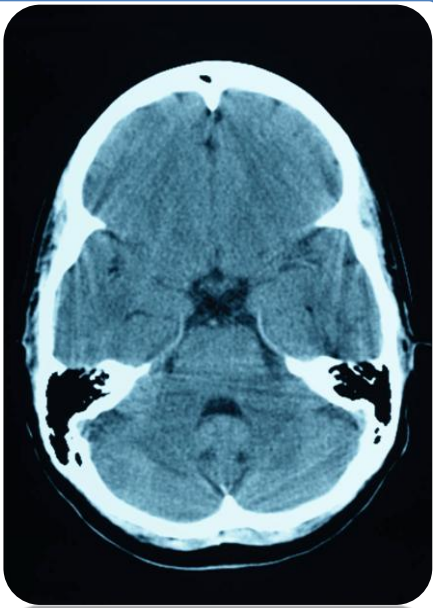


# Brain Drain-Adolescents and Addiction: Why the Teen Brain is Vulnerable

Middle School and High School Classroom Presentation



This highly interactive, 45-60 minute presentation provides current, research-based information on various aspects of drug abuse and addiction, including neurobiology, behavioral components, and treatment. Participants learn the parts of the brain, the functions of these parts, and how the brain communicates with the rest of the body. Participants will also learn how drugs of abuse cause a number of negative effects on the body and brain, ranging from mild symptoms to addiction and how the brain of an adolescent is more susceptible to these negative effects.

The program format will be engaging, age appropriate and experiential in nature. Students will learn through both didactic instruction as well as through their active participation in the presentation activities. Smaller group formats are preferred as it allows students the opportunity to ask questions in a more comfortable setting.

## Overview of Activities

### Drugs and Alcohol: Get the Facts

- Each participant will be given a MYTH or FACT card at the beginning of the presentation.
- Participants will be given a series of questions and asked to guess which statements are myths and which are facts simply by holding up their cards.
- The presenter will process the answers with the group

### Addiction and the Adolescent Brain

- Participants will be given a brief overview of the brain
- There will be a discussion about how messages are sent throughout the brain, and how drugs and alcohol disrupt the transmission of these messages
- Volunteers will be asked to play parts of the brain and participants will gain insight into how drugs and alcohol can impair the brain's functioning
- The concept of addiction will also be explored

## Presentation Outline

- I. Teen Brain: Under Construction
- II. Amazing Brain Facts
- III. The Teen Brain: What's Going on in There"
  - a. Parts of the Brain
  - b. How Specific Drugs Impact the Teen Brain
  - c. Adolescents and Addiction
- IV. Drugs and Alcohol: Get the Facts

## Contact Information

### Caron's Student Assistance Department

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