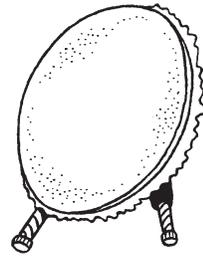




**Information for Inuit Community Members**  
**Fact Sheet** Substance Use and HIV/Hepatitis C

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**Substance Use and People who are HIV Positive**

The news of an HIV positive test or coping with the stress of living with HIV can greatly stress a person, sometimes causing them to spend a lot of time using drugs or alcohol. But substance use alters a person's judgment and weakens their health.

The use of drugs, alcohol, glue and solvents are very dangerous for a person who is HIV positive. People who have HIV have weakened immune systems. The effects of substance use on the body are too much for an HIV positive person to handle. Heavy and persistent drinking and/or drug use can damage the immune system further and this may speed up the onset of AIDS and AIDS related illnesses.

