

ADDICTION STATISTICS

- More than 4 million women need treatment for drug problems.
- Abuse of prescription medications now kills twice as many women as cervical cancer.
- More people aged 45-54 die from alcohol or drug poisonings than from lung cancer.
- The number one reason women aged 25-54 visit the emergency room is misuse of prescription drugs.
- Abuse of drugs and prescription drugs doubled among those 55-59 from 2002 to 2010.
- 10% of women aged 45-64 said they binge drink. The greatest number (24%) of binge-drinking women are college-age.
- The greatest increases in drug overdose deaths have been in women aged 45-64. The rate more than tripled from 1999 to 2010. CDC officials believe more than 70% of the overdose deaths were unintentional.
- By 2010, 40% of U.S. overdose deaths were women—most of them middle-aged women who took prescription painkillers. For decades prior, it was men killed by heroin or cocaine.
- Older women are at greater risk for substance use disorders in part because tolerance levels decrease as people age.
- Older women are less likely to discuss their alcohol use or misuse of prescription drugs with their health care professional, in part because of the stigma their generation attached to alcoholism and mental disorders.

Sources:

- <http://www.healthywomen.org/condition/substance-abuse>
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- <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/study-huge-growth-in-prescription-drug-abuse-deaths-in-women-1.5614341>
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