



MINI
TRAINING
SERIES

Science of Addiction & The Teenage Brain



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Addiction: Lack of control over a reward seeking behavior in which harm ensues

DOPAMINE is a chemical
in your brain that creates
feelings of pleasure



**"motivation molecule"
"reward chemical"**



When drugs are misused,
the brain becomes
flooded with dopamine



"EUPHORIC HIGH"

As a person continues to misuse drugs, their brain adapts to these surges of dopamine that the drugs are imitating and in turn produces less dopamine naturally, causing the individual to not be able to enjoy things that once caused them pleasure.

The reward system of a teenage
brain is overdeveloped, while the
pre-frontal cortex is underdeveloped
(this is responsible for long term
decision making/consequences)



**Adults ask:
"why"
Youth ask:
"why not"**

RISK FACTORS

- Mental Illness
- Early use of drugs
- Social environment
- Childhood traumas
- Genes

p o t e n c y & i n s t a n t g r a t i f i c a t i o n