Northeast & Caribbean (HHS Region 2)

ATTC Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

WEBINAR SERIES

MSM. Methamphetamines, & HIV

(Part One)

Presented live June 14, 2018

Mary McCarty-Arias, M.A., CRC

More than 25 years experience training in co-occurring disorders, HIV, and vocational rehabilitation.

This webinar training is provided under New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Education and Training Provider Certification Number 0115. Training under a New York State OASAS Provider Certification is acceptable for meeting all or part of the CASAC/CPP/CPS education and training requirements.

Important Information about CASAC Hours:

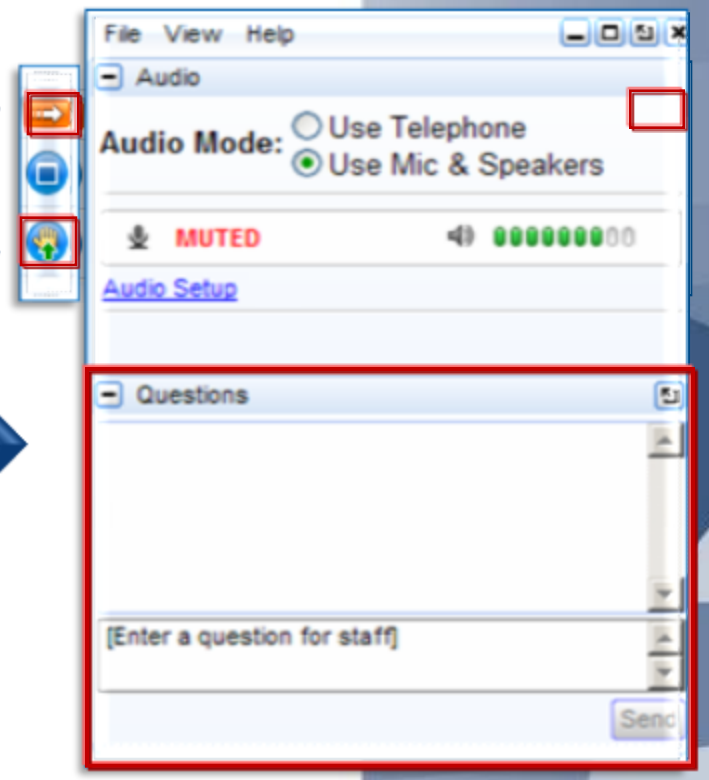
- Everyone must attend both sessions
- Participants will receive a link for an evaluation after the 2nd session
- When we receive the evaluation, we will generate a certificate for 3 CASAC hours
- We cannot give partial hours if you only complete one session
- If some of you are sharing computers, please type in your names and make sure that everyone fills out an evaluation

Webinar Logistics:

Control Panel

Raise your hand

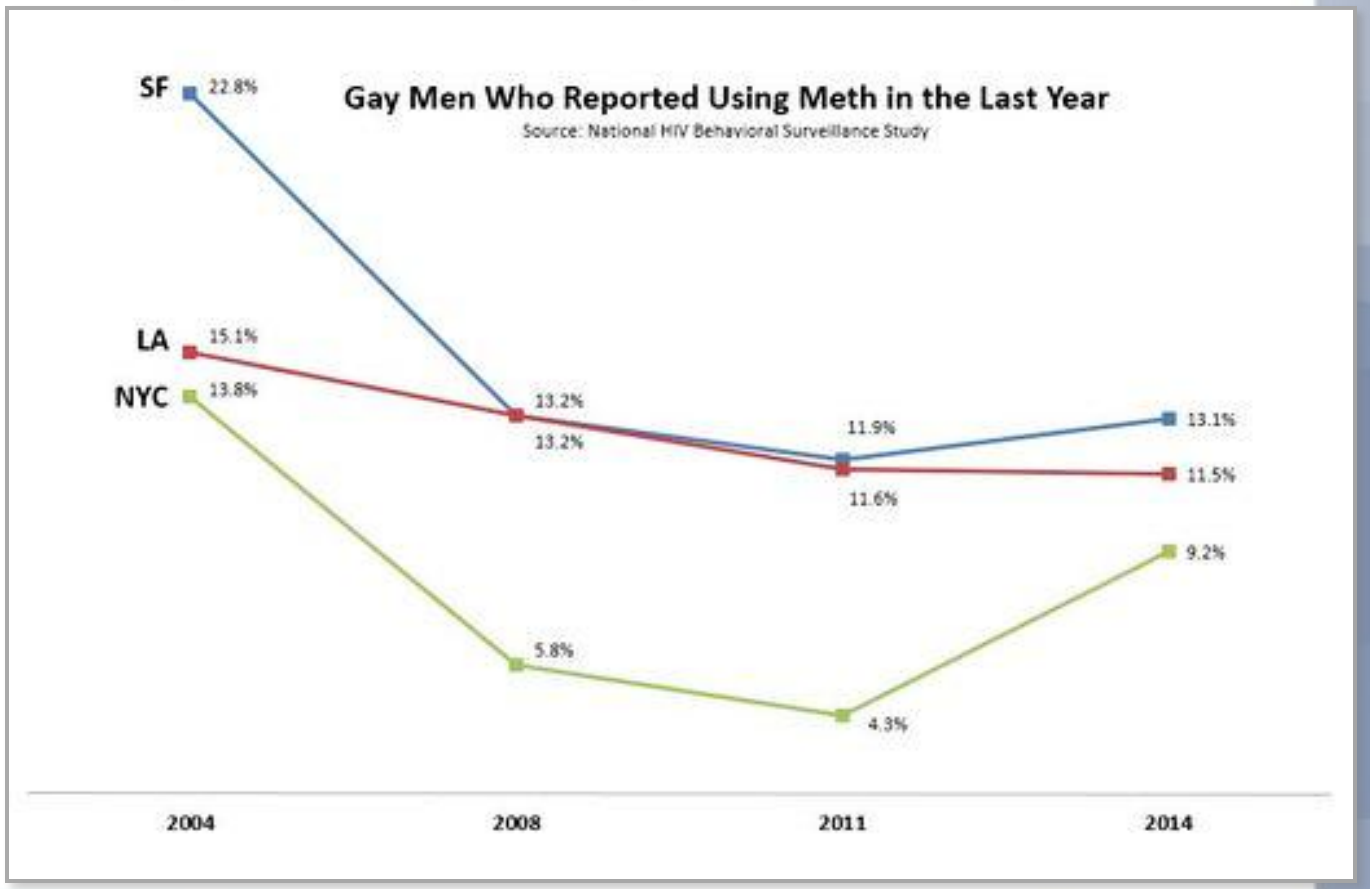
Q & A



Objectives – Part One

- Define homophobia
- Review some epidemiology
- List reasons why an MSM might use drugs
- Review research by Perry Halkitis
- Describe crystal meth , chemicals used to make it, perceived benefits, and risks

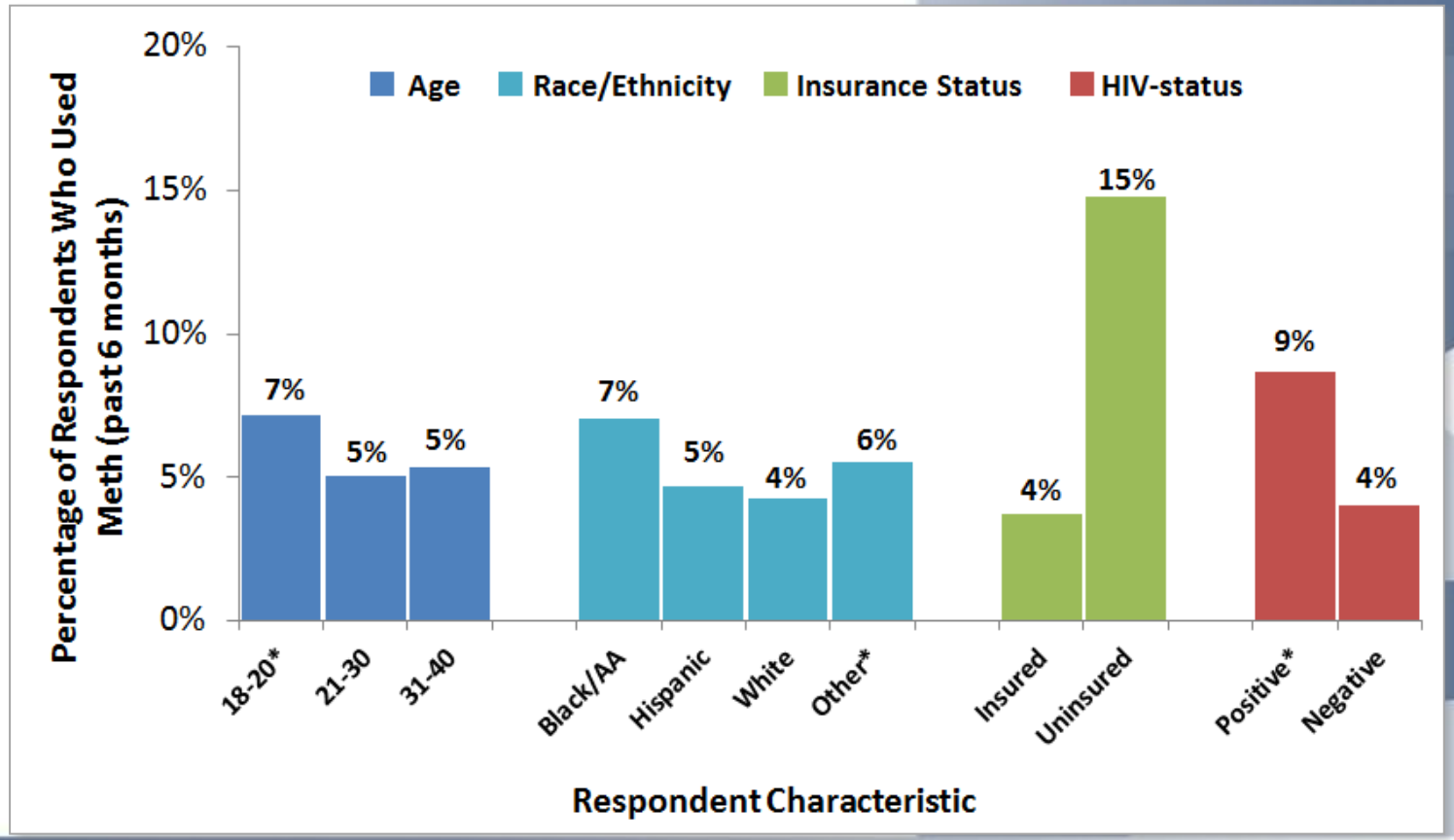
Meth Use by NYC Gay Men



Staley P(2016). It's Back! Meth Use By NYC Gay Men Rising Again. POZ. Retrieved from https://www.poz.com/blog/meth-use-by-nyc-gay-men-rising-again

Recent Meth Use among NYC MSM

(selected Characteristics)



Sexual Health Survey, Spring 2015 (N=649)
Preliminary Data

Homophobia

External - range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as LGBT

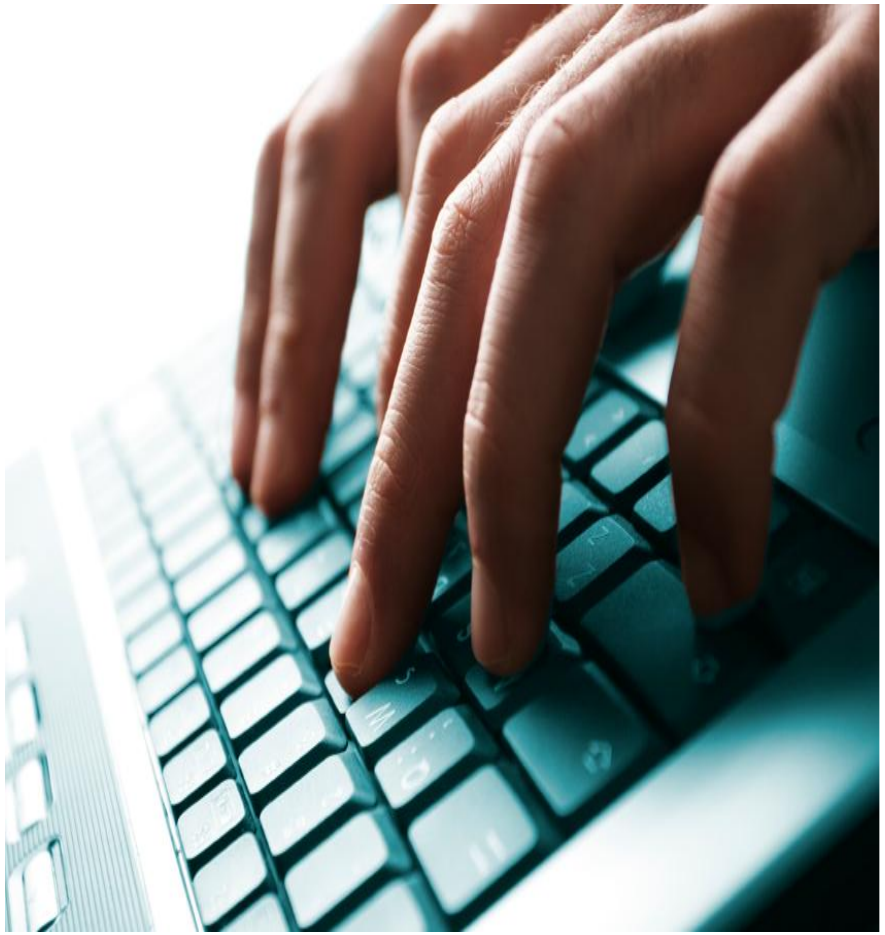
- *Has been defined as contempt, prejudice, aversion, hatred or antipathy*

Internal - refers to negative stereotypes, beliefs, stigma, and prejudice about homosexuality and LGBT people that a person with same-sex attraction turns inward on themselves, whether or not they identify as LGBT

- *Also applies to conscious or unconscious behaviors which a person feels the need to promote or conform to cultural expectations of heteronormativity*

Write in...

1. Why might an MSM use drugs?
2. How does homophobia impact the use of drugs?



MSM and Meth Use

- Increases feelings of self-esteem and confidence
- Combats loneliness
- Decreases fatigue
- Decreases inhibitions and increases libido
- Prolongs sexual performance
- Increases sexual enhancement/ heightens sexual desire

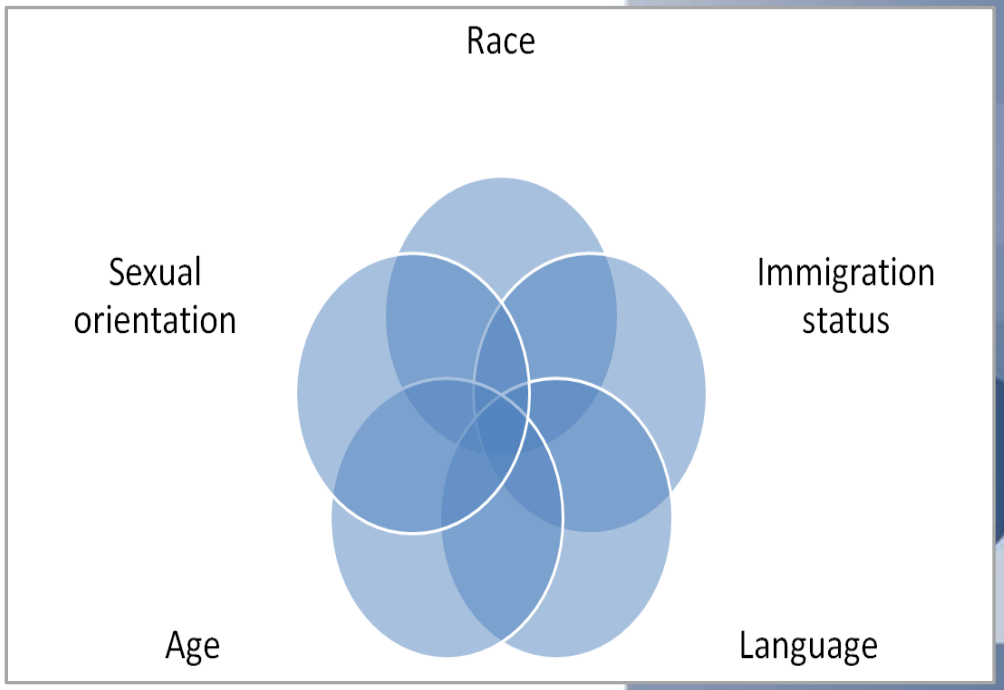
(Halkitis, 2014)

Other Issues – More from Dr. Halkitis

- May help some men confront issues of self-esteem, guilt, and shame associated with sexual identity
- May help people cope with stigma and internalized homophobia and/or lack of a sense of belonging
- May help MSM address HIV
- May also include poverty, racial, and ethnic discrimination

Intersectionality

Having multiple oppressed identities (race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, language, ability, etc.) affects physical and mental health, well-being, and health-seeking behaviors.



Venues for Use

- Private homes
- Clubs/ Circuit parties
- Shift to social networking sites
  – *not specifically a venue but a means to meet often assuring anonymity, spontaneity, and convenience*
- Dating Apps: Grindr, Scruff, Jack'd
- PNP (Party and Play)

Crystal Methamphetamine

- White bitter-tasting crystalline powder, dissolves in water or alcohol
- Developed early in the 20th century as a nasal decongestant
- Used by soldiers during World War II and truckers after the war
- Used by women to lose weight

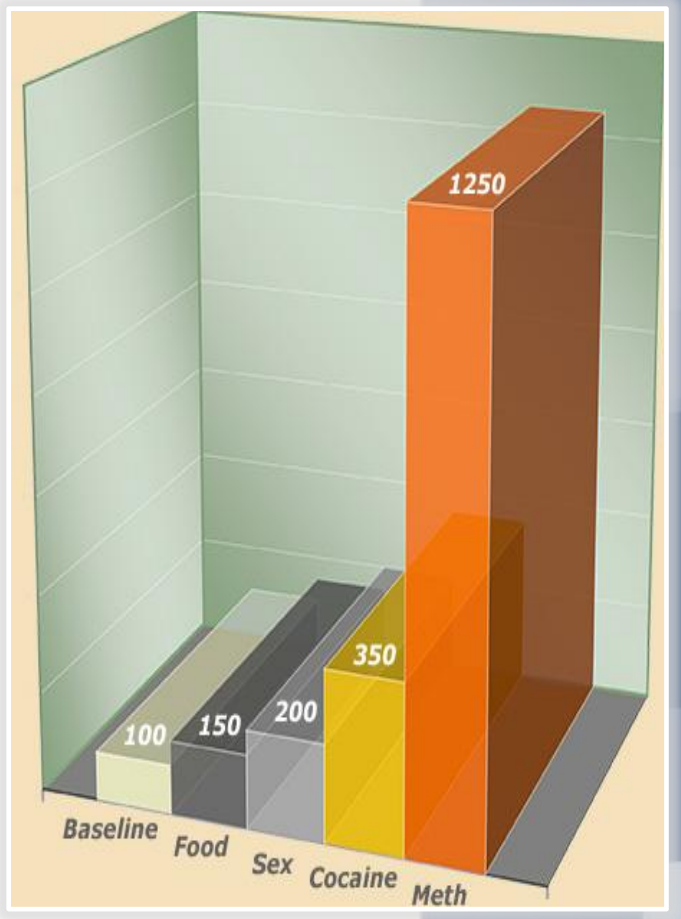
Crystal Methamphetamine
(continued)

- Street names: crystal, tina, speed, crank, ice
- Schedule II drug: high potential for abuse
- Similar in chemical structure to other amphetamines

Chemicals Used to make Meth

- Acetone
- Lithium (batteries)
- Toluene (brake fluid)
- Hydrochloric acid
- Pseudoephedrine
- Ammonia

Meth and the Brain – Dopamine Levels



Additional Perceived Benefits

- Increase in attention
- Decrease in fatigue
- Decrease in appetite
- Euphoria and rush
- Avoid rebound

Long Term Effects

- Anhedonia
- Anxiety
- Insomnia
- Tooth decay (may be caused by high sugar diets, dry mouth, and bruxism)
- Psychotic features including hallucinations (visual & auditory) and delusions
- Reduced motor speed
- Cognitive difficulties
- Sexual Difficulties – “Crystal Dick”

Meth & HIV

- Even occasional use can cause faster weight loss and vitamin depletion
- Clinical studies suggest that current methamphetamine users taking HAART may be at greater risk of developing AIDS than non-users, due to poor medication adherence
- Long term users experience greater neuronal injury and cognitive impairment due to HIV
- Accelerated dementia
- In animal studies, methamphetamine has been shown to increase viral replication

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Methamphetamine vs. Cocaine

Methamphetamine:

- Man-made
- Smoking produces a high for 8-30 hours
- 50% of drug is removed from body in 12 hours
- Limited medical use

Cocaine:

- Plant derived
- Smoking produces a high for 8-30 minutes
- 50% of drug is removed from body in 1 hour
- Limited medical use

Meth Economics 101

Term	Amount	Going Rate
Quarter	1/4 gram (0.01 ounce)	$40 - $60
Half	1/2 gram (0.02 ounce)	$60 - $100
Teenager	1/16 ounce (1.8 grams)	$150
8-Ball	1/8 ounce (3.5 grams)	$350
Ounce	1.00 ounce	$1500

Methamphetamine Use

Signs of Abuse

- rapid weight loss
- nervous energy
- no "need" for sleep
- aggressive
- mean temperament
- compulsive
- excited talk

Signs of Withdrawal

- long crash
- apathy
- depression
- fatigue
- anxiety
- suicidal ideation
- cravings

"Club Drugs"

A group of psychoactive substances that tend to be used by young people at bars, clubs, concerts, and other parties

Examples: GHB, Ecstasy, Alcohol

Write in.....

Why Do People Mix Methamphetamines with “Club Drugs”?

GHB- gamma-hydroxybutyrate

- Also known as liquid ecstasy
- Central nervous system depressant
- Perceived benefits:
  - increased sex drive and tranquility
- Short term effects:
  - May include memory loss, hallucinations,
  - aggressive behavior, nausea, and lower body temp.
- Often mixed with alcohol

Alcohol

- Legal drug
- Socially acceptable
- Usually ingested orally, but can be used anally
- Perceived benefits: lowers inhibitions, "liquid courage"
- Risks: Reduces white blood cells, blackouts, cell damage in the brain, liver, and kidneys

What Influences the Effects of a Drug?

- Drug itself
- Age
- Gender
- Weight
- Expectation
- Venue
- Route of administration

Next Week

- Routes of Administration
- Some relationships with substances
- DSM-5 Diagnosis
- Harm Reduction
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Treatment

If you are sharing a computer, please remember to type all names in!

~Thank you!

MSM, Methamphetamines, & HIV Webinar

End of Part One

Part two will take place on June 21, 2018

Presenter:
Mary McCarty-Arias, M.A., CRC
Program Manager/Senior Trainer

Organizer:
Clyde Frederick
Technologist/Program Support

A follow-up email will be sent to your in-box one hour after part 2 on June 21, 2018. Please complete your evaluation to receive your OASAS "Certificate of Completion". It will only take a few minutes. This course provides 3 CASAC hours.

Thank you for your participation!!!