

Substance Use, Sexual Behaviour, and Sero-Adaptive Strategies of Vancouver Gay and Bisexual “Group Sex Event (GSE)” Attendees

**Ashleigh Rich¹, Nathan Lachowsky^{1 2}, Zishan Cui¹,
Paul Sereda¹, Allan Lal¹, David Moore^{1 2}, Robert S Hogg^{1 3},
Eric A Roth⁴**

1 BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, Canada, 2 Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 3 Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada, 4 Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada

**THE AUTHORS HAVE NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR
RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE**

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Group Sex Events (GSEs)

- 1) Substance Use -EDD, poppers, crystal methamphetamine¹**
- 2) Sexual Adventurism – CAI, fisting, multiple anal sex partners**
- 3) Preventive Strategies – Boundary Play or Edgework³**

- 1. Prestage, G. et al. 2009a. The Role of Drugs During Group Sex among Gay Men in Australia. *Sexual Health* 6 (4): 310-317.**
- 2. Prestage, G. et al. 2009 b. Gay Men Who Engage in Group Sex are at Increased Risk of HIV Infection and Onward Transmission. *AIDS and Behavior* 13: 724-730.**
- 3. O'Byrne, P. and D. Holmes. 2011. Desire, Drug Use and Unsafe Sex: Examination of Gay Men Who Attend Gay Circuit Parties. *Culture, Health and Sexuality* 13 (1): 1-13.**



Respondent Driven Sampling

- Feb. 2012- Feb. 2014
- 719 gay/bisexual men
- 600 Respondents
- 119 seeds

CASI Questionnaire

Biological Tests

- POC HIV
- Hepatitis C
- Syphilis Serology

METHODS

GSE attendance past 6 months

180 of 719 = 25%

- 1. Private sex parties**
- 2. Darkrooms**
- 3. Blackout events**

Logistic Regression Models

Past 6 Months

- 1) Substance use**
- 2) Sexual Behaviour + Psychosocial Scales**
- 3) Prevention Strategies**

momentum 
moving men's health research forward

 @momentumstudy
 /momentumstudy

You could win a **\$2000** travel voucher
\$250 Apple store gift card
or up to **\$90** cash!

What to expect?
Confidential computer survey
Free HIV & STI testing



Make an appointment now!
604 558 2017

Find out more:
www.momentumstudy.ca

Suite 505-1200
Burrard St., Vancouver

Tues – Thurs 11-7
Fri – Sat 9-5

Voucher #

Referrer #

Prevention Strategies by Sero-Status

HIV (+)

- Always use condoms for AI
- Be the bottom for AI
- Have sex that doesn't include AI
- Have UAI with guys I know are HIV(+)
- Have UAI if on treatment or my viral load is low
- Not cumming inside my partner
- Asking partner about status before sex

HIV (-?)

- Always use condoms for AI
- Be the top for AI
- Have sex that doesn't include AI
- Have UAI with guys I know are HIV (-)
- Have UAI with guys with low viral loads or on treatment
- Not letting my partner cum inside me
- Asking partner about status before sex.

MODEL 1. SUBSTANCE USE PAST 6 MONTHS

VARIABLE	UNIVARIABLE OR (95% CI)	MULTIVARIABLE AOR (95% CI)
EDD	5.62 (3.73, 8.47)	2.86 (1.66, 4.92)
CRYSTAL METH	2.42 (1.59, 3.69)	0.66 (0.31, 1.41)
EDD * CRYSTAL	--	4.32 (1.44, 12.94)
POPPERS	5.01 (3.43, 7.33)	3.76 (2.49, 5.70)
GHB	2.95 (1.94, 4.49)	Not Selected
KETAMINE	2.15 (1.32, 3.50)	Not Selected
ECSTASY	2.00 (1.33, 3.00)	Not Selected
AUDIT TEST		
< 8 Drinks/Wk	Referent	Referent
8- 14 Drinks/Wk	0.63 (0.41, 0.98)	0.66 (0.49, 1.31)
> 14 Drinks/Wk	1.59 (0.99- 1.98)	2.39 (1.40- 4.08)

Model 2. Sexual Behavior + Psycho-Social Scales

VARIABLE	UNIVARIABLE OR (95% CI)	MULTIVARIABLE AOR (95% CI)
Treatment Optimism	1.06 (1.02, 1.11)	Not Selected
Sensation Seeking	1.15 (1.10, 1.20)	1.10 (1.04, 1.15)
Sexual Escape	1.05 (1.02, 1.07)	Not Selected
Anal Sex Partners < 5	Referent	Referent
> 5	6.81 (4.30, 10.79)	4.64 (2.84, 7.59)
Rimming	3.68 (2.44, 5.53)	Not Selected
Sex Toys	3.36 (2.29, 4.93)	2.49 (1.59, 3.89)
Fisting	5.17 (2.90, 9.22)	2.29 (1.17, 4.49)
High Risk Sex No	Referent	Referent
Yes	4.22 (2.89, 6.17)	2.45 (1.52, 3.64)

MODEL 3. HIV (+) ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES

VARIABLE	UNIVARIABLE OR (95% CI)	MULTIVARIABLE AOR (95% CI)
Be the Bottom for Anal Sex	2.62 (1.27, 5.38)	Not selected
Only have UAI with HIV(+) Partners	3.76 (1.77, 7.96)	3.20 (1.37, 7.44)
Only have UAI with Partner on Treatment or with Low Viral Load	3.06 (1.48, 6.34)	2.19 (0.93, 5.14)
Withdrawal	2.10 (1.00, 4.38)	Not selected

Model 3. HIV(-)/Unknown Status Prevention Strategies

VARIABLE	UNIVARIABLE OR (95% CI)	MULTIVARIABLE AOR (95% CI)
Always Using Condoms	0.54 (0.35, 0.84)	Not selected
Only Have UAI with HIV(-) Partners	0.59 (0.36, 0.99)	0.53 (0.31, 0.91)
Only have UAI with Partner on Treatment or w/ Low Viral Load	4.49 (2.36, 8.54)	4.92 (2.49, 9.74)
Assumption of Partners' Status If Not Disclosed		
Assume Negative	Referent	Referent
Assume Positive	0.51 (0.27, 0.98)	0.68 (0.34, 1.35)
Look for Other Signs	2.45 (1.19, 5.07)	3.10 (1.45, 6.67)
Make No Assumptions	0.84 (0.48, 1.48)	1.05 (0.58, 1.90)

SUMMARY

GSE attendance as a possible sub-culture –

**New Perspectives on sero-adaptive
strategies and high risk sex**

ericroth@uvic.ca

**Thank you,
Sponsors, Partners, Momentum Participants**

momentum 
moving men's health research forward



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

Together, we can stop HIV/AIDS



CIHR IRSC



Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

NIDA
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
ON DRUG ABUSE



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

HiM | HEALTH INITIATIVE FOR MEN

YOUTH CO
HIV AND HEP C
COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Providence
HEALTH CARE

How you want to be treated.

Vancouver 
Coastal Health
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.



University
of Victoria

