SEVERITY LEVELS OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

The American Psychiatric Association diagnoses the severity of Substance Use Disorders by identifying the presence of problematic patterns using the criteria below occurring over a 12 month period.



Take the substance in larger amounts & for longer than intended.

2 CONTROL

Want to cut down or quit but are unable to.

3 TIME

Spend large amounts of time obtaining the substance.

4 CRAVINGS

Experience cravings or strong desires to use the substance.

5 OBLIGATIONS

Repeatedly unable to carry out major obligations at work, school or home due to substance use.

6 SOCIAL

Continuing to use the substance despite persistent or recurring social or interpersonal problems or harm to relationships.

7 ACTIVITIES

Stopping or reducing important social, occupational or recreational activities due to substance use.

8 HAZARD

Continually using the substance in physically hazardous situations such as driving under the influence.

9 HARM

Consistently using the substance, despite knowledge of the substance causing persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problems.

10 TOLERANCE

Building a tolerance — the need for markedly increased amounts of the substance to achieve the desired effect, or a markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of the substance

11 WITHDRAWAL

Feeling withdrawl symptoms – as either a characteristic syndrome or when the substance is used to avoid withdrawl

MILD

MEETS 2 to 3 CRITERIA

MODERATE

MEETS 4 to 5 CRITERIA

SEVERE

MEETS 6 or MORE CRITERIA

DIAGNOSTIC & STATISTICAL MANUAL FIFTH EDITION