

Harm Reduction 101: Approaching Syphilis Prevention for People Who Use Drugs

**California Syphilis Prevention Summit
Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Los Angeles, CA**

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Introductions

- Name
- What is your role in syphilis prevention?
- Location
- Why did you choose this breakout / What is one thing you would like to get out of this session?

Group Brainstorm

What comes to mind
when you think of
“People Who Use Drugs”?

Group Brainstorm

What comes to mind
if the person using drugs is:

- Female,
- Pregnant,
- Homeless / Unstably Housed, and
- Using Methamphetamine?

Framing Our Discussion

Syphilis*

&

People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)

**(...other STDs, HIV, and Viral Hepatitis)*

Common Street Drugs



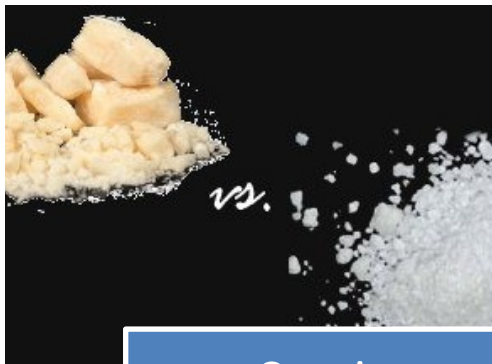
Marijuana



Ecstasy



Methamphetamine



Cocaine



Heroin



LSD

Common Street Drugs



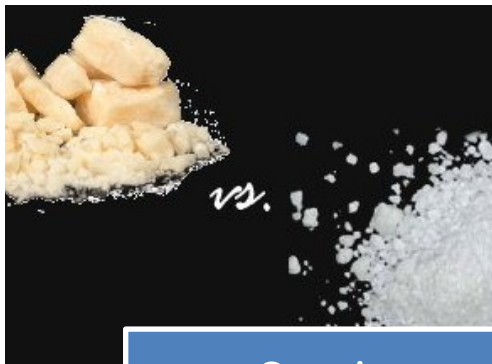
Marijuana



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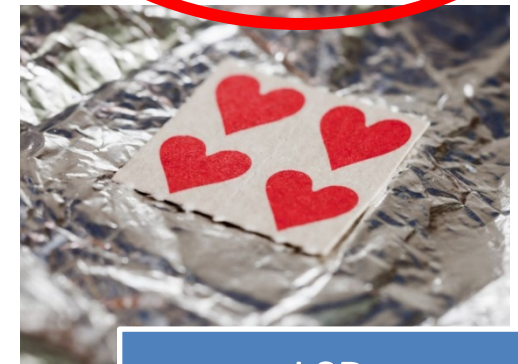
Methamphetamine



Cocaine

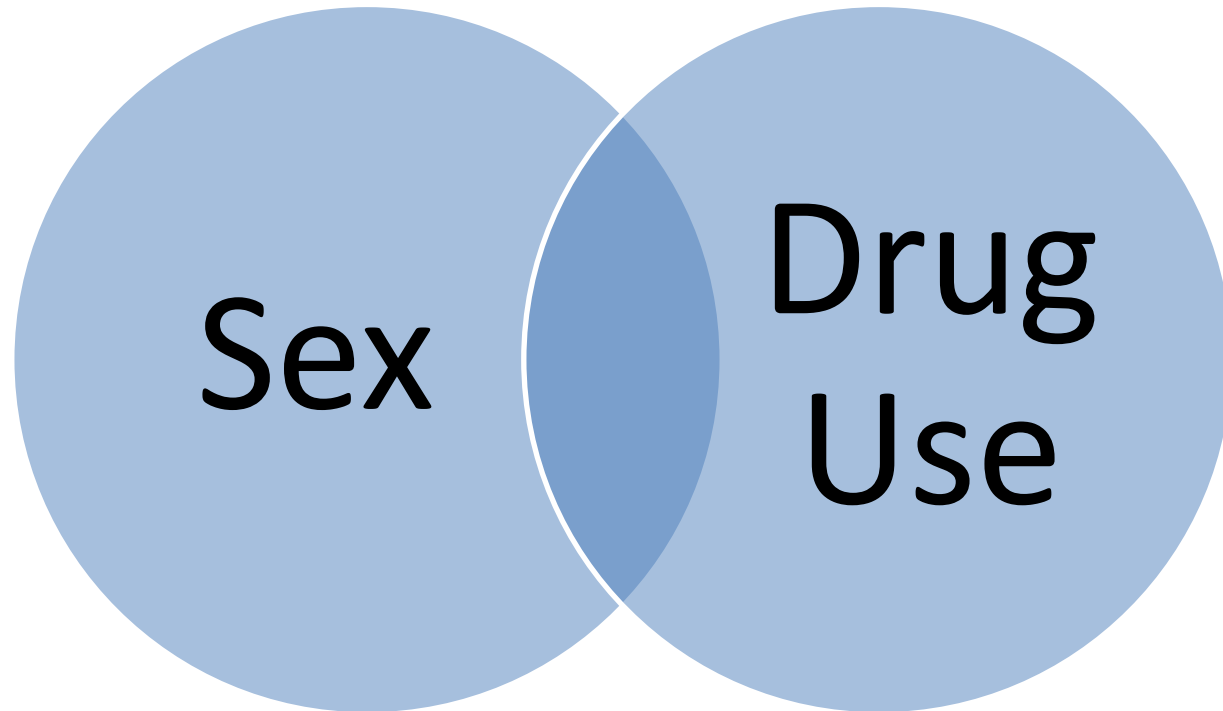


Heroin



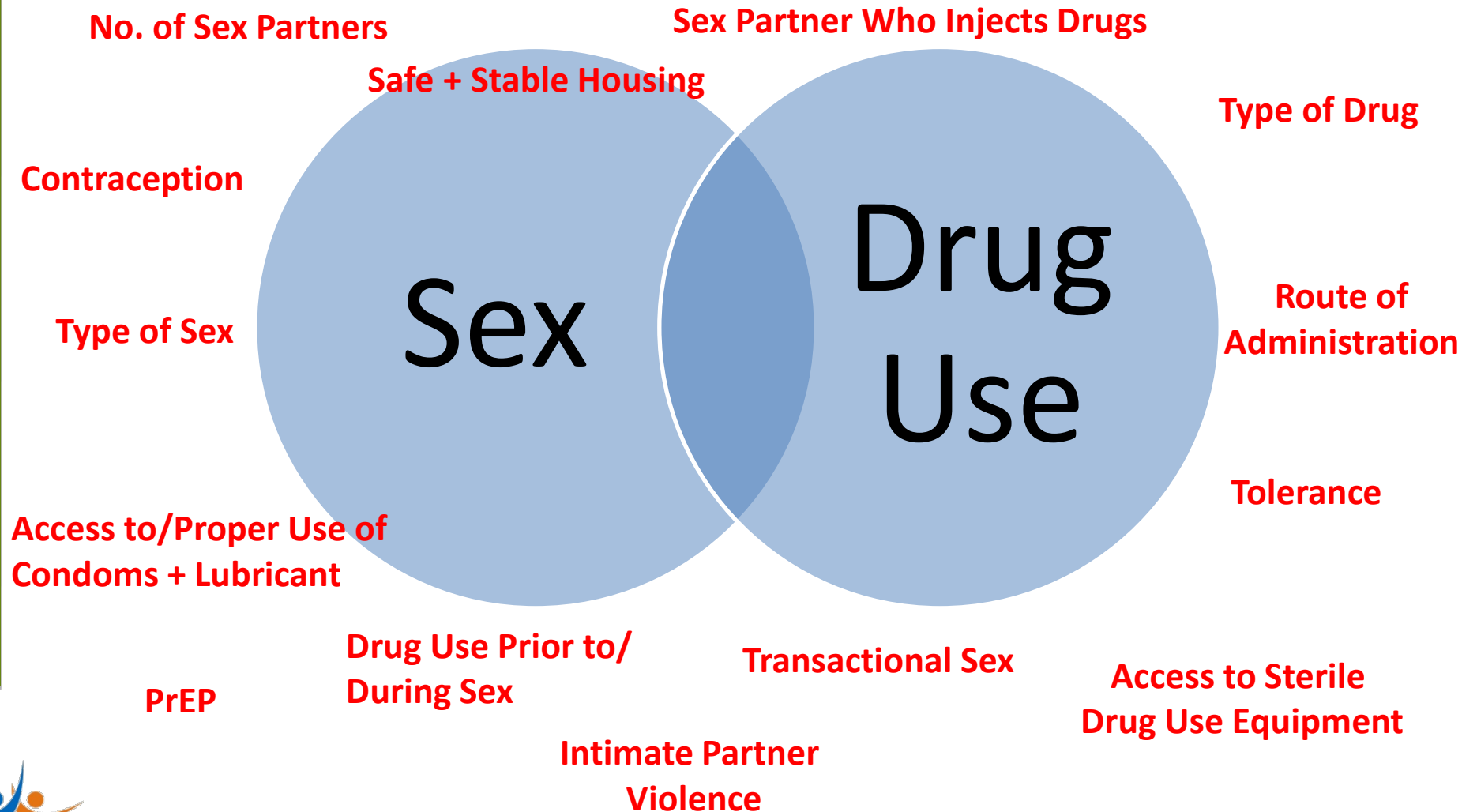
LSD

Sex & Drug Use: Intersecting Risks



What are some factors that influence risk in sexual behavior and/or drug use?

Sex & Drug Use: Intersecting Risks



People Who Use Drugs & STD/HIV Risk

Complex and variable, but some associations.
PWUD generally more likely to have:

- Multiple sex partners
- Reduced condom use
- Transactional sex
- Reduced inhibitions
- “Traumatic” sex (if using stimulants, due to longer &/or more vigorous sex)

STDCB Data Collection

RISKS / SOCIAL HISTORY	<p>★ Substance Use: In the 12 months prior to your syphilis diagnosis, did you use ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Methamphetamine <input type="checkbox"/> Y Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Heroin <input type="checkbox"/> Y Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Cocaine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Crack</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Ecstasy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Marijuana</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Erectile dysfunction drugs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Nitrates/Poppers</p> <p>Were any of the above drugs injected? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R → If Yes, did you share needles? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R</p>	<p>Risk Factors/Social History: ★ In the 12 months prior to your syphilis diagnosis, have you ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Given money/drugs for sex?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Received money/drugs for sex?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Had sex while intoxicated and/or high on drugs?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Had anonymous sex partners?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Been in a jail/juvenile detention facility? Been incarcerated</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Been in a prison/long-term correctional facility?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R Had a gang association? → If Yes, Name of Gang: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R FEMALES ONLY: Had sex with person known to you to be MSM?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> R MALES ONLY: Had any pregnant partners?</p>
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SEX PARTNER(S) RISKS

For the following questions, "recent" refers to sex partners that you had in the 12 months prior to your syphilis diagnosis

Of recent sex partners, what was their HIV status? *(check all that apply)*

Positive Negative Unsure Refused

Have any recent sex partners been in jail, juvenile detention, or prison/long-term corrections in the 12 months prior to your syphilis diagnosis? Y N U R

★ Did any recent sex partners use IDU drugs in the 12 months prior to your syphilis diagnosis? Y N U R

Did any recent sex partners use meth/speed in the 12 months prior to your syphilis diagnosis? Y N U R

Do you think it is likely that any of your recent sex partners were also having sex with someone else while in a sexual relationship with you?

Yes Very likely Somewhat likely Not very likely No

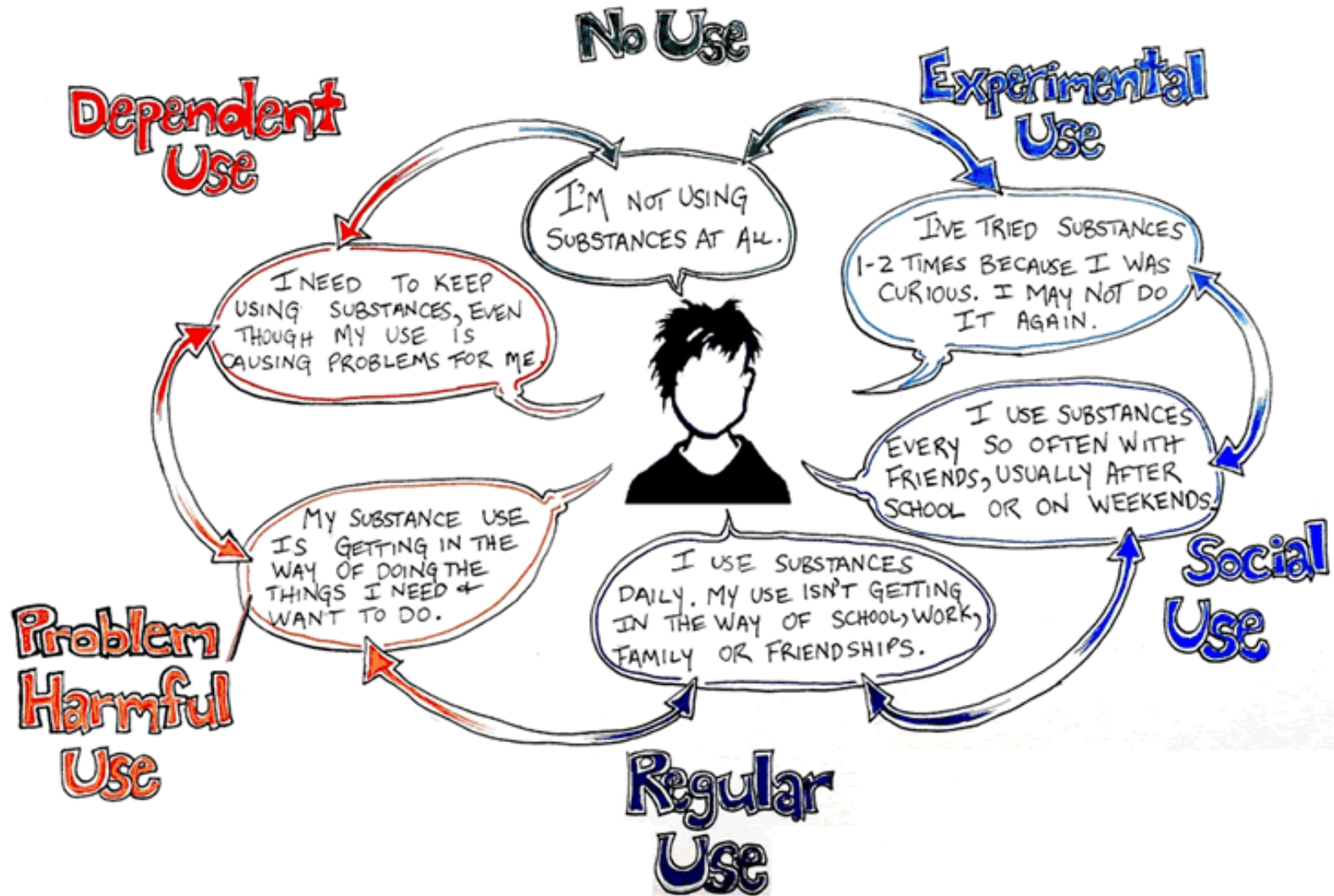
California Syphilis
Interview Record

Harm Reduction 101

Philosophy, Social Movement, Interventions

Language and Terminology

Spectrum of Substance Use



Harm Reduction: Definitions

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.

Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

Harm Reduction Principles

Respect, Dignity, & Compassion

Low Threshold, Non-Judgmental Services

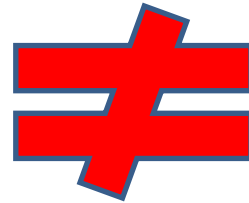
Participant-Centered / “Nothing About Us, Without Us”

“Any Positive Change”

Emphasis on Practical Strategies / “Meet People Where They’re At”

Harm Reduction is NOT...

Harm Reduction



Condoning or Encouraging Drug Use/High-Risk Behavior

Ignoring or Minimizing Real Harms Caused by Drug Use

Anything Goes

AND REMEMBER...

**ABSTINENCE
IS
AN OPTION**

How Else Do We Apply Harm Reduction Strategies?

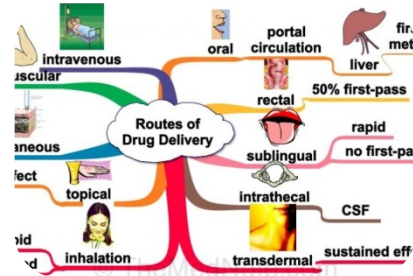
How Else Do We Apply Harm Reduction Strategies?



Selected Harm Reduction Interventions



Sterile Injection
Equipment /
Syringe Exchange



Route of
Administration



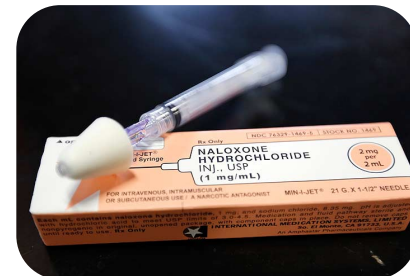
Pill Testing Kits



Medication
Assisted
Treatment



Safer Smoking
Equipment



Naloxone &
Overdose
Prevention Training

Language Matters!

Terms and Terminology

Slang & Stigma

Tweaker

Clean

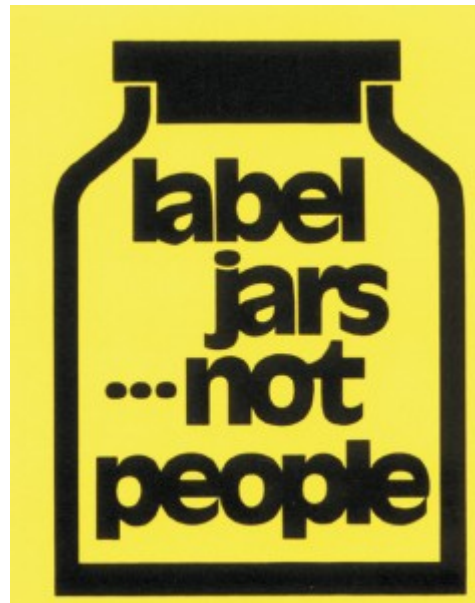
Bum

Meth Head

Street Urchin

Addict

Junkie



Dope Fiend

Speed Freak

Instead, Try...

Sterile

Person/People
Who Use
Drugs

Substance
Use Disorder

dignity+respect
=**Inclusion**

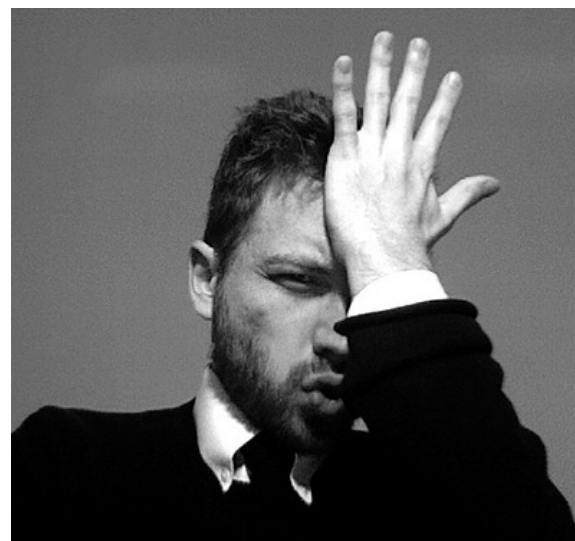
Abstinent

Person/People
Who Inject
Drugs

Learn Their Name

Consider...

- Phrasing
- Tone
- Assumptions
- Frustration
- Personal Triggers



If you're unsure...

Go back to basics!

- Respect
- Compassion
- Dignity

How Does this Apply to Syphilis Prevention?

(You tell me!)

How Does this Apply to Syphilis Prevention?

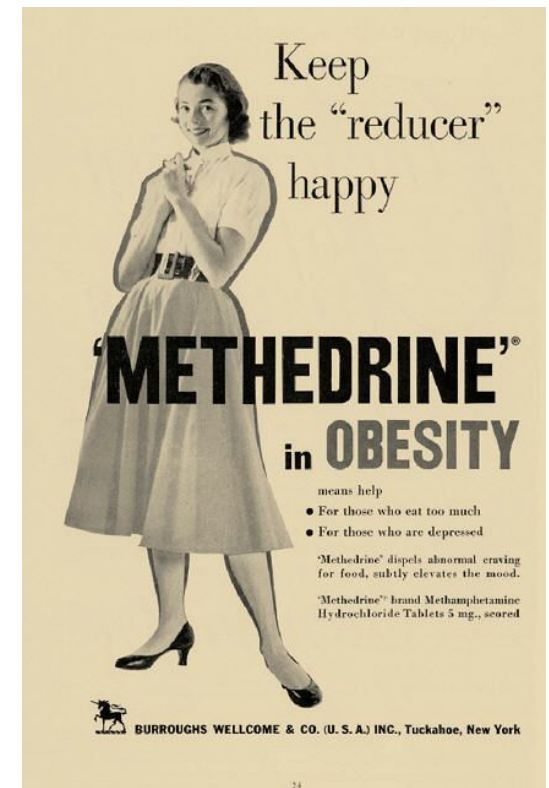
- Cooperation
- Trust
- Collaboration
- Overlapping Risk
- Community/Relationship Building
- Parallels between stigmatizing language shaming sexual and drug use behavior



Methamphetamine & Related Harm Reduction Strategies

Methamphetamine (Meth)

- Structurally similar to amphetamine, a common treatment for ADHD
 - Amphetamine Brands: Adderall, Benzedrine, Dexidrine
 - Effects of Methamphetamine Stronger
- Primary Effects:
 - Increased Energy + Alertness
 - Decreased Appetite
 - Euphoria



Meth: (Some) Street Names, Routes of Administration

HOW METH IS USED

Meth
Crystal
Meth
Crystal
Speed
Glass
Ice
Tina
Crank



SMOKED



INJECTED



SNORTED



INGESTED



Meth: Harm Reduction Strategies



Giving the choice back to you



Food,
Water,
+ Rest

Sterile Injection + Smoking Equipment/
Syringe Exchange

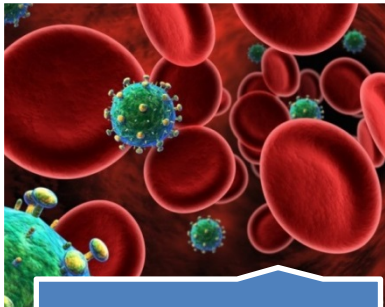


Condoms + LUBE

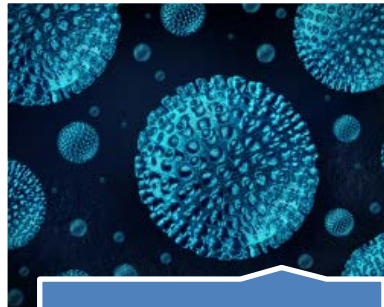


Sterile Pipe Access

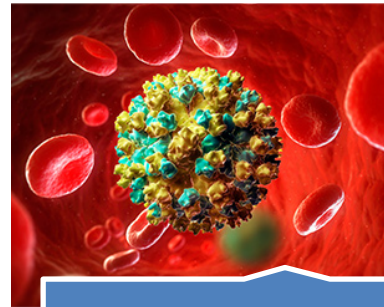
Injection Drug Use: (Some) Medical Complications



HIV



Hepatitis B

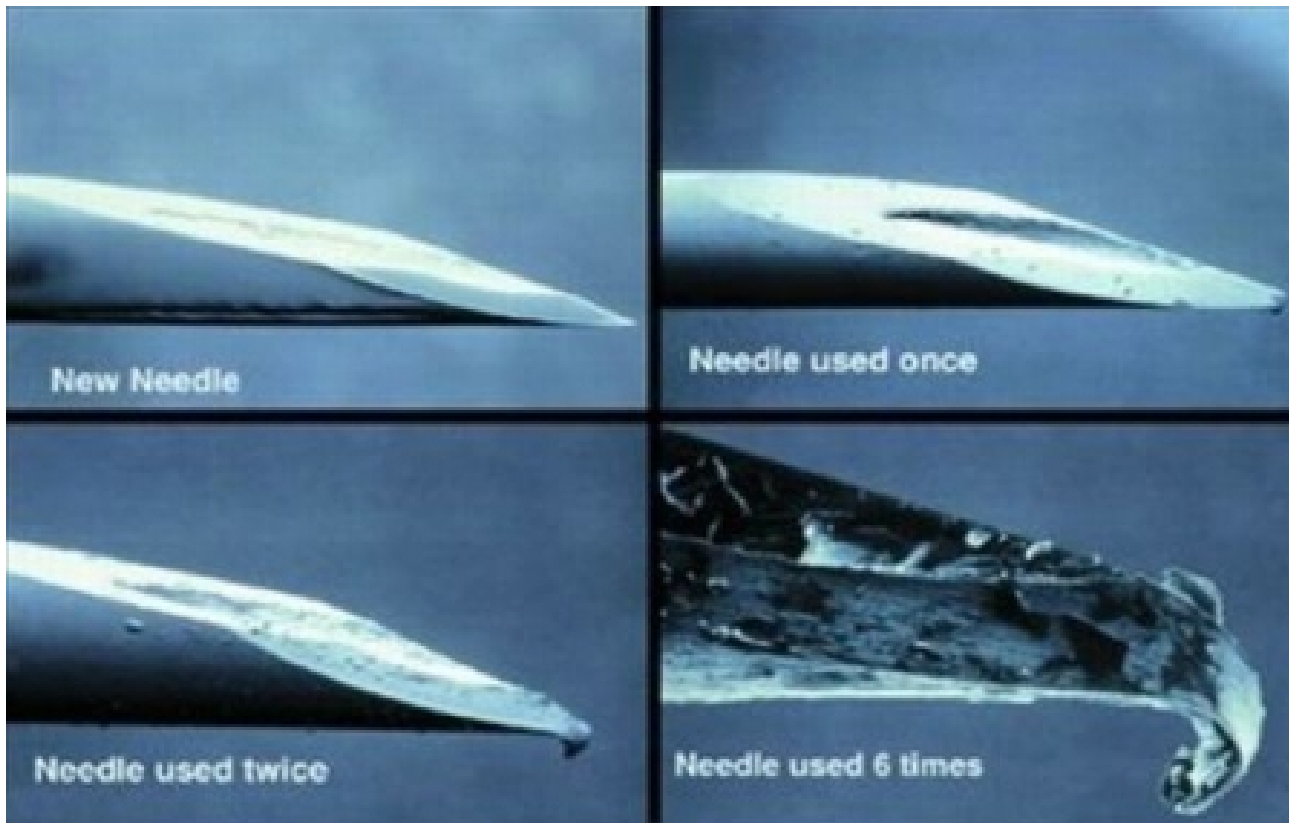


Hepatitis C



Overdose

Injection Drug Use: (Some) Medical Complications



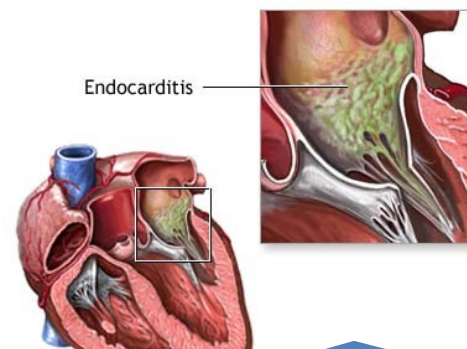
Injection Drug Use: (Some) Medical Complications



Abscess

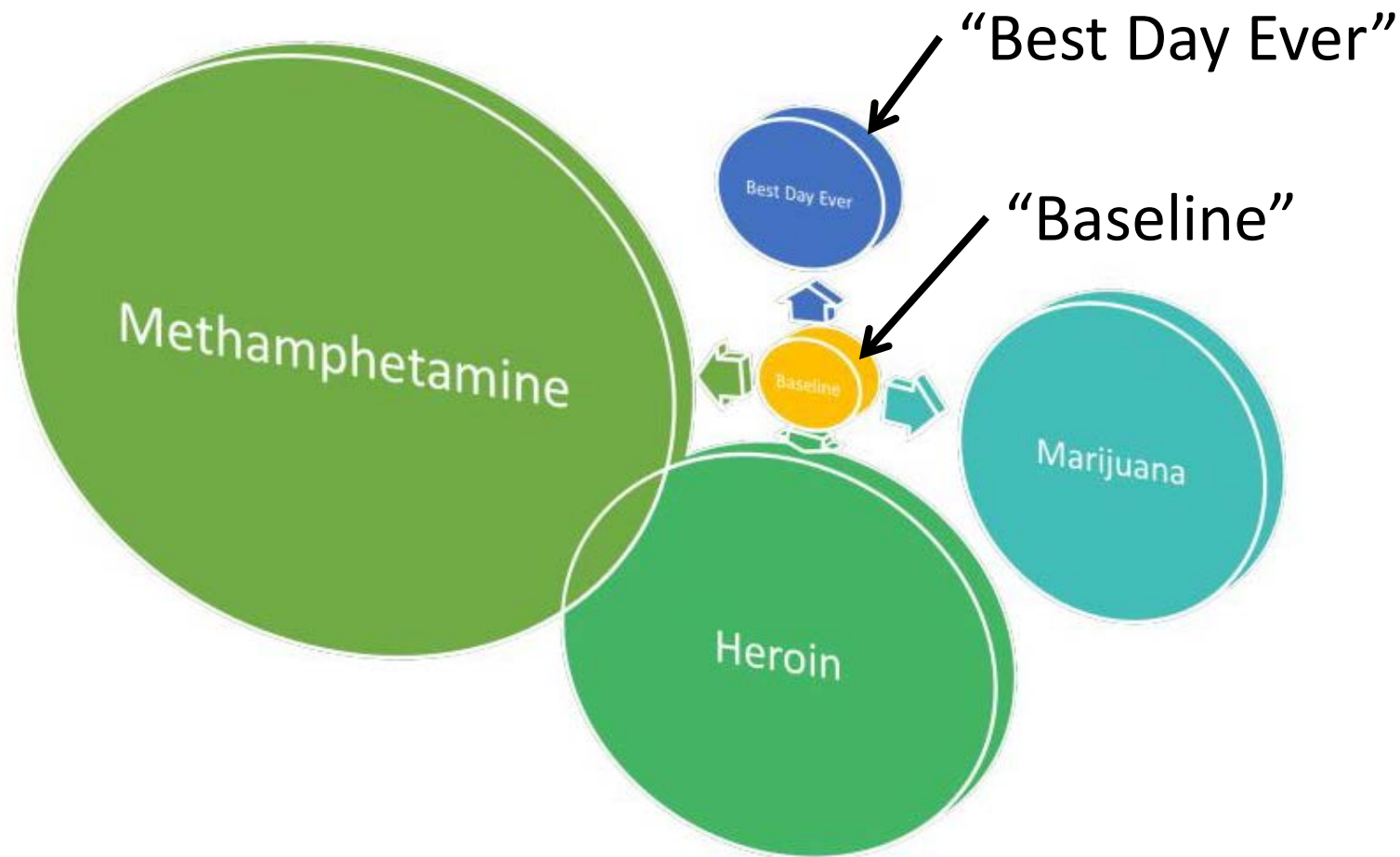


Cellulitis



Endocarditis

Meth and Dopamine: Why Keep Using?



Activity:

Principles of Harm Reduction

Which principle do you find most important?

Why?

Activity:

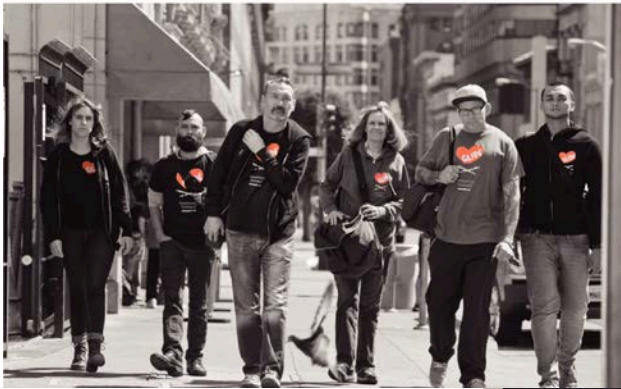
Principles of Harm Reduction

Which principle do you think would be/is the most challenging to implement?

Why?

Collaborating with Harm Reduction Organizations

**Sharing equipment
spreads Hep C**
Come get sterile stuff



- Build relationships with staff
 - Build trust with clients and community
 - Increase resources and reach for disease investigation

Resources

- CDPH Office of AIDS, Access to Sterile Syringes
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/AccessSterileSyringes.aspx>
- Harm Reduction Coalition
<http://harmreduction.org/>
- CA Syringe Access Programs
<http://harmreduction.org/connect-locally/california/>
- The Speed Project, San Francisco AIDS Foundation
<http://new.sfaf.org/tspsf/>
- Tweaker.org
- Project Neon, Seattle Counseling Service
<http://projectneon.org/>

Contact Information

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www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pages/ovhp.aspx