Substance Use Disorder Specifiers
Continued

• Course Specifiers and Descriptive Features
  • In early remission
    • At least 3 months with no substance-related symptoms other than cravings
    • Standard is generally 3 months to one year
    • Clients tend to be especially vulnerable to relapse during first year
  • In sustained remission
    • 1 year or longer
  • In a controlled environment
    • further modifier added to time period
    • Living in a facility (e.g., jail/prison, locked hospital ward) that prevents access to substances
  • On maintenance therapy
    • Taking a medication designed to reduce effects of substance when there are no symptoms of substance use disorder
    • e.g., opioids or tobacco
Alcohol Use Disorder: Prevalence

• 10% of adult Americans qualify for diagnosis
  Highest rates among Native Americans
  Lowest rates among Asian Americans
  • Many have a deficiency of alcohol dehydrogenase, stomach enzyme responsible for breakdown of alcohol, so react negatively even to moderate intake
  • Women also tend to have less of this enzyme, so are often also more susceptible to intoxication and at greater risk for physical and psychological damage from alcohol

• Rates twice as high in men
• Onset typically in teen years
• Highly heritable: relatives at several times greater risk than general population
• Many comorbidities (e.g., mood disorders)
Alcohol Intoxication

• Marked by disinhibition (person becomes argumentative; aggressive; experiences rapid mood shifts; impairment of attention, judgment, functioning)

• Neurological impairment (imbalance, unsteady gait; unclear/incoherent speech; poor coordination; nystagamus (jerking eye movements); blurry vision, especially peripheral; reduced level of consciousness)
Cocaine Intoxication

- Strongest pharmacological reinforcer
  - Lab animals will choose it over food, water, sex
- Smoking crack can produce feelings of euphoria within seconds
- Positive feelings last a few minutes, are supplanted by dysphoria and cravings for more of the drug
- Poor muscle coordination, grandiosity, impaired judgment, anger, aggression, compulsive behavior, anxiety, confusion
- Can result in cocaine-induced psychosis in which person experiences hallucinations, delusions (often paranoid), or both
- Overdose can result in convulsions, heartbeat irregularities, high fever, and death
LSD and Other Hallucinogens

• Tolerance to LSD occurs rapidly
  • Rarely used for more than once/week

• LSD/Hallucinogen Intoxication or hallucinosis
  • Within 2 hours of being swallowed; usually symptoms subside within 24 hours (i.e., time to excrete all of drug)
    • Typically wear off in about 6 hours
  • Strengthening of perceptions, particularly visual perceptions
  • Illusions in which objects seem distorted, appear to move, breathe, change shape
  • May hallucinate (although rare), seeing objects, forms, people that are not actually present
  • May hears sounds more clearly
  • May feel tingling/numbness in limbs
  • May confuse sensations of hot and cold
  • Synesthesias: different sensations cross; one type of sensory experience produces another sensation (e.g., colors may be heard or felt)
  • May experience intense euphoria
    • Vs. a “bad trip” may experience depression and anxiety/panic
  • Depersonalization, derealization, dream-like states, sense that time speeds up or slows down
  • Physical symptoms: consistent with autonomic overactivity, including dilated pupils, blurred vision, sweating, rapid heartbeat, trembling, reduced muscle coordination
  • LSD binds to neurotransmitters that receive serotonin