



# How addiction **changes the brain**



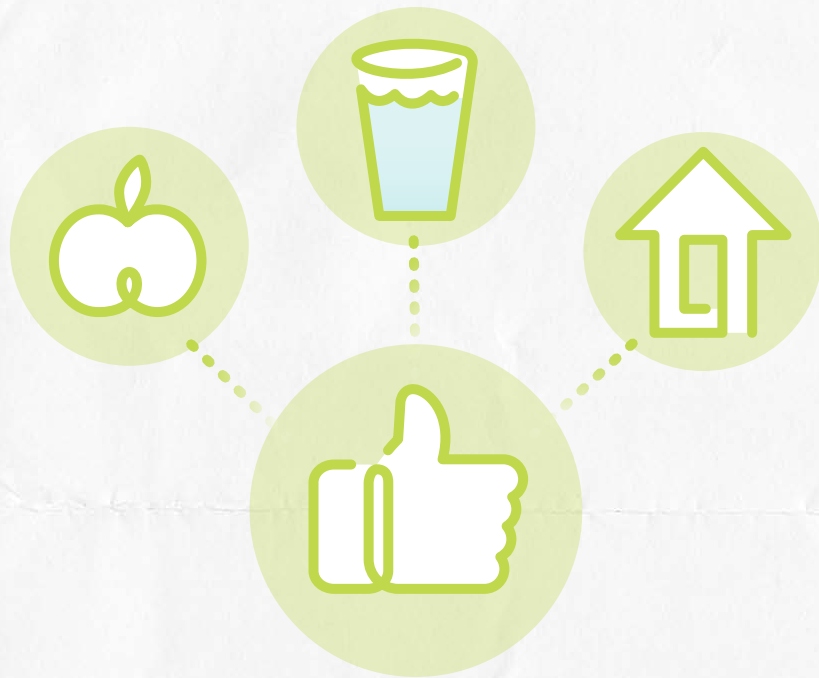
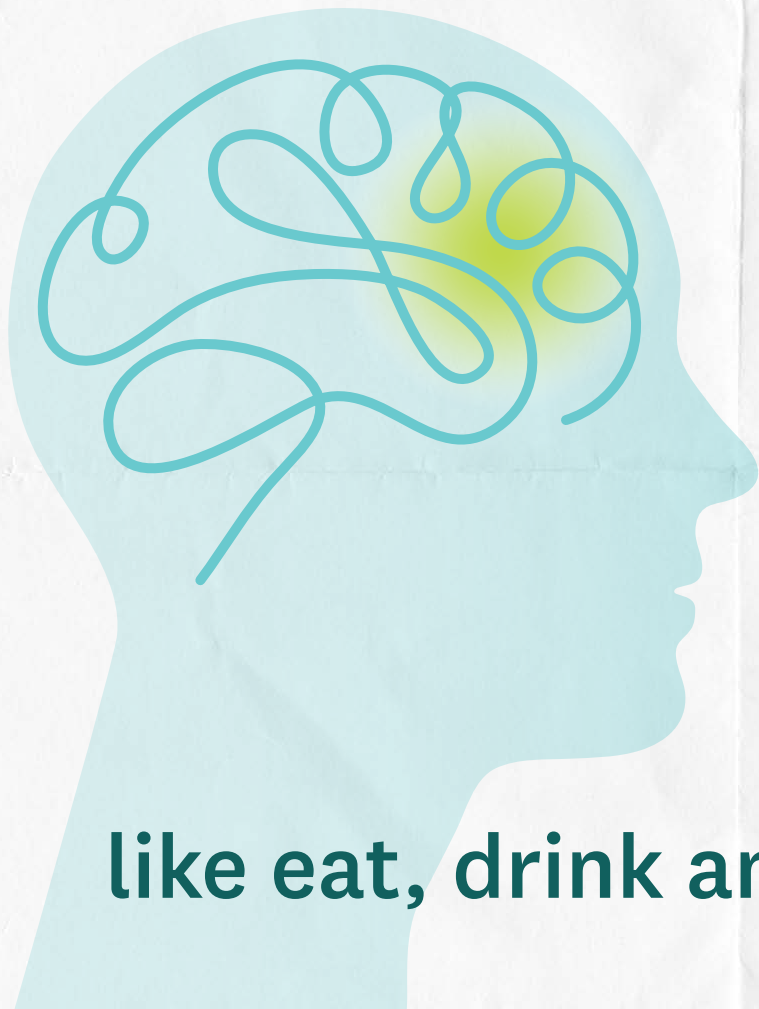
**Our brains release dopamine**



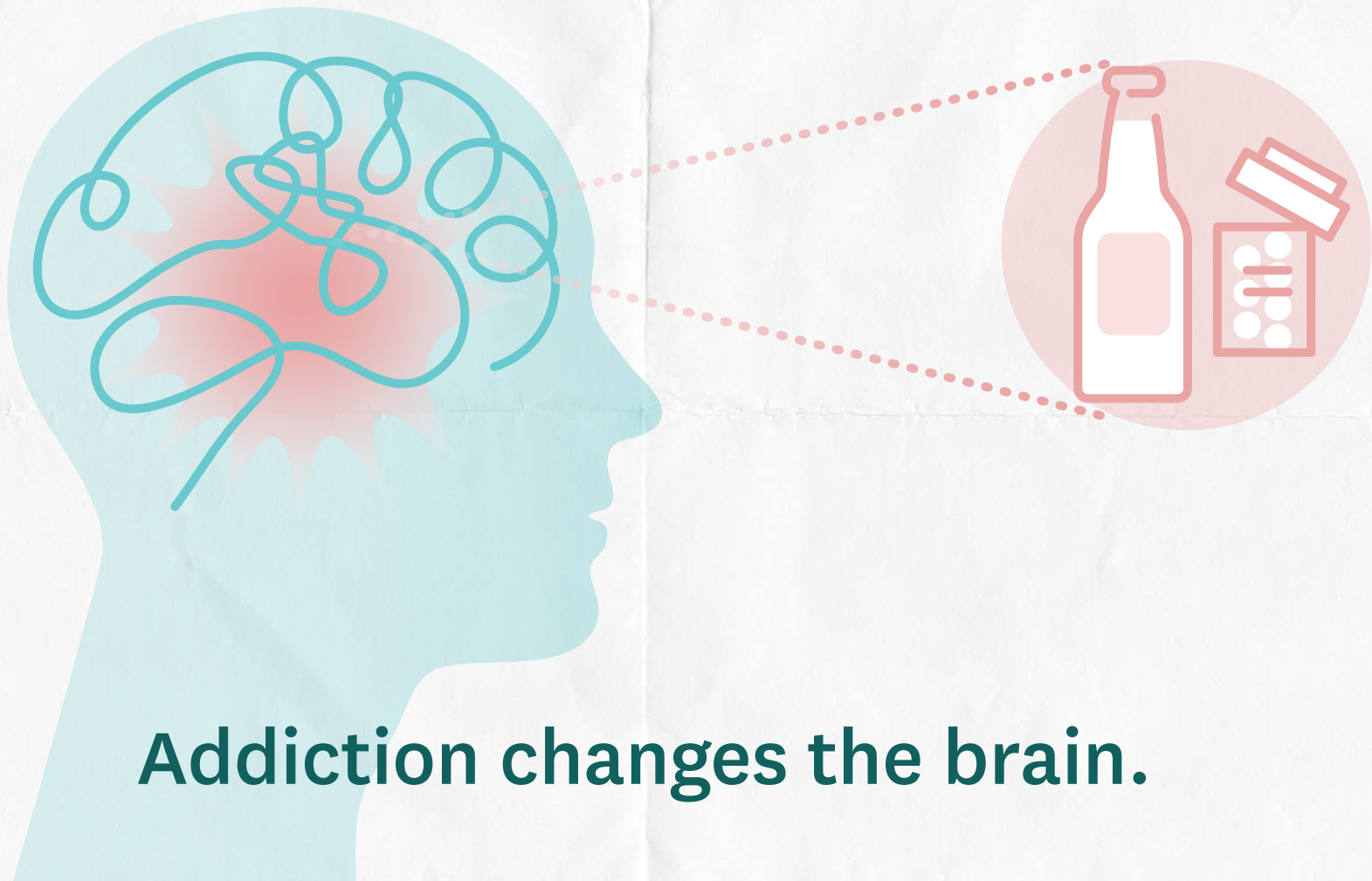
**to reward us**



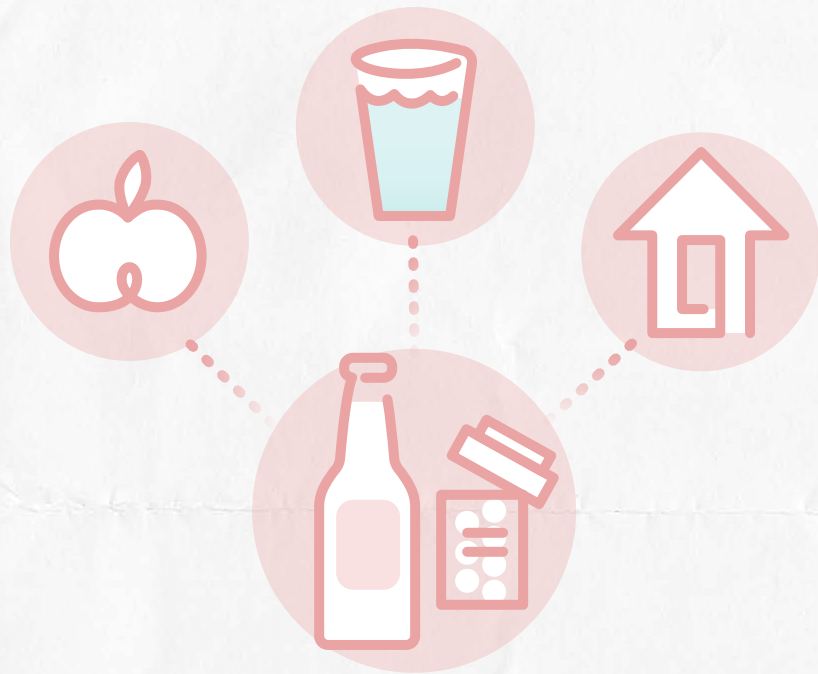
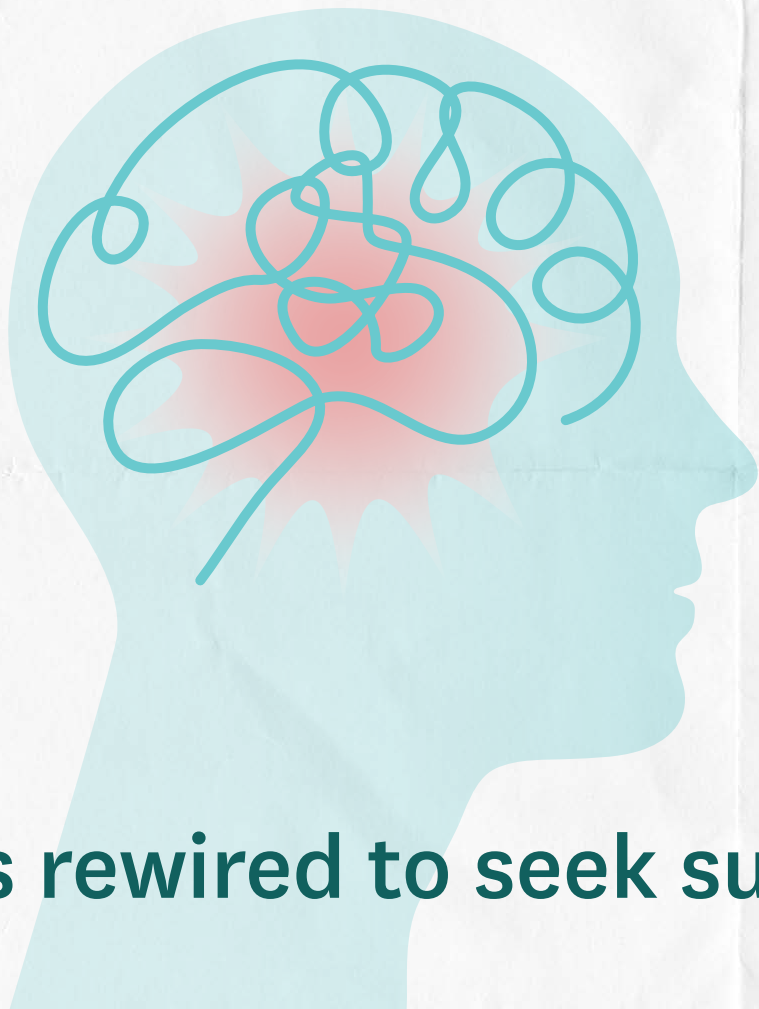
**when we do what we need to survive**



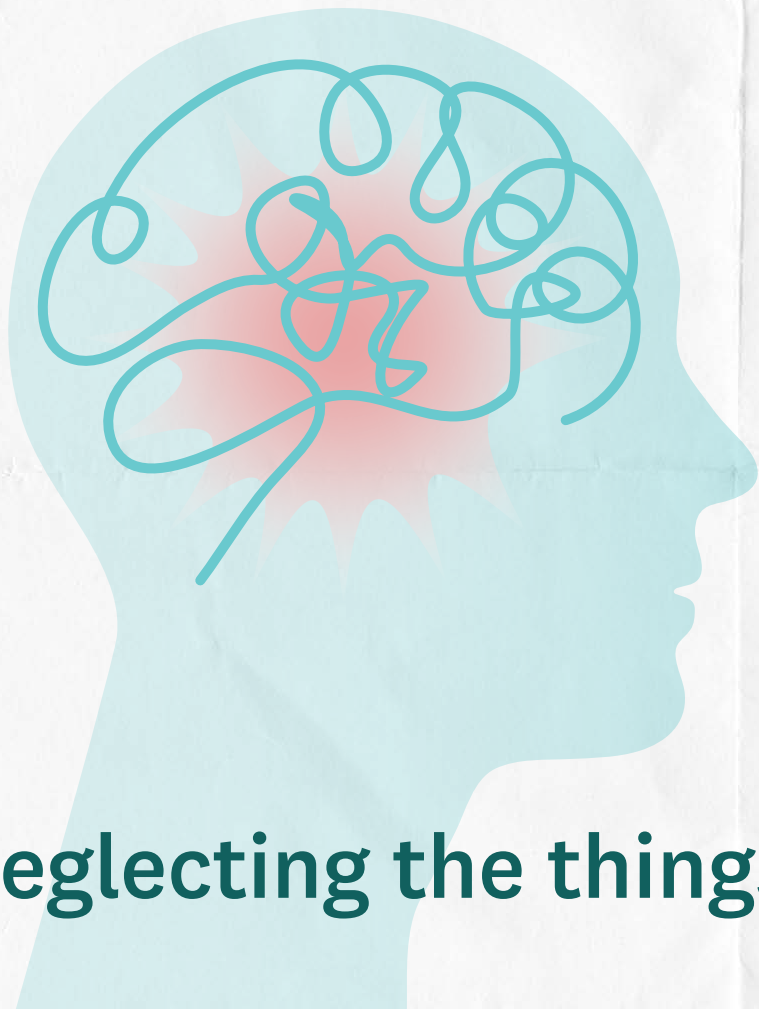
**like eat, drink and seek shelter.**



**Addiction changes the brain.**

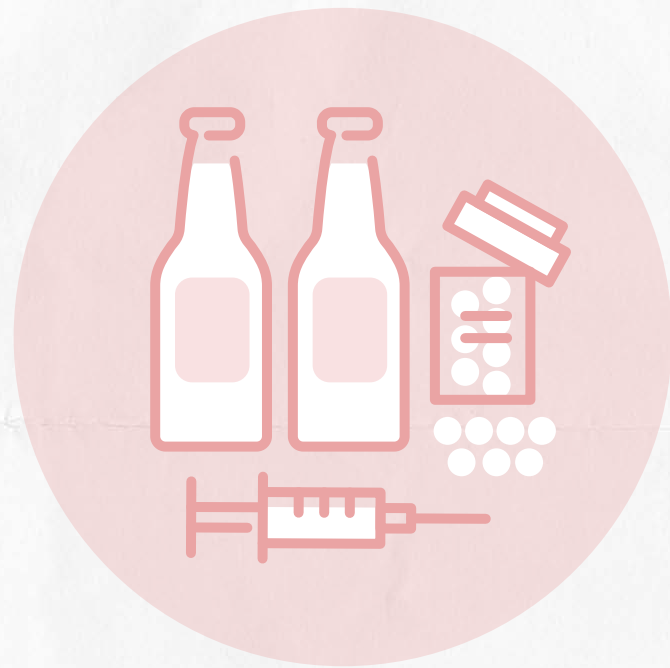
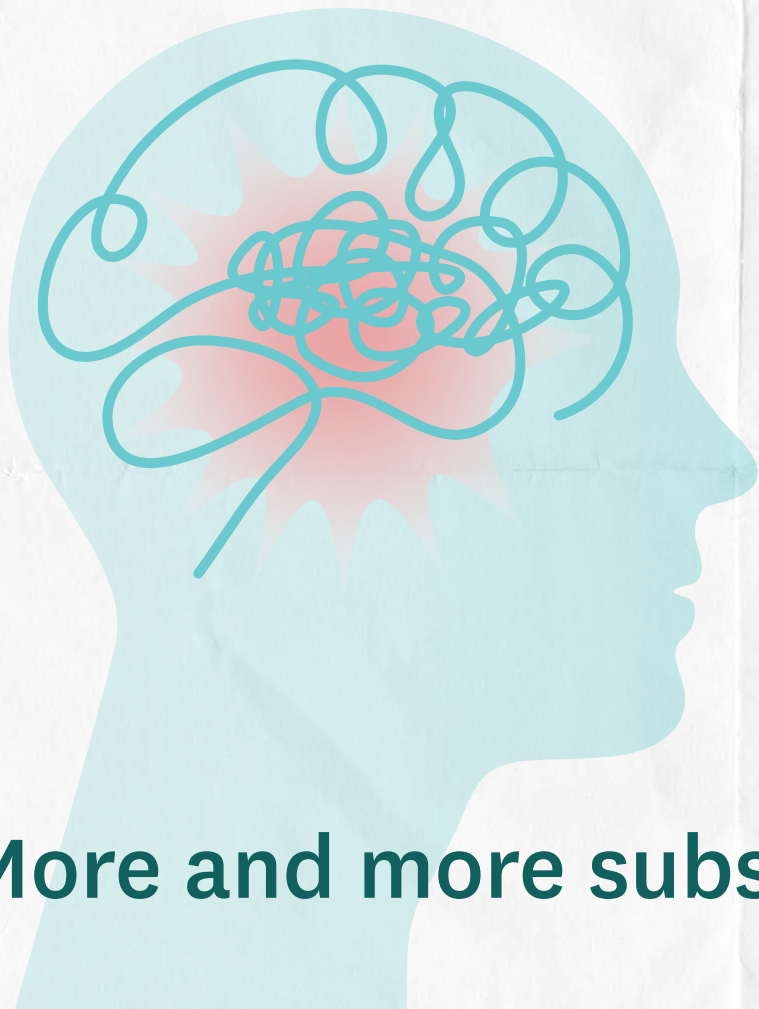


**It's rewired to seek substances to survive,**

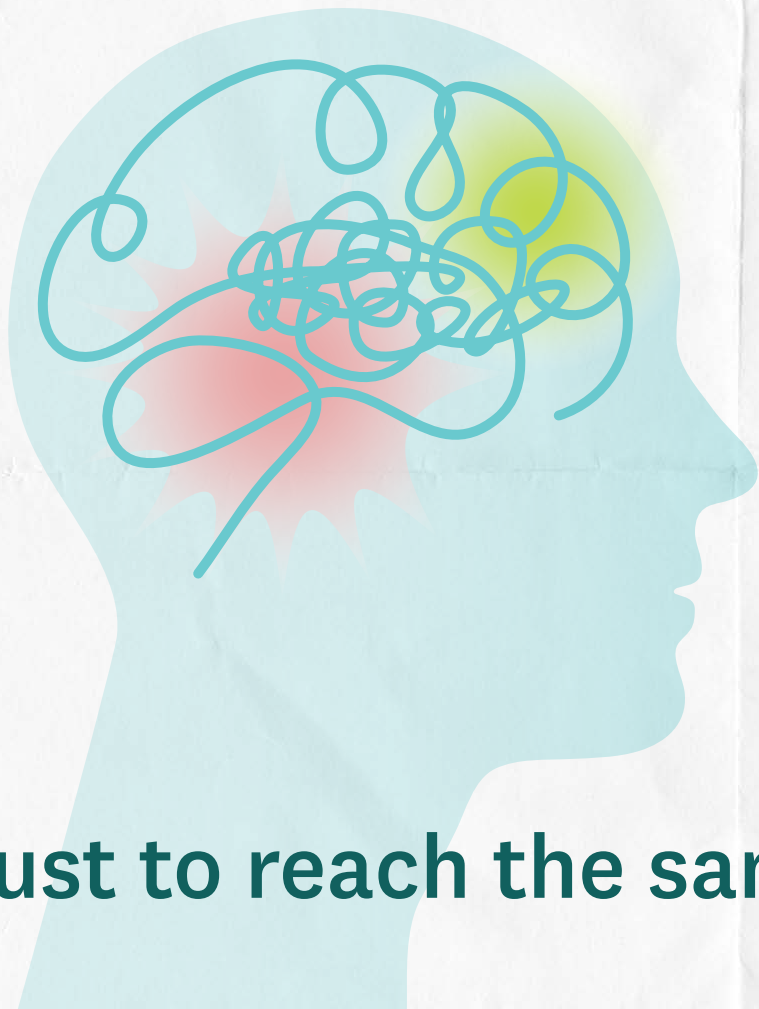


**neglecting the things we actually need.**

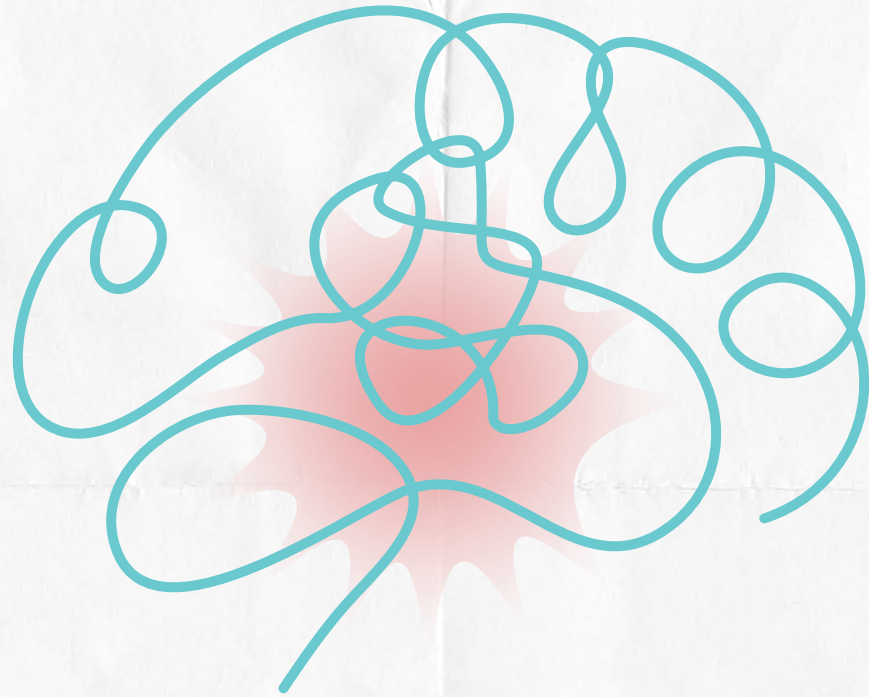




**More and more substances are needed**



**just to reach the same level of reward.**



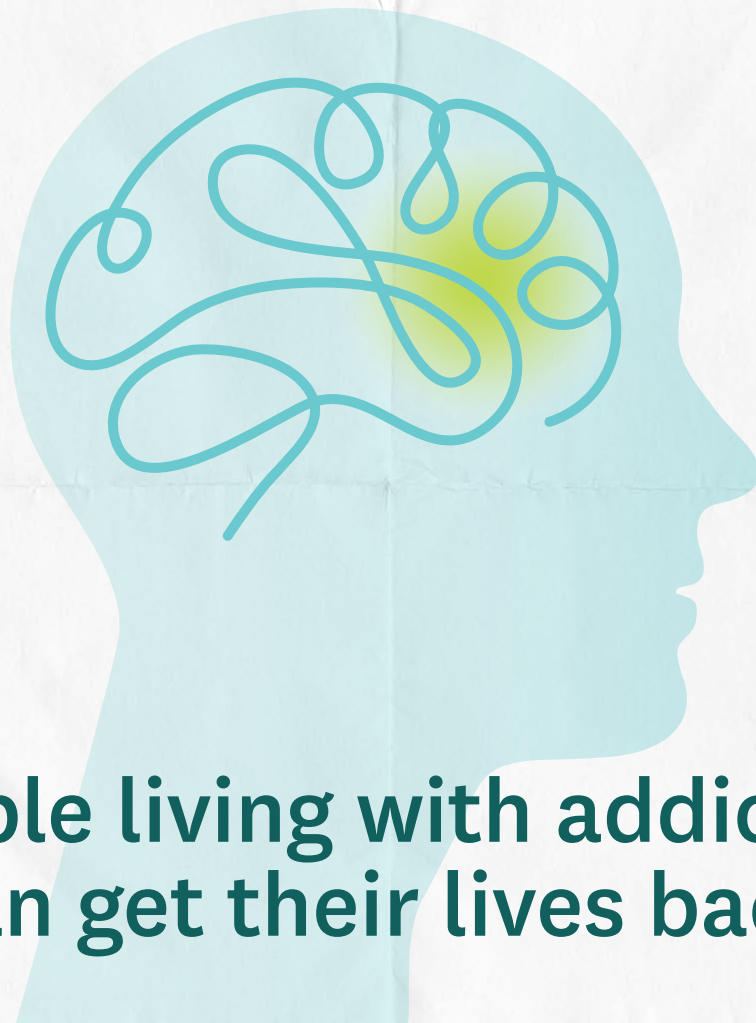
**But there is hope.**



**With medication, treatment  
and ongoing support,**



**the brain can heal.**



**People living with addiction  
can get their lives back.**



**and restore connections  
with family and community.**