Drugs, Alcohol and HIV/AIDS

A Consumer Guide for African Americans

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SAMHSA
www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

Drugs & Alcohol

What do drugs and alcohol have to do with HIV?

Drug and alcohol use can lead to risky behaviors that can increase your exposure to HIV/AIDS. For example, using or sharing drug materials, like needles or cotton, increases your chances of becoming infected with HIV.

What if I already have HIV?

There are different types of HIV, called strains. Even if you are already infected with one strain of the virus, using alcohol or other drugs puts you at risk of being infected with a different one. Medications that you might be taking to treat one strain of the infection may not be effective on another strain. If you are pregnant, you could even infect your unborn baby.

What if I can't stop using drugs or alcohol?

Don't be afraid or ashamed to ask for help. Call the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Hotline (1-800-662-HELP [4357]) for help in getting treatment. It can be your first step toward recovery.

If you decide to get drug or alcohol treatment in addition to HIV treatment, let your current doctor know. He or she can work with your drug or alcohol treatment provider to make sure the two types of treatment work together.

Did you know?

In 2004, African Americans represented—

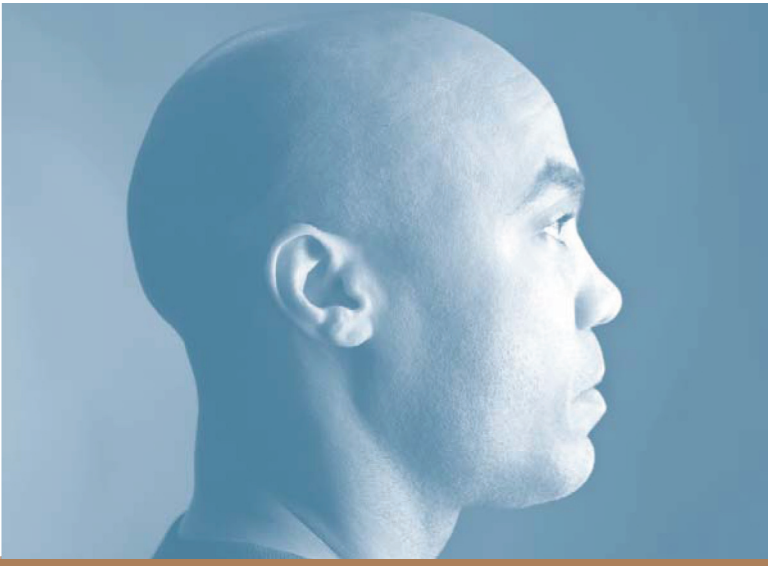
- 49 percent of all people living with AIDS in the United States
- 50 percent of all estimated new HIV infections
- Nearly two-thirds of all estimated new infections among women

Injection drug use is the 2nd leading cause of HIV infection for African American women and the 3rd leading cause of infection for African American men.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2006

HIV/AIDS

African Americans now account for about half of all new HIV infections in the United States, and nearly two-thirds of all cases among women.



What if I can't handle all of this alone?

Don't worry, you don't have to do it alone. Listed on the back of this brochure are hotlines and Web sites that can help you locate a support group, good health care, the treatment you need, and even a place to live if you need one. Call the toll-free number or visit the Web site of your choice today. It could positively change your whole life. There are people who really care about what happens with you.

You are not alone.
Help is available.

Call These Toll-Free 24-Hour Phone Numbers

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Hotline
1-800-662-HELP (4357)

National AIDS Hotline
1-800-342-AIDS (2437)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Helpline
1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Or Visit These Web Sites

Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator
http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov

Office of Minority Health Resource Center
Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative
http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/dhap.htm

National Minority AIDS Council
http://www.nmac.org

Black Women's Health Network
http://www.blackwomenshealth.com

The Black Church HIV/AIDS Network
http://www.balmingilead.org/

Or check the box below to see if a treatment center near you has listed its address and/or phone number.

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