

Sex, Drugs and HIV

Synopsis

The special problems of drug-users in regard to preventing and limiting the effects of HIV are honestly addressed in this sobering program hosted by Kim Boulden-Jones of the New Beginnings Chemical Dependency Treatment Center. The host uses a chart to demonstrate how a person who does not use IV drugs and has had only two sex partners can still contract HIV, and discusses the dangers of drug-impaired decisions in regard to risky behavior such as unprotected sex and needle sharing. Individual drugs and their effects on the immune system are listed (HIV multiplies 200% faster in the body of a cocaine user than that of a non-user) and viewers are encouraged to get tested for HIV. Personal responsibility is emphasized—you are in control of what you do. Interviews with people who have given up drugs and dangerous activities in time to save themselves (and one who has not) complete this hard-hitting presentation.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. When talking about drugs and HIV, we usually think first of IV drugs and shared needles. Can other drugs influence whether or not a person gets HIV? How?

2. What measures do you think are most effective in protecting oneself from HIV? Why do you think so?
3. Do you think it is possible to stop people from hurting themselves with irresponsible behavior? Why or why not?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. Why is “Alice” at risk for HIV even though she doesn’t do IV drugs and has had only two sex partners? (She has made at least one drug-impaired decision to have unprotected sex. She has been exposed to everyone her partner [and his partners and their partners] have slept with.)
2. When you have sex with one person, it as though you have had sex with how many others? (100) What percentage of those others is at high risk for HIV? (30%)
3. What is the best way to avoid getting HIV because of drug use? (Go into treatment.) What if you relapse? (keep trying)
4. What if you don’t stop taking drugs? (say no, use a condom, get tested with every new relationship, be honest with your doctor about your drug use)
5. How does cocaine use affect HIV? (HIV replicates 200% faster in the body of a cocaine user.) Marijuana? (It contains THC, which weakens the immune

system.) Alcohol? (It attacks the liver, as does HIV.) Methamphetamine (leads to irresponsible behavior and rough, unprotected sex)

6. What does the speaker emphasize regarding choices about risky behavior? (personal responsibility—You are in control.)
7. Why is it important to be honest with your doctor about what drugs you take? (Recreational drugs can interfere with the effectiveness of HIV drugs and vice versa.)
8. In spite of her addiction and dangerous lifestyle, what did Joyce Ann think about the possibility of becoming infected with HIV? (“It can’t happen to me.”) Why is this a dangerous attitude? (Answers will vary.)
9. Why is refusing to get tested for HIV unsafe? (If you have it and don’t know it, you are denying yourself treatment and spreading it to others.)
10. Discuss: Mike is infected with HIV. He shares a needle with Bill, who gets high and sleeps with Bob, who pays to sleep with addict Ginny, who sleeps with Tom after they share a joint. Tom sleeps with his wife, who gets pregnant and the baby has HIV. Who is responsible for the baby’s illness? (Answers will vary.)

Annotation

The special problems of drug-users in regard to preventing and limiting the effects of HIV are honestly addressed in this sobering program hosted by Kim Boulden-Jones of the New Beginnings Chemical Dependency Treatment Center. Personal responsibility in regard to the dangers of impaired judgement is emphasized. Interviews with people who have given up drugs and dangerous activities in time to save themselves (and one who has not) complete this hard-hitting presentation.

Length
25 Minutes

Subject Areas
Health, Drug Education

Audience Level
Adult

Catalog Number
#2924-EN-VID

Related titles in the AIMS collection
#2673-EN-VID: Drug Use and Addiction
#2676-EN-VID: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
#2689-EN-VID: HIV/AIDS 101
#8844-EN-VID: Alcohol and the Mind
#9961-EN-VID: Heroin and Human Physiology



9710 DeSoto Avenue
Chatsworth, California
91311-4409 USA

Tel: 800-367-2467
Tel: 818-773-4300
Fax: 818-341-6700

Discussion Guide

Sex, Drugs and HIV

Objectives

- To present the facts about how drugs affect the body's ability to fight HIV
- To review the dangers of impaired judgement, shared needles and unprotected sex
- To suggest practical preventive measures against HIV
- To emphasize the role of personal responsibility in making choices about risky behavior
- To encourage drug users to seek treatment

