American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

Women and Substance Use Disorders (SUDS)
Action Group

Mission Statement

We are a group of ASAM members and affiliated medical professionals with a common interest in women and addiction across all ages and life stages. Women have unique experiences and trajectories of substance use due to gender-distinct expectations, biology, and socio-cultural roles. Our work group strives to promote expertise and sensitivity to the varying life stages of women as they relate to the prevention, screening, and treatment of substance use disorders. Furthermore, we place an emphasis on all reproductive stages of women and substance use disorders, including the antenatal, prenatal, and post-partum periods, as well as parenting. These reproductive stages are critical to the propagation of addiction, alcoholism, substance use disorders, and the consequences thereof, across generations. The threshold for harm is often lower during these stages, thus requiring different standards and goals for screening and treatment.

Our purpose is:

1) To advocate for women’s issues within ASAM.
2) To provide expertise to ASAM on women, gender, reproduction, and pregnancy.
3) To provide expertise on the above areas to outside organizations, including professional, community, and policy organizations, on behalf of ASAM.
4) To disseminate knowledge on women and substance use disorders to the public.
5) To promote clinical and research collaboration on topics related to women and substance use disorders
6) To advise on matters of curriculum, knowledge base, and certification requirements of the topics of women, gender, reproduction, pregnancy, and parenting in the field of addiction medicine