SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: OVERVIEW

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GOALS OF PRESENTATION:

- Overview of substance abuse and persons with disabilities
- Discuss ideas for similar issues in Czech Republic

DEFINITION:

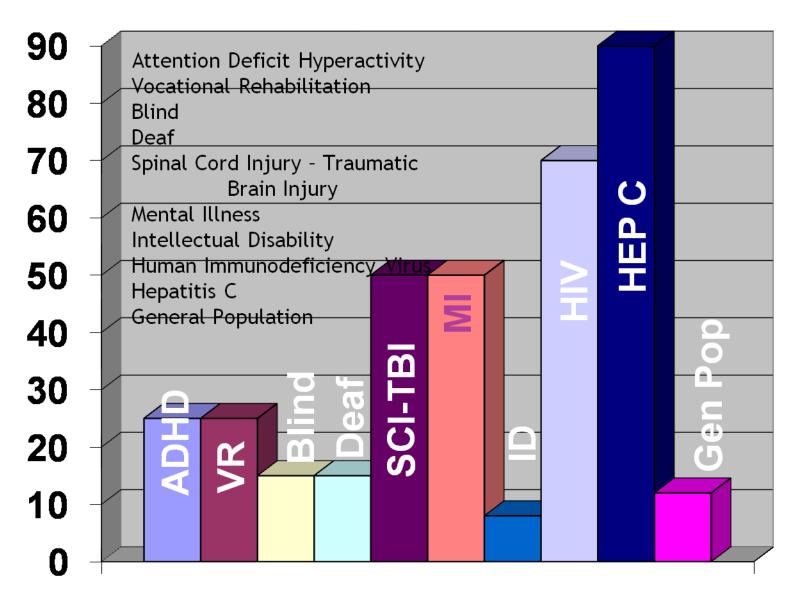
- <u>Substance Use Disorder</u> = abuse of or dependence on alcohol, drugs, or misuse of prescription drugs
- Must include negative impacts on "activities of daily living" (ADL), such as participating in school, family, work, community

In the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National 2010 Disability Chapter 6 includes only one alcohol/drug health indicator —

Reduce alcohol use by pregnant women with disabilities

Treatment Episode Data Set and National Survey on Drug Use and Health do not measure disability (SAMHSA):

Therefore, very little awareness of or interest in substance abuse impacts among persons with disabilities



Estimated Prevalence

FINDINGS

- Significant prevalence of SUD's among persons seeking employment
- "Hidden" substance abuse may impact many systems
- Costs of rehabilitation are high in some cases

FINDINGS

- Stigma impedes progress on issue
- Involvement of disability community pivotal to success
- Poverty, lack of employment, increase SUD risk

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

- Reduced judgment and drug tolerance
- One of most difficult groups to integrate into SUD group tx
- Community integration and inclusion may increase SUD risk

TBI

- Following injury, rates of use return to preinjury
- Up to 20% develop problem after injury
- Increased cerebral insult with TBI and alcohol/drug use, reduced judgment and drug tolerance

DEAF

- Deaf may have rates similar to general population – but higher risk if using any alcohol or drugs
- Significant communication, cultural, comprehension issues
- Most difficult population to successfully serve

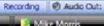




















HIV - HEP C

- High co-occurrence SUD with HIV & HEP C
- SUD and 2ndary conditions may impair employment more than HIV
- HEP C will become large public health issue, perhaps surpassing HIV
- Significant issues with criminal justice and these conditions

RESOURCES:

- http://www.hhs.gov/od/about/fact_sheets/s ubstanceabuse.html
- http://www.med.wright.edu/citar/sardi/