

# WHAT IS ALCOHOLISM?

"... alcoholism is an illness, a progressive illness, which can never be cured but which, like some other diseases, can be arrested. Going one step further, many AA members feel that the illness represents a combination of a physical sensitivity to alcohol and a mental obsession with drinking, which, regardless of consequences, cannot be broken by willpower alone." -AA pamphlet P-23\*

"If each sufferer were to carry the news of the scientific hopelessness of alcoholism to each new prospect, he might be able to lay every newcomer wide open to a transforming spiritual experience."

- AA Co-Founder, Bill W.



# AA FACTS



The Primary Purpose of AA and its members is to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.



Professionals refer to its foundation of service as peer-mentoring or Mutual Support Group. It is available almost everywhere, in person or virtually.



AA is not a religious organization, it is a spiritual program. Spirituality is determined by each member. AA is self-supporting, declining outside donations. There are no financial obligations to attend AA. It does not endorse nor oppose anyone's efforts to help an alcoholic.



Open meetings welcome anyone interested in alcoholism or in learning more about Alcoholics Anonymous.



[www.MarylandAA.org](http://www.MarylandAA.org)

*All photos are professional models  
Membership in AA is unknown*

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# Alcoholics Anonymous

*There is a solution*

SAVING LIVES  
FOR 90 YEARS



## HELPING PROFESSIONALS UNDERSTAND

70% of AA members were introduced to AA by referrals.-2014 Membership Survey\*



This short video is a synopsis of the study "**Does Alcoholics Anonymous Work?**" published in March 2020 by a collaboration of Harvard, Stanford, and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs & Drug Addictions.

AA as an organization does not endorse or participate in studies about alcoholism but welcomes professional recommendations and research.

## AA: THE ORIGINAL TWELVE-STEP PROGRAM

AA is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem.

## AA IS A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY

There is no cure for alcoholism, it is an illness that can be arrested. Alcoholics can live free of the obsession to drink using the AA program of recovery. In simple terms, alcoholics get sober by working the Twelve-Step recovery program. They stay sober helping others find recovery.

## AA IS NOT A SECRET SOCIETY

AA is not an anonymous organization, its members maintain their anonymity to protect their personal and professional lives, help protect their fellow members, and most importantly, so the newcomer feels their anonymity is protected.

Visit:  
[www.MarylandAA.org](http://www.MarylandAA.org)

## THE BIGGEST ORGANIZATION THAT NO ONE WANTED TO JOIN

AA is in 180+ countries, the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* has been translated into over 70 languages. There are over 300 organizations that use the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of AA for other problems, disorders, and addictions.

## YOUR LOCAL AA PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

AA outreach committees help to inform community organizations, professionals, schools, and universities about AA.



### Area 29 Maryland

Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community

[CPC@MarylandAA.org](mailto:CPC@MarylandAA.org)

[Pi@MarylandAA.org](mailto:Pi@MarylandAA.org)

