Are you around, or do you use alcohol or drugs to get along or go along with others who use? Often, the time and energy spent on acquiring and using alcohol or drugs leaves little time for developing meaningful and healthy relationship ties.

- Alcohol and drug use can trigger aggressive behavior and limit the ability of a victim to respond in dangerous situations. In addition, dependence on alcohol or drugs is often associated with can lead to a downward spiral of sexual exploitation and coercion.—

**Up to 2/3 of date rape cases involve alcohol and 60% of sexual offenders were drinking at the time of the offense.**

Alcohol, Violence and Aggression, 2000 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

- Men, and sometimes women who batter often use alcohol or drug’s as an excuse for their violence. Women are much more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner. According to the Bureau of Justice, in 2000, intimate partner homicides accounted for 33.5 percent of the murders of women and less than four percent of the murders of men.—

**57% of men and 27% of women involved in marital violence were drinking at the time of the offense.**

Alcohol, Violence and Aggression, 2000 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

- According to researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, Adolescent dating and partner violence is a major factor in attempted or considered suicide. Substance addiction and addictive relationships often walk hand in hand.—

**Up to 38% of adolescent and adult suicide victims test positive for alcohol.**

Bennett & Collins, 2000; Smith et al., 1999

- Alcohol and unintended pregnancy often occur together. In one study of unplanned pregnancies in 14-21 year olds, 1/3 of the girls who had become pregnant had been drinking when they had sex; 91% of them reported that the sex was unplanned. Any woman who could become pregnant should take steps to avoid exposing herself and her baby to the dangers of alcohol and drug use. —

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders can cause problems in how a person looks, grows, thinks, and acts.**

Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC)

- Persons who use illicit drugs (casually or habitually) or who abuse alcohol are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, such as unprotected sex, when they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.—

**American Indians and Alaska Natives ranked 3rd in rates of HIV after African Americans and Hispanics.**

Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC)