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Addiction-Family Impacts

Emily Orona

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Abstract

Drug and alcohol addiction is a disease that negatively affects a person's brain and behavior which leads to an inability to control the use of legal or illegal drugs. Addiction is sometimes used interchangeably with abuse, although they differ tremendously. Those who abuse drugs and alcohol still have control over their lives, while those with an addiction have a disease that affects many aspects of their life.

Drug and alcohol addiction does not only impact the individual, but also their family. It is especially more challenging when a parent has addiction. Addiction affects not only the parent, but the child and the structure of the household.

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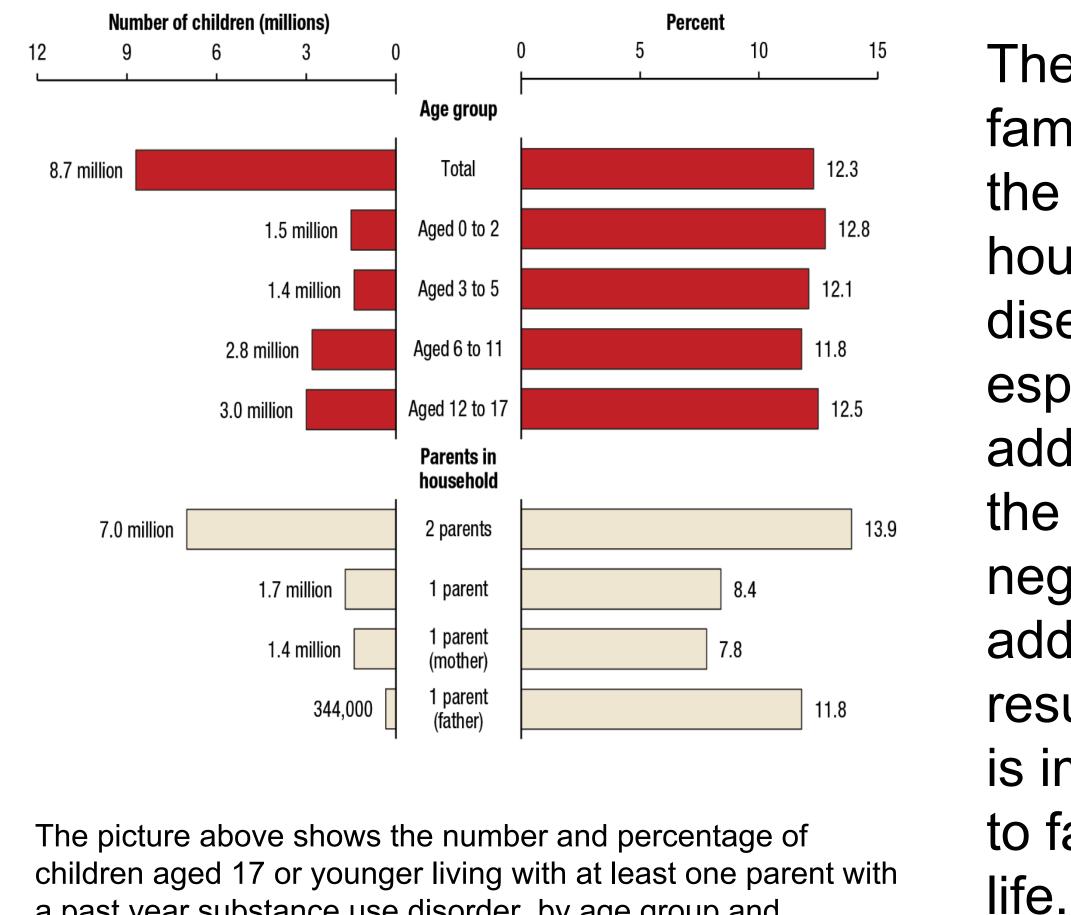
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Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Grand Island Senior High 2021 University of Nebraska- Lincoln



children aged 17 or younger living with at least one parent with a past year substance use disorder, by age group and household composition: annual average, 2009 to 2014.

Key Points

Adolescents whose parents use drugs are more inclined toward risky behaviors.

Parents who abuse substances are more likely to have compromised parenting skills, are generally less engaged and less responsive, and exhibit less warmth, sensitivity, and encouragement while interacting with their children. (p. 326) Supporting parents through the provision of services beyond drug treatment, such as child care, education and transportation, can improve engagement and outcomes (p. 28)

Conclusion

The challenge of drug and alcohol addiction in families affects not only the parent, but also the children and the structure of the household. Addiction to drugs and alcohol is a disease that many people can not control. It is especially hard when a person who is addicted is also a parent. It negatively affects the parent and child's relationship. It can also negatively affect how the child develops. This addiction can be very dangerous to the family, resulting in the instability of the household. It is important to provide support and treatment to families who go through this challenge in

