



RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE POLICIES TO facilitate safer crack cocaine smoking with a pipe: stem, mouthpiece, and screen



DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES

- Stems, mouthpieces, screens, push sticks
- Offer mouthpieces with each stem/pipe
- Safer sex - condoms, lubricant etc.
- Without requiring exchange of used ones
- Based on the quantity requested by clients with no limits

EDUCATE ABOUT

- Safer use of equipment
- Safer smoking practices
- Risks of sharing and using self-made
- Safer sex
- Stimulant Overdose prevention practices
- When to replace a stem:
 - After someone else has used it
 - Chipped, scratched, cracked
 - Mouthpiece is burnt; screen is loose

DISPOSE

- Encourage clients to return and/or properly dispose of used or broken
- Dispose of used smoking supplies in accordance with local regulations for biomedical waste
- Offer multiple sizes of biohazard containers for safe disposal
- Offer multiple, convenient locations for safe disposal in rural, remote, and urban settings

RISKS

- Self-made pipes (e.g. metal pipes, beverage cans, antennas, plastic bottles, inhalers, eye droppers, lightbulbs, blowing out a ball on crack stem) increase the risk of injuries and burns to the mouth and lips
- Plastic bottles can release toxic vapours when heated
- Low quality glass can explode/shatter when heated
- Burns to the mouth and lips can result from contact with heated
- Ill-fitting screens can be inhaled and damage oral cavity, throat, and lungs
- Transmission may occur if more than one person uses smoking equipment contaminated with HBV, HCV, pneumonia etc.
- Fentanyl and its analogues are increasingly detected in illicit drugs including crack increasing overdose rates

BEHAVIORS

- Prolonged and frequent smoking can lead to oral inflammation, cuts, burns and sores. Consequently, oral injury and inflammation may increase the risk of HIV infection.
- Pipe sharing is common
- Pooling money to buy drugs is linked with sharing smoking equipment
- Infrequent smokers are less likely to have own supplies