

When the Party Ends

When the Party Ends is a short film about a group of LGBTQ+ friends exploring life, love, and relationships in a world where being in love, can mean risking it all. Set in an upscale nightclub, *When the Party Ends* begins as Anthony, a young man in his early twenties, returns home from New York after being exposed to HIV. As Anthony desperately looks for a sense of safety from his fears, he seeks out his first love, an old boyfriend from high school.

<https://vimeo.com/115539121>

Reflection Questions

- When Anthony asks if Evan is “seriously dating”, “What does he mean?” In what ways can “hooking up” effect other people?
- What message does the film convey when Anthony has a private conversation in a public bathroom stall?
- What opinions do you have on seeking support from someone you have broken up with?
- How can sexually active adults seek help and resources from their community?
- In the film, Anthony’s female friend says, “diabetic coming through”. In what ways are medications for diabetes less stigmatized than HIV medications and why?

Conversation Starters

- Don’t wait until the heat of the moment to start talking about HIV. It’s better to talk about it earlier rather than later—certainly before you have sex.
- Some people with HIV have suggested that it helps to talk about their status earlier in the relationship rather than later. Disclosing you are HIV-positive after you’ve become close to someone can cause your partner to feel as though you have kept something important from them.
- If you are looking for a way to start talking, show them this film. Approaching the conversation this way doesn’t make it sound like you don’t trust them, but rather you’ve been reading about it, heard about it, were talking to a friend who brought it up, etc., and because you care, you want to make sure you’re both protected.
- Don’t force it. Find the right time and place to have a conversation. You can schedule a time to talk or have spontaneous conversations in a setting where you are comfortable.
- Try scheduling regular check-ins, or “talks.” The key to a healthy relationship is having an open dialogue throughout the relationship. It can be hard to find the right time to bring these things up. If you agree to schedule them in advance, no one has to wonder about the timing of the conversations.
- A conversation does not have to be face-to-face. Whether you talk, type, or text what is important is that you start the conversation about HIV.

Additional Resources

- Have questions? Talk with an educator: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/online-tools/chat>
- <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/get-care/our-services/hiv-services>
- <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/stds-hiv-safer-sex/hiv-aids/prep>
- <http://www.cdc.gov>