Chemical Addiction & HIV

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.

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

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 612-573-2437, email aidsline@rainbowhealth.org or text AIDSLine to 839863. © 2023 Rainbow Health