

The Legacy of Substance Abuse

Do you know a parent who is abusing drugs or alcohol? Do you struggle with whether you should urge this person to get help?

Consider this: the adult who is struggling with substance abuse is not the only one to suffer the consequences of destructive behavior. A child's needs can be overlooked because of conditions and crises caused by substance abuse.

From unstable homes and neglect to emotional challenges and developmental delays, addicted parents can cause many problems for their children.

Families challenged by substance abuse face a **greater risk of mental illness, domestic violence, divorce, and sexual and physical abuse than other families.** Children can become anxious and depressed or in extreme situations, suicidal.

Here is another sobering reality: addiction, especially when both parents are affected, can be passed on to children.

If you know someone who is an addict, **encourage him or her to seek help.** Your involvement may lead to a stronger family.

Parents who successfully deal with their addictions have better opportunities to empower their lives and the lives of their children.

**SEEK HELP IF YOU
HAVE AN ADDICTION.**

