

How COVID-19 is Impacting People with Substance Use Disorders
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Presenter Bio

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Dr. Glance (Medical Director, Addiction Medicine Services) oversees a vast roster of ambulatory services to provide integrated care for individuals with co-occurring substance use and psychiatric disorders. She is also an award-winning educator, dedicated to training the next generation of behavioral health care providers.

Name and Narrative Description of your Presentation

Introductory

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to global distress and disruption. People with substance use disorders and their families may find this time especially challenging, as they deal with additional risk factors for contracting and transmitting the virus, difficulties entering and maintaining recovery, and the decrease or loss of access to their support systems.

Additionally, as people find themselves spending more time alone, with massive shifts in structure and daily routine, they may also find themselves using alcohol or other drugs more frequently.

In this presentation, we will discuss these various challenges, along with ways to identify warning signs for problematic substance use and when to refer for medical evaluation. We will also discuss ways to help individuals and families respond positively to these challenges.

Target Audience: Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Behavioral Health Therapists I, Behavioral Health Therapists II, Behavioral Health Therapists III, Nurses, Social Workers, Program Leadership

Three (3) learning objectives

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Describe challenges that may be magnified for people with substance use disorders during a pandemic, as well as the impact on families and children
2. Identify risk factors and warning signs for problematic substance use, and recognize symptoms that might warrant medical intervention
3. Utilize virtual resources to help people with substance use disorders during a pandemic

Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation

1. Green TC, Bratberg J, Finnell DS. Opioid use disorder and the COVID 19 pandemic: A call to sustain regulatory easements and further expand access to treatment. *Subst Abus.* 2020;41(2):147-149. doi:10.1080/08897077.2020.1752351
2. Dunlop A, Lokuge B, Masters D, et al. Challenges in maintaining treatment services for people who use drugs during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Harm Reduct J.* 2020;17(1):26. Published 2020 May 6. doi:10.1186/s12954-020-00370-7
3. Ornell F, Moura HF, Scherer JN, Pechansky F, Kessler F, von Diemen L. The COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Substance Use: Implications for Prevention and Treatment [published online ahead of print, 2020 May 13]. *Psychiatry Res.* 2020;289:113096. doi:10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113096