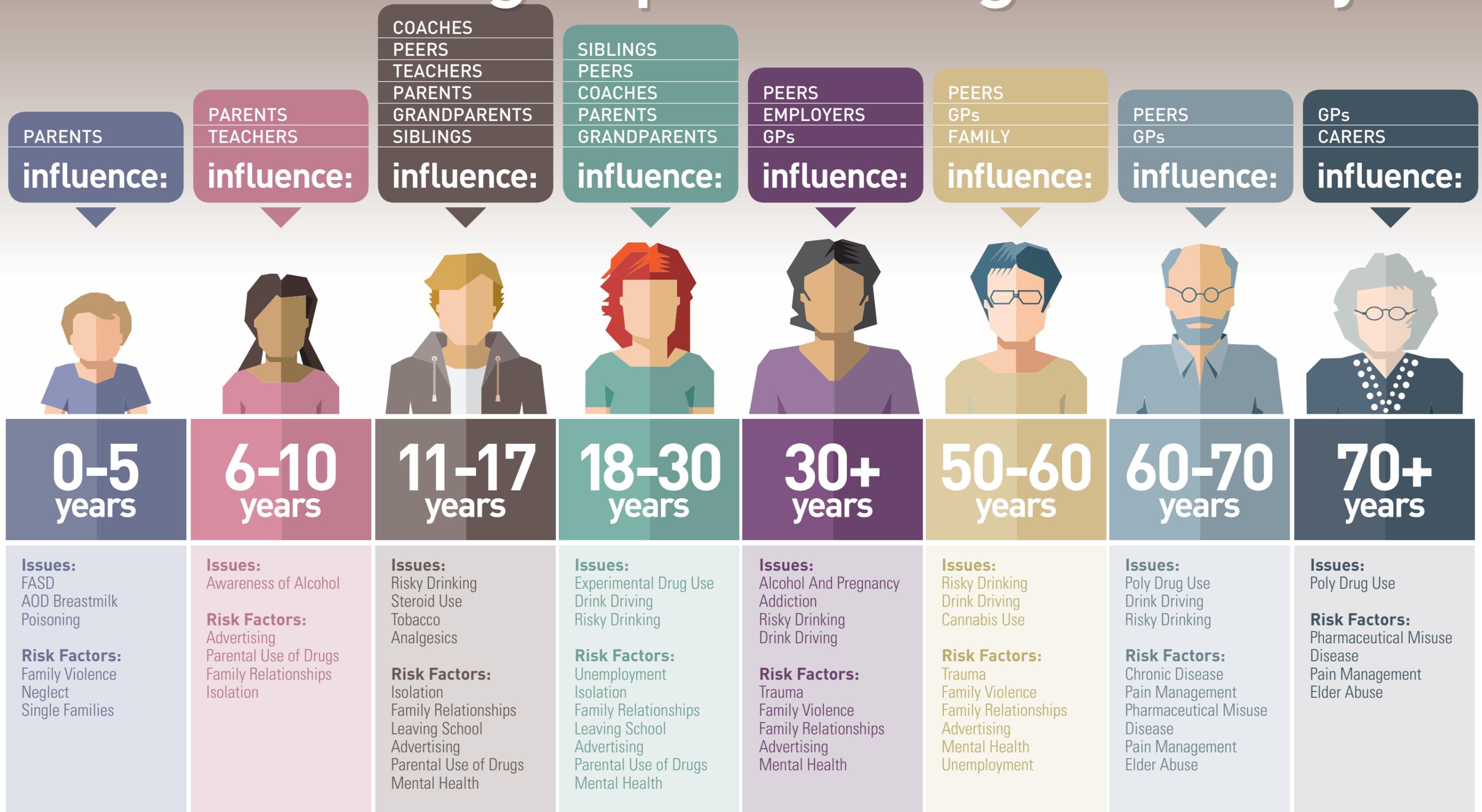
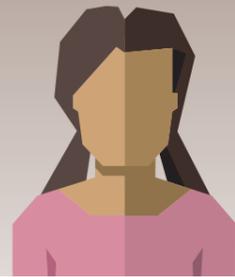


Alcohol & Drug Impacts along the LifeCycle



Alcohol & Drug Impacts along the LifeCycle



**0-5
years**

42% of women drink alcohol during pregnancy, which increases the risk of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) ¹

2-6 year olds cannot distinguish between advertising and information ²

Around 50% of children aged between 4 and 5½ can recognise alcoholic products ³

One in five (18%) parents confessed to tranquilising their children with sedative drugs during long car trips in a recent survey by insurer GIO ⁴

**6-10
years**

Alcohol is involved in 30-70% of child mistreatment cases ⁵

In 2008, 142,582 children were significantly harmed by other people's drinking ⁶

Even as they age, children have a reduced capability to distinguish between information and advertising ²

**11-17
years**

28.8% of 11-17 year olds reported drinking alcohol at least once in the past 12 months, and 2.6% drink at risky levels ¹

4.2% of 12-14 year olds and 17.1% of 15-17 year olds reported using an illicit drug in the past 12 months, and the drug used is likely to be cannabis ¹

Australian teenagers are exposed to the same amount of alcohol advertising as young adults ⁷

94% of Australian teenagers have seen alcohol advertising on television, and the majority of them report having seen alcohol advertising in some print, online or physical form ⁸

Drinking contributes to the three leading causes of death amongst adolescents – unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide ⁹

**18-30
years**

This is the age group most likely to have recently used illicit drugs (27.3% in the past 12 months, 14.6% in the past month, 8.9% in the past week) ¹

Adults aged 18-24 are more likely to drink at harmful levels on a single occasion than the rest of the adult population ¹

People in their late teens and 20s are more likely to consume 11 or more standard drinks than people in other age groups ¹

Almost one third (31%) of Victorian drivers caught drink driving are in their 20s ¹⁰

One in 5 young drivers in Victoria report driving at near or over 0.05 BAC ¹¹

**30+
years**

People in their 40s are now more likely to drink at lifetime risky levels than any other age group ¹

Almost one in three (30.5%) of 30-50 year olds drink alcohol at lifetime risky levels ¹

52% of Victorians caught drink driving are between 30 and 50 years old ¹⁰

17.6% of 30-39 year olds and 13.6% of 40-49 year olds used an illicit drug in the past 12 months ¹

People who are unemployed are 1.6 times more likely to use cannabis, 2.4 times more likely to use meth/amphetamines and 1.8 times more likely to use ecstasy than employed people ¹

Unemployment is a major risk factor for substance use and the subsequent development of substance use disorders ¹²

In 2011 there were 29,684 police-reported incidents of alcohol-related domestic violence in Australia ⁶

**50-60
years**

One in five (20.1%) are lifetime risky drinkers, and 23.7% are single-occasion risky drinkers ¹

While people over 50 are least likely of any age to use drugs, they are the only age group to show a statistically significant increase in drug use (mostly cannabis) - e.g. from 8.8% for 50-59 year olds in 2010 to 11.1% in 2013 ¹

39.2% in this age group report ever having used cannabis and 7.3% reported having used it in the past 12 months ¹

**60+
years**

One in twenty (4.7%) report misusing a pharmaceutical drug in the past 12 months, and this is the highest rate of misuse for any age group ¹

Alcohol can interact badly with many medications, and older adults often develop health conditions that require regular use of one or more prescription medications

Older adults are the most likely of any age group to drink daily ¹

Increases in alcohol-related ambulance attendances and hospital admissions have been noted in recent Australian research ¹³

Over one in five Australians over the age of 65 report experiencing some sort of persistent pain ¹⁴

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