

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Addiction

Addiction Ontology

Source

Addiction Ontology

Definition: A mental disposition towards repeated episodes of abnormally high levels of motivation to engage in a behaviour, acquired as a result of engaging in the behaviour, where the behaviour results in risk or occurrence of serious net harm.

Comment: This entity focuses on abnormal motivation to engage in a behaviour and includes serious net harm as a feature. The reason is to limit the class to things that merit a treatment and public health response. It is a quantitative entity and a fuzzy set because there can be varying thresholds set for degree of harm and strength of motivation. As a result, it is essential to operationalise the term for it to be meaningful.

Curator note: The aim is to include dispositions about which there is a consensus that they constitute addiction while avoiding making a disputed statement about whether addiction necessarily involves disordered brain mechanisms (e.g. cases where a person's addiction may be considered an adaptive response to very challenging life circumstances but may nevertheless benefit from treatment).

This definition was imported from the Addiction Ontology (see <https://addictovocab.org/>). Comments and suggestions for improvements are welcome using the Qeios review system.

Definitions imported from the Addiction Ontology (AddictO) are what are known as ‘ontological definitions’. See this article in Qeios for an explanation <https://www.qeios.com/read/YGIF9B>.

Ontological definitions can sometimes be hard to read. In those cases we also include an informal definition.

Definitions also often require elaboration to make it clear how they should be used and what they include. In those cases we include a comment.

Also, definitions sometimes require an explanation as to how they came about to help users understand



how they relate to alternative definitions. In those cases we include a curator note.