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Debunking Medical Myths: Addiction Vs Choice

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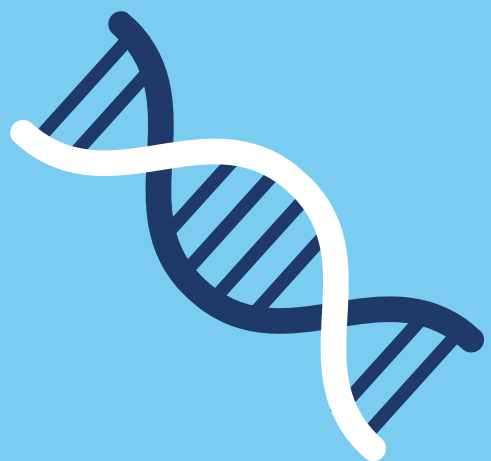
ADDICTION VS. CHOICE

Addiction is NOT a choice.

Addiction is influenced by many factors including an individual's genetics, environment and upbringing.

INHERITED GENES

Substance abuse and dependence are more influenced by inherited genes than any outside environment, as shown by studies of twins.



GENETIC MUTATIONS

Studies suggest that genetics have a role in addiction. When genes are modified, it is clear that some genetic factors can affect how effective treatment of addiction is. Certain genetic mutations respond better to pharmacological treatment of substance use disorders.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Living in a neighborhood that is disordered generally increases several health risk behaviors. Exposure to community violence is positively associated with early age use of alcohol and marijuana.



CHILDHOOD

Problematic parent-child interactions and parental drugs correlated with higher levels of substance use than in children with more supportive and monitoring parents.

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