

What are the major differences in working with adolescent and adult drug abusers when diagnosing treatment?

It is critical to understand the differences with adolescent and adult drug abusers. If we can get to the root of why adolescents start using drugs. Teenagers have different developmental, mental, and physical needs compared to adults, and because this is the time period when most people first experiment with drugs and alcohol, treatment must be finely tuned to fit the mental, physical, and emotional needs of younger people. Sometimes the beginning of a substance use disorder in adolescents is missed because the behaviors are overlooked as being a part of normal teenage development. By paying attention to the differences between treatment for adults and methods for helping adolescents, it may be possible to improve the chances that teens will emerge from rehab able to avoid the pitfalls that lead to more severe problems with alcohol and drugs as adults. Giving young people the tools and support needed to build a lifelong ability to resist alcohol or drug relapse can contribute to a brighter future for people of all ages.