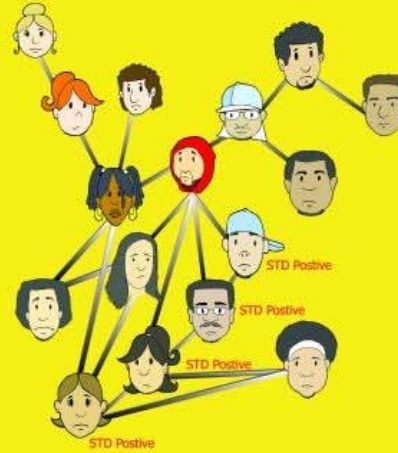


Ecstasy & Dust

Youth talk about Ecstasy as improving their sexual experience. Though there is no direct evidence that the use of E makes a difference in the frequency of unprotected sex, still youth who use Ecstasy have more partners, and tend to be more innovative in their sexual behavior. This suggests the possibility of getting involved unintentionally in unwanted sexual experiences or unprotected sex. Our data show that Ecstasy and Dust are related to decreases in condom use for youth who are sexually active. The lowest rates are among those who use used both.

DIAGNOSED STDs ARE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH MORE DRUG USE, AND HAVING AN STD INCREASES THE RISK OF HIV INFECTION. LUCKILY HIV RATES AMONG YOUTH REMAIN LOW IN HARTFORD, BUT THE CITY CONTINUES TO HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF HIV IN THE COUNTRY. IN OUR SAMPLE ONLY TWO PARTICIPANTS SELF-IDENTIFIED AS BEEN HIV POSITIVE AT THE TIME OF THEIR INTERVIEW.



Based on place of residence we constructed three network categories: suburban (outside Hartford only: 13%), mixed (Urban/Suburban: 57%) and urban (Hartford only 30%). Suburban networks were more white, mixed networks were more white/Hispanic and urban networks were both Hispanic and Black only. Participants with suburban and mixed networks use significantly more drugs, including Ecstasy, and were involved in more innovative sex (more than one partner at the same time, or on the same day, same gender experimentation, etc.).

