

Part I: Necessary Preconditions

No single or generic set of variables explains the misuse of alcohol and other drugs for every individual; in other words there are no “root causes” for substance abuse which universally apply to everyone. However, three major preconditions must be present in order for substance abuse and addiction to occur:

- biology and pharmacology;
- availability; and,
- drug use, with transitions to abuse and dependency.

Chapters 3,4, and 5 discuss these three preconditions in greater detail.