

Substance abuse and HIV testing - Substance Abuse, part 6

If you were HIV-negative the last time you were tested and answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you should get an HIV test.



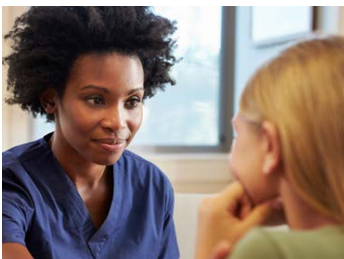
- Have you injected drugs and then shared needles and drug preparation equipment, or "works," with others?
- Have you exchanged sex for drugs or money?
- Have you had sex with someone whose drug use history you don't know?

You should be tested at least once a year if you continue to do any of these things.

Fear of arrest, feelings of guilt, and low self-esteem may prevent substance abusers from getting tested or treated for HIV. This places them at greater risk for HIV. If they are infected with HIV, substance abuse also increases their risk of spreading it to others.

Talk to your healthcare provider about getting tested for HIV. You can also get tested at an HIV testing site.

Learn about what kinds of HIV tests are available. There are tests that can detect HIV very soon after you get infected. Other tests take longer before they give an accurate result. There are medically accurate HIV tests available that you can do right in your home.



Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.

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