

Santa Cruz County is impacted by a serious disease.
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Talk About It.

Fact Sheet

What Is Substance Use Disorder?

- One of the most important signs of a substance use disorder is using drugs or alcohol even when using them causes severe physical, psychological and emotional pain.
- Substance abuse is a progressive disorder, worsening over time.
- It affects people of every race, ethnicity, gender and location.

It's a Community Issue

- 21,682 individuals in Santa Cruz County are estimated to have a Substance Use Disorder.
- Of those, an estimated 3,209 were seeking treatment, only 1,288 clients received treatment.
- This means that only 5.9% of those individuals who had a SUD received treatment for their illness.
- Of those actively seeking treatment, 60% were unable to access any treatment.

SUD has a major economic impact on our local community.

- Substance Use Disorder costs Santa Cruz County over 207 million dollars per year.
- Most of this cost 198 million dollars is related to untreated SUD in the areas of healthcare, criminal justice, social services, motor vehicle crashes, and other property damage.
- Only 7 million dollars is spent on SUD treatment, intervention, and prevention services.
- For every \$1 spent on treatment, \$7 is saved from reducing downstream health, criminal justice, and social services costs.

This Disease is not unique to Santa Cruz County

- In 2013, an estimated 22.7 million Americans (8.6 percent) needed treatment for a problem related to drugs or alcohol, but only about 2.5 million people (0.9 percent) received treatment at a specialty facility.
- Substance Use Disorder cost the United States approximately \$67 billion annually in crime, lost work productivity, foster care, medical care and other social problems.

What can you do?

- Talk About it with your family, friends, employers, doctors, co workers, elected officials
- Ask for Help:
 - Call 211 for local resources
 - Email
- Learn more by visiting our website www.TalkAboutItSCC.org
- Like and Share what we are Talking About on Facebook and Twitter

www.TalkAboutItSCC.org

support@TalkAboutItSCC.org

