



Event-Level Analysis of Anal Sex Roles and Sex Drug Use Among Gay and Bisexual Men in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Importance of this study

- Previous research shows a strong link between substance use and sexual behaviour among gay and bisexual men (GBM).
- Unfortunately, most studies examining this relationship assess substance use over extended time periods, and do not consider anal sex roles (insertive/receptive/versatile).
- This study used event-level partnership data as a more precise measure of how drug use influences anal sex roles.

This study used event-level data to explore the relationship between substance use and sexual positioning among gay and bisexual men in Vancouver, Canada

Event-level analyses examine variables within the context of a specific sex event, yielding improved evidence regarding substance use and sexual positioning

How this study was conducted

- Survey data pertaining to self-reported sexual behavior and substance use were analyzed for Vancouver-based GBM who were enrolled in the Momentum study through respondent-driven sampling (RDS).
- Multivariable regression using generalized linear mixed models compared receptive, insertive, and versatile anal sex roles.

What the study found

- The use of erectile dysfunction drugs (EDD) is significantly associated with insertive anal sex roles.
- The use of poppers is significantly associated with receptive anal sex roles.
- Crystal methamphetamine was significantly associated with all anal sex roles.
- Participants were significantly more likely to report receptive anal sex if they met their partner online, identified as gay (compared to bisexual or other), were HIV-positive, and attended group sex events within the previous six months.

What this means

- The drug use patterns discerned through this analysis seem to reflect logical, pre-determined decision-making based on specific desired sex roles.
- More research on anal sex roles, with specific attention to sexual versatility, is needed.
- Event level partnership data is important for examining substance use and sexual positioning, and may also prove beneficial for studying HIV/STI testing and counselling, sexual behaviour agreements, and the acceptability of emerging biomedical technologies such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

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