



# Substance Use

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## Substance Use Concern?

Teens dealing with substance abuse often do not seek care.  
Screening and surveillance are required to detect substance use problems.

### Diagnosis:

Review limits of confidentiality, a likely area of concern for teens. Talking honestly about it can boost alliance.  
Look for distress or impaired functioning related to use of the substance. DSM 5-criteria include reduced control over use of the substance, risky use, social impairment (missing school or recreational activities), tolerance, or withdrawal.  
CRAFFT rating scale may augment assessment.

### Safety check:

Suicidal? Homicidal? Weapon access (especially guns)?  
Driving and substance use? Prescribed controlled substances?  
Medication diversion?

### Think about comorbidity:

2/3 of teens with a substance use disorder have comorbid psychiatric difficulties.  
ADHD (even without stimulant treatment) may increase risk of substance use disorder.  
Depression, anxiety, and conduct disorder can be associated with substance use disorders.

### Can problem be managed in primary care?

#### YES

(problem is noticeable, but youth basically functioning okay)

If minimal, offer brief advice to quit and psychoeducation about effects of substances.

If mild to moderate, use nonjudgmental questioning and listening to reinforce the youth's positive choices and build motivation to change. For example, start with "What are the positive and negative effects of marijuana in your life?" Then, instead of "You need to stop using marijuana," could say "If you were to reduce your marijuana use, how would you go about it?"

Encourage engagement with pro-social peer group.  
Prescribe healthy habits (regular sleep, exercise, & nutrition).

Appropriately treat comorbid conditions. Recommend individual therapy to build skills toward self-efficacy, problem solving, and relapse prevention.

Empower parents to supervise and monitor.  
Follow up frequently.

#### NO

(significant impairment or safety concerns)

Refer to a substance use program while offering on-going support and monitoring through the medical home.

### Reference:

Barclay and Hilt. "Integrated Care for Pediatric Substance Abuse."  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America 2016 October: 769-777.

# The CRAFFT Interview (version 2.1)

To be orally administered by the clinician

**Begin:** "I'm going to ask you a few questions that I ask all my patients. Please be honest. I will keep your answers confidential."

## Part A

During the PAST 12 MONTHS, on how many days did you:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1.</b> Drink more than a few sips of beer, wine, or any drink containing <b>alcohol</b> ?<br>Put "0" if none.   | <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/><br># of days |
| <b>2.</b> Use any <b>marijuana</b> (weed, oil, or hash by smoking, vaping, or in food) or " <b>synthetic marijuana</b> " (like "K2," "Spice")? Put "0" if none.                        | <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/><br># of days |
| <b>3.</b> Use <b>anything else to get high</b> (like other illegal drugs, prescription or over-the-counter medications, and things that you sniff, huff, or vape)?<br>Put "0" if none. | <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/><br># of days |

Did the patient answer "0" for all questions in Part A?

YES



Ask CAR question only, then stop

NO



Ask all six CRAFFT\* questions below

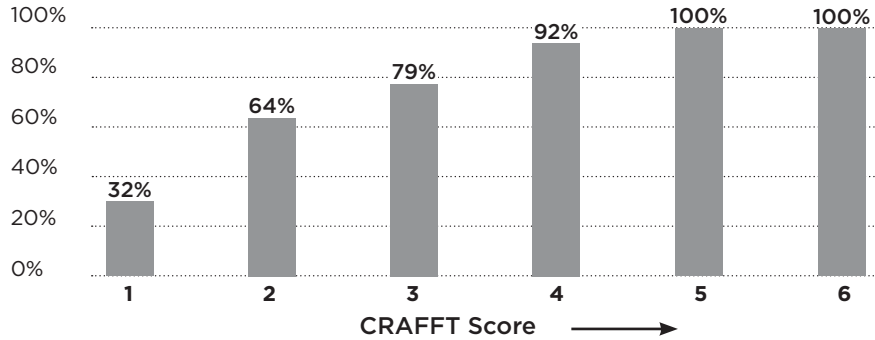
## Part B

	NO	YES
<b>C</b> Have you ever ridden in a <b>CAR</b> driven by someone (including yourself) who was "high" or had been using drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>R</b> Do you ever use alcohol or drugs to <b>RELAX</b> , feel better about yourself, or fit in?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>A</b> Do you ever use alcohol or drugs while you are by yourself, or <b>ALONE</b> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>F</b> Do you ever <b>FORGET</b> things you did while using alcohol or drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>F</b> Do your <b>FAMILY</b> or <b>FRIENDS</b> ever tell you that you should cut down on your drinking or drug use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T</b> Have you ever gotten into <b>TROUBLE</b> while you were using alcohol or drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**\*Two or more YES answers suggest a serious problem and need for further assessment.  
See back for further instructions** →

**1. Show your patient his/her score on this graph and discuss level of risk for a substance use disorder.**

Percent with a DSM-5 Substance Use Disorder by CRAFFT score\*



\*Data source: Mitchell SG, Kelly SM, Gryczynski J, Myers CP, O’Grady KE, Kirk AS, & Schwartz RP. (2014). The CRAFFT cut-points and DSM-5 criteria for alcohol and other drugs: a reevaluation and reexamination. Substance Abuse, 35(4), 376-80.

**2. Use these talking points for brief counseling.**



**1. REVIEW** screening results  
For each “yes” response: *“Can you tell me more about that?”*



**2. RECOMMEND** not to use  
*“As your doctor (nurse/health care provider), my recommendation is not to use any alcohol, marijuana or other drug because they can:*  
1) *Harm your developing brain;*  
2) *Interfere with learning and memory, and*  
3) *Put you in embarrassing or dangerous situations.”*



**3. RIDING/DRIVING** risk counseling  
*“Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for young people. I give all my patients the Contract for Life. Please take it home and discuss it with your parents/guardians to create a plan for safe rides home.”*



**4. RESPONSE** elicit self-motivational statements  
Non-users: *“If someone asked you why you don’t drink or use drugs, what would you say?”*  
Users: *“What would be some of the benefits of not using?”*



**5. REINFORCE** self-efficacy  
*“I believe you have what it takes to keep alcohol and drugs from getting in the way of achieving your goals.”*

**3. Give patient Contract for Life.** Available at [www.crafft.org/contract](http://www.crafft.org/contract)

# Substance Abuse Resources

## Information for Families

### Websites families may find helpful:

A Parent's Guide to Preventing Underage Marijuana Use

[www.seattlechildrens.org/pdf/parents-guide-preventing-underage-marijuana-use.pdf](http://www.seattlechildrens.org/pdf/parents-guide-preventing-underage-marijuana-use.pdf)

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

<https://drugfree.org>

Parent-Teen Driving Agreement

[www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/safety/pages/Teen-Driving-Agreement.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/safety/pages/Teen-Driving-Agreement.aspx)

Drugs: What You Should Know

<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/know-about-drugs.html>

Washington Recovery Helpline (866-789-1511)

[www.warecoveryhelpline.org](http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org)

Start Talking Now

[www.starttalkingnow.org](http://www.starttalkingnow.org)

National Institute on Drug Abuse for Parents

<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/parents>

### Websites youth may find helpful:

National Institute on Drug Abuse in Teens

<https://teens.drugabuse.gov>

### Books families may find helpful:

Beyond Addiction: How Science and Kindness Help People Change (2014) by Jeffrey Foote, PhD, Carrie Wilkens, PhD, and Nicole Kosanke, PhD, with Stephanie Higgs

Clean: Overcoming Addiction and Ending America's Greatest Tragedy (2014) and Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction (2009), both by David Sheff