

The bar smelled of musky smoke and booze. To the right was a man drowning his sorrows with a bottle of scotch, and to the left was a man with his own personal overflowing ash tray. I have had enough. I paid and left only to exit and watch a prostitute slump down in the alley beside the bar and jam a needle into her arm. The world has an array of addictions all over the world. Drugs and different type of addictions are found everywhere from Canada all the way to furthest eastern corner of Russia. Yet throughout all these different types of addictions, three stand out from the rest. All of them are related to drugs. These three addictions are well known yet people don't know the issues created by them and continue to abuse them. Countless lives are taken each year by curious people or hard core addicts. These addictions are smoking tobacco, alcohol abuse, and hard drug abuse.

As of 2000, 1.22 billion people smoke daily. Smoking can lead to lung cancer, and as a result 90% of lung cancer deaths occur in men, and 80% occur in women are due to smoking tobacco. Lung cancer is not the only problem caused by smoking. Others are heart disease, cancers, cardiovascular disease, lung disease, respiratory problems and problems related to the pancreas, kidneys, and the liver. Also in 2000, the death toll of smokers was 4.83 million, yet the smoker is not the only one at risk as second hand smoke has over 4000 chemicals which include over 50 chemicals that are known to cause cancer, twice as much nicotine and five times more carbon monoxide. Although smoking is a colossal problem in the world, alcohol abuse is the number one most common addiction on the planet.

Alcohol abuse is most common in the U.S but continues to grow throughout the world. Alcohol is one of the most expensive drugs costing a little over ten billion dollars a year around the globe. Not only is it costly, but 40% of alcohol abusers will get treated for depression due to their drinking. Also as of 2009, the death toll of diseases directly related to drinking reached

9080. Also 60%-70% of physical abuse victims were abused by an alcoholic spouse, family member, boyfriend or girlfriend. As alcohol abuse can lead to depression, depression can lead to numerous other addictions, such as a hard drug addiction.

Hard drug abuse may not be the number one addiction, but it definitely is the deadliest. Hard drugs have extreme health effects such as overdosing, destroying bodily functions, serious scaring, insanity, and suicide to name a few. In 2005, over 500,000 people died due to the effects of hard drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and crystal meth. Smoking, injection, or ingesting even one of these deadly drugs can shorten one's life by 10 years. In 2008 over 19 billion dollars were spent on drugs across the world. Once addicted to hard drugs people will do anything to get their fix, from selling their positions until they are homeless to prostitution.

Despite the awareness of the issues of these addictions, people continue to abuse them. All around the world people are addicted to these and cannot stop using them. People abuse tobacco, alcohol, and hard drugs. If action is not taken, then scientists estimate that by 2030 70% of the adult population will be, or have been, addicted or affected by these addictions. Not only will 70% of the adult population be affected by these addictions, but the death toll will increase every year and eventually lead into the hundreds of thousand.

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