

What
do people
Think
they know about
**Substance
Dependence**



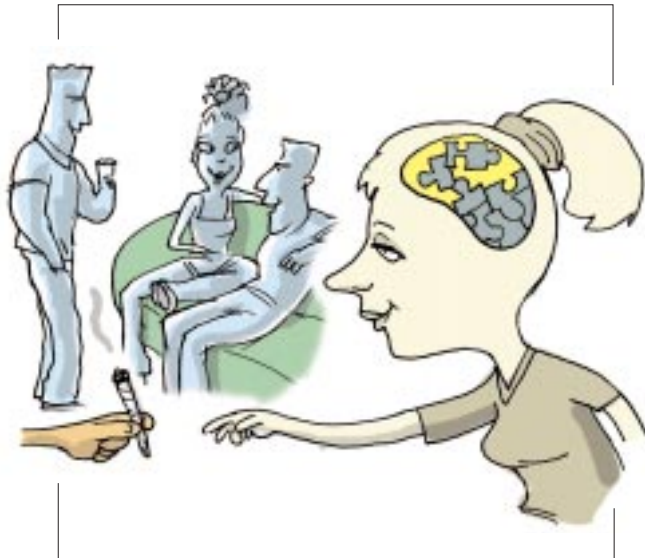
myths and facts for policy makers responsible for substance
dependence prevention, treatment and support programs



World Health Organization

Myth 1.

Drug dependence is simply a failure of will or of strength of character



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Dependence is a brain disorder and people with drug dependence have altered brain structure and function. It is true that dependence is expressed in the form of compulsive behavior, but this behavior is strongly related to brain changes occurring over time, with repeated use of drugs. In recent years genetics was found to be associated with the predisposition of individuals to be more or less susceptible to develop drug dependence.

Myth 2.

People who have drug dependence can easily move back to occasional use



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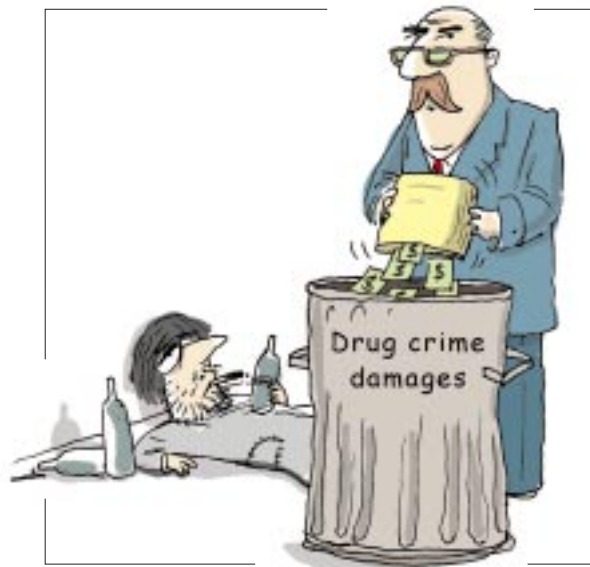
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Drug dependence is difficult to control due to compulsive drug use and craving, leading to drug seeking and repetitive use, even in the face of negative health and social consequences. Once dependent, the individual often fails in his or her attempts to quit.

Myth 3.

It's not worthwhile to invest in treatment for individuals who have drug dependence - it is a waste of public funds



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Investing in evidence-based treatment for substance dependence decreases negative health consequences and social effects (e.g. crime, economic burden and HIV infection). For every dollar spent on treatment 7 dollars are returned in cost-savings. Treatment is proven to be cost-effective in both developed and developing countries. It costs less than imprisonment.

Myth 4.

People in my country do not have drug-related problems



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No country is immune to substance related problems. Substance users are found worldwide among men, women and youth. Incidence of substance dependence are on the rise, and in many countries substance use is the driving force for other epidemics. Currently, 114 countries have reported HIV infections related to injection drug use.

Myth 5.

Drug and alcohol related problems only affect individuals in developed countries

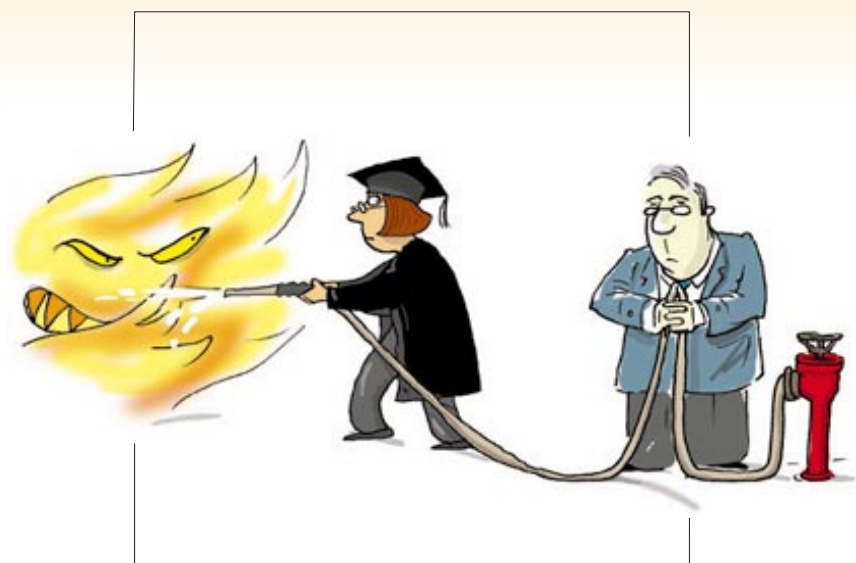


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There is strong evidence showing an increase in drug-related problems in developing countries with a significant impact on mortality, disease and injury. These problems affect more the poor, and are more prevalent among the poor in developed countries too.

Myth 6.

There is already enough research for policy making on drug and alcohol related problems, there is no need for more



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- ⌂ Drug and alcohol using behaviors are dynamic, with emergent patterns changing depending on factors such as:
- ⌂ availability of drugs, introduction of new drugs, new modes of administration and rapid social changes. More research is
- ⌂ necessary to develop new treatments and preventive strategies, support services and to understand the associations between

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_30445

