users to harm themselves and others.
- Drugs interfere with the brain's ability to take in, sort, and synthesize information. As a result, sensory information runs together, providing new sensations while blocking normal ability to understand the information received.
- Drugs can have an insidious effect on perception; for example, cocaine and amphetamines often give users a false sense of functioning at their best while on the drug.

Help is only a phone call away:

- [The Centers](#) 24 Hour Crisis Line (352) 726-7155
- [The Path of Citrus County](#) (352) 527-6500
- [Narcotics Anonymous](#) – Nature Coast Region (352) 508-1604
- [Florida Department of Health](#) (352) 726-1731
- Information Hotline 211