


Table 2.1 Comparison of DSM-IV, DSM-5, and NSDUH Substance Use Disorder Assessment

Characteristic	DSM-IV	DSM-5	NSDUH
Disorder Class	Substance-related disorders, included only SUDs	Substance-related and addictive disorders class now includes SUDs and gambling disorder (formerly pathological gambling)	Same as DSM-IV
Disorder Types ¹	Abuse and dependence hierarchical diagnostic rules meant that people ever meeting criteria for dependence did not receive a diagnosis of abuse for the same class of substance	SUD, substance abuse and dependence have been eliminated in favor of a single diagnosis, SUD	Same as DSM-IV
Substances Assessed	11 classes of substances assessed, plus 2 additional categories	10 classes of substances assessed, plus 2 additional categories	Modules for 13 substances, plus 2 additional categories
	• Alcohol	• Alcohol	• Alcohol
	• Amphetamine and similar sympathomimetics	• Stimulant use disorder, which includes amphetamines, cocaine, and other stimulants	• Stimulants
	• Caffeine (intoxication only)	• Caffeine (intoxication and withdrawal)	• Not assessed
	• Cannabis (no withdrawal syndrome)	• Cannabis (with withdrawal syndrome)	• Cannabis (no withdrawal syndrome)
	• Cocaine	• Combined with other stimulants (e.g., amphetamines) under stimulant use disorder	• Cocaine
			• Crack
	• Hallucinogens • Phencyclidine and similar arylcyclohexylamines	• Separated into phencyclidine use disorder and other hallucinogen use disorder	• Hallucinogens
	• Inhalants (no withdrawal syndrome)	• Inhalants (no withdrawal syndrome)	• Inhalants
	• Nicotine (dependence only)	• Tobacco	• Cigarette dependence (measured by two non-DSM–based scales), other tobacco products (use only)
	• Opioids	• Opioids	• Heroin
			• Pain reliever
		• Merged with hallucinogens	
	• Sedatives, hypnotics, and anxiolytics	• Sedatives, hypnotics, and anxiolytics	• Sedatives
			• Tranquilizers
	• Other drug abuse/dependence	• Any other SUD	• Other drugs (use only)
	• Polysubstance dependence	• Dropped polysubstance use disorder	• Polysubstance dependence
Disorders Assessed	Substance abuse: One or more symptoms	SUD: Two out of 11 criteria clustering in a 12-month period are needed to meet disorder threshold	Substance abuse: One or more symptoms in the past year
	• Recurrent substance-related legal problems	• Dropped	• DSM-IV criterion assessed
	• Recurrent substance use in situations where it is physically hazardous	• Same	• Assessed
	• Recurrent substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home	• Same	• Assessed
	• Continued substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the substance	• Same	• Assessed
		• Added: Craving or a strong desire or urge to use the substance	• DSM-5 craving criterion not assessed
	Substance dependence: Three or more symptoms in the same 12-month period (or one symptom if dependence criteria have been met previously in the lifetime)		Substance dependence: Three or more symptoms in the past year
	• Substance is taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended	• Same	• Assessed
	• There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control substance use	• Same	• Assessed
	• A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain the substance, use the substance, or recover from its effects	• Same	• Assessed
	• Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of substance use	• Same	• Assessed
	• Substance use is continued despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by substance use	• Same	• Assessed
	• Tolerance, as defined by either: 1. a need for markedly increased amounts of substance to achieve intoxication or desired effect or 2. a markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of the substance	• Same	• Assessed
	• Withdrawal, as manifested by either: 1. the characteristic withdrawal syndrome for the substance (excludes Cannabis, Hallucinogens, and Inhalants see Table 2.2) 2. the substance (or a similar substance) is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms	• Withdrawal, as manifested by either: 1. the characteristic withdrawal syndrome for the substance (excludes Phencyclidine, Other Hallucinogens, and Inhalants; see Table 2.2) 2. the substance (or a closely related substance) is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms Note: This criterion is not considered met for those taking opioids, sedatives, hypnotics or anxiolytics, or stimulant medications solely under appropriate medical supervision.	• Assessed, see Table 2.2 for variations from DSM-IV
Severity	No severity criteria	Severity is assessed in terms of the number of symptoms that meet criteria: • Mild: two to three symptoms • Moderate: four to five symptoms • Severe: six or more symptoms	• No severity criteria assessed
Additional Specifications	With or without physiological dependence, early full remission, early partial remission, sustained full remission, sustained partial remission, on agonist therapy, and in a controlled environment	Early or sustained remission and if the person is in a controlled environment where access to the substance is restricted	• Not assessed

DSM-IV = *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th edition; DSM-5 = *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th edition; NSDUH = National Survey on Drug Use and Health; SUD = substance use disorder.

1 Table does not include substance/medication-induced disorders with the exception of notations for withdrawal and caffeine intoxication.

From: [2_Substance Use Disorders](#)



Impact of the DSM-IV to DSM-5 Changes on the National Survey on Drug Use and Health [Internet]. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Rockville (MD): [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(US\)](#); 2016 Jun.

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