Risk Factors in the development of addiction

Stress: often reported as a reason to start smoking. People report that they drink, smoke, use drugs etc as a means of dealing with daily hassles such as relationships, money, stress.

Dreissin et al – found 30% of drug addicts and 15% of alcoholics also suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. Addiction often consequence of PTSD.

Hajek et al – smoking can reduce stress because the desire to smoke is stressful so when they smoke it relieves stress.

Cloniger – two types of people; drink to reduce tension, drink due to boredom. Stress can only explain some people.

Researcher shows people who have experienced traumatic stress are more vulnerable to addiction (especially children).

Peers:

Peer pressure is often given as a common reason for why people start smoking. Smokers tend to be friends with smokers. Smokers with non smokers.

The learning theory would suggest that we observe and imitate a smoker being rewarded for their behaviour (e.g. with popularity) and then through vicarious reinforcement. We expect the same reward if we smoke.

Duncan et al – SLT – exposure to peer models increases the likely hood that teens will begin smoking.

Eiser et al SLT – perceived rewards like social status and popularity influence why adolescence start smoking.

Mitchell - Social identity theory – adolescence are motivated to begin smoking because of stereotypes they hold of specific social crowds.

Alternatively, social identity theory would say that if smoking was a part of our peer group identity then we would smoke due to this.

It's possible to suggest that instead of peer groups influence and individuals dependency that is is already dependant individuals select peers that conform to their behaviours.

Morgan and Grube – support this concept they found in adolescents smokers friends played an important role in initiation of smoking and the smoking maintenance.

Age:

Younger people are more vulnerable to developing addictions than older people. The role of friends influence smoking and drug use on lower adolescence’s behaviour and attitude.

Shram – measured age differences in neural responses to acute nicotine administrations to the rewarding aversive effects in adolescent and adult self administer nicotine. Nicotene was found to have a greater activating effect in neural structures of adolescents. Adolescents were more vulnerable to rewarding qualities of nicotine but less sensitive to adverse effects.

People that influence us also changes with age. Whilst our peer group has a big influence on us when we're adolescents, this influence decreases in later adolescence. In early adulthood, our very close friends and romantic partners have more of an influence and therefore they may affect our choices at this age.

Health Canada youth smoking survey.

Compared smokers who initiated dependency between 12-15 years of smoking with non smokers. Found that early onset smokers were more likely to drink alcohol 91-52% binge drink 58-23% smoke weed 91-52%.

Implies adolescent cigarette smoking is a gateway to illegal drug use and addictive drugs.