



Why Is HIV a Risk?

by NEWLIFEOUTLOOK TEAM

Understanding the Risk of HIV with Drug and Alcohol Use

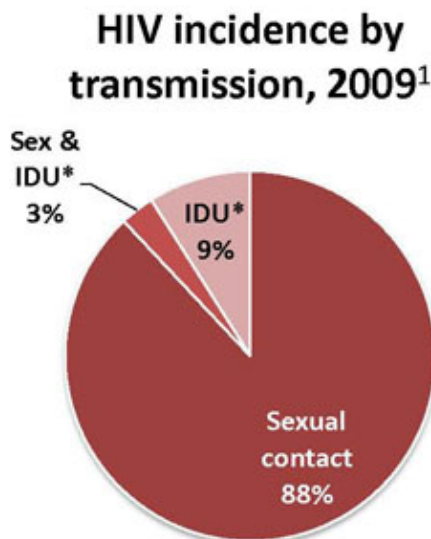
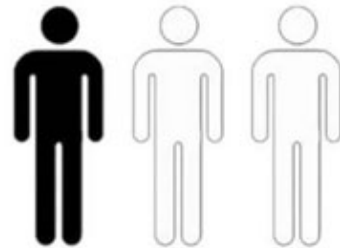
When your brain is on drugs, it has a hard time making appropriate judgments. This judgment impairment is what ultimately leads to HIV, among other things. With HIV, the risk is from the less frequent use of a condom during intercourse. When you go to a party or anywhere else that you may drink alcohol or do drugs, have someone along with you. This person should be making sure that you're making good decisions, so you both should monitor your drug and alcohol intake to make sure that you can still monitor each other. Preferably, someone should be completely sober and this needs to be the case if someone in your party is driving. Try going to a place where there are a variety of things to do instead of drinking such as pool, darts, etc. so that someone who can't drink is able to still have fun with everyone else.

DRUG and ALCOHOL USE— a significant risk factor for HIV

A third of the 1.2 million Americans with HIV currently use drugs or binge on alcohol. Contrary to popular belief, it is not the sharing of contaminated injection equipment that primarily links drug use to the HIV epidemic. Rather, drug as well as alcohol use can impair judgment and lead to risky sexual behavior and HIV transmission. This is why substance abuse treatment can play an important role in preventing the spread of HIV.

1.2 million people
in the U.S. are living with HIV¹

From 2005 to 2009, 1 in 3 persons
with HIV was a current drug user or
binged on alcohol.²



DRUG and ALCOHOL
use are associated
with **LESS** frequent
CONDOM use.

24%
of all persons with HIV are in
need of substance abuse
treatment²

(1) [CDC](#); (2) [NSDUH](#); (*) Injection drug use.