

SUD Prevention Knowledge Scale and SUD Knowledge Scales

Substance Use Disorder Prevention Knowledge Scale (Earnshaw & Hulseley et al., 2026)

Instructions: Please indicate whether each statement is true or false. You can choose unsure if you are not sure if the statement is true or false.

Item	Age-Related Risk Factors	True	False	Unsure
1	Delaying the onset of substance use is key to preventing addiction.	T	F	U
2	Using drugs during adolescence has more potential to disrupt brain function in areas critical to motivation, memory, learning, judgment, and behavior control than using drugs during adulthood.	T	F	U
3	Preventing early use of drugs or alcohol reduces the risk of developing a substance use disorder.	T	F	U
4+	Early involvement with alcohol, tobacco, and drug use does not increase the risk of drug dependency later in life.	T	F	U
5	The age at which a teen begins alcohol or drug use is a risk factor for substance use disorder.	T	F	U
6	Most people with a substance use disorder began using substances before the age of 18.	T	F	U
Item	Other Risk Factors	True	False	Unsure
7	Inadequate parental supervision is a risk factor for substance use disorder.	T	F	U
8	Learning disabilities and differences are risk factors for substance use disorder.	T	F	U
9	Poorly defined and poorly communicated rules and expectations about substance use is a risk factor for substance use disorder/addiction.	T	F	U
10	Parents providing alcohol to teens can increase unsafe behaviors and alcohol use long-term	T	F	U
11+	Genetics is not a risk factor for the development of a substance use disorder.	T	F	U
12	People who live in places with greater drug availability have a higher risk of developing a substance use disorder.	T	F	U
Item	Protective Factors	True	False	Unsure
13	Parental involvement can prevent the development of substance use disorder.	T	F	U
14	Parents and caregivers can reduce the risks of developing a substance use disorder by communicating their concerns about substance use.	T	F	U
15	Parents and caregivers can reduce the risks of developing a substance use disorder by setting clear expectations for behavior. T	T	F	U
16+	There is nothing that parents and caregivers can do to prevent substance use among teens.	T	F	U

Note: +item is false

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Instructions: Please indicate whether each statement is true or false. You can choose unsure if you are not sure if the statement is true or false.

Item	Characteristics	True	False	Unsure
1	Substance use disorder is a health condition.	T	F	U
2	People with a substance use disorder often want to cut down on substance use but are not able to.	T	F	U
3+	People with a substance use disorder can easily choose to stop using substances if they experience problems with their substance use.	T	F	U
4	Substance use disorder is a chronic illness.	T	F	U
Item	Treatment and Recovery	True	False	Unsure
5+	Individuals with a substance use disorder need only 28 days of treatment to be cured.	T	F	U
6	Substance use disorder is treatable by healthcare providers.	T	F	U
7+	It's best to wait for rock bottom to get help for a substance use disorder.	T	F	U
8	Getting an assessment is recommended to determine the severity of the illness and recommended level of care for an individual with a substance use disorder.	T	F	U
9	There are many different pathways to recovery available.	T	F	U
Item	Medications	True	False	Unsure
10	There are medications available to treat opioid use disorder.	T	F	U
11+	People who take some medications to treat opioid use disorder aren't truly in recovery.	T	F	U
12	Medications can be an effective treatment for people with a substance use disorder.	T	F	U
13+	There are no medications available to treat alcohol use disorder.	T	F	U
14+	Medications for addiction treatment are just substituting one drug for another.	T	F	U
15	There are multiple FDA-approved medications to treat alcohol use disorder.	T	F	U
16+	It's harmful to take medications for addiction treatment long-term.	T	F	U

Note: +item is false

Citation: Earnshaw, V. A., Mousavi, M., Kelly, B., Kawislak, K., Fox, A. B., & Hulseley, J. (2026). Development and psychometric evaluation of two substance use disorder knowledge scales. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 282. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2026.113095>

Scoring: Responses include true, false, and unsure. Participants receive 1 point for each correct answer. Composite scores can be created by summing the number of correct answers (i.e., responding true to a true item, or false to a false item), dividing by the total number of items, and multiplying by 100 to yield a percentage of correct responses. Composites can be created for the total SUD Prevention Knowledge Scale and SUD Knowledge Scale, as well as the subscales.