

Crack Pipe Distribution

San Francisco

Objectives

- To present information about crack smoking & HIV risk in San Francisco
- For the HPPC to vote on the following recommendations for SFDPH
 - identify all options for distributing crack stems as a component of HIV prevention in San Francisco, SFHIV: <https://www.sfhiv.org/>
 - work with the HPPC to select the best of these options and
 - move forward with distribution.

Pipe Distribution

- Make crack smoking safer
- Connect with high risk individuals we are not otherwise reaching
 - HIV & other healthcare services
- Extend the ancillary benefits of harm reduction participation to crack smokers
- Engage people with harm reduction earlier in drug use careers
 - Deter smokers from progressing to injection
- Engage more women with harm reduction

Pipe Distribution

- Connect with high risk individuals we are not otherwise reaching
 - Stop alienating and further stigmatizing crack smokers
 - Address a need outlined in the HPPC's own planning document, 2010 San Francisco HIV Prevention Plan

Pipe Distribution

- What does crack have to do with HIV?
- Why does crack smoking need to be made safer?
- Why do we need to better engage crack smokers?

Crack & HIV

Why Crack Smokers

Crack & HIV

- Crack users & HIV risk
 - Crack use as HIV driver
 - Crack use & high risk sex
 - Crack use facilitates HIV infection
 - Crack use accelerates HIV disease progression

(Baum, et al. 2009; Booth, et al. 2000; Cook, et al. 2008; DeBeck, et al. 2009; Edlin, et al. 1994; Kim, et al. 2013; Kral, et al. 1998; SF HPPC, et al. 2010; Timpson, et al. 2010)

Crack & San Francisco

- Crack use is an HIV driver
 - A driver
 - “at least **10% prevalence** among one of the high-risk BRPs”
 - “an independent factor for HIV, making a person in a high-risk BRP **2x as likely to contract HIV** compared to someone who is not affected by the driver.”

Crack in San Francisco

- Large numbers of San Francisco crack smokers
 - Including many
 - Homeless
 - Destitute &
 - Otherwise vulnerable
- ➔ Populations least likely to be in care for HIV

Crack & HIV

- Crack & high risk sex
 - Unprotected
 - For money/goods
 - High frequency
 - With STIs
 - Among IDUs and nonIDUs
 - San Francisco IDUs & sex risk

(Booth, et al. 2000; DeBeck, et al. 2009; Edlin, et al. 1994; Hoffman, et al. 2000; Kral, et al. 1998)

Crack & HIV

- Crack use facilitates HIV infection
 - Cocaine exposure facilitates in vitro HIV infection
 - Increased percentage of T-cells susceptible to infection
 - Quiescent → G1b cell cycle
 - CCR5 expression

Crack & HIV

- Crack use accelerates HIV disease progression
 - Acceleration independent of whether on medication
 - CD4 ↓ & viral load ↑
 - Worsens medication adherence
 - More likely to progress from HIV to AIDS
 - More likely to develop and die from AIDS related illness

(Baum, et al. 2009; Cook, et al. 2008; Kim, et al. 2013; Webber, et al. 1999)

Crack & Health Risks

Why Safer Smoking

Crack Smoking & Health

- Oral Sores & ulcers
- Burns
- Respiratory Injuries & Infections
 - Tuberculosis
 - Pneumonia
- HIV & accelerated disease progression
- HCV, HCB
- STIs

(Baum, et al. 2009; Booth, et al. 2000; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1991; Cook, et al. 2008; DeBeck, et al. 2009; Edlin, et al. 1994; Faruque, et al. 1996; Feldman, et al. 2000; Fischer, et al. 2008; Gordon and Lowy 2005; Haim, et al. 1995; Jones, et al. 1998; Kim, et al. 2013; Macías, et al. 2008 ; Meleca, et al. 1997; Rosenberg, et al. 2001; Story, et al. 2008; Timpson, et al. 2010; Tortu, et al. 2004; Wilson, et al. 1998)

Health Disparities & Stigma

Synergistic Factors:

- Addiction
- Illegality
- Poverty
- Stigma
- Violence
- Public Health & Criminal Justice Systems
- Pervasive demonization
 - Sexism
 - Racism
 - Classism

Health Disparities & Stigma

- Pervasive demonization
 - Sexism
 - Larger proportion women smoke crack than inject
 - Crack mothers, crack whores, crack babies
 - Racism
 - White and black Americans use crack at roughly the same rates
 - Arrest rates
 - Incarceration rates & sentencing disparities
 - HIV rates
 - Classism
 - Associations with poverty
- Disparate burdens

Health Disparities

Crack smokers & IDUs

Health Disparities

- Syringe Access Programs for IDUs
 - Short-term incentive
 - Significant, long-term benefits
 - direct & ancillary
 - to the individual & to the general population

Health Disparities

- Syringe Access Programs
 - Direct Benefits
 - Significantly reduce risk & incidence
 - HIV
 - HCV, HBV
 - Soft Tissue Injury & Infection
 - Septicemia, Tetanus...

(Des Jarlais, et al. 1996; Hagan, et al. 1995; Heimer, et al. 1998; Kaplan and O'Keefe 1993; Ksobiech 2003)

Health Disparities

- Syringe Access Programs
 - Ancillary benefits
 - Syringe access participants significantly more likely to
 - Reduce injection frequency or stop injecting
 - Enter treatment
 - Remain in treatment
 - Access additional health and social services

(Brooner, et al. 1998; Buning 1991; Doherty, et al. 1997; Hagan, et al. 2000; Heimer, et al. 1998; Kaplan and O'Keefe 1993; Riley, et al. 1998; Satcher 2000; Strathdee, et al. 1999; Vlahov and Junge 1998)

Health Disparities

- Syringe Access Programs for IDUs
 - Accessible
 - Short-term incentive
 - Significant, long-term benefits
 - direct & ancillary
 - to the individual & to the general population
- And for Crack smokers?

Crack Kits

R O C K S A F E T Y

Tips for Safer Crack Smoking

Use your own pipes and mouthpieces

Infections can easily spread from person to person through cuts and burns on your mouth

If you must share, clean the mouth piece with alcohol wipes

Disposable pipes are the safest option; avoid using metal or plastic



Crack Pipe Distribution

- Existing Programs
 - Injection frequency ↓
 - Pipe sharing ↓
 - Use of improvised pipes ↓
 - Crack smoking ↓

Crack Pipe Distribution

- Success of existing programs
- Huge success of syringe access
 - Ease with which could build on existing services
- Obvious & unaddressed need
 - Risk-reduction
 - Increased engagement
 - Expanded service provision
- material distribution to crack smokers addresses these needs, so should be significantly expanded

Crack Kits

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