

CHEMICAL ADDICTION

& HIV

Data source: **National Institute on Drug Abuse** | nida.nih.gov



More than
1.2 million
people in the United States
are living with HIV.

Clinical research indicates that **drug use & addiction** may increase viral load, accelerate disease progression, and **worsen AIDS-related mortality** even among patients who follow antiretroviral therapies, or ART, regimens.



Drugs can make it easier for HIV to enter the **brain** and trigger an immune response & the release of **neurotoxins**, which can cause chronic neuroinflammation.



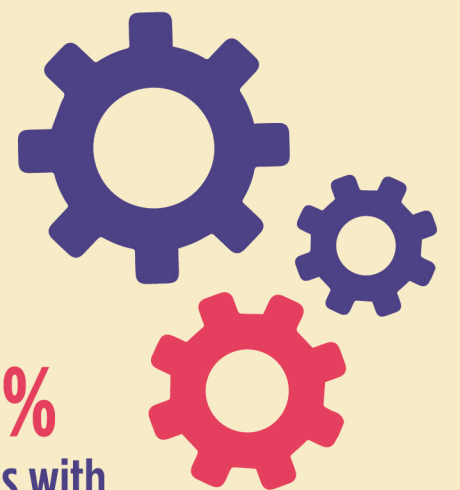
People with substance use disorders are **less likely** to take life-saving HIV medication regularly, which **worsens** the course of their illness.

Around **half** of all HIV-infected people are 50 years old or over.

50+



The intoxicating effects of many drugs can **alter judgment & inhibition**, and lead people to engage in **impulsive and unsafe behaviors.**



Around **50%** of individuals with HIV & AIDS suffer from **HIV-related neurocognitive disorders.**

RAINBOW HEALTH rainbowhealth.org

Rainbow Health's Minnesota **AIDSLine** is a statewide information & referral service that can answer your questions about HIV and help you find assistance.

Call **612-373-2437**, email aidslines@rainbowhealth.org or text **AIDSLine** to **839863**.

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