



HIV/AIDS

AND

SUBSTANCE USE & ABUSE*

What We Know

- Substance abuse affects all racial, cultural and economic groups. Alcohol is the most commonly used substance, regardless of race or ethnicity.¹
- The use of drugs and alcohol interferes with judgement about sexual and other behaviors. As a result, substance users may be more likely to have unplanned and unprotected sex.²
- Since the HIV/AIDS epidemic began, injection drug use (IDU) has directly/indirectly accounted for more than one-third of AIDS cases in the United States, infecting 163,070 males and 67,693 females.³
- Racial disparities exist in regard to IDU and HIV infection. IDU is responsible for 88% of AIDS cases in communities of color, in comparison to 12% of case among Whites.³

Local, Statewide and National Data

- Western New York statistics reveal the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse and dependence is around 13,000 for adults over 18 years.⁴
- In Western New York drug use is the mode of transmission for about 40% of AIDS Cases, with New York State having the highest injection-related AIDS rate in the nation.³
- In New York state it is estimated that over 1.5 million people used illicit drugs in the past month and of those, over 600,000 will use illicit drugs other than marijuana.³
- In 2005, 19.5 million Americans were current illicit drug users, of this total, 6.3 million abuse prescription drugs.³

Critical Issues

- Persons with a family history of alcoholism have a higher prevalence of lifetime dependency than those without such a history.¹
- Substance abuse including tobacco use and nicotine dependence, is associated with a variety of serious health and social problems. Analysis reveals that 72 conditions requiring hospitalization are due to substance use.¹
- In a recent study of 4,159 students only 47% reported using condoms when using drugs, compared to 60% among non-drug using students who did not use condoms.³
- Another study of more than 2,000 young adults in three inner city neighborhoods found that crack smokers were three times more likely to be infected with HIV than non-smokers.⁶
- HIV-positive injection drug users are significantly more likely to develop an AIDS defining illness, even when they are taking highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).⁷
- Injection drug users were more likely to develop opportunistic infections which occur earlier in the course of HIV infection and infections which characterize more advanced HIV disease.⁷

HIV/AIDS is devastating communities in our state. Know the facts, and join in the fight against HIV/AIDS!

For more information on HIV/AIDS or for testing sites in NY, contact New York State's AIDS Hotline at 1-800-541-AIDS



Care Coordination Committee
Minority Concerns Workgroup

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¹ US Department of Health and Human Services- *Healthy People 2010* ⁵ US Department of Health and Human Services SAMHSA - 2006
² US Department of Health and Human Services SAMHSA-2002 ⁶ CDC, Injection Drug Use Surveillance - May 2002
³ CDC, Surveillance Report - 2008, Vol. 18 ⁷ Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes -Vol. 35, 2004
⁴ NYS OASAS, Prevalence of Chemical Abuse & Dependence- 2004
County Resource Book

*There is a range between substance use/abuse. Use can be defined as one time, experimental, social or recurring, where abuse can be defined as dependency or addiction of a substance.