

Addictive Personality Encyclopedia Article

Addictive Personality

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Addictive Personality

The term *addictive personality* has been used in various ways, most commonly to refer to a recurrent pattern observed in many alcoholics and other substance abusers: impulsivity, immaturity (dependency and neediness), poor frustration tolerance, anxiety, and depression. Many of these features disappear during extended periods of abstinence, however, suggesting that they may be either related directly to the drug use, to the life it imposes, or to social response, rather than to personality. Addictive personality—more accurately preaddictive personality—has also been used to refer to personality characteristics presumed to predate drug use and as such are predictive of such use. These aspects of personality are likely to include early difficulties in impulse control and submission to authority—and sensitivity to anxiety and depression.

See Also

Addictive Personality and Psychological Tests; Causes of Substance Abuse; Childhood Behavior and Later Drug Use; Coping and Drug Use)

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