

# Consequences of Drug Abuse

The harms of drug abuse are profound and far-reaching, and can impact



## Familial Impact

### Parental Drug Abuse

- Impaired ability to provide supervision, guidance and emotional support to children
- Higher rates of conflict, separation and divorce

### Children of Drug Abusers

- More likely to suffer from anxiety, depression and behavioural issues
- Increased risk of drug abuse or other criminal behaviour in adolescence or adulthood

### Siblings of Drug Abusers

- May experience feelings of resentment, anxiety or low self-esteem
- May suffer from long-term emotional and relational challenges



## Individual Impact

### Acute Toxicity

- Paranoia and panic attacks
- Dilated pupils, strokes and seizures

### Long-term Health Issues

- Respiratory problems
- Sleep disturbances
- Impulsivity and irritability
- Anxiety and depression



## Societal Impact

### Crime and Social Disintegration

- Communities with high rates of drug abuse often experience:
  - poverty
  - homelessness
  - violence
  - crime rates
- Eroded community trust, reduced social cohesion and diminished quality of life



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Drug abuse is not victimless. Its consequences can devastate individuals, families and society.
2. It is critical to consider the different aspects of harm caused by drug abuse to develop prevention and intervention strategies.
3. It is important to support not only individuals, but also families and communities affected by drug abuse.

