

Part II: Individual Factors

Part I of this report addresses necessary preconditions that must be present in order for substance abuse and addiction to be possible. Flowing from the discussion of these preconditions, Part II highlights a selection of demographic, economic, and psychosocial factors that make some individuals more or less susceptible to substance abuse. Because of the complex nature of substance abuse and addiction, an inherent risk exists in reviewing individual factors in relative isolation. However, studies in the field of risk factor research have shown significant associations, for some individuals, between substance abuse and certain factors. Conversely, in the field of protective factor research, the lack of certain risk factors and the presence of other protective factors have been correlated with individual resilience to substance abuse and addiction.