

Substance Use Disorder in Women: History, Use, and Treatment

Training Objective

To highlight the evolving understanding of sex/gender differences in substance use and the importance of developing targeted, sensitive, and effective treatment strategies.

Historical Timeline

Early 20th Century

SUD among women was heavily stigmatized and often concealed, with common substances including alcohol, opiates, and cocaine-laden patent medicines.

Mid-20th Century

There was increased alcohol and tobacco use during World War II, and a rise in prescription tranquilizers and sedatives for housewives in the 1950s and 1960s.

1970s and 1980s

The feminist movement in this period began to shift perceptions, highlighting gender-specific needs in substance use patterns and treatment.

1990s-Present

The opioid crisis in this period has significantly impacted women, leading to expanded treatment options and advocacy for gender-sensitive programs. Many gaps still exist.

Brief History Session:
October 1, 2024, 10-10:30 am CT
Longer Session:
October 8, 2024, 10-12 pm CT



Key Themes and Issues

- Sex/gender differences in SUD
- Stigma and barriers to treatment
- Mental and physical consequences
- Evidence-based approaches

Multifaceted Treatment

Throughout these periods, women have faced unique challenges, including societal stigma, health risks, and barriers to treatment, underscoring the need for comprehensive and trauma-informed care.



(440) 223-3679

www.ashleyryanconsulting.org
ashley@ashleyryanconsulting.org