

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: OVERVIEW

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# GOALS OF PRESENTATION:

**Overview of substance abuse and persons with disabilities**

**Discuss ideas for similar issues in Czech Republic**

# DEFINITION:

Substance Use Disorder = abuse of or dependence on alcohol, drugs, or misuse of prescription drugs

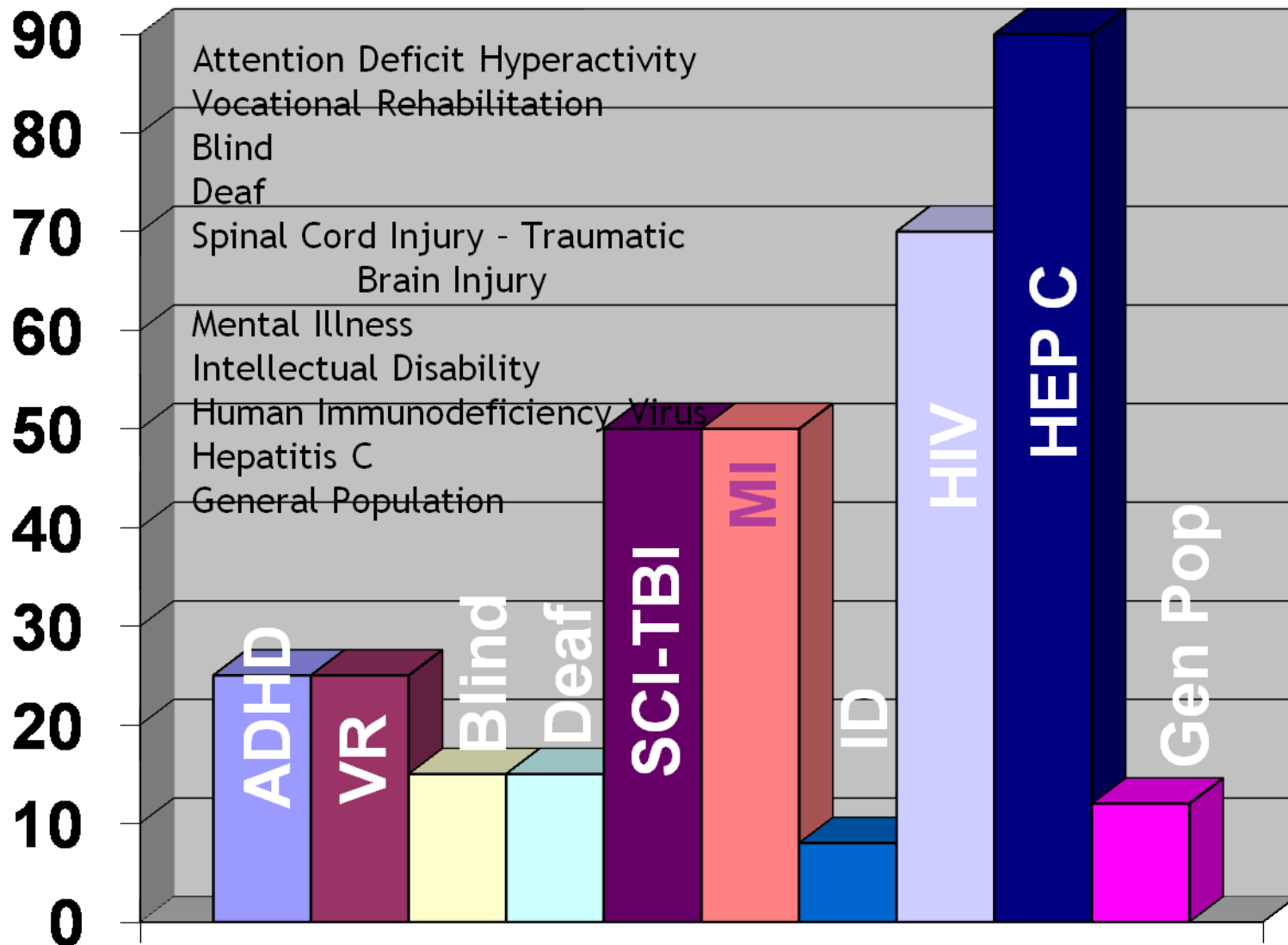
Must include negative impacts on “activities of daily living” (ADL), such as participating in school, family, work, community

In the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National 2010 Disability Chapter 6 includes only one alcohol/drug health indicator –

*Reduce alcohol use by pregnant women with disabilities*

Treatment Episode Data Set and National Survey on Drug Use and Health do not measure disability (SAMHSA) :

Therefore, very little awareness of or interest in substance abuse impacts among persons with disabilities



**Estimated Prevalence**

# FINDINGS

- **Significant prevalence of SUD's among persons seeking employment**
- **“Hidden” substance abuse may impact many systems**
- **Costs of rehabilitation are high in some cases**

# FINDINGS

- ◉ **Stigma impedes progress on issue**
- ◉ **Involvement of disability community pivotal to success**
- ◉ **Poverty, lack of employment, increase SUD risk**

# INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

- ◉ **Reduced judgment and drug tolerance**
- ◉ **One of most difficult groups to integrate into SUD group tx**
- ◉ **Community integration and inclusion may increase SUD risk**



# TBI

- **Following injury, rates of use return to pre-injury**
- **Up to 20% develop problem after injury**
- **Increased cerebral insult with TBI and alcohol/drug use, reduced judgment and drug tolerance**

# DEAF

- ◉ **Deaf may have rates similar to general population – but higher risk if using any alcohol or drugs**
- ◉ **Significant communication, cultural, comprehension issues**
- ◉ **Most difficult population to successfully serve**

# e/pop technology – DODA SAMHSA funded



## HIV – HEP C

- **High co-occurrence SUD with HIV & HEP C**
- **SUD and 2ndary conditions may impair employment more than HIV**
- **HEP C will become large public health issue, perhaps surpassing HIV**
- **Significant issues with criminal justice and these conditions**

# RESOURCES:

- [http://www.hhs.gov/od/about/fact\\_sheets/substanceabuse.html](http://www.hhs.gov/od/about/fact_sheets/substanceabuse.html)
- <http://www.med.wright.edu/citar/sardi/>