Taking drugs can lead to HIV/AIDS.

before you start.
before you shoot.
before you share.

www.unodc.org/thinkaids

General facts

• Among the estimated 16 million people injecting drugs worldwide, one in five are likely to be HIV positive.

• Sharing contaminated needles and syringes is one of the quickest and easiest ways of getting and transmitting HIV.

Young people

• In 2008 there were 2.7 million new HIV infections—about 7,400 each day—and 2 million HIV-related deaths.

• Young people aged 15 to 24 account for an estimated 40 per cent of all new adult (15+) HIV infections worldwide.

• Many young people still lack accurate information about how to avoid exposure to the virus.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

• The number of newly reported HIV infections is rising, mainly among injecting drug users, sex workers and their respective sexual partners.

• Contaminated injecting equipment is the major mode of HIV transmission in the region, accounting for 57 per cent of all newly diagnosed HIV infections in Eastern Europe in 2007.

• Nearly 90 per cent of all newly reported HIV infections in the region are in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
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**South, East and South-East Asia**

- Transmission of HIV is often via injecting drug use, and the sharing of syringes is a common practice among injecting drug users in the region.
- Many countries have very high rates of HIV infection among injecting drug users.
- In China, an overlap between unsafe injecting drug use, unprotected commercial sex and other risk factors is fuelling the spread of HIV.
- In India, recent surveys suggest rising HIV transmissions among injecting drug users.
- In Pakistan, the number of injecting drug users has nearly doubled since 2000, and studies show that HIV prevalence among this population is rising rapidly.

**Latin America**

- About one third of all people living with HIV in Latin America reside in Brazil; in this country HIV has spread to injecting drug users and eventually to the general population, with increasing numbers of women becoming infected.
- As a result of harm reduction programmes in the country, Brazil has reported declining HIV prevalence rates among injecting drug users.
- In Mexico, HIV prevalence among injecting drug users was 6 per cent in 2007, and when surveyed, more than 85 per cent of injecting drug users said they had used non-sterile injecting equipment.

**North America**

- In the United States, about one in five newly diagnosed HIV infections in women are due to unsafe injecting drug use (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007).

**Western and Central Europe**

- In 2007, injecting drug users accounted for 8% and 13% of new HIV diagnoses in Western and Central Europe respectively.

**Sources:**
- UNAIDS, WHO “AIDS epidemic update: November 2009”