



Taking drugs can lead to HIV/AIDS.

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

General Facts

- Over five million people worldwide have been infected with HIV from injecting drug use.
- Sharing contaminated needles and syringes is one of the quickest and easiest ways of transmitting HIV.
- Injecting drug use is one of the main reasons HIV infection rates in prisons are generally higher than national averages.

(UNODC, *World Drug Report 2004*)

Young people

- Over half of all new HIV infections worldwide are among 15 to 24 year olds.
- More than one-third of all people living with HIV/AIDS are under 25.
- Every minute of every day, six young people become infected with HIV.

(UNICEF)

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- Transmission among injecting drug users is responsible for the world's fastest spread of HIV infection, which is occurring in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- More than 80 per cent of people infected with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are under 30 years of age.

Russia

- In Russia, more than 90 per cent of the estimated one million people living with HIV were infected through using contaminated injecting equipment.

Iran

- More than two-thirds of HIV infections in Iran are due to injecting drug use.



Asia

- In Viet Nam, the use of contaminated injecting equipment is responsible for two-thirds of HIV infections.
- Indonesia's HIV/AIDS epidemic is driven by the use of contaminated injecting equipment.
- In north-eastern India, HIV infection levels of 60-75 per cent have been found among injecting drug users using contaminated injecting equipment.
- Use of contaminated drug injecting equipment is responsible for over 50 per cent of the HIV infections in China.

Europe

- Injecting drug use accounted for more than 50 per cent of reported HIV infections in Portugal in 2002 and for more than 10 per cent of HIV infections in Western Europe.

North America

- Seventy per cent of female and 56 per cent of male injecting drug users in North America have exchanged sex for money or drugs.

- Behaviour associated with drug abuse is now the single largest factor in the spread of HIV infection in the United States.

(National Institute on Drug Abuse, United States)

South America

- Almost all infections in most South American countries are caused by contaminated drug injecting equipment or sex between men.
- In Brazil, HIV infection levels above 60 per cent have been reported among injecting drug users in some cities.

Women and girls

- Female prisoners in Brazil, Canada and the United States are more likely to be infected with HIV than their male counterparts because a high proportion of women are imprisoned for drug use and sex work.
- Young women currently make up over 60 per cent of all 15 to 24 year olds living with HIV/AIDS.
- Young African women are 30 per cent more likely to be infected with HIV than young African men.

*All facts, unless otherwise noted, are from UNAIDS' 2004 Report on the global AIDS epidemic.

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