

Nicotine addiction.

- Nicotine addiction is stronger and lasts longer than most people realize because smoking changes the structure and function of your brain.
- For some people, nicotine can be as addictive as cocaine or heroin.
- Nicotine causes a release of dopamine into the brain, resulting in feelings of pleasure. Heroin and “crack” have the same effects on the brain.
- Over time, more nicotine is needed to reach the same level of pleasure.
- If the brain stops getting the nicotine it wants, you’ll feel desperate cravings that are hard to overcome with willpower alone.
- If 100 people experiment with alcohol or cocaine, about 15 will become addicted, if 100 people experiment with nicotine, about 32 will become addicted.
- Number of times “addiction” is listed on compulsory cigarette warnings in United States: 0.

Smoking habit.

Smoking habits goes beyond nicotine addiction to include people, places, activities, things around us and even moods that are associated with tobacco use. These associations act together with nicotine addiction to reinforce dependence on tobacco.

- Nicotine withdrawal cravings don’t end after you’ve smoked your last cigarette. They intensify because of your smoking habit addiction.
- Once you beat the brain’s physical nicotine addiction, you have a much better chance of kicking your smoking habit.
- Tobacco dependence and its major component, nicotine dependence, are progressive, chronic medical disorders similar to dependence on other addictive substances.

Stopping smoking.

- A study found over 90% of those who tried to quit “cold turkey” were smoking again within six months.
- Quitters need to confront both the physical addiction and smoking habit to have the best chance of quitting for good.
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) relieves nicotine cravings and can double your chances of success.
- Americans are 4-times more likely to try to kick the habit because of the availability of nicotine patches, gums and inhalers.
- The more intensively you focus on quitting, the higher your odds of quitting.
- The more strategies you use to quit, the higher your odds of staying off cigarettes.