

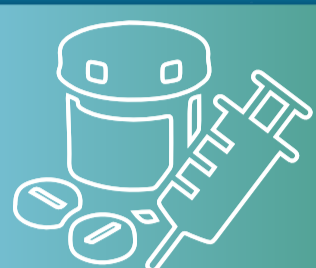
Supporting Families Managing Addiction

The current state of addiction in the US and North Carolina is outlined in our Addiction Light Paper, with statistics underscoring the urgency for comprehensive interventions. Check out this snapshot on this topic and recommendations for North Carolina.

Notable Events in the History of Addiction

Smoking opium as a social practice was prevalent in urban underclass communities.

The 1986 Anti-Drug Act led to 9x more Black Americans incarcerated than White people.



1800s

1986

1991-2001

Today

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 implemented a significant disparity in penalties for drug offenses. Discrepancies in penalties for smoking crack and cocaine usage raised concerns about fairness and equity within the legal system.

There's a tendency to label BIPOC individuals as addicts, while White individuals are often described as individuals facing substance misuse disorder.

By the Numbers in North Carolina...



811

opioid overdoses that led to an emergency department visit (June 2023)



7%

of North Carolinians ages 18+ have a substance use disorder



40%

of cases in the 2017-2018 fiscal year where a child was removed from their homes was due to parental substance misuse, and is still a top reason for child removal today.



3rd

leading preventable cause of death us alcohol abuse

Recommendations:



Strategies to Support Recovery

Many positive efforts are underway across the US to support families. North Carolina can enhance outcomes for all families regarding substance use disorders by prioritizing equity and value-added strategies.



Evidence-based strategies for North Carolina:

01

Increase evidence-based, data-driven substance use disorder practices and treatments, which include applying cultural humility in all practices.

02

Families would benefit from programs that promote in-patient care that keeps babies with mothers.



03

When we are treating substance use disorders, we also need to increase mental health services and instill self-worth practices to lead to overall well-being.

04

Don't simply hear these stories. Listen. And when listening, it comes from a place of curiosity rather than judgment.

