



COCAINE ABUSE



Cocaine abuse is a very serious problem, one that needs to be detected and treated as soon as possible to minimize any health risks and to eliminate addiction.

Even though illegal, cocaine is widely available. Younger children often have had exposure to cocaine, or they know someone their age who has.

Cocaine use affects almost all ages and income levels. From poverty stricken children in low income areas to white collar Wall Street executives who bring home millions each year. An interesting study showed that 90% of U.S. bills have small traces of cocaine residue.

It can be primarily taken in three forms, although other ways may be used. Cocaine can be cut up or ground into a fine powder and snorted or cooked slowly into a rock form and smoked or burned into a liquid to be injected.

Cocaine is a dangerous drug that affects the heart, brain, and nervous system, and can have devastating medical consequences when used or abused in any form.



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF COCAINE ABUSE

The signs of cocaine use will depend on how the drug is being used. Cocaine can be snorted, injected, smoked, and used in other ways as well. If the user is injecting the drug then pressure puncture marks will be visible, and if the drug is being smoked then drug paraphernalia will be present. Snorting cocaine may cause the user to suffer from a frequent runny nose and can cause nosebleeds. When someone has been snorting cocaine for a long time then surgical repair of the nose may be necessary because cocaine starts to cause damage to the nasal tissues.

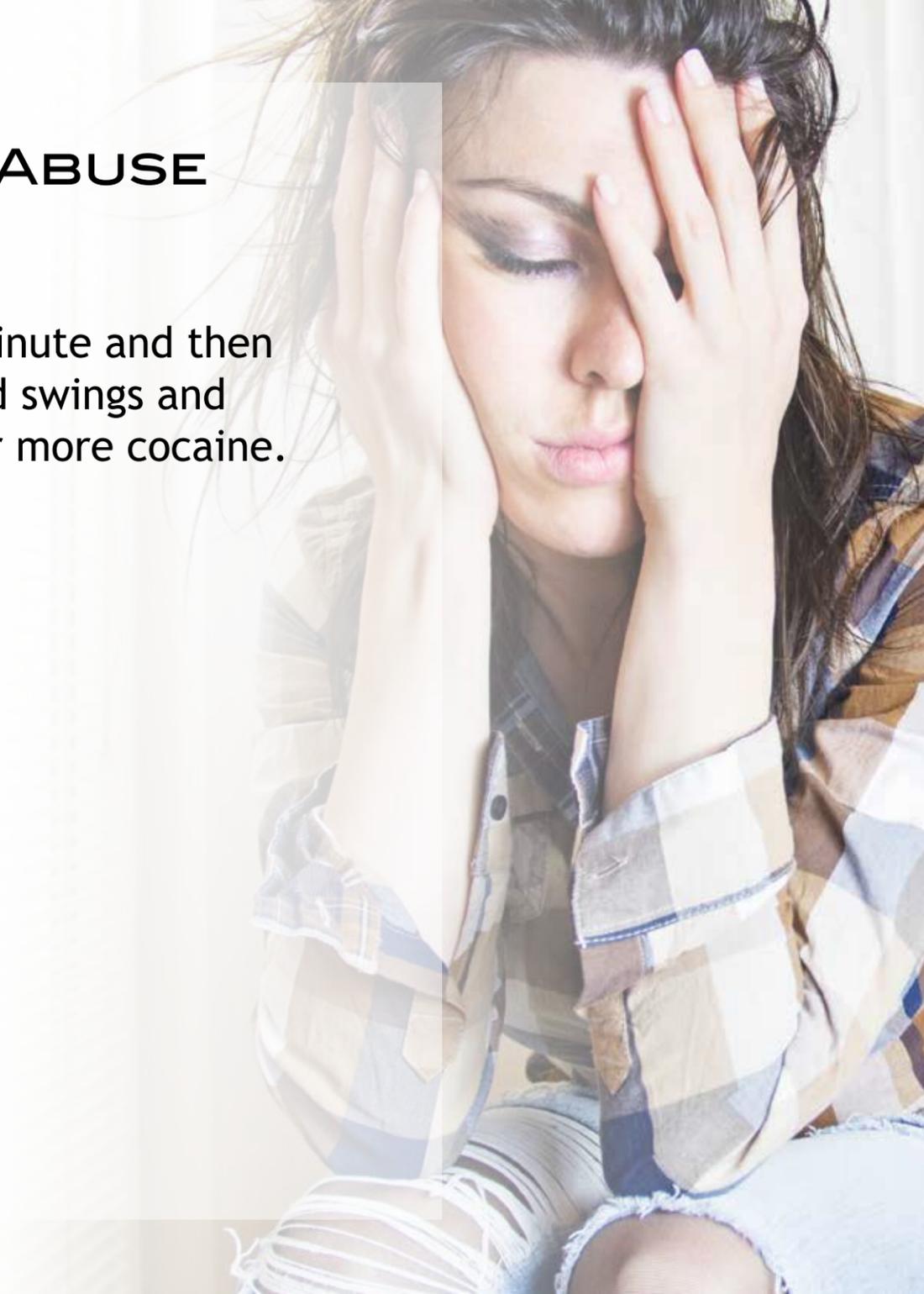


EFFECTS OF COCAINE ABUSE

The user may seem energetic one minute and then depressed the next, with rapid mood swings and increased agitation and a craving for more cocaine.

More cocaine effects:

- Increased heart rate
- Nausea
- Dilated pupils
- Reduced mental alertness
- Loss of appetite
- Hallucinations
- Insomnia





COCAINE ADDICTION AND THE USER'S HEALTH

Cocaine is one of the most top addictive drugs next to methamphetamine. It creates the greatest psychological dependence compared to other drugs. An extreme euphoric and energizing sensation drives the user back to use again and again to achieve that same “high” feeling. The immediate effects of the drug wear off quickly, and rarely last longer than twenty minutes. Because of this, the user may need at least two or three hits in order to feel a longer lasting effect. A tolerance develops very quickly so the addict will start to use more each time.



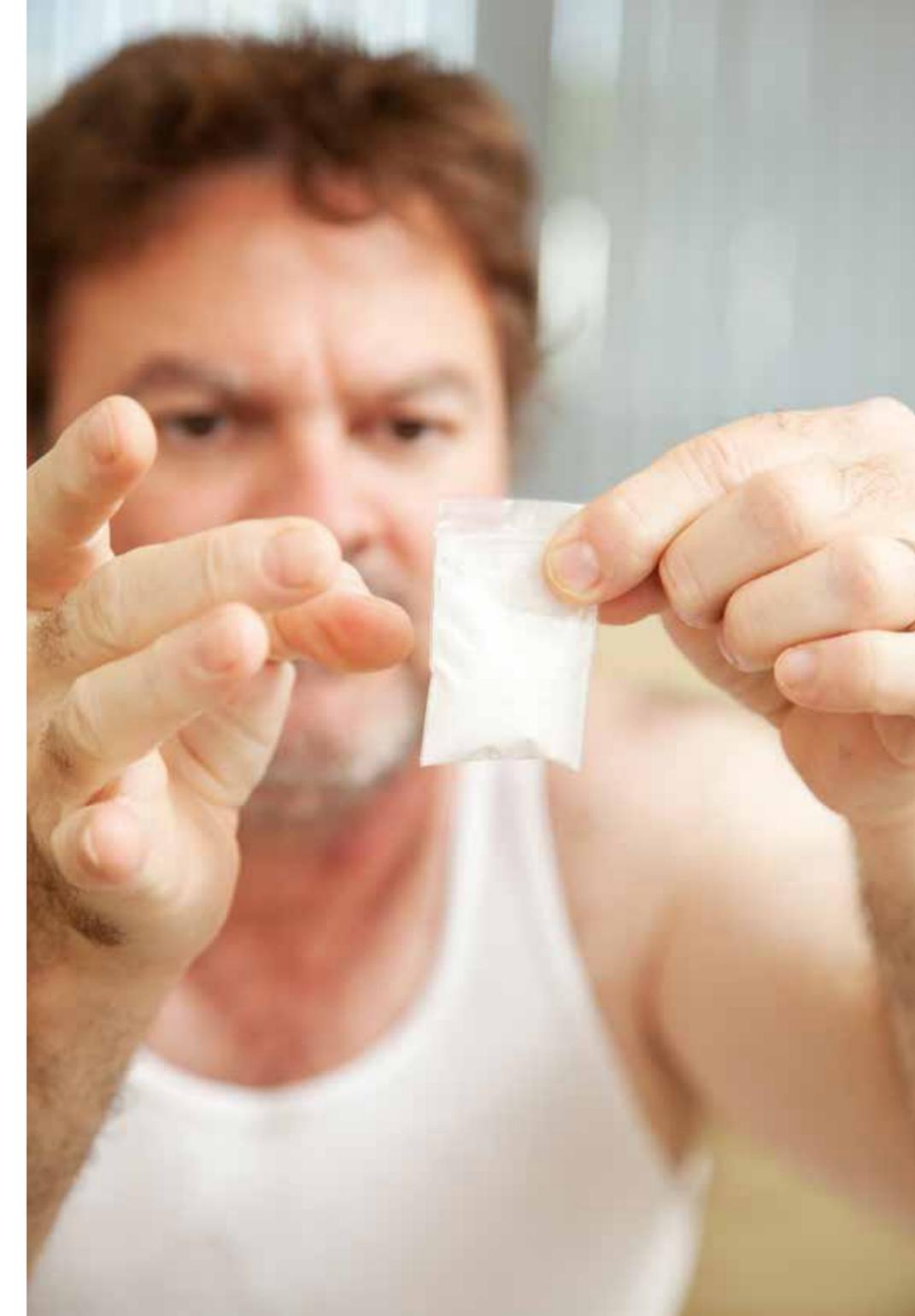
The health of an individual who suffers from cocaine addiction is at a very high risk. Cocaine use causes damage to muscle tissues in the heart, and can also cause permanent damage to other internal organs. With repeated use, cocaine can cause mental health problems as well, including paranoia and schizophrenic episodes. The drug also causes insomnia and so the user does not get the proper rest needed.

The intensity of damage depends upon the age of the user, dose of the drug and resistance level of the body. But a person doesn't have to use cocaine several times before he or she gets addicted to it or gets a permanent health problem. For some people even the first dose can lead to permanent health damage or even death.

Cocaine users may go on a cocaine binge lasting several days, during which the users are spending most or if not all of their money to get more cocaine. Often cocaine users resort to illegal activities to support their addiction once their funds dry up.

Due to the anesthetic effects cocaine has, it can be difficult for addicts to realize the damage that they are doing to their health.

In addition, there is a high risk of contracting HIV or other diseases from sharing needles, spoons or pipes, as these diseases can also be transferred through bodily fluids such as blood or saliva.

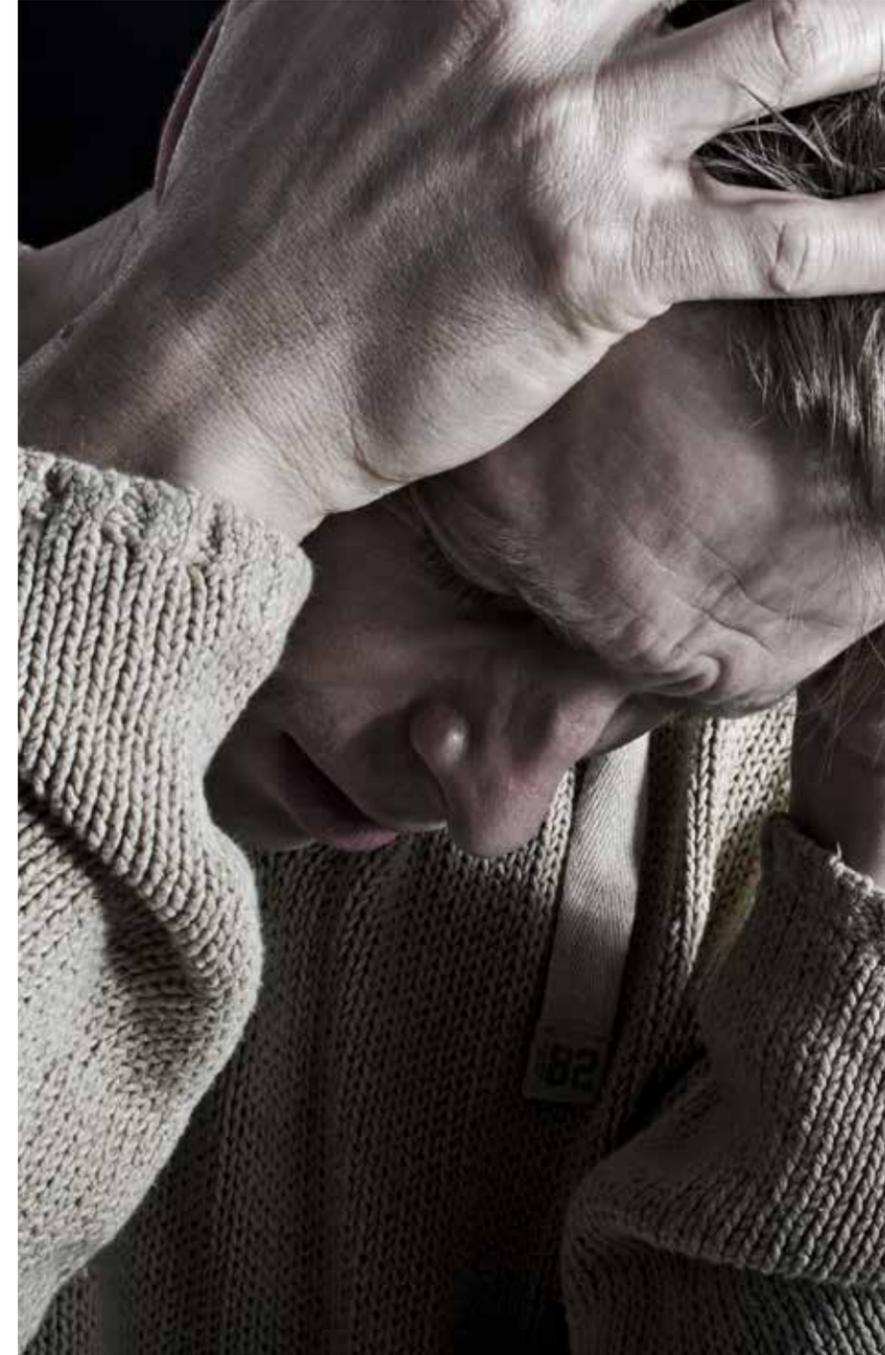


LONG-TERM SIDE EFFECTS OF COCAINE ABUSE

Over time, the body begins to show the effects of continued cocaine abuse. Lung, heart and liver disease are among the most common afflictions that occur. Eventually, the body will no longer be able to feel pleasure without cocaine in the system, and the brain will find it difficult to distinguish between real feelings and drug induced euphoria. The body may begin to waste away as the user neglects to provide the right nourishment and care that is needed to stay healthy.

More long-term cocaine effects

- Damage to blood vessels of the heart and brain
- High blood pressure
- Severe depression
- Tactile hallucinations
- Psychosis or delirium
- Tooth decay



COCAINE WITHDRAWAL

Once the pleasurable effects of cocaine begin to wear off, common withdrawal symptoms of insomnia, agitation, high fevers, and depression appear. These symptoms are suppressed with more cocaine, which is one of the reasons why users will continue to use, although the risks increase with each use. Depression and hallucinations often go together, with the user suffering from severe psychological trauma after prolonged use of cocaine.

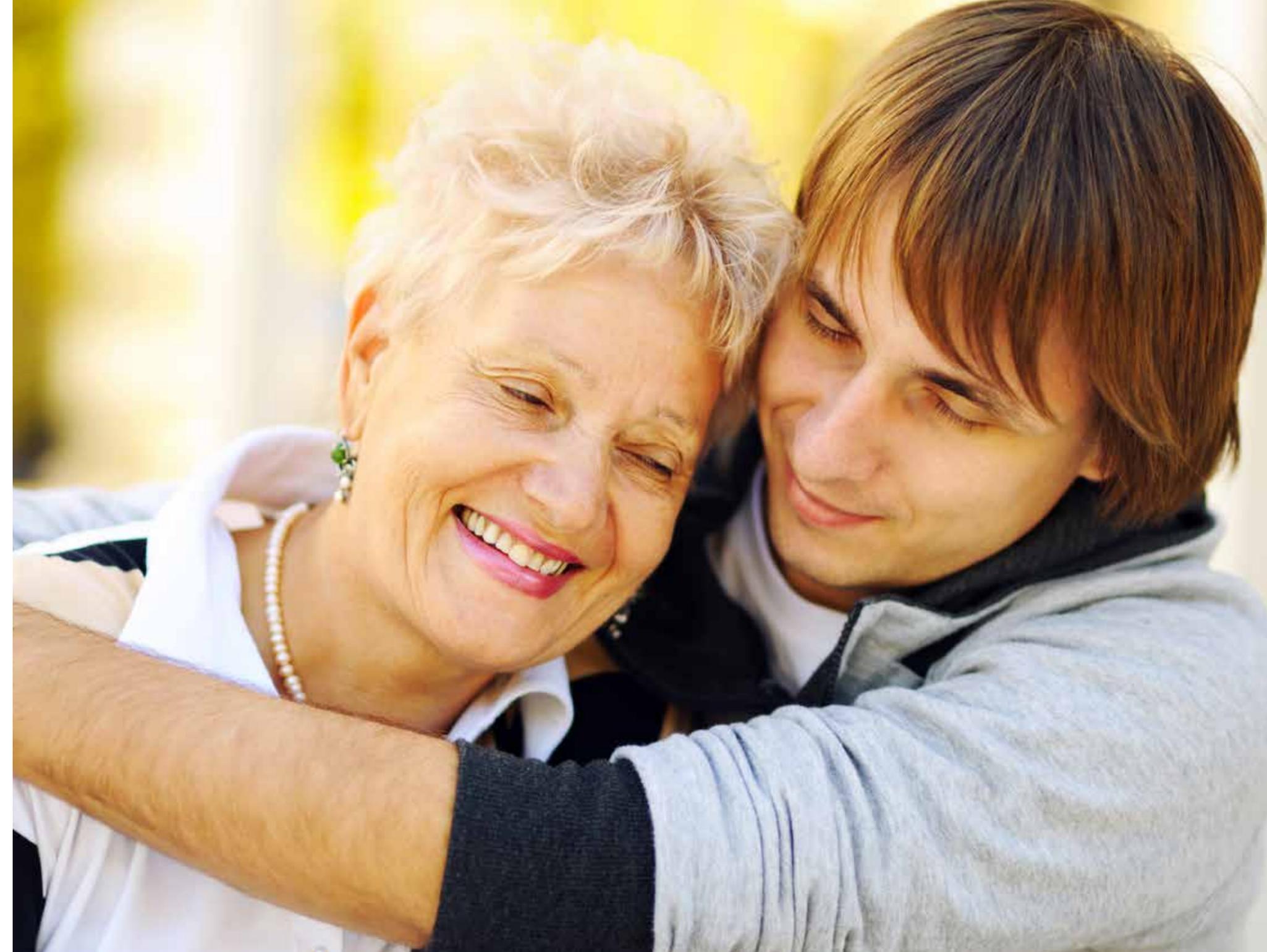
HOW TO HELP A LOVED ONE STRUGGLING WITH COCAINE ABUSE

The body simply can not handle cocaine abuse. Without treatment, the addict may become an empty shell, home to a breeding ground of unnatural chemicals and ravaged by a host of potentially fatal diseases.

Our unique drug detoxification program can help flush cocaine residuals out of the body that may be driving cocaine cravings. Graduates who have went through the drug detox have reported feeling like they never used drugs and that they no longer have cravings.

The life skills portion of the program teaches individuals how to take control of their life and take responsibility for their actions. Graduates report that they now know how to live without drugs.

If you or someone you know is struggling with cocaine addiction, call Narconon Fresh Start today at [855-734-2223](tel:855-734-2223) to get help and to find out more about our program.





DRUG ABUSE HELP LINE
1-855-734-2223

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
NARCONON FRESH START PROGRAM

www.freshstart.net