# Clearing up misconception and eliminating stigma

"In all my years as a physician,
I have never, ever met an addicted
person who wanted to be an addict." •

- Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse

Once an addiction starts, the drugs rewire the brain, which means the person is no longer in control, the addiction is.

**Addiction**: An uncontrollable and compulsive, psychological, physiological or chronic need for a habit-forming substance, behavior, or activity.

**Substance Misuse**: Continued improper use of a mind-altering substance that severely affects a person's physical health, mental health, social situations, and responsibilities.

**Stigma**: the relationship between an attribute and a stereotype that assigns undesirable labels, qualities and behaviors to a person exhibiting the attribute.

#### **Common Misconceptions:**

- People with substance use disorder are somehow weak.
- People choose to misuse drugs or alcohol.

These ideas are major contributing factors to stigma. Though some addictions start from recreational drug use, often others start from pain medications due to an accident.

- Source: Juergens, Jeffrey. "The Science of Addiction: Breaking the Stigma." 2015.
- Source: Merriam-Webster.com
- Source: National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

# Find out more by starting a conversation with your doctor



- There are medications available to reverse the effects of some over-the-counter and prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and alcohol.
- Doctors can prescribe medications that suppress withdrawal symptoms, thus helping with recovery.
- If you, or someone you know, is struggling with substance misuse or addiction, there is hope. Recovery is possible.



Florida Health: the first accredited public health system in the U.S.



Overdose Data to Action is a national grant program with 100% of its funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)



# **Substance Misuse & Overdose Prevention**

Find links and information at **Duval.FloridaHealth.gov** 

Click on the Overdose Data to
Action (OD2A) link under
Programs & Services

# What is Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)?

OD2A is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) grant program created to reduce the overdose epidemic in the United States.

The Florida Department of Health in Duval County is one of the organizations in the state to be awarded this grant.

The goal of OD2A is to connect community members struggling with substance use disorder and addiction to local programs and initiatives that assist with recovery while combating stigma.

For more information visit: Duval.FloridaHealth.gov

Click on Substance Misuse & Overdose Prevention



**Treatment Locator** 



**National Helplines** 



Veteran Resources



# **OD2A Partner Agencies**



#### Florida Department of Health in Duval County

Linking Duval County with support and resources.



#### The Health Planning Council of **Northeast Florida**

Linking Duval County with health resources.



#### Premier BioTech

Providing customized drug screening services.



#### Gateway

Providing compassionate services to those struggling with addiction and mental health challenges.



#### The Pain Assessment and **Management Initiative**

Advancing innovation and safety in pain education, patient care, and research.



Yoga 4 Change
Change Using yoga to teach positive & healthy coping skills.



#### **Hearts 4 Minds**

Reducing stigma through paint murals with recovery support resources. 24/7/365 crisis text line.



#### Inspire to Rise

Inspiring through community behavioral health, education, peer support, and arts services.



#### **Northeast Florida Healthy Start**

Serving Duval's substance-using pregnant women and their babies through home visiting peer specialists.



#### UF College of Medicine UF Health Lock Bag Program

Reducing youth overdose deaths by locking up medications in the home.



#### Zaine-Ali, Inc. Ansari Project

Reducing substance use disorder stigma in the Muslim community.

# **Be a Champion** for Help and Become Someone's Hero



# **Get Involved**

## Safely store and dispose of old or unused medications and drugs.

Find out more by clicking on the Substance Misuse & Overdose Prevention link located at Duval.FloridaHealth.gov.

### Carry Narcan. You could save a life.

Free NARCAN kits are available through DOH-Duval and other healthcare providers and facilities. Click on Narcan Training & Kits on the OD2A homepage to find a location near you.

### The journey to recovery is worth it.

If you or someone you know is struggling with substance misuse or addiction, we can help. Find information and resources by clicking on the OD2A link under Programs & Services at Duval.FloridaHealth.gov.