

Understanding Addiction




Warning SIGNS!

Lake County
ddiction
Task Force

Understanding Addiction

What You Need to Know as a Parent or Grandparent

 **Warning Signs of Drug Misuse: Keep your eyes open.** Many factors can influence a teen's risk of substance use. As a caregiver, your role is essential in helping to guide and protect your child.

Early intervention matters. If you notice concerning behavior, don't wait—take action.

- Check your health insurance to see what services are available.
- Uninsured? The Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board funds a network of providers who help regardless of your ability to pay.

More Resources at HelpThatWorks.us

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Your involvement makes a difference.
Let's work together to keep our kids safe, healthy, and substance-free.

Risk Factors

- Friends who use drugs or alcohol
- Low self-esteem
- Significant life changes (like moving or losing a loved one)

Be Alert During Key Transition Periods

These moments can be emotionally overwhelming and may increase vulnerability.

- Starting middle school or entering high school
- Moving to a new area
- After a loss or major life event





Talk About It

Early intervention matters. Have a family discussion about substance use. Encourage honest dialogue, ask questions, and listen without judgment. Need directions on what to say?

 **Call the Compass Line at 440-350-2000 or visit our website at HelpThatWorks.us**

Digital Red Flags: What to Watch For Online

Substance use warning signs can show up in your teen's digital life too. Be aware of:

- Slang terms that may reference drug use (e.g., , , , )
- Sudden new contacts or unknown "friends" online
- Use of coded language like "plug" (dealer), "skittles" (pills), or "420" (marijuana)

A Word About Parties

Teen parties without adult supervision are dangerous. Don't allow your child to attend them—and don't allow your home to host them. Underage drinking is illegal and unsafe.

Secure Your Home

- Lock up prescription medications and secure your alcohol—make sure it's not easily accessible to teens or their friends.
- Purge unused or expired meds—take them to a secure collection bin at any Lake County law enforcement office.

FIND support services nearest to you at www.HelpThatWorks.us or
CALL for personalized assistance at 440-350-2000.



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