

Myths & Misconceptions: A Look at Stigma Reduction in the Community

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Conflicts of Interest:

- VOA and IUHP Employee,
- No conflicts

Objectives

Learn

- How stigma impacts access to services and creates barriers to treatment.

Learn

- The concepts of substance use disorder as a disease.

Learn

- How to utilize language and pro-active service techniques to facilitate connections with individuals with substance use disorder and reduce barriers to treatment.

Surgeon General
Dr. Vivek Murthy

"For far too long people have thought about addiction as a character flaw or a moral failing. ... Addiction is a chronic disease of the brain and it's one that we have to treat the way we would any other chronic illness: with skill, with compassion and with urgency."

**MORAL
FAILING
VS BRAIN
DISEASE**

Understanding the Basics of Addiction

Chronic, Relapsing Disorder Characterized by Compulsive Drug Seeking and Use Despite Adverse Consequences

Brain Disorder that involves functional changes to brain circuits involved in reward, stress and self-control



Adverse Childhood Experiences can Lead to SUD

Three Types of ACEs

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Mother treated violently



Divorce



Incarcerated Relative

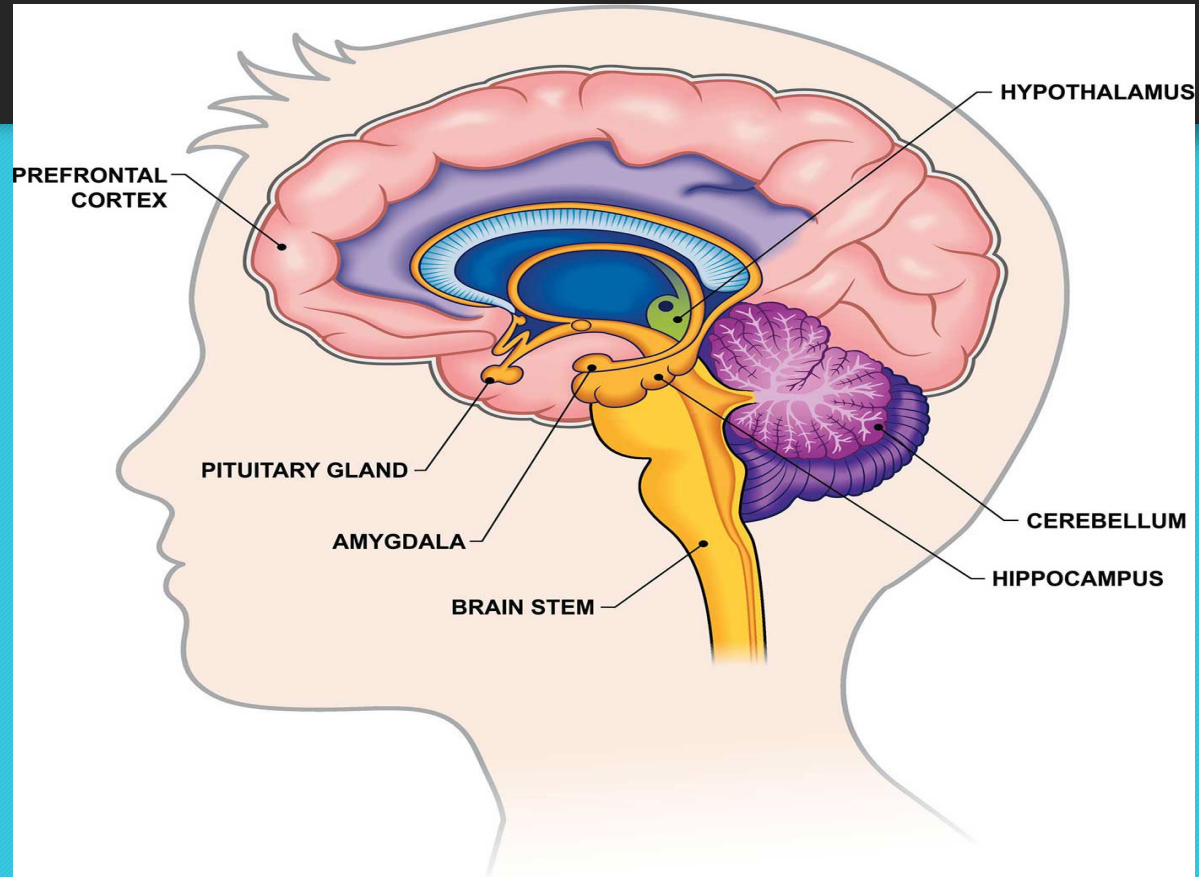


Substance Abuse

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Credit: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/03/02/387007941/take-the-ace-quiz-and-learn-what-it-does-and-doesnt-mean>



Example of Stigma Effects in Vulnerable Population



In 2018, 32 Indiana Women died from SUD during pregnancy

2018

2019

In 2019, 30 Indiana Women died from SUD during pregnancy

Did you know...

Proper Treatment + Coordinated Care =

Decreased Maternal and Fetal Deaths

Better Birth Outcomes

Lower Rates of Custody Loss

Why would someone drop out of care?



**HOW DOES
STIGMA AFFECT
THIS DYNAMIC?**



Women who are pregnant with SUD...
What are your thoughts and feelings?



What biases are in these comments?

7:19

Comments



Carolann Casagni
OMG People need to stop saying this out loud like you're on drugs any kind of life into this world your self fixed there is no our government can't control the end !SO SAD

7:15

Comments



Hannah Brook Replied · 4 Replies



Bee Smith
If the moms continue to take drugs while carrying a baby soon as she has given birth take the child off her and remove her insides so she can't hurt another baby



Ashley Falconer
If you have a child that's addicted to drugs because you are! That should be a automatic felony they need put in jail

7:18

Comments

Done

Amy Stutz
They should all be taken away.

5G

Comments

Done

this keep your mouth shut!!!

4y Like Reply



Maryam Dawn Fleming
What the hell is wrong with people. They need to sterilize these women so they don't cause any injury to any little child. Right away they should lose their babies. No ands, ifs, or buts !!!



Avery Maliikapu
These drug addict females should be spayed!!

on for certain age. and be dren. While this will st on for certain age. and be dren. While this will st
unwants babies from happeni
Don't make enough money to support a kid? You wouldn't be able to have one if you were sterilized. No drugged up babies or babies born to incompetent mothers.

nts a
back. If they
ile carrying
they won't
g the baby
e way too
g is done
ld they
care and
ong with the
parent
fucked up?!
my blood

Implicit Bias

- Hidden
- Sneaky

Explicit Bias

- Loud
- Active intent

Chemical Dependency results in behavior that is in repeated conflict with one's personal values and goals.

Peter Bell

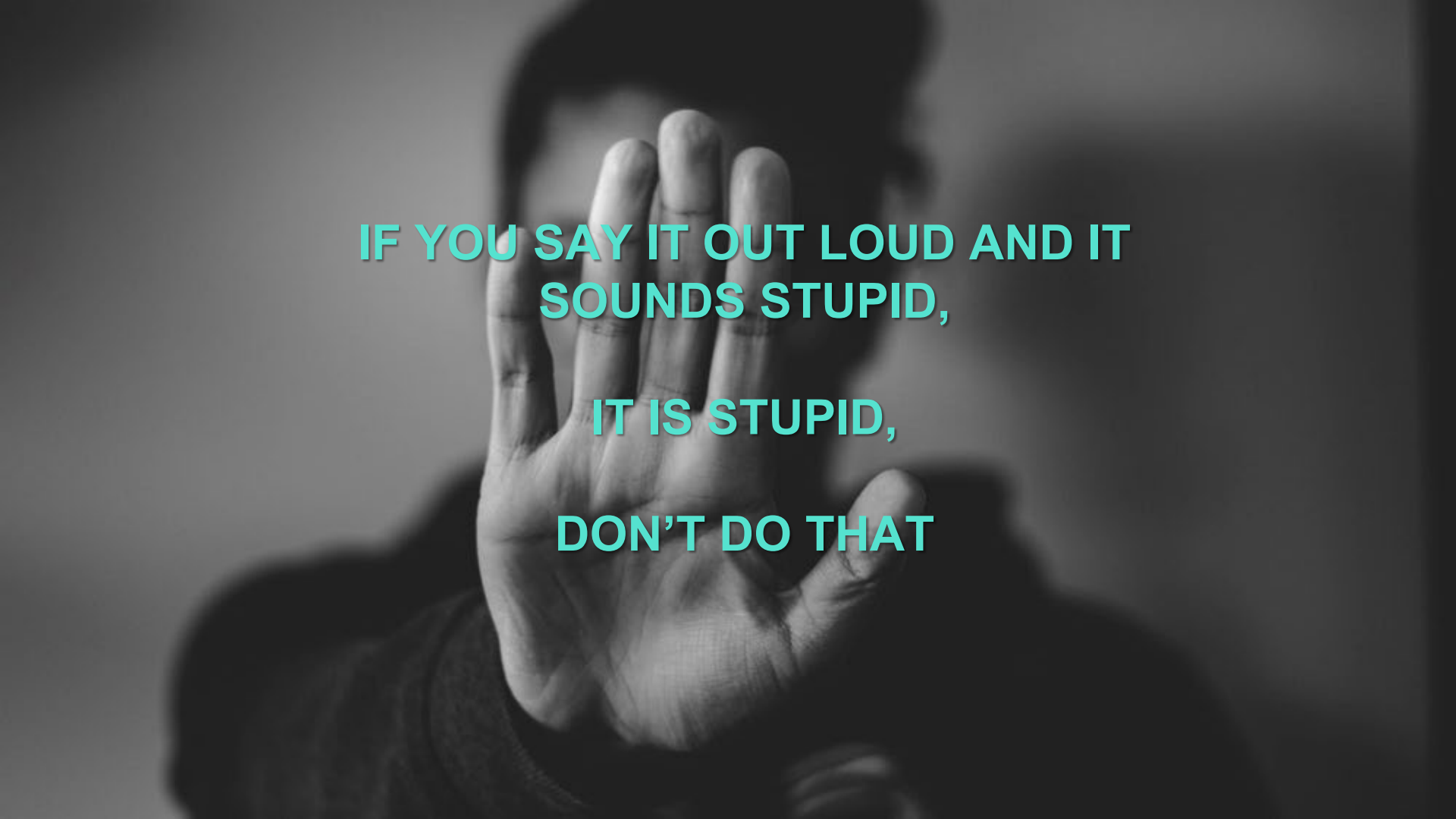




**THE PATIENT'S PERCEPTION OF
THEMSELVES AND OF WHAT
OTHERS MAY THINK OF THEM
CAN CAUSE BARRIERS TO
ENGAGEMENT.**

THE OPPOSITE
OF ADDICTION
→
IS CONNECTION



A black and white photograph of a person's hand held up, palm facing forward, in a universal 'stop' gesture. The hand is in sharp focus, while the person's face and upper body are blurred in the background. Overlaid on the hand is text in a bold, teal-colored, sans-serif font.

IF YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD AND IT
SOUNDS STUPID,
IT IS STUPID,
DON'T DO THAT

The Language you use makes a difference...

Say This....Not That

- Person with Substance Use Disorder
- Person with Alcohol Use Disorder
- Substance Use Disorder
- Drug misuse, harmful use
- Abstinent, Not Actively or Currently Using
- Actively Using
- A Person in Recovery
- Reinitiate Use
- Addict, Drug Abuser
- Alcoholic
- Drug Problem, Drug Habit
- Drug Abuse
- Clean
- Dirty
- Former / Reformed Addict / Alcoholic
- Relapse



Compassion does not have a limited supply

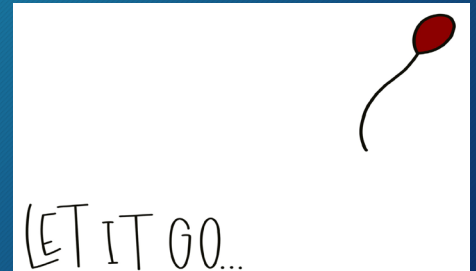
Think of a person you know that stands out as compassionate

Is their cup filled or emptied by being loving?

Be Assertively Friendly – Don't wait for someone to ask for help – offer to help.

Tough love is for your mama...

- Being lied to...who cares
- If they have setbacks, they need us even more
- Think of simple barriers to be fixed
- Punishing or Teaching them a lesson doesn't help





More Likely or Less Likely



“I always just
thought if you see
somebody without a
SMILE,
give ‘em yours!”



Because it could
be your people...

TAKEAWAYS....

Understand Biases

Impact of Language Use

How can you make current interactions the most pleasant and future interactions the most convenient

Be Assertively Friendly - Go out of your way to make interactions positive and respectful





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