

# **What is Substance Use & Addiction?**

Dean Blumberg, PhD  
Kaiser AMRS, San Francisco  
Dean.Blumberg@kp.org

1. Stages of Using
2. What is Addiction
3. How fast Someone gets Addicted
4. What causes Addiction
5. Why there is Addiction

# Continuum of Use & Addiction

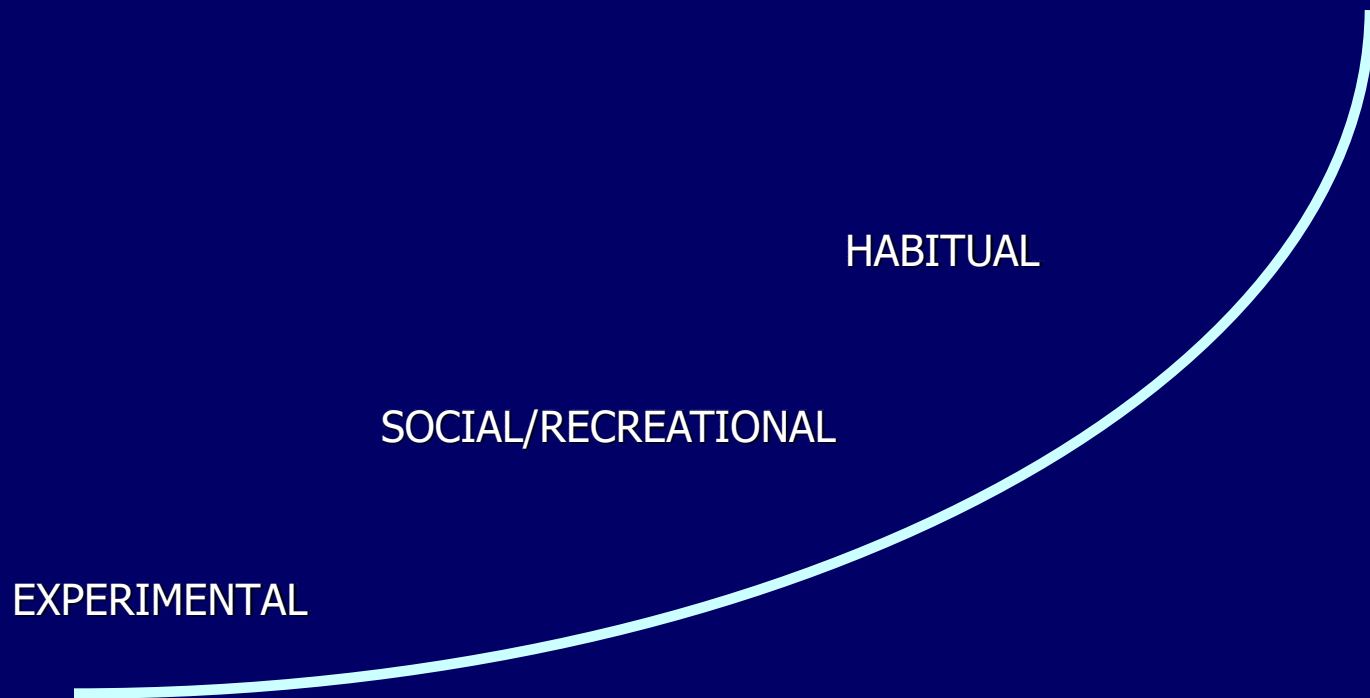


EXPERIMENTAL

# Continuum of Use & Addiction

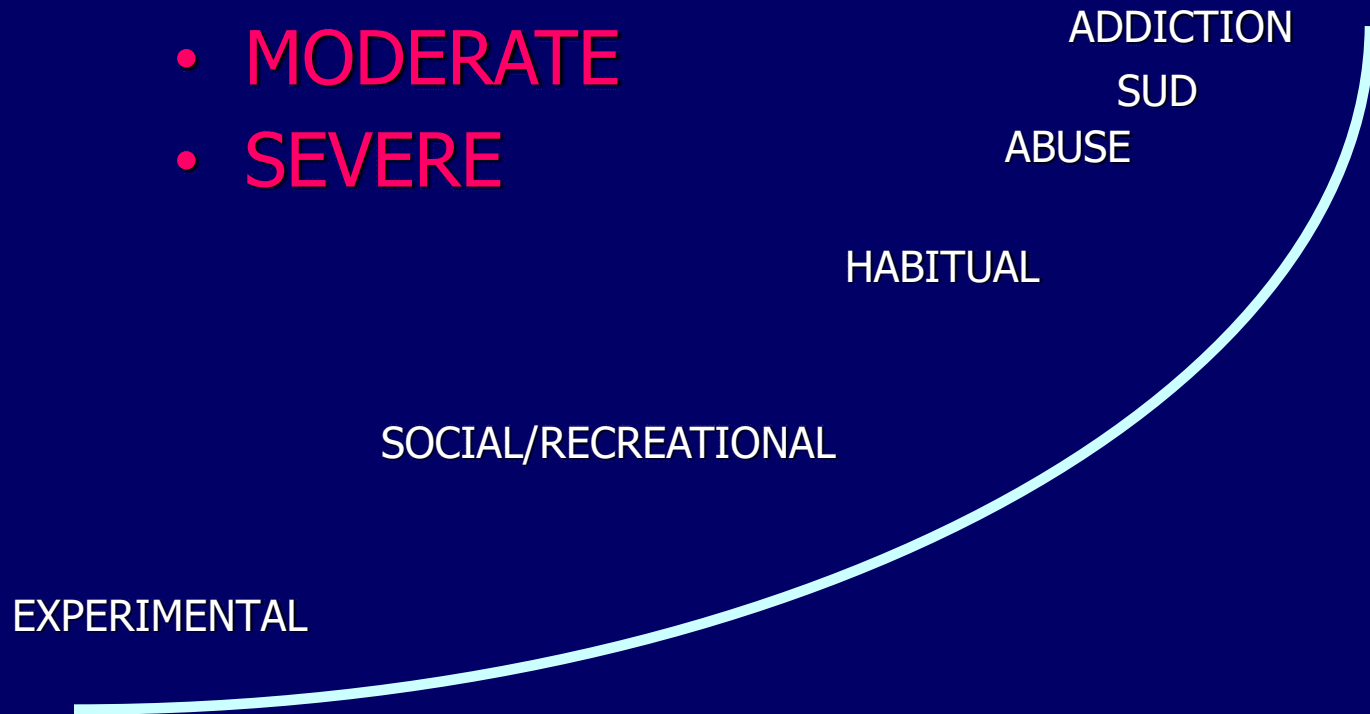


# Continuum of Use & Addiction



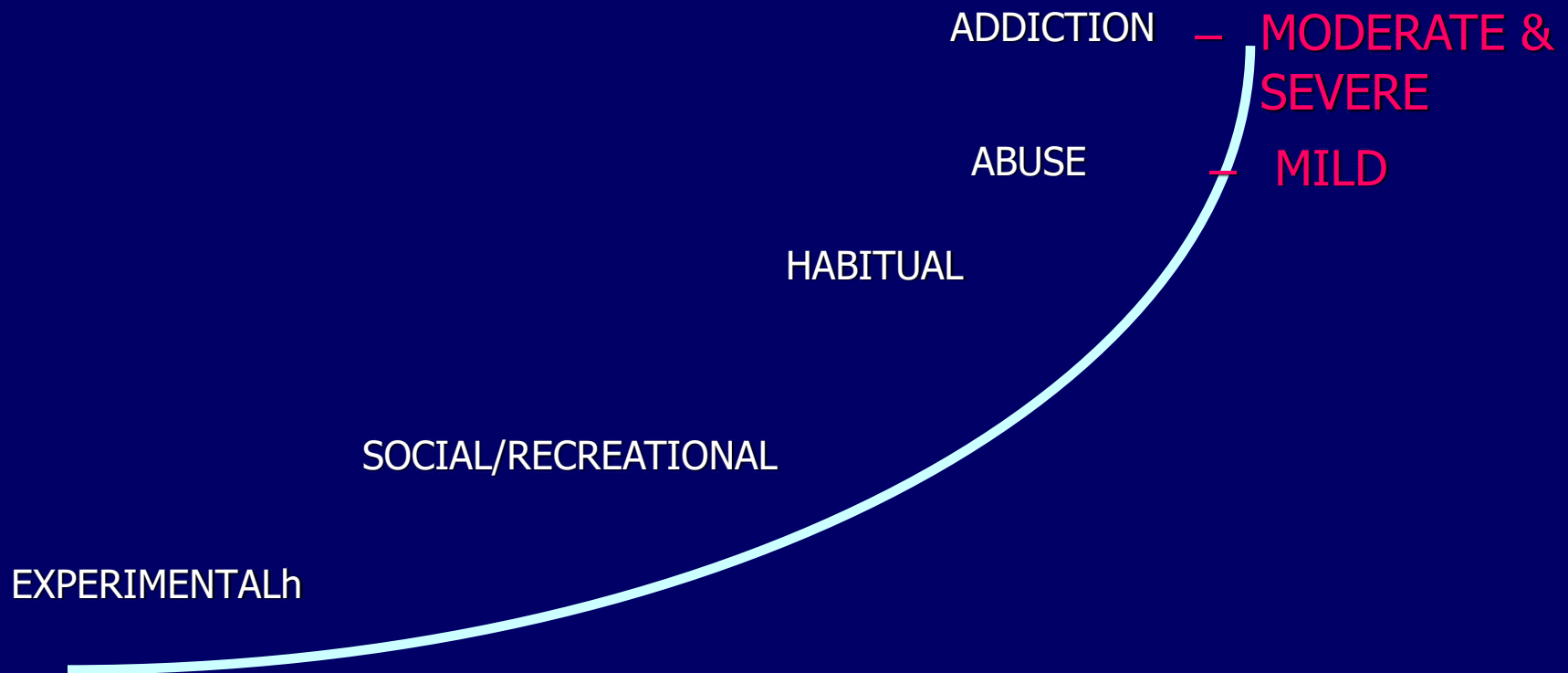
# Continuum of Use & Addiction

- MILD
- MODERATE
- SEVERE



Substance Use Disorder

# Continuum of Use & Addiction

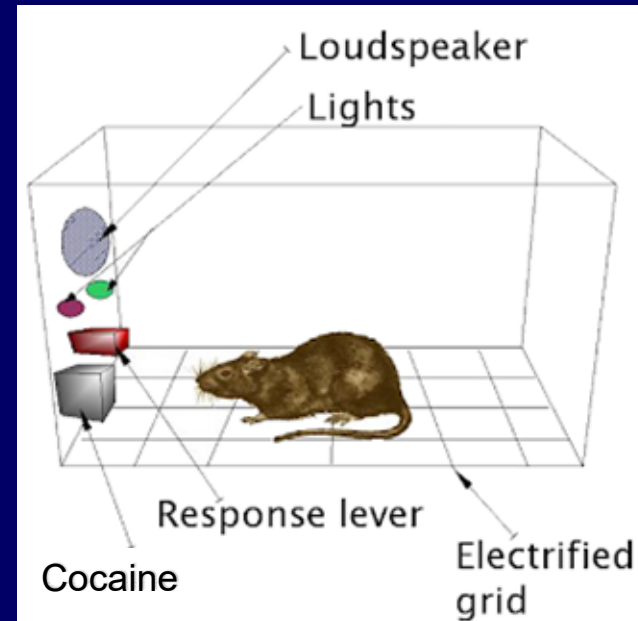


# Substance Abuse

Continuing to use alcohol or other drugs despite

**Problems!!**

10% - abuse/addicted

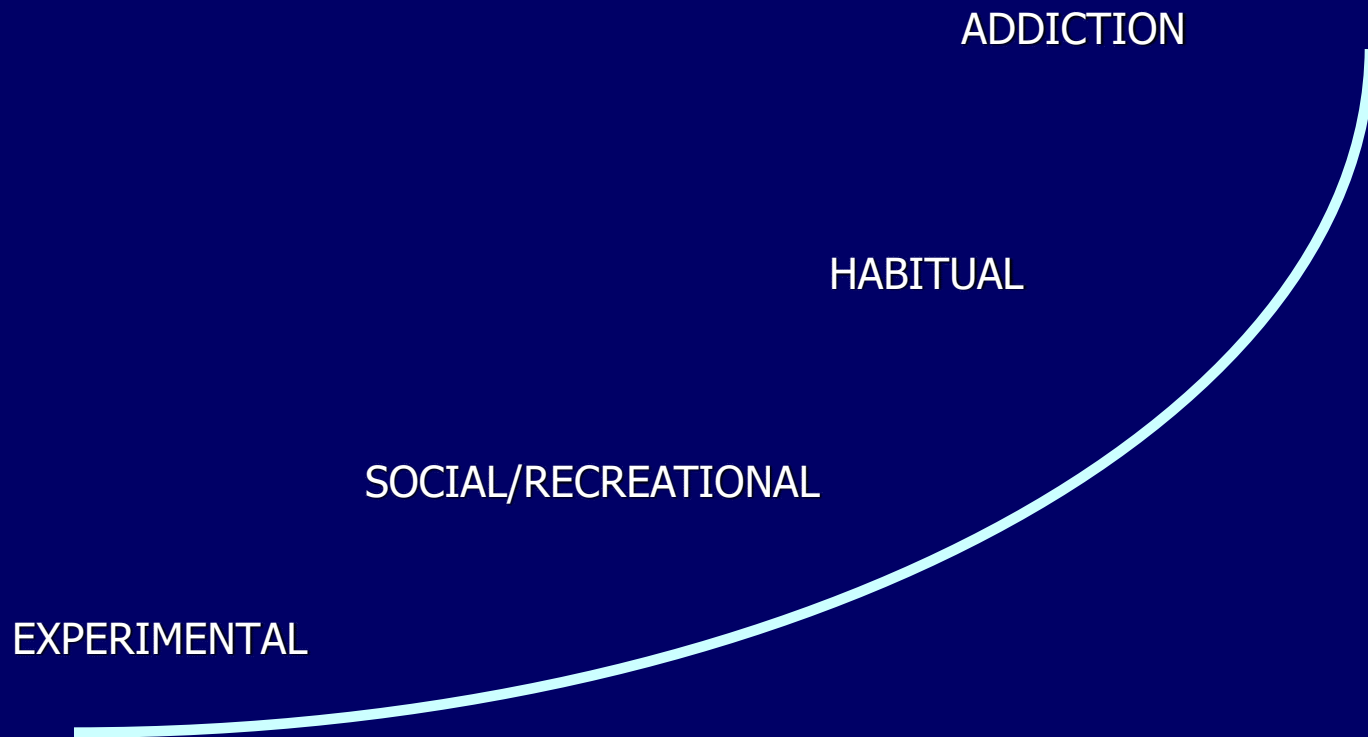




# Addiction

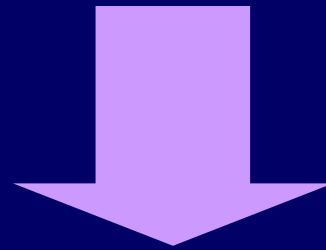
## 2. Problems with control.

# Continuum of Use & Addiction



# Addiction

2. Problems with control.



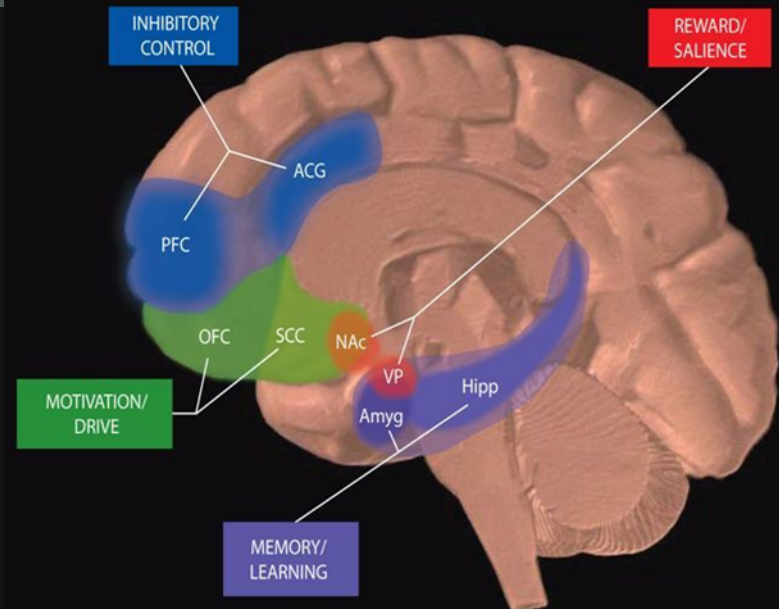
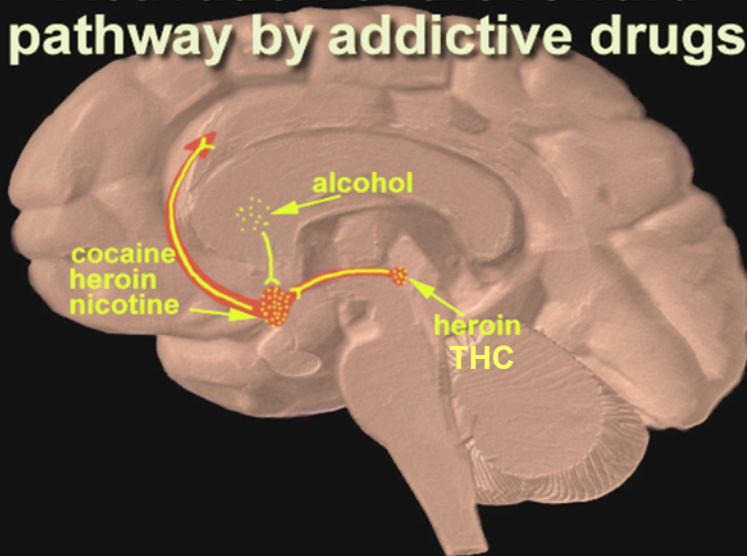
Loss of Control

# Addiction



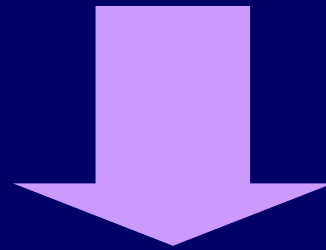
## 3. Preoccupation with drugs and alcohol Hijacks the Brain

### Activation of the reward pathway by addictive drugs

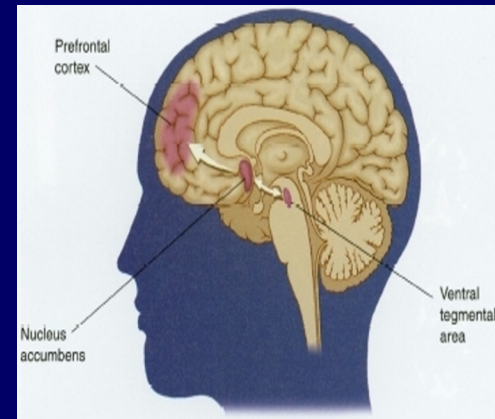


# Addiction

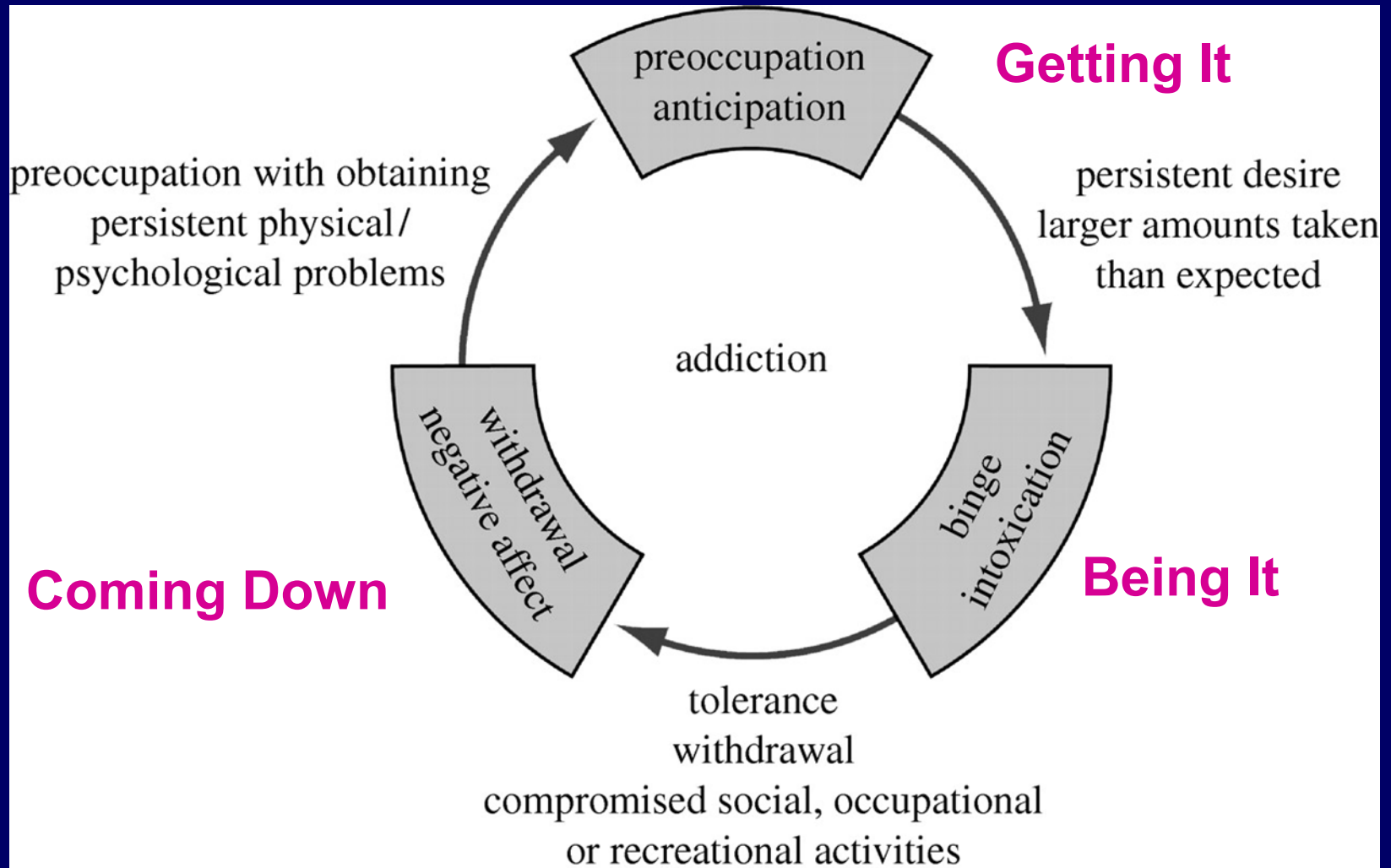
## 3. Preoccupation with drugs and alcohol



Obsession & Compulsion



# Getting It, Being It and Coming Down



Koob G F , and Le Moal M Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B  
2008;363:3113-3123

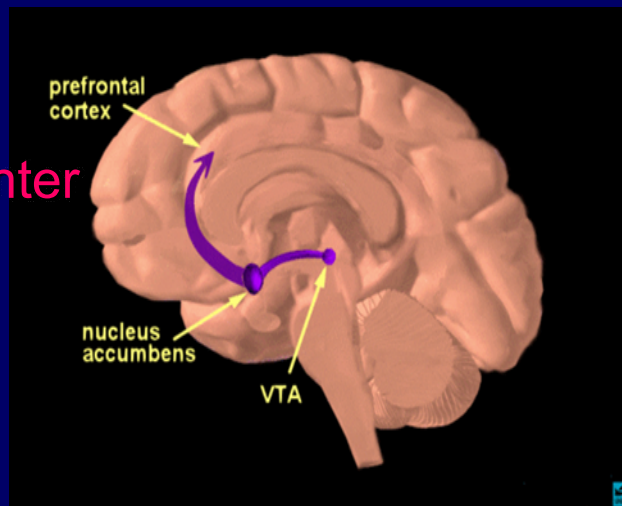


# Reward, Pleasure, Pain & Addiction

## Three C's...

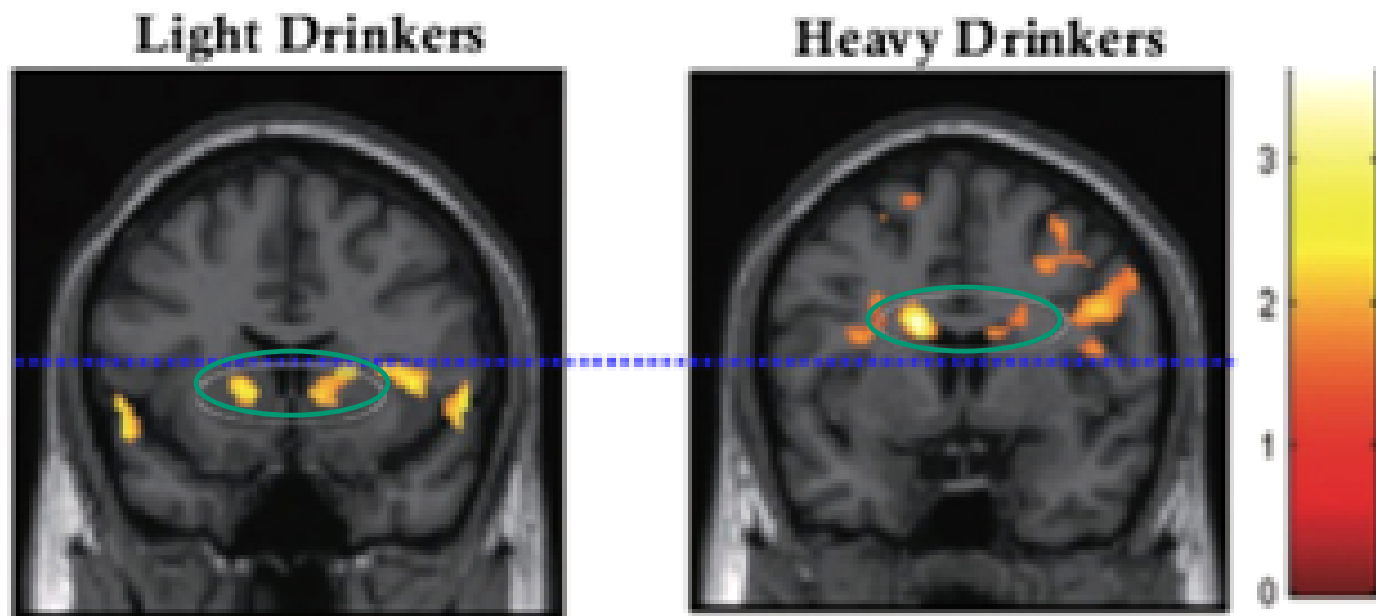
- Despite Consequences/Problems
- Problems with Control
- Compulsion/Preoccupation

Pleasure Center



# Striatum Activity in Heavy Drinkers

- fMRI scan of light and heavy drinkers looking at alcohol



- Light drinkers showed increased activity in nucleus accumbens
- Heavy drinkers showed increased activity in dorsal striatum



# 4<sup>th</sup> Hallmark of Addiction:

Cognitive Distortions

Thinking Problems

***Most Notably:***

D

DENIAL

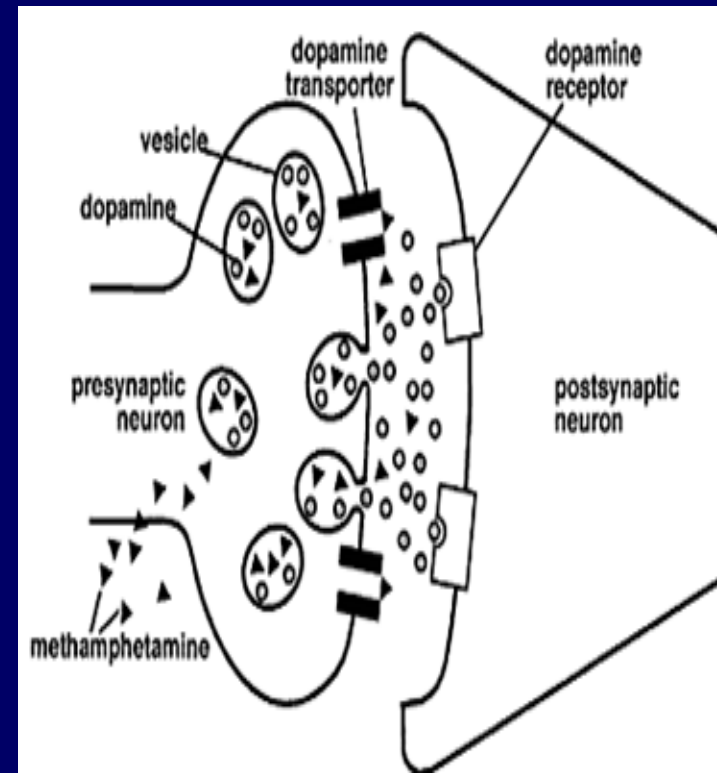
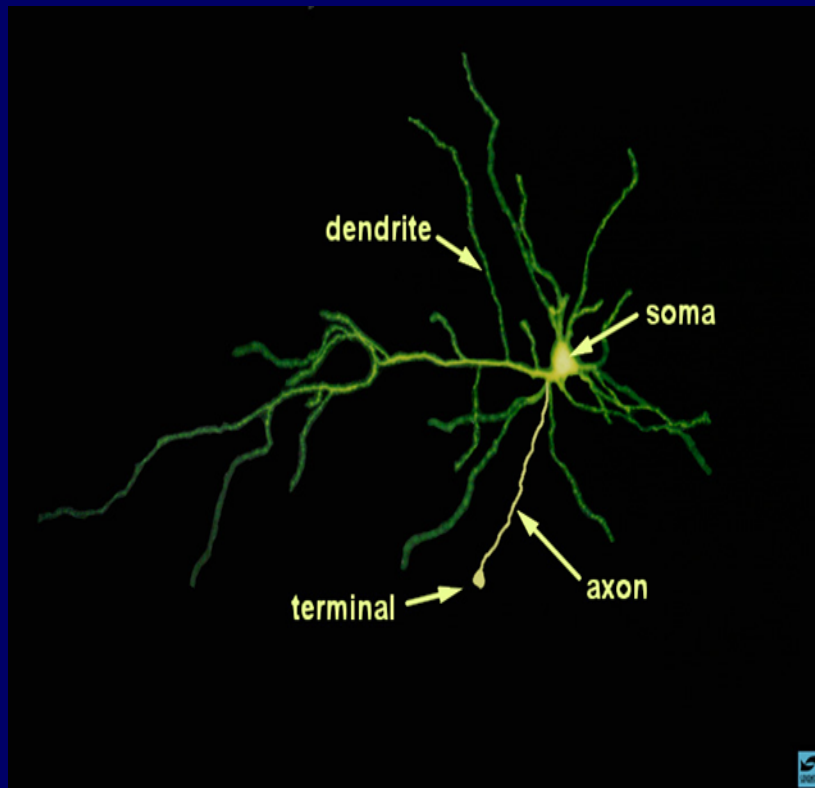
# 2 Levels of Denial:

1. Neurological  
&  
2. Psychological

# Neurological Denial

- One reason we use:
  - To shut down our brain.
- Use a lot over time this becomes:
  - Brain atrophy

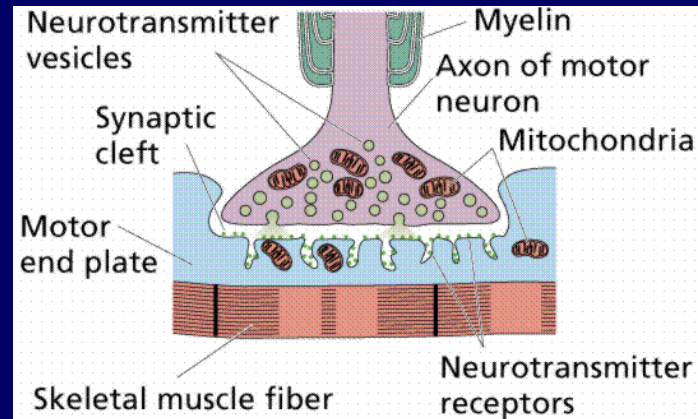
# Drugs copy natural brain chemicals.





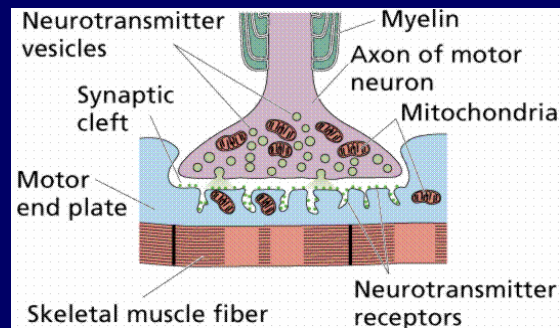
# The Downside:

- ◆ For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.



# The Downside:

- ◆ We're not built to feel - That good,
- ◆ That easily,
- ◆ That often!
- ◆ What goes up, must come down . . .



# The Dark Side





# The Dark Side

## The Brain's Anti-Reward System

Increased Stress due to increased HPA axis functioning  
And Decreased dopamine production from BDNF

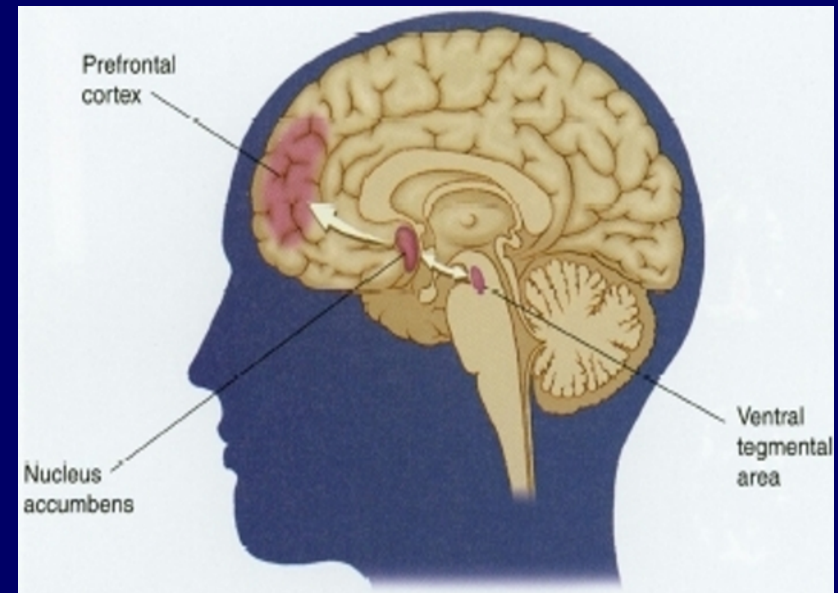


NATURE NEUROSCIENCE, VOL. 8 NUMBER 11 , 11/05 *The Journal of Neuroscience* (Impact Factor: 6.91). 06/2014; 34(23):7899-7909. DOI: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3776-13.2014  
Vargas-Perez, Hector, et al. "BDNF Signaling in the VTA Links the Drug-Dependent State to Drug Withdrawal Aversions." *The Journal of Neuroscience* 34.23 (2014): 7899-7909.

**The Downside:** For every action there is an = and opposite reaction.

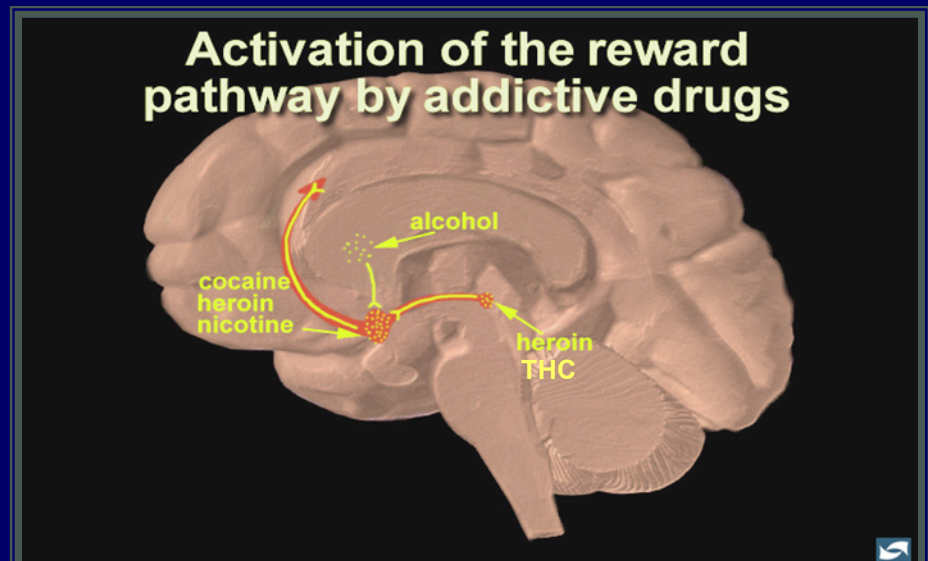
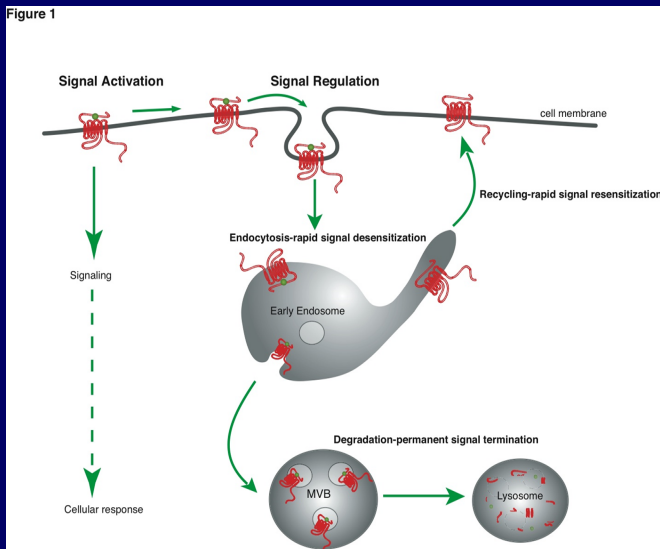
- ◆ **Decreased Reward Functioning**
  - ◆ **To Drugs & Natural Rewards**

- ◆ **The Desire, the Craving Is Still There:**  
"Feed me!" "I need to get high!"

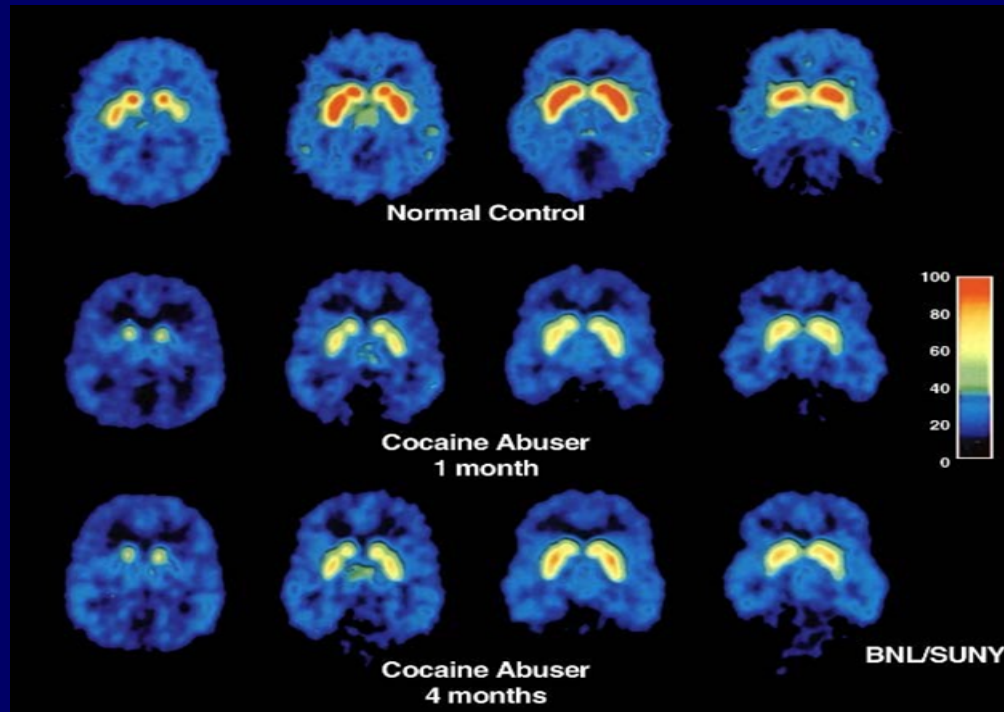


# The Downside: For every action there is an = and opposite reaction.

- ◆ The Development of Tolerance:
- ◆ Receptor Site Down-Regulation
- ◆ Dopamine Deficiency Syndrome [ & specific NT Deficiency Drug Activates ]



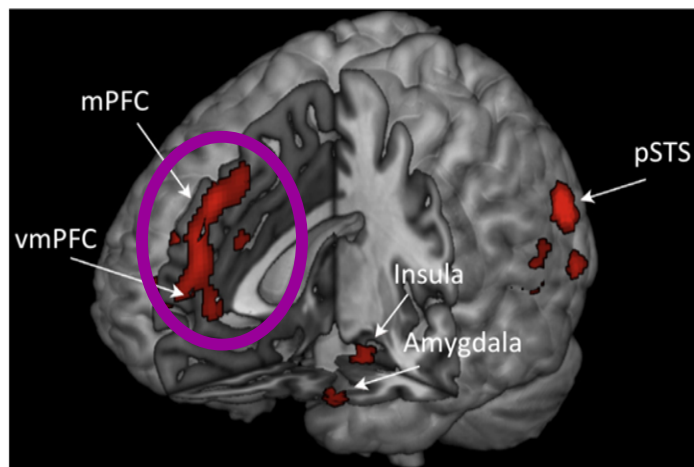
# Tolerance = Less D2 Dopamine Receptors



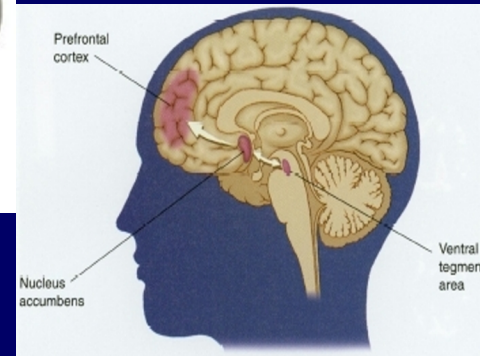
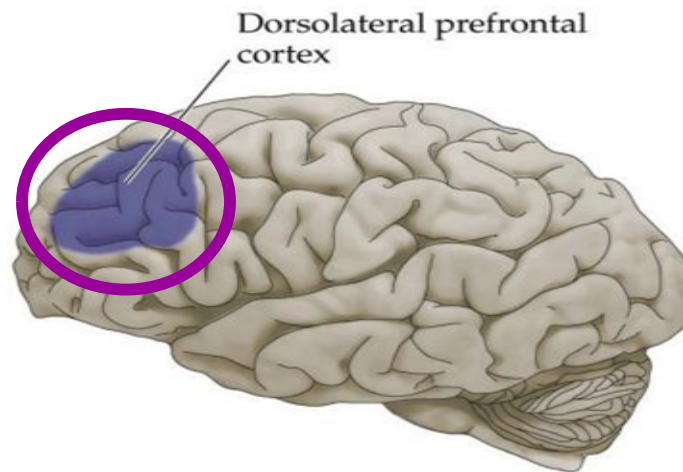
- Due to the chronic stimulation of dopamine in the nucleus accumbens, the neurons simply reduce the number of D2 dopamine receptors:
  - Less Brakes
  - Less, "It's not worth it . . ."
    - Continue despite problems/consequences.

# Decreased D2 Indirect Pathway Leads To:

- ◆ Decreased Frontal Lobe Functioning =
  - ◆ Decreased Self-Control
  - ◆ Increased Stress-Sensitivity
  - ◆ Increased Sensitivity to Negative Feelings



TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences



# The Downside: For every action there is an = and opposite reaction.

SUD - Mild

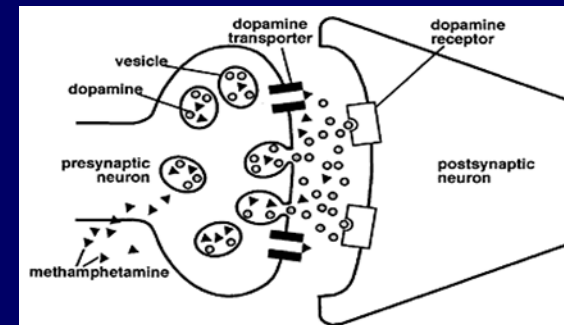
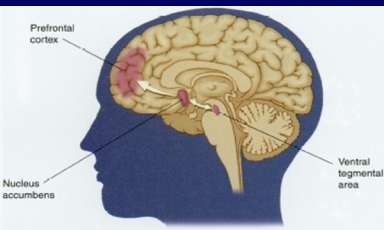
## Substance Abuse

- Continuing to use alcohol or other drugs despite

**Problems!!**

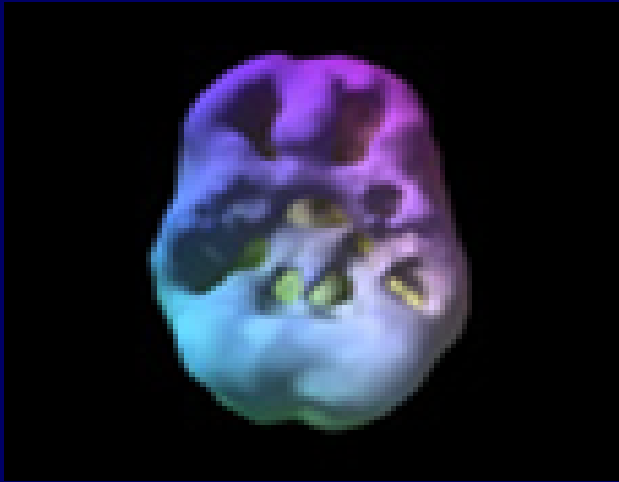
8

- ◆ Dopamine Deficiency Syndrome
- ◆ Low DA receptors leads to Punishment Resistant/Immediate Reward-Seeking

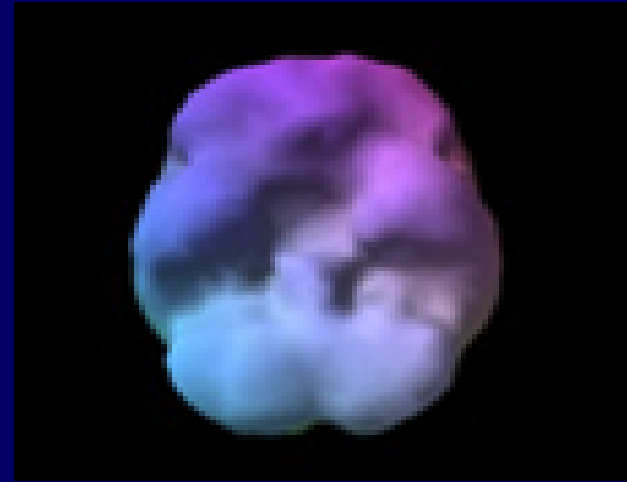


# Impact of Addiction

## □ MARIJUANA:



**16 y.o.  
2 year history of daily abuse**

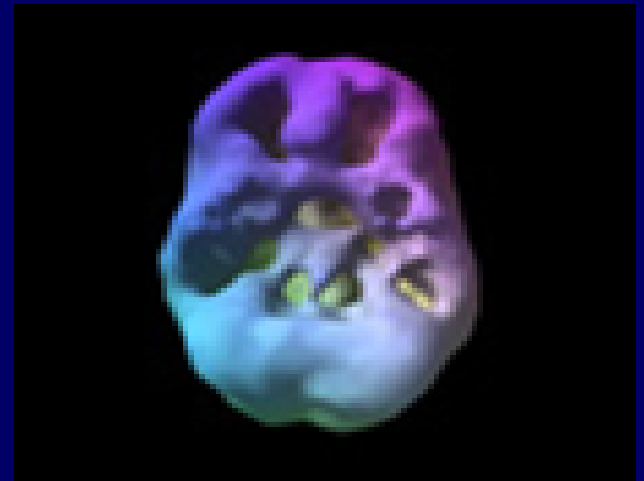


**Normal**

underside surface view of prefrontal and temporal lobe activity  
© 2006 Amen Clinics Inc

# Neurological Denial

- Makes it difficult to connect the dots
- Neurogenic Denial





# Neurogenic Denial



LEMON IN DENIAL



It's not denial.  
I'm just selective  
about the  
reality  
I accept.

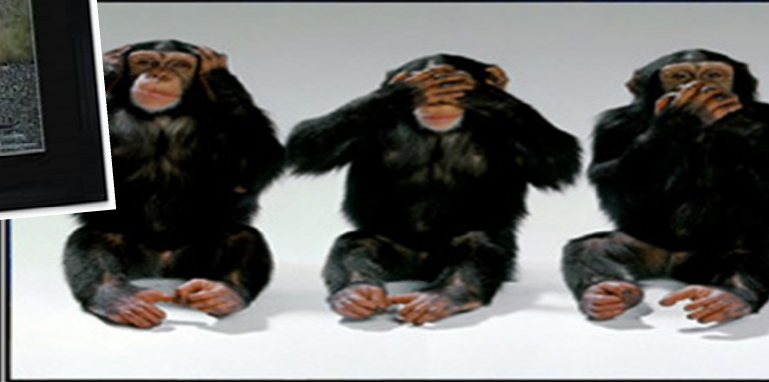


I DON'T  
HAVE HATERS,  
I HAVE FANS  
IN DENIAL

@ketoguelc.com

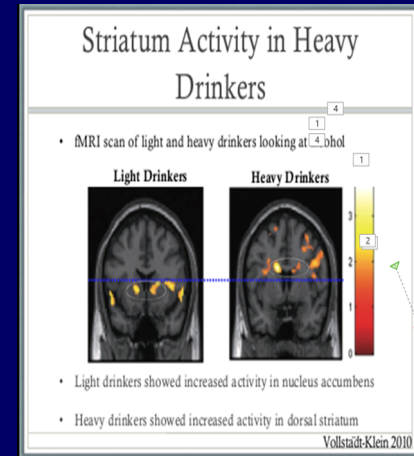
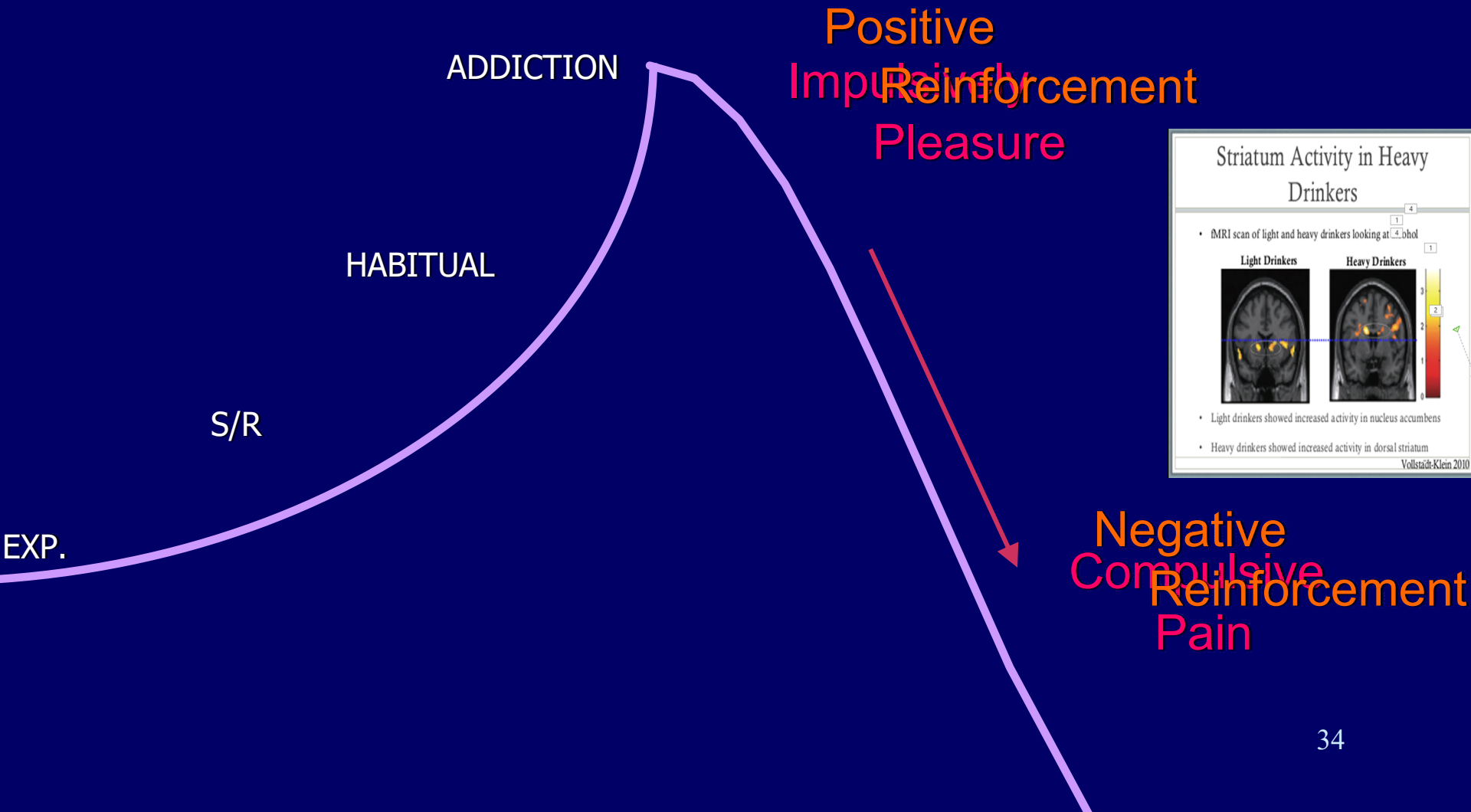


DENIAL

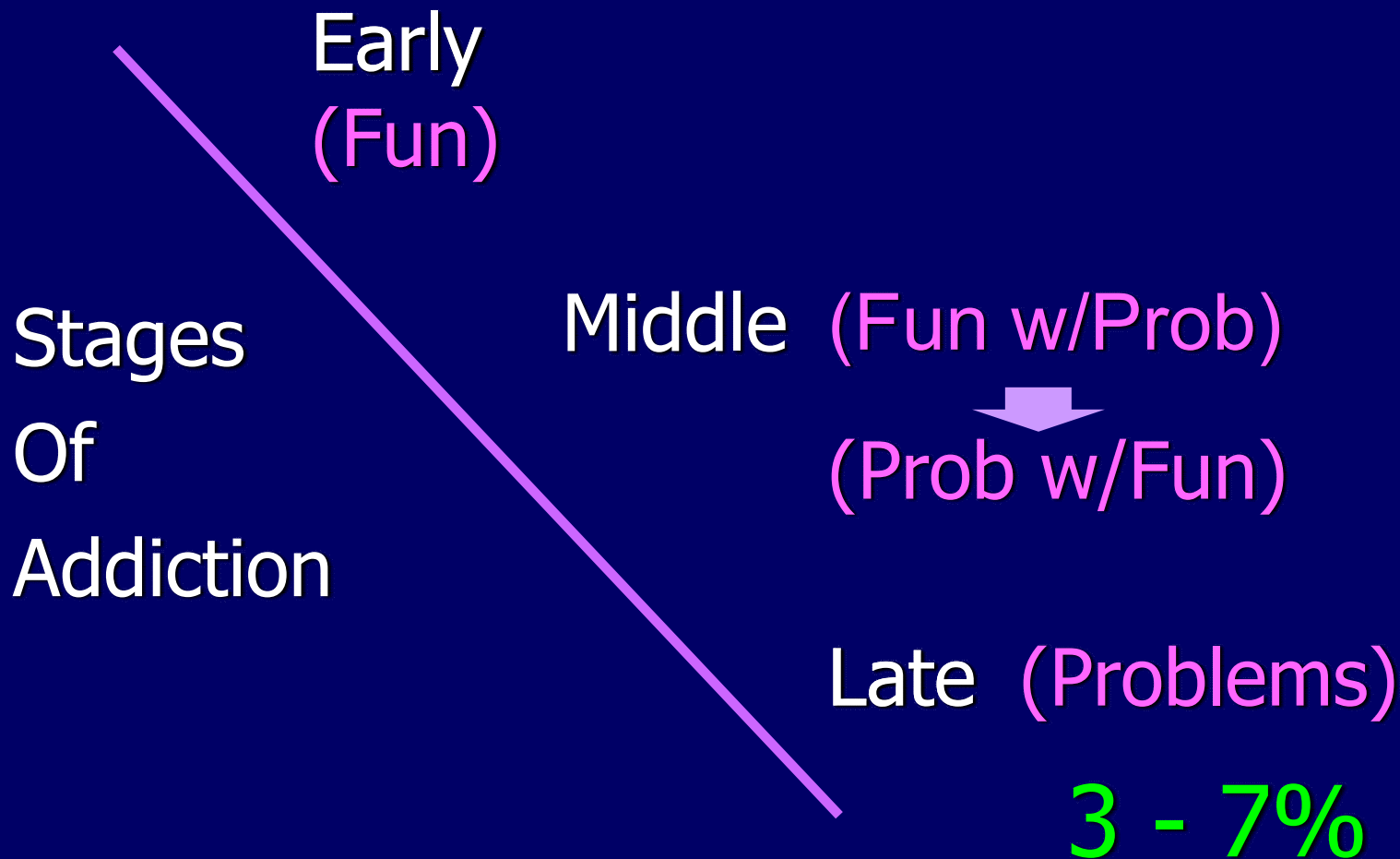


**DENIALISM**  
Denying reality, one fact at a time

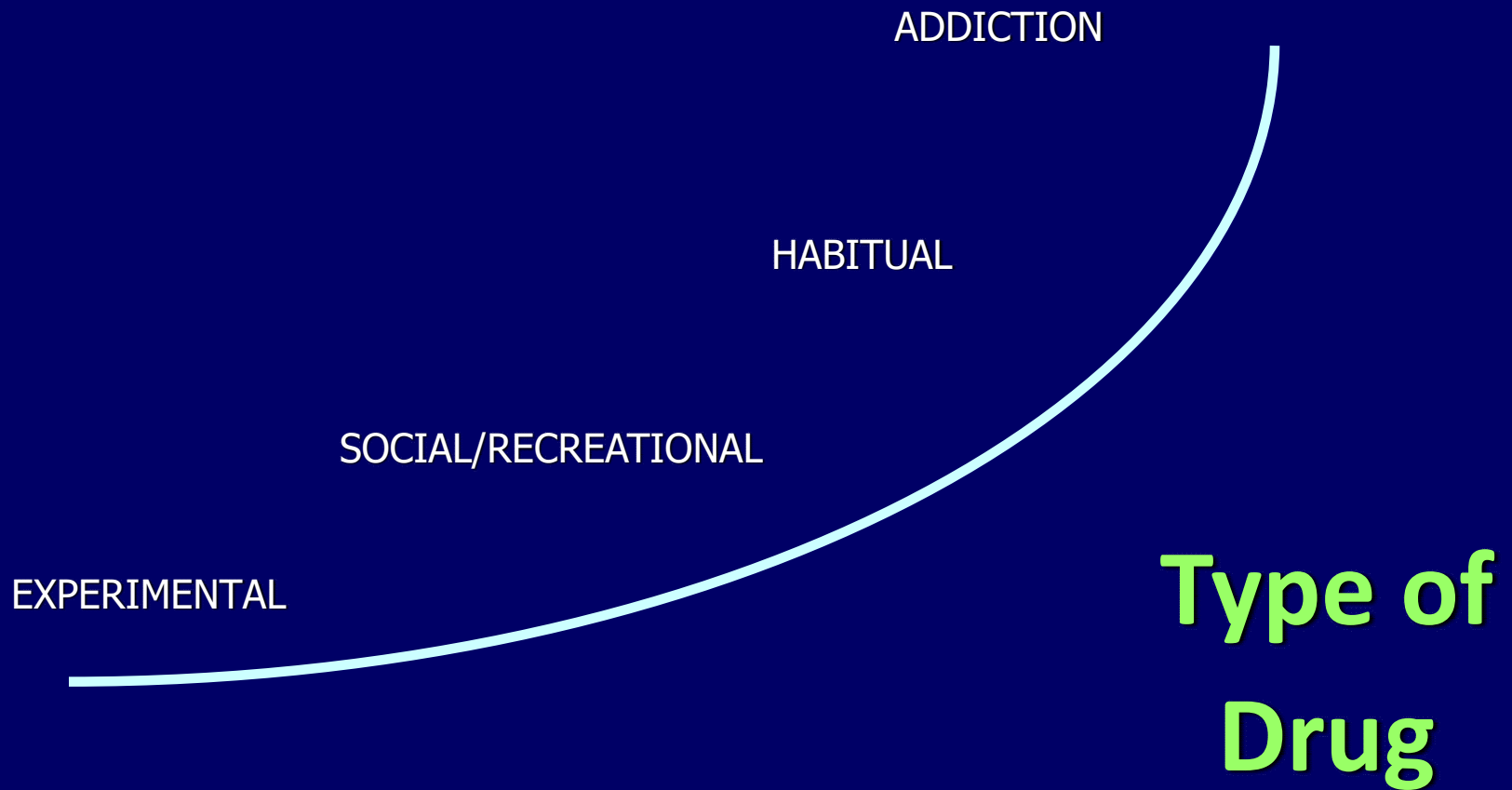
# Continuum of Use & Addiction



# Psychological Denial:



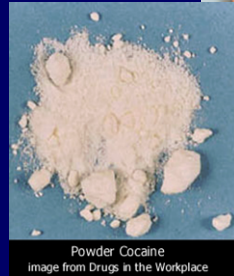
# Continuum of Use & Addiction



# 3 Types of Drugs of Abuse

1

## Uppers



2

## Downers

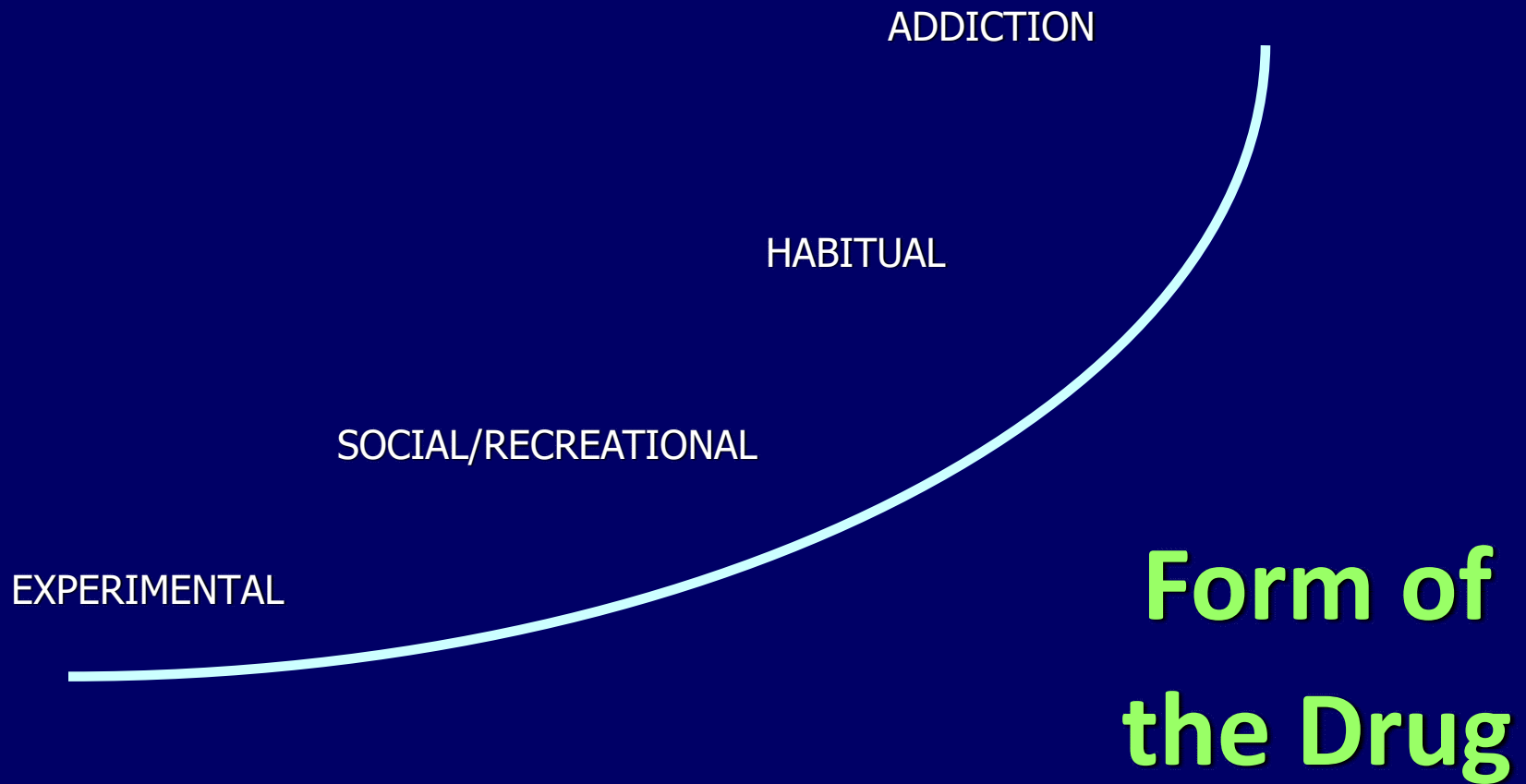


2

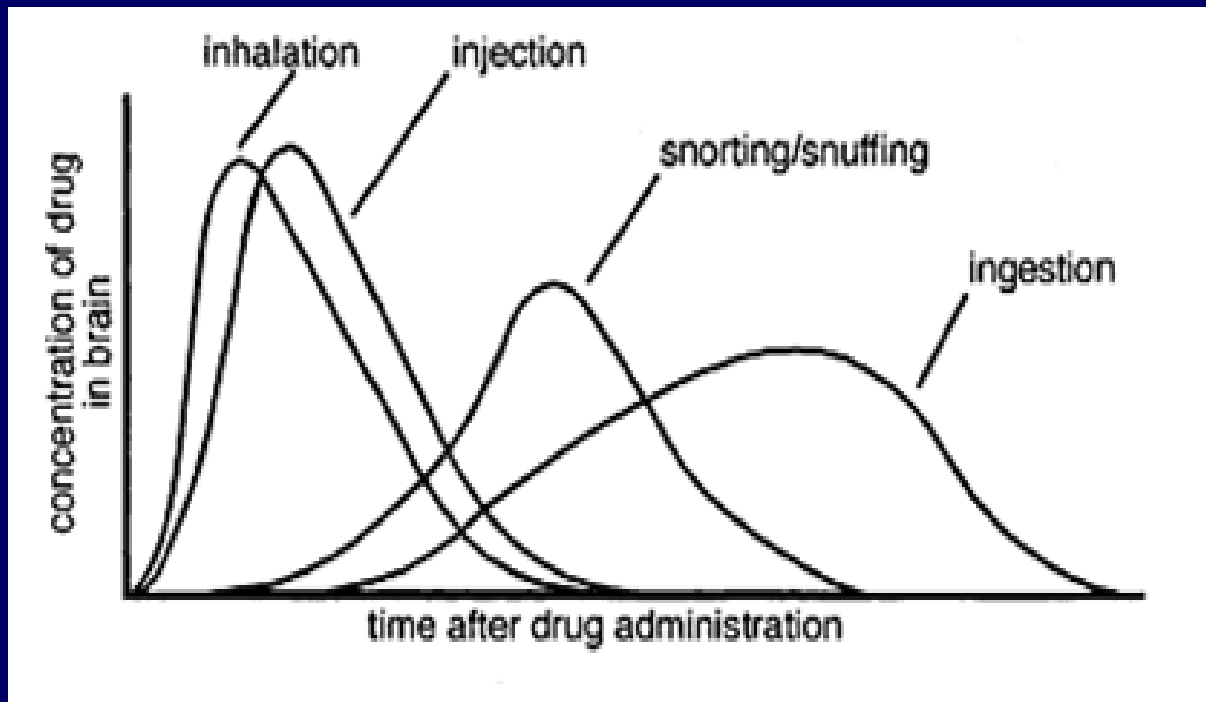
## All Arounders – Hallucinogens



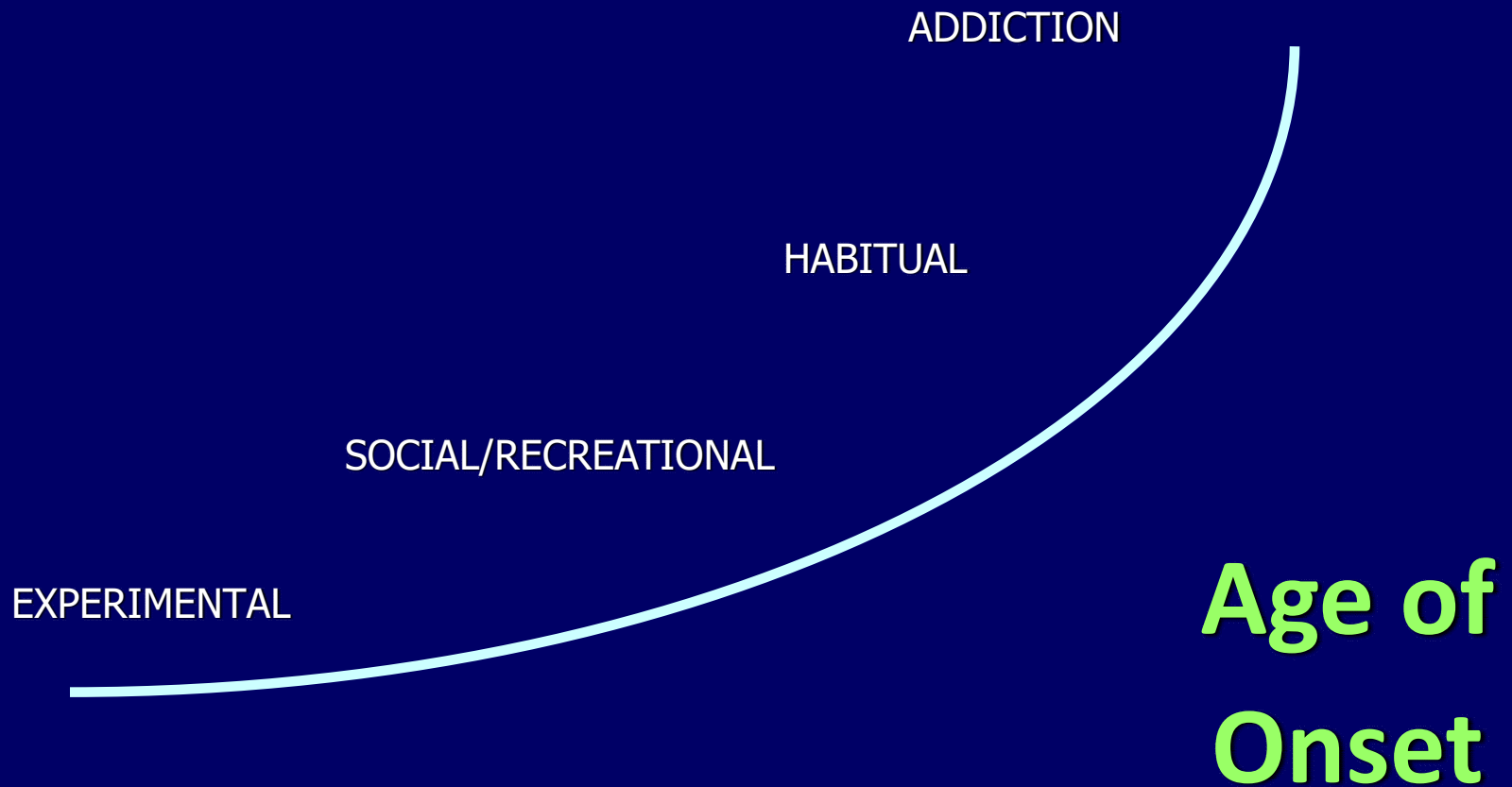
# Development of Addiction



# Form of the Drug

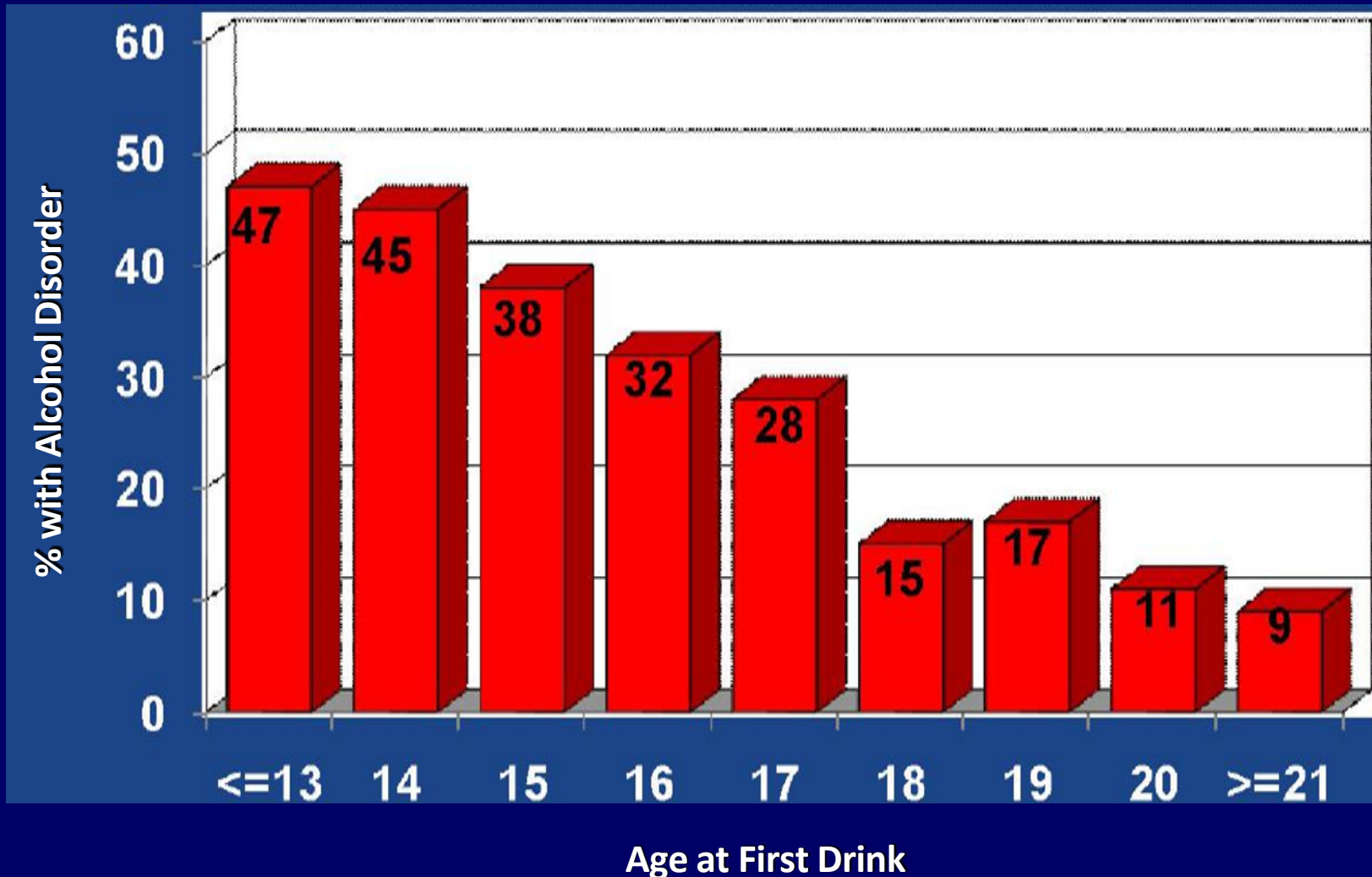


# Development of Addiction

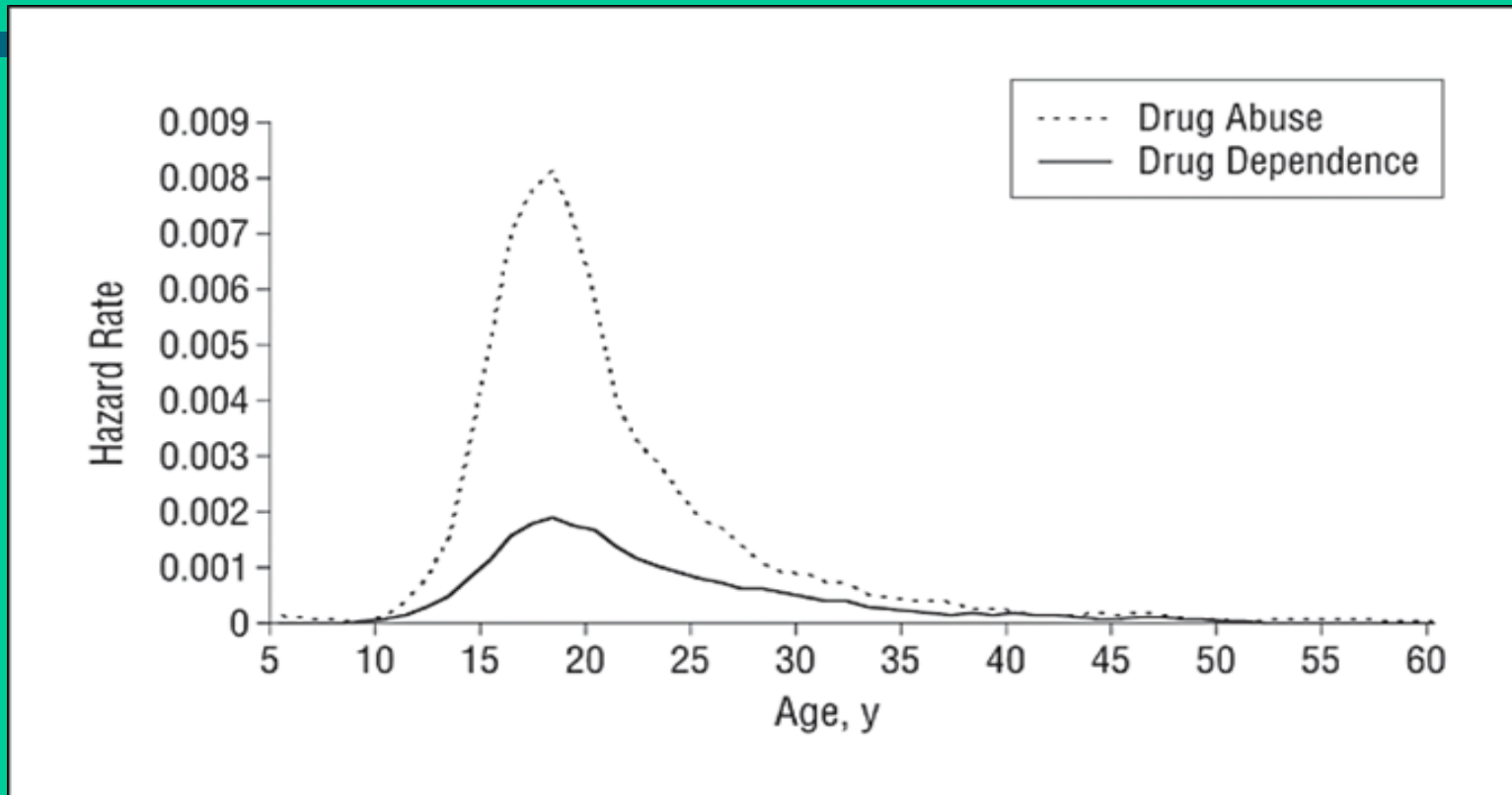




# Percentage of U.S. Adults 18 & Older Dependent on Alcohol, by Age of Drinking Onset



# Drug Dependence Onset



**Hazard rates for age at onset of DSM-IV drug abuse and dependence**

Compton, W. M. et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2007;64:566-576.

# Addiction Onset

- >90% of adults with current substance use disorders started using before 18
- 1/2 of those began before 15 (Cermak, 2009)

# Direction of Growth

- Growth begins at the back and moves to the front of the brain.

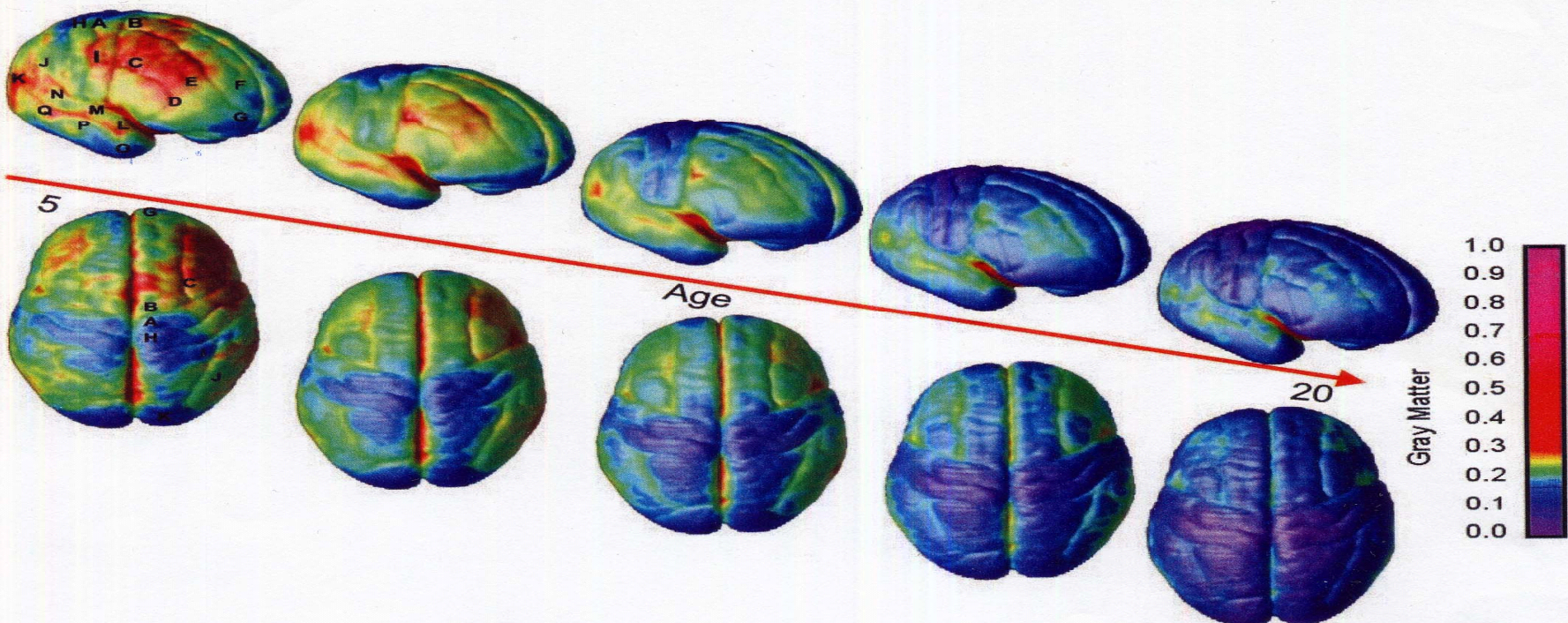
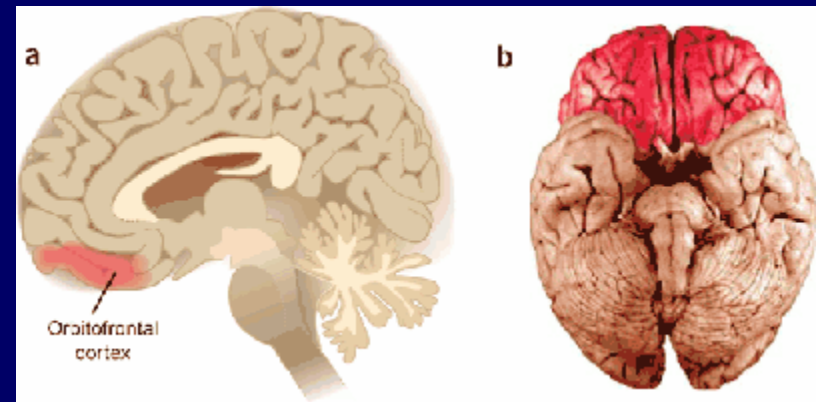
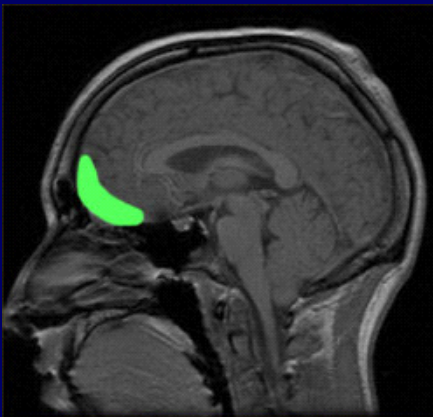


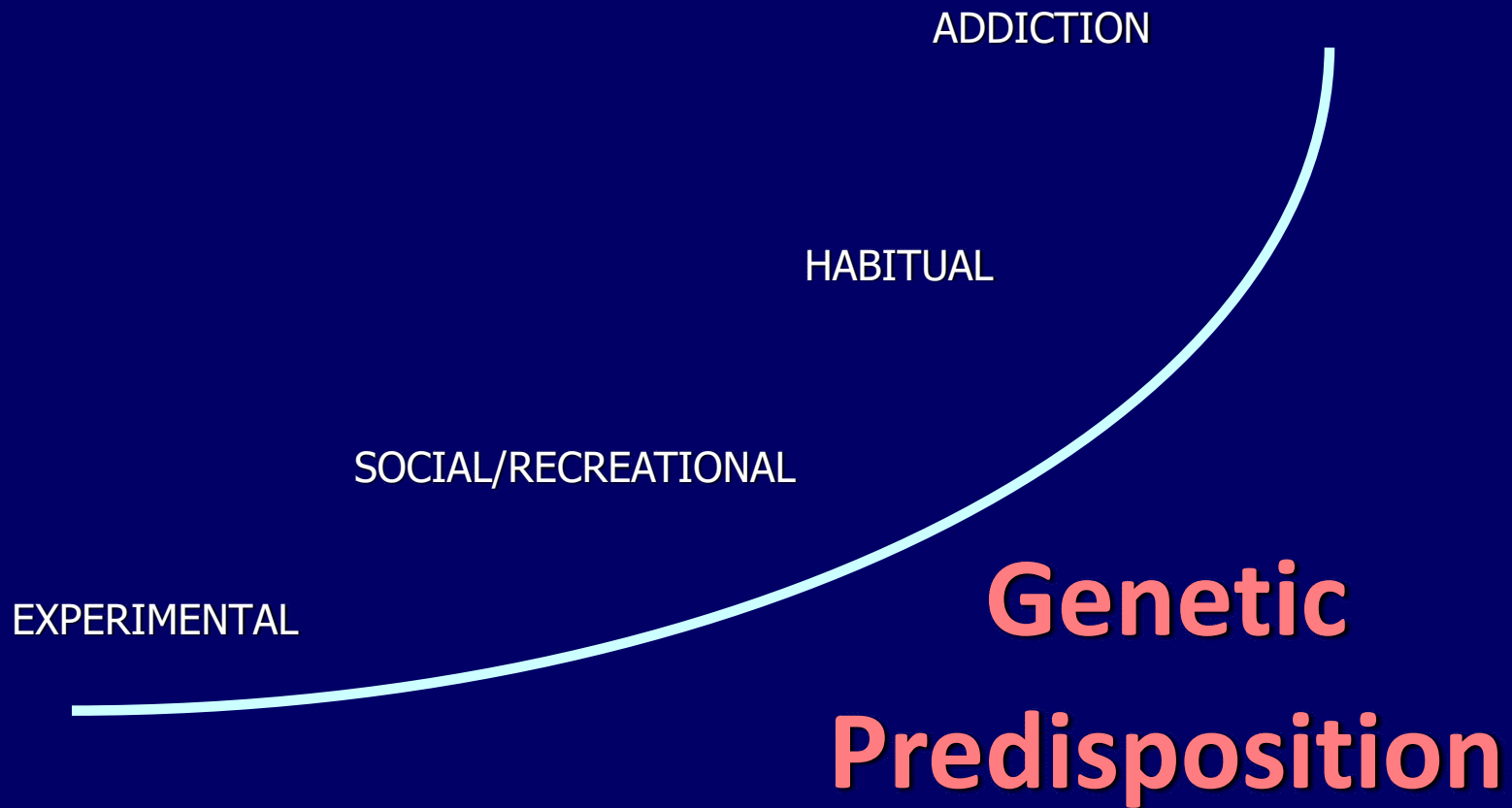
Fig. 3. Right lateral and top views of the dynamic sequence of GM maturation over the cortical surface. The side bar shows a color representation in units of GM volume. The initial frames depict regions of interest in the cortex as described for Fig. 1. This sequence is available in Movies 1–4 in the supporting information.

# PreFrontal Cortex

- The “STOP” part of the brain
  - Impulse Control-The Brain’s Police

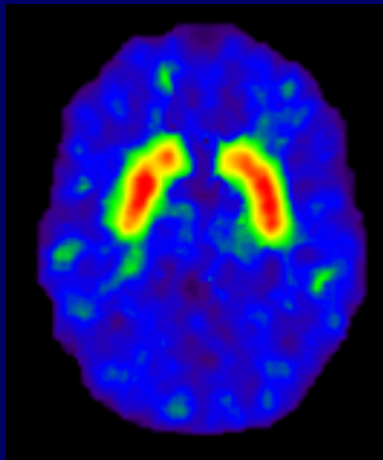


# Development of Addiction

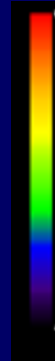


# DA Receptors and the Response to Methylphenidate (MP)

High DA receptor

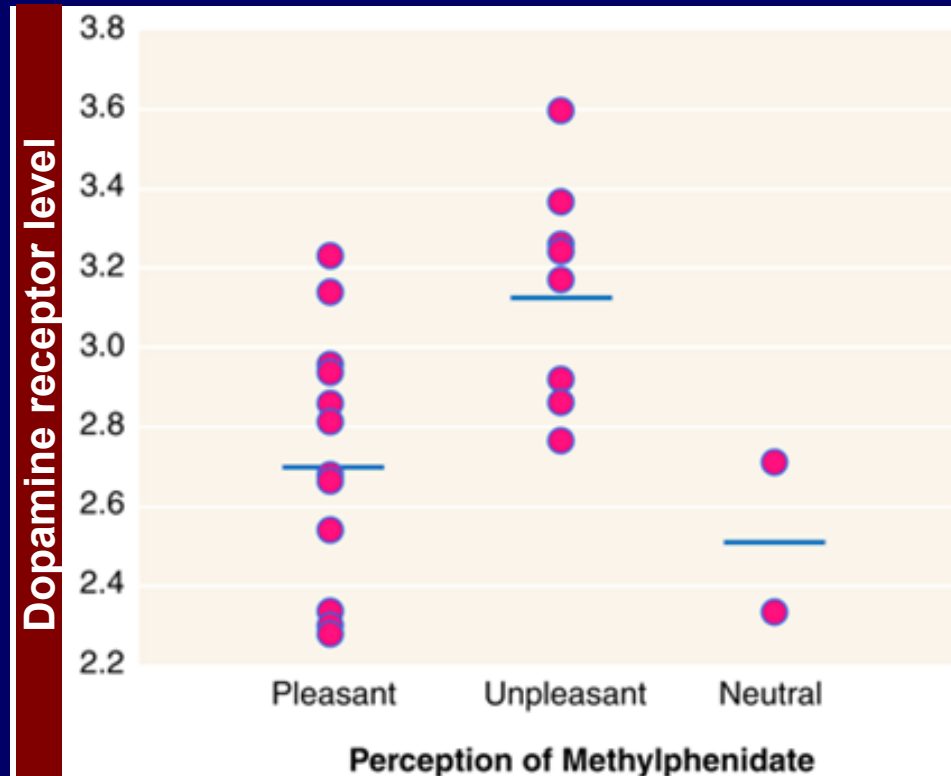
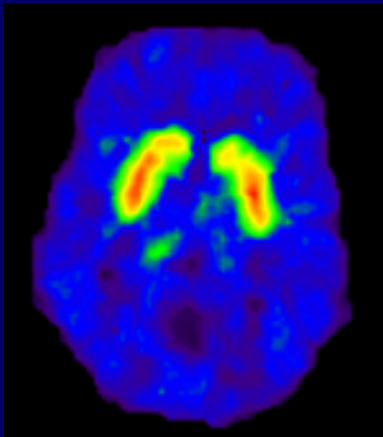


high



low

Low DA receptor



As a group, subjects with low receptor levels found MP pleasant while those with high levels found MP unpleasant

# Formula for Development of Addiction:

$$AD = G + E + LB$$



# USE

TO FEEL GOOD:  
Have Fun!



TO FEEL BETTER:  
(Self-Medicate or  
Medicate Wx)



TO DO BETTER:

USE

TO FEEL GOOD [TYPE II]  
And/or  
TO FEEL BETTER [TYPE I]:



AD = G + E + LB



# Formula for Development of Addiction:

$$AD = G + E + LB$$

$$10 = 10$$

$$= 9 + 2$$

USE

TO FEEL BETTER:  
(Self-Medicate)



# Categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences

## **Abuse, by Category:**

- Emotional (by parents – put downs, insults, etc.,)
- Physical (by parents – hit, physically hurt, etc.,)
- Sexual (anyone)

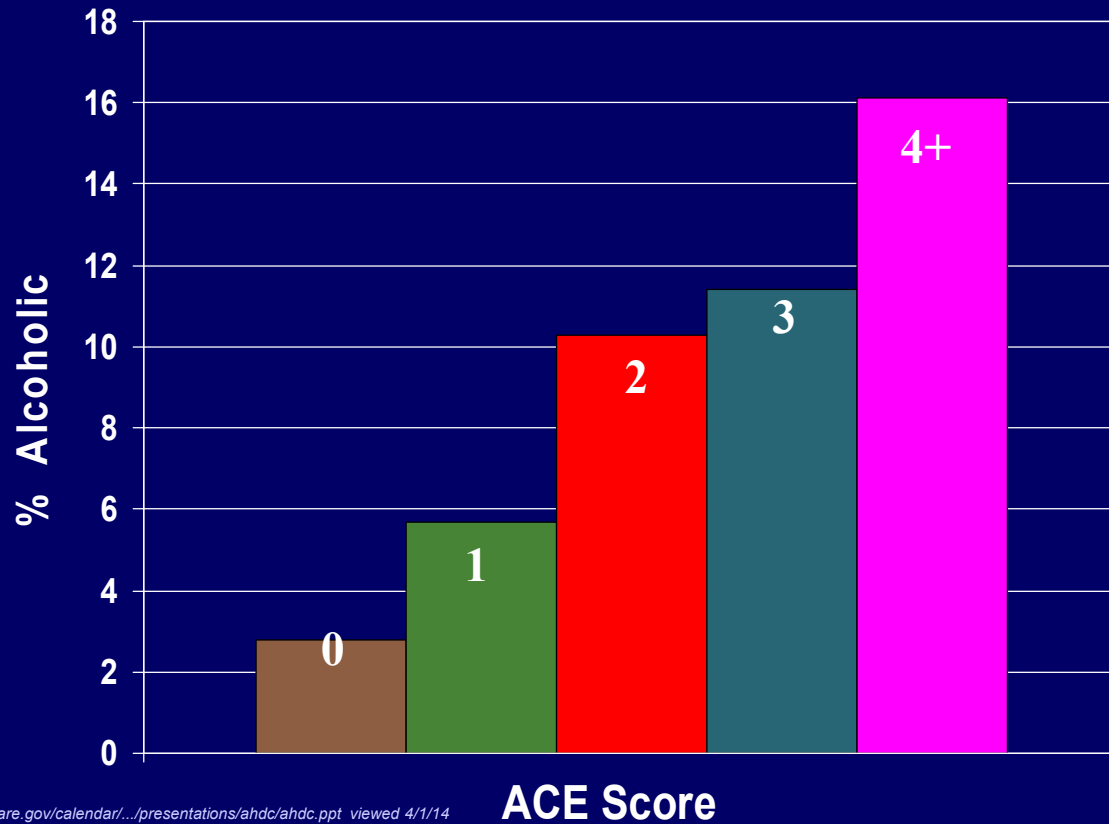
## **Neglect:**

- Physical (hungry, no one to take care of you, etc.,) or Emotional

## **Household Dysfunction, by Category**

- Substance Abuse in family
- Mental Illness in family
- Domestic Violence
- Imprisoned Household Member
- Loss of parent, separation or divorce

# Childhood Experiences vs. Adult Alcoholism



# Categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences

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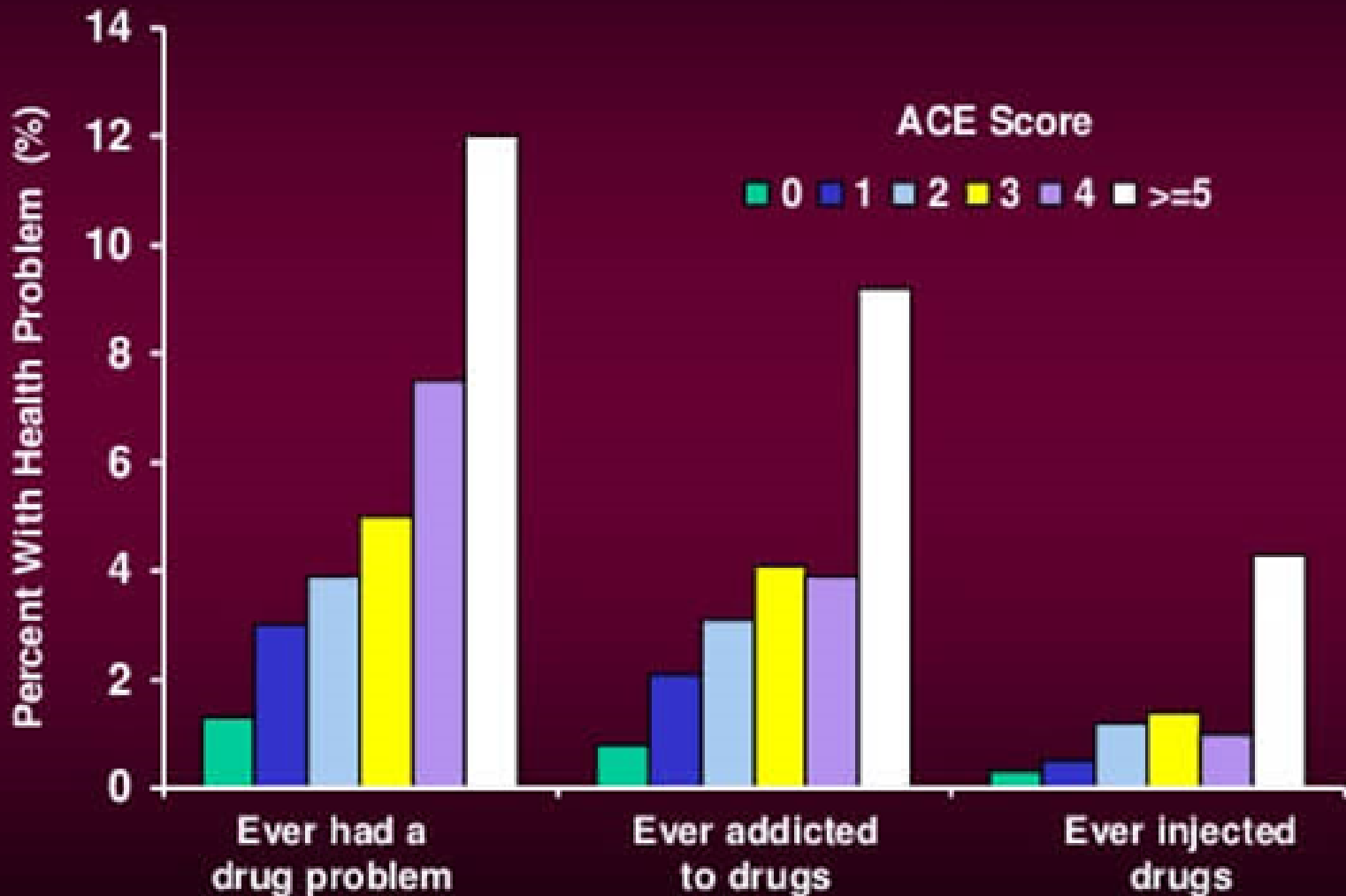
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# ACE Score and Drug Abuse





# Formula for Development of Addiction:

$$AD = G + E + LB$$

$$10 = 10$$

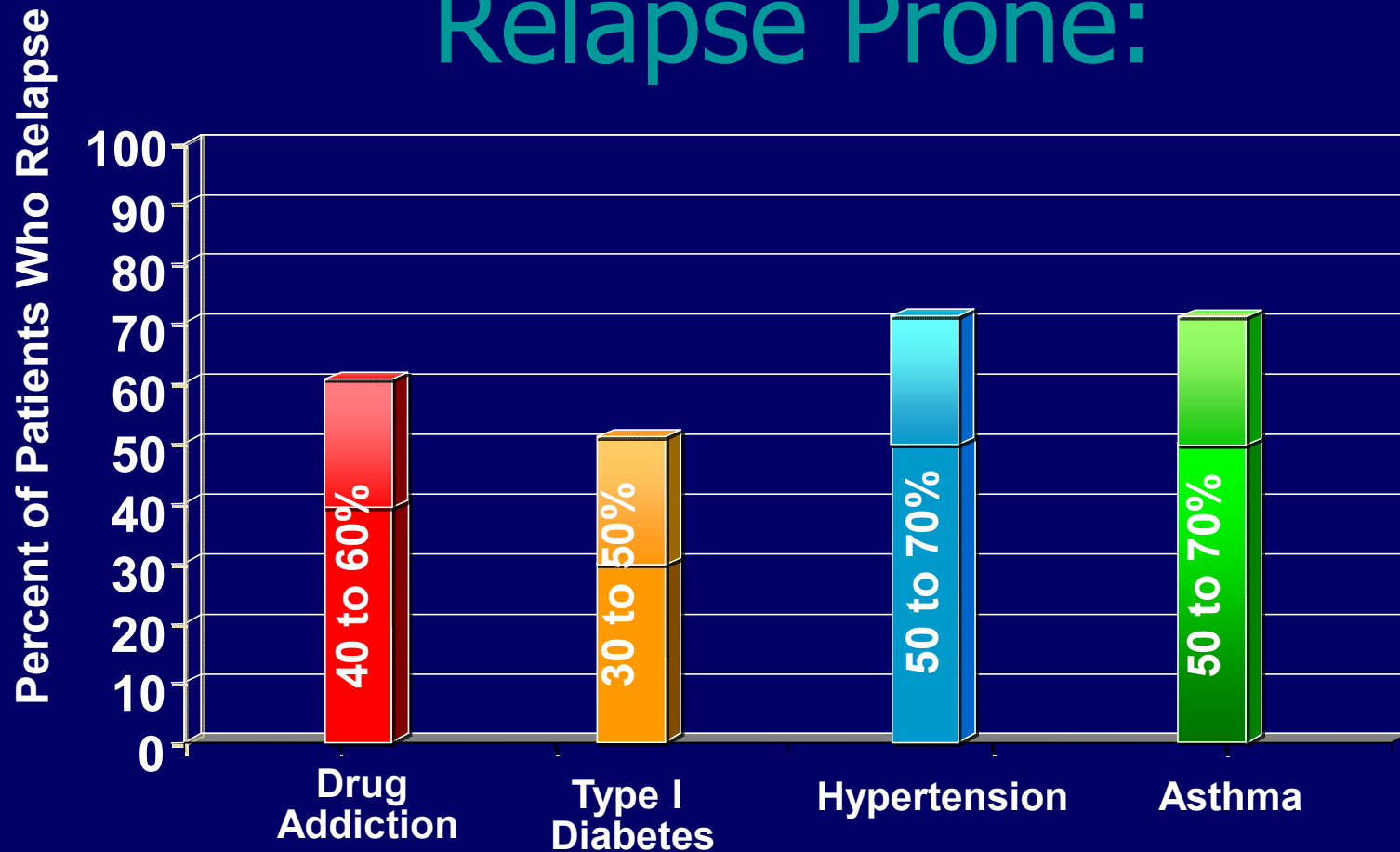
$$= 9 + 2$$

$$= 5 + 2 + 3$$

$$= 3 + 2 + 3 + 2$$

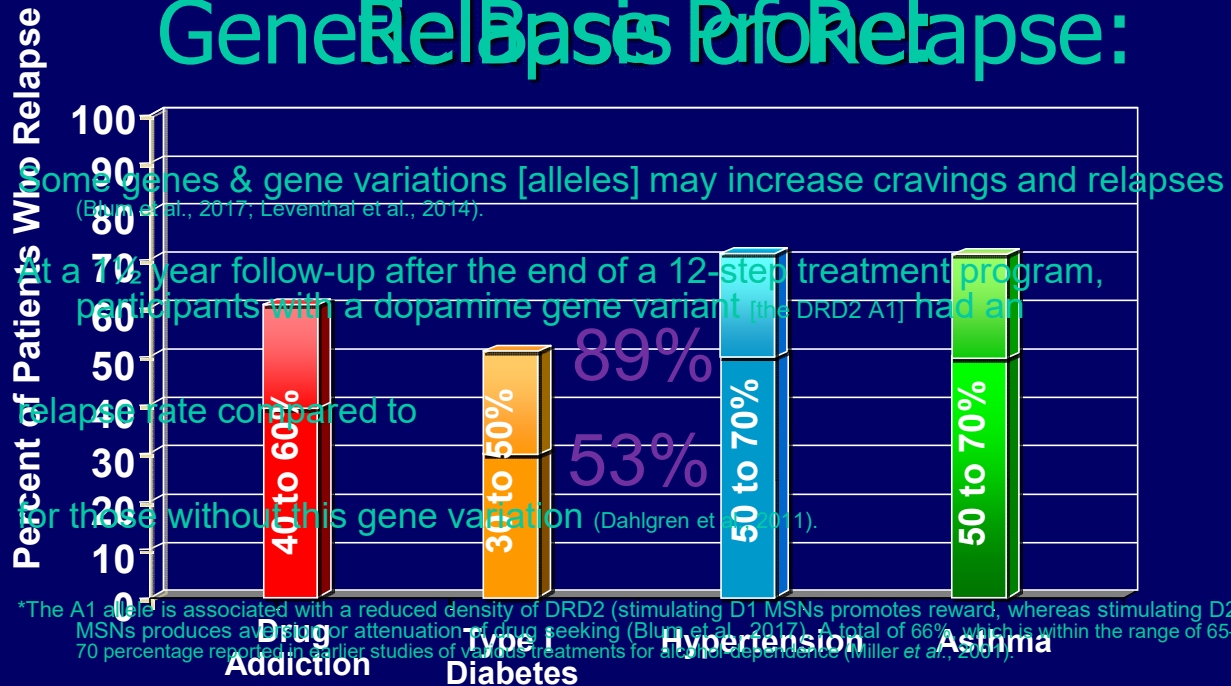
# ADDICTION: CHRONIC, PROGRESSIVE BRAIN ILLNESS

## Relapse Prone:

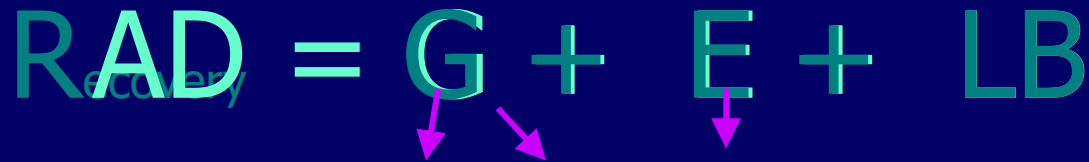


# ADDICTION: CHRONIC, PROGRESSIVE BRAIN ILLNESS

## Genetic Basis for Relapse:



# Formula for Development of Addiction:

$$\text{RAD} = \text{G} + \text{E} + \text{LB}$$


Neuroplasticity

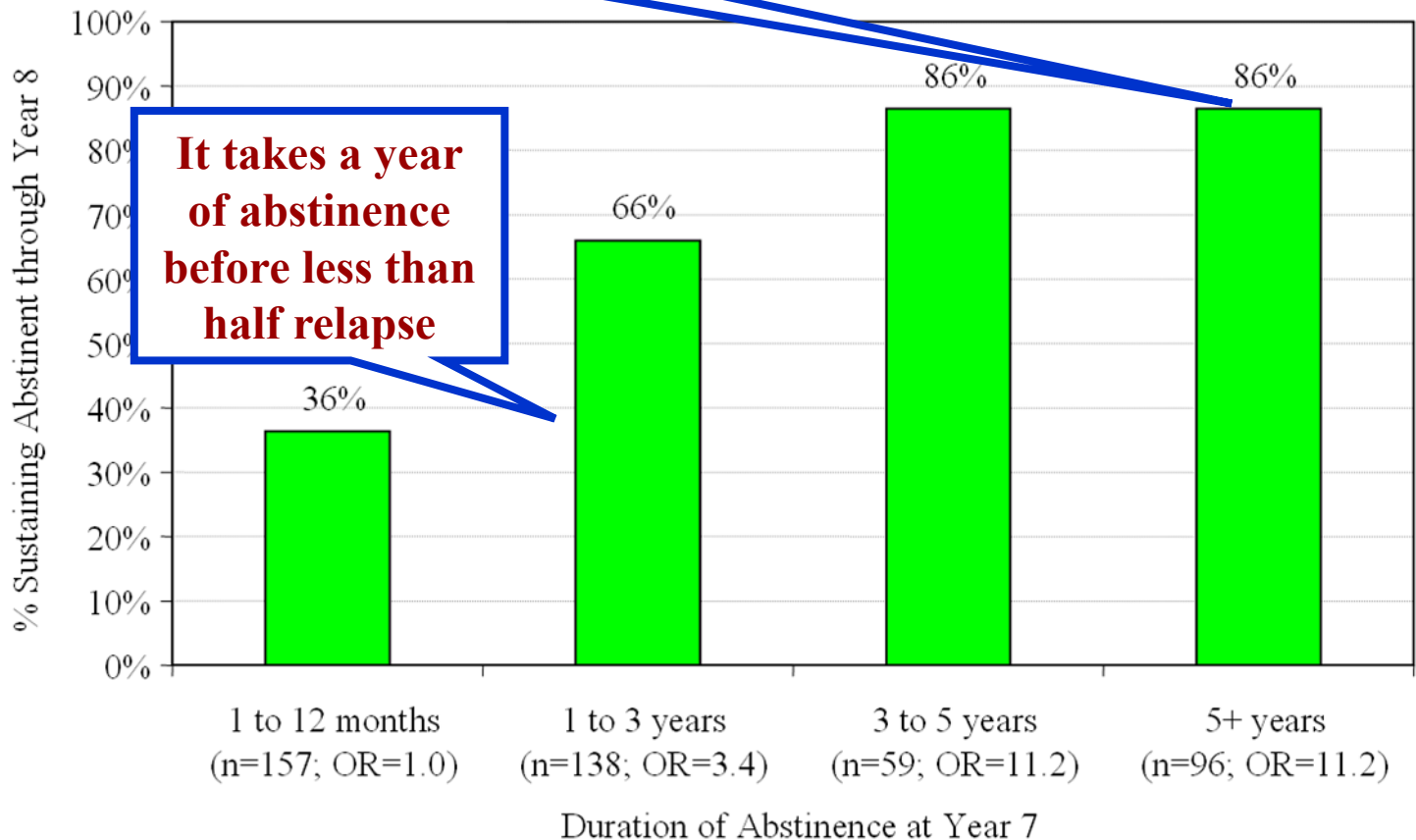
Epigenetics

Each individual, including both ourselves and our children, cannot be blamed for the cards they are dealt, yet we all must assume full responsibility for playing those cards as well as possible. (T. Cermak)



# *Extended Abstinence is Predictive of Sustained Recovery*

**After 5 years – if you are sober,  
you probably will stay that way.**



# Abstinence vs. Recovery

**2.8x** more likely to be sober @ 2 yrs. If:

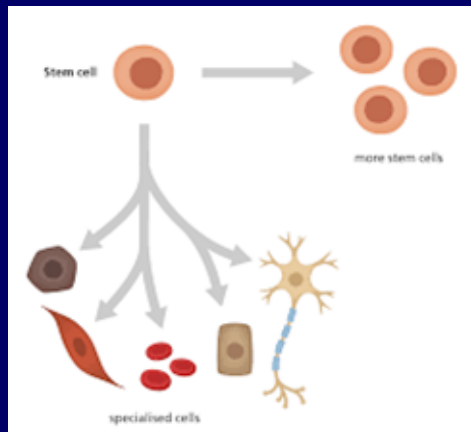
1. Have a sponsor
2. Do service work
3. Read literature.
4. Call other members for help

Add SLE [Oxford House]:

**5.6x**

90

## Early AA Thinkers Were Intuitive Neuroscientists





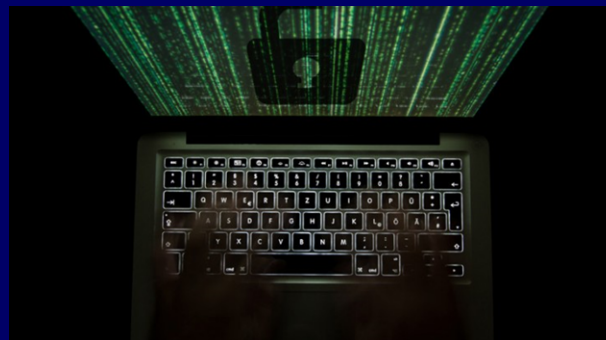
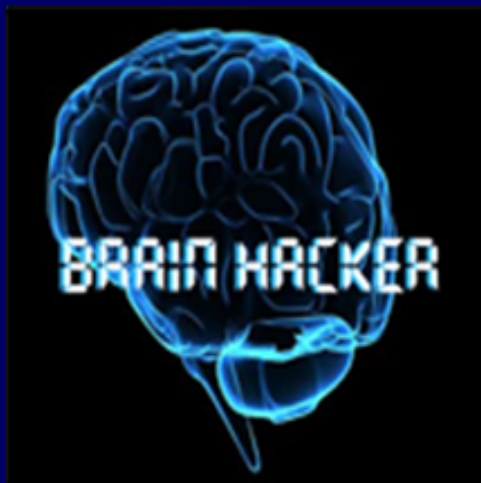


# Reward-based Learning & Recovery

- Recovery is:

## Rewiring your brain.

- The Craving Mind: From Cigarettes to Smartphones to Love—Why We Get Hooked and How We Can Break Bad Habits Judson Brewer and Jon Kabat-Zinn Ph.D.

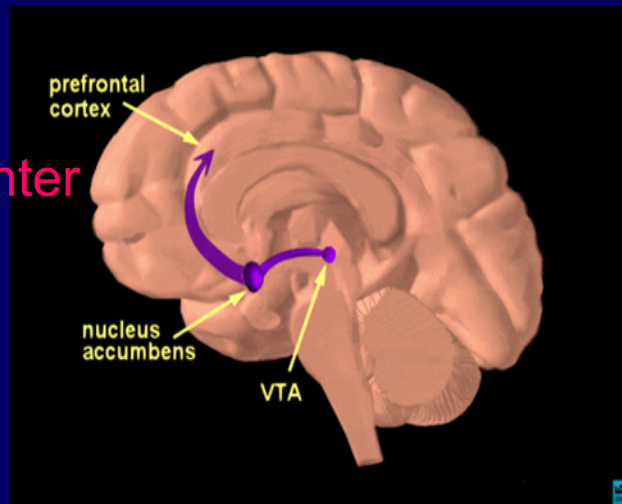


# Reward-based Learning & Recovery

Drugs & Alcohol over-stimulate the brain.

This causes Down - Regulation

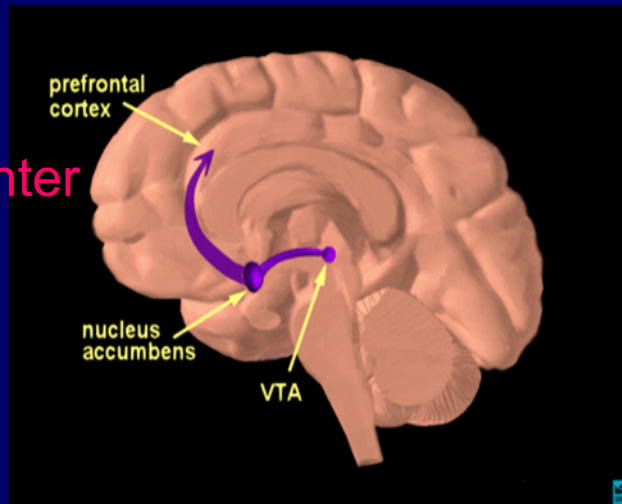
Pleasure Center



# The Secret Sauce

Thinking of, or doing something, that makes you feel happy:  
Feeling grateful, noticing a tree, listening to music, . . .

Pleasure Center

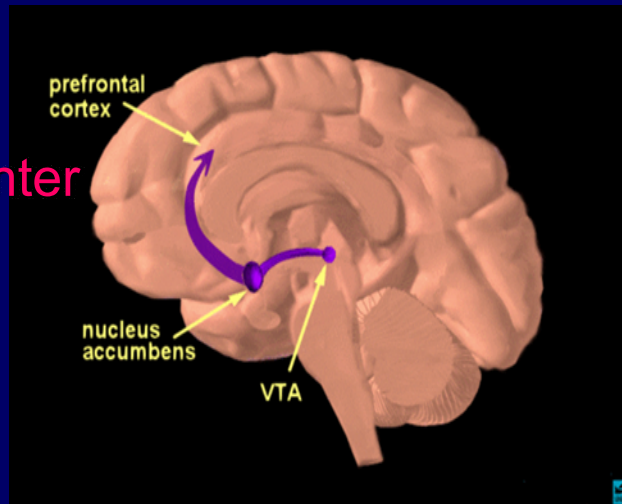


# The Secret Sauce

This Causes Up-Regulation of the D2R  
and other receptors.

This is Rewiring the Brain! This is  
Recovery!

Pleasure Center



# EVOLUTION & ADDICTION

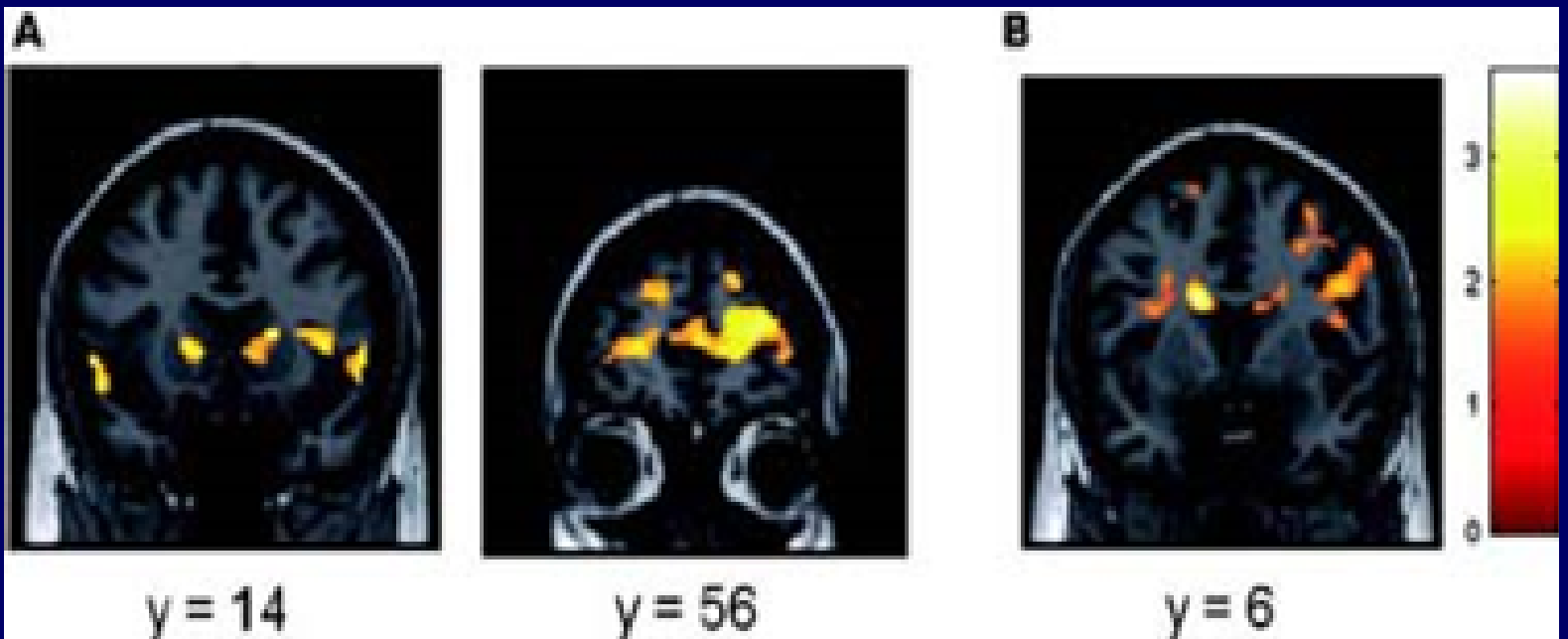
2%

8 - 10%



# The End!

[Dean.Blumberg@kp.org](mailto:Dean.Blumberg@kp.org)





# Frontal lobe



- The brain's chief executive.
- The human frontal lobe comprises:

30%

Neurological Development

# Frontal lobe



□ Dogs?

7%



Neurological Development

# Frontal lobe



□ Cats?

3%



