



The NH Task Force on Women & Addictions Knows That Women Are Different. Do You?

- *If you are a Mother or a Daughter, a Grandmother or Sister...*
- *If you are a recovering woman, a counselor, nurse, teacher or other human service worker...*
...Then we have some questions for you

1. Are you aware that the death rate from alcoholism is 50 to 100% higher for women? (Sullivan, Fama & Rosenbloom & Pfefferbaum, 2002)

- *Alcohol is the third leading cause of death among women 35-45.* (Alexander,1997)
- *Women sustain liver damage and more physical consequences at smaller amounts and with shorter duration of use.* (CASA, 1998,2003; Wilsnack & Wilsnack, 1994).

2. Did you know women are 48% more likely than men to abuse prescription medications? (NIDA,1999)

- *Nine out of ten older women who went to doctors with classic symptoms of alcoholism were misdiagnosed as depressed.* (CASA,1998)
- *From 1995-1999, there was a 43% increase in the number of women over 55 seeking treatment for illicit drug use.* (DASIS,2001)

3. Does it surprise you that up to 70% of addicted girls report having been sexually abused before the age of sixteen? (NIDA,1994)

- *Studies reveal up to 89% of women seeking alcohol and other drug treatment report a lifetime history of sexual or physical abuse.* (Clark, 2001)
- *Up to 80% of women with alcohol and other drug disorders have been victims of domestic violence.* (Research Institute on Addictions, 1997)

4. Do you know young girls have the most rapidly increasing rate of alcohol and drug abuse? (Alexander, 1997; OJJDP, 1996)

- *Girls move more quickly from experimentation to addiction.* (CASA, 2003)
- *Rates of use and abuse are continuing to rise in girls while they decrease or remain stable for boys.* (CASA, 2003; ODJJP, 1997)

5. Do you realize that 80% of addicted girls had at least one addicted parent? (NIDA,1999)

- *Risk factors for girls differ significantly and include control of food and weight; drinking and using to hold on to a relationship; a history of violent or sexual victimization; early puberty; and frequent moving.* (CASA,2003)

This information has been prepared by
the NH Task Force on Women and Addictions.
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