

Injecting Drugs-

Most people like to inject drugs to get a “a quicker rush”. Once someone injects drugs or any sort their behavior changes completely. With the idea of Harm Reduction you want to STOP anyone from injecting drugs or becoming an I.V user.

Hep C- has increased drastically nationally but also in town. This is due to needle use. Hep C also can be contracted nasally in the substance abuse world. It is very rare. This happens if the mucous membranes crack or pop and leak blood and then the next person uses the straw, cut up pen or dollar bill and can contract it. So think about it- if the kids in the H.S are snorting cocaine, Adderall etc they can possible contract Hep C.

With I.V use there also is a chance of HIV contraction. However there also is a chance to get something called “cotton fever” and also people get “abscesses”

Cotton fever is a condition that is often associated with intravenous drug use, specifically with the use of cotton to filter drugs like heroin.^[1] It has been established that the condition derives from an endotoxin released by the bacteria *Pantoea agglomerans* which colonizes cotton plants, not from the cotton itself.^[2]

Cotton fever rarely requires medical treatment but is sometimes warranted if the high fever does not break within a few hours of the onset. It will usually resolve itself within a day. Soaking in a warm bath along with a fever reducer can alleviate symptoms. Extreme cases (particularly severe or long-lasting) can be treated with antibiotics.

Cotton Fever- can be life threatening if it goes untreated for a long time.

Sometimes when people with addiction are in recover they will get tattoos to cover up the dents in their arm from years of using.

Most Common Places people like to I.V- arms, under the tongue, neck and stomach

Under the toes is not as common as you think

I.V drugs- Chrystal Meth, Suboxone, Opiate Pills, Heroin, Cocaine

A lot of other high risk factor that happen with addiction is when people in shelters, living in treatment centers, or prison or jail there are common issues of: MRSA, Meningitis, Scabies and Bed Bug issues.

What am I hearing from the addicts-

In the past two years I have been hearing from addicts that they do not know what they are buying

Addicts are “pretty good” and finding the their drug of choice from dealers. They know where to get the “good stuff”. And when they overdose it is a “good high” with opiates. Dealers cut it with stuff to increase sales.

Some stories from Stoneham residents-

The crack that I am getting has crystals in it. it is not fish scaled and I am staying up for three days
geeked out- *31 year old crack/cocaine addict started using at 13yrs old*

My son is doing triple c's and breaking dishes at my house. He also came up positive for opiates at the hospital- *mother of a 25 yrs old Stoneham resident*

The heroin I am buying has fentanyl in in. I can see it in the heroin and I am scared that I might die- *28yr old heroin addict started using at 15yrs old*