

# SIGNS OF OPIOID USE

## Behavioral signs

- Isolation and secretive behavior
- Loss of interest in favorite activities
- Eats a lot more or a lot less than usual
- Moodiness, irritability, nervousness, giddiness
- Emotionally erratic: quickly changes between feeling bad and good
- Seems tired, sad or nervous, cranky – or unusually energetic
- Talks fast, says things that don't make sense
- Sleeps at strange hours
- Misses important appointments
- Neglects personal hygiene
- Change in attitude/personality
- Avoiding contact with family
- Change in friends, new hangouts
- Drop in grades or work performance
- Stealing
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts out of season (to cover needle marks)

## Physical signs

- Pupils of eyes are small, pinpoints
- Decreased respiration rate
- Sleepy or non-responsive
- No appetite
- Intense flu-like symptoms: nausea, vomiting, sweating, shaking of hands, feet, or head

## Warning signs of drug use

- Missing medications
- Burnt or missing spoons or bottle caps
- Syringes
- Small bags with powder residue
- Missing shoe laces or belts

## Risk factors for addiction

- Genetic – Person with family member who has addiction is at greater risk.
- Environmental – Parents not involved with children, peer use, social settings.
- Early use – More likely to develop addiction if use starts when young.
- Smoking or injecting – More addictive because drug passes directly into bloodstream and brain without being filtered through liver and other organs.

**Reach out. Get help now.**

**Concerned about a loved one? Contact CSB Entry & Referral at 703-383-8500 during business hours. 24/7 help is available – call the Fairfax Detoxification Center at 703-502-7000 or CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679. In a life-threatening emergency, call 911.**



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**Community  
Services Board**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board)



*Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call 703-324-7000, TTY 711.*

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