

**What is injection  
drug use?**

# Essential Standards

7.ATOD.1 Understand the health risks associated with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.

Clarifying Objectives

**7.ATOD.1.2 - Explain health risks  
resulting from injection drug use**

## **Statement of Objectives:**

*Today we are going to examine the dangers of injection drug use. By the end of today's lesson you will be able to identify a variety of health risks associated with the injection of substances.*

# Drugs most commonly used through injection are:

- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Methamphetamines
- Steroids

- In the 2011 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2.3% of high school students reported having injected an illegal substance during their lifetimes.





# The injection site

Drugs can be injected into the body in many ways.

- Injected just beneath the skin
- Into the muscle
- Directly into a vein

# Health Risks Of Injection Drugs



## 1. Overdose

- a. The biggest risk to a heroin user is death by overdose.
- b. It is impossible to judge the purity of street heroin.

## 2. Habit Forming

- a. All the health risks continue each and every time!

## 3. Risky Sexual Behavior

- a. Due to the effects of drugs, it is not uncommon for users to engage in risky sexual behavior. HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are contracted through the exchange of bodily fluids

# Health Risks (Continued)

## 4. Transmission of a blood-borne disease

- Because there are laws controlling the purchase of needles, many injection drug users **SHARE NEEDLES**.
- A virus can live in the used syringe up to four days.
- HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C spread rampantly through the injection drug user community. Hepatitis affects the liver and can be fatal.

# Biohazardous Waste Material

- Remember, sometimes it is necessary to use needles to inject drugs
  - Example: Diabetics take insulin
  - Health Professionals administering vaccines
  - This is very different than experimenting with illegal drugs.
- Caution – dispose of all needles properly in containers labeled “Biohazardous waste material”.
  - Never touch a needle that you find or you know has been used by someone else.



# Physical risks that are associated with using needles to inject drugs.

- HIV infection
- HBV (Hepatitis B infection)
- HCV (Hepatitis C infection)
- Abscess
- Nerve damage (depending on the site of the injection)
- Overdose
- Allergic reactions which can be fatal
- Needle breaks in the vein (requires surgery)
- Cardiac arrest (resulting from an unknown substance)
- Embolism (blood clot or air bubble resulting in stroke, heart attack, brain hemorrhage)
- Tissue damage
- Blood poisoning
- Drug addiction

**What are these substances?**

# Focus:

Sugar



Flour



Laundry  
Detergent



Cocaine



Talcum powder



- ***Is it possible that street drugs could be mixed with similar substances or tainted with more harmful substances than what we have here?***

- [Yes. Often street drugs are laced with other substances.]

- ***Why would a dealer mix other materials into a drug that he or she is making to sell?***
  - [The less of the drug he/she uses, the more money he/she is able to make on each sale. He/she may also want to enhance the drug's effects.]
- ***What would happen if a poison (example = arsenic) were mixed into the drug?***
  - [The drug user might become very ill or die because of the effects of the harmful substance.]

# United Streaming

- Glass Guns
- Frontline: The Meth Epidemic

# Statistics and Info on Drug Abuse in Teens

- <http://www.nida.nih.gov/infofacts/HSYouthtrends.html>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/headsup/pdfs/NIDA2-Article.pdf>

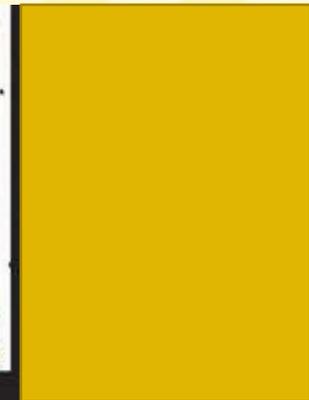
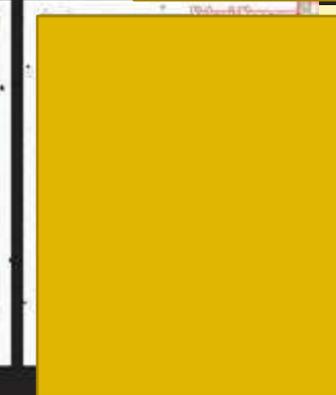
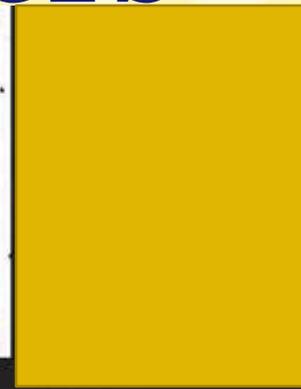
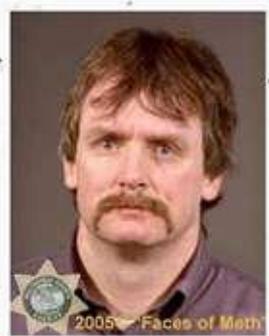
# **Injection Drug Jeopardy Game**

	RISKS	USE	MIXED BAG
100			
200			
300			
400			
500			

average:

	RISKS	USE	MIXED BAG
100			
200			
300			
400			
500			

# Before and After Meth users



# Independent Practice:

- Assign each student one of the situations following. (next slide)
- Set the scene: A student is pressured or coerced into injecting a drug at a party.
- Ask the students to describe what happened to them(the person that injected the drug) in an editorial to the local newspaper (per card assigned).
- The editorial should educate other young people on the dangers and risks associated with using injected substances.
- The students should include the following in their editorials:

# Injection Drug Use: Health Hazard Cards

<b>Heart Attack</b>	<b>Overdose</b>	<b>Abscess</b>
<b>Needle Breaks in Veins</b>	<b>Hepatitis B Infections</b>	<b>Allergic Reaction</b>
<b>Nerve Damage</b>	<b>HIV Infection</b>	<b>Tissue Damage</b>
<b>Blood Poisoning</b>	<b>You Lucked Out</b>	<b>Brain Hemorrhage</b>
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>Blood Clot</b>	<b>Hepatitis C</b>

- Based on the card assigned what happened to you?
- List the most common drugs injected.
- What are the various risks associated with injecting drugs, and which are the most and least threatening and why?
- Can you tell if a person is infected with HIV/AIDS, HBV, or HCV?
- What decisions will you have to make and how will your health be affected?
- Why would someone take such a risk?
- What would you or others do if in a similar situation in the future?

# Closure:

- ***Today we discussed the health risks associated with injection drug use. You can now identify the dangers of injecting substances and inform others of the potential health consequences.***