



Injection drug use among men who have sex with men (MSM)

Dr Adam Bourne

Sigma Research

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Adam.bourne@lshtm.ac.uk



Patterns in MSM IDU

- Historically low, relative to other drug use
- Rising use of crystal methamphetamine, mephedrone & GBL/GHB
- Injection of crystal and meph on the rise (“Slamming”)
- Among 8000 patients in 2011-2012 at Club Drug Clinic:
 - 24% currently injecting; 18% previously injected
- Among CODE clinic patients:
 - In 2011, 30% of crystal meth & meph users injected; in 2012 risen to 80%
- Drug use often within highly sexualised environments



Harms experienced/exposed to

- Needle sharing – BBV transmission
- Higher likelihood of engaging in HIV transmission risk behaviour
- High prevalence of HIV among drug using men
- Treatment non-adherence issues for men with diagnosed HIV
- Dependency and ‘comedown’



Harm reduction need

- Unique context of IDU among MSM
- Professional population of dependent drug users
- Many MSM not comfortable accessing generic services
- Generic services not providing appropriate harm reduction information
- Only one dedicated community service (London Friend) and two clinics (Club Drug Clinic & CODE Clinic)



Useful resources

- Kirby T, Thornber-Dunwell M (2013) High-risk drug practices tighten grip on London gay scene. *Lancet*, 381, 101-102.
- Bourne A (2012) Drug use among men who have sex with men: Implications for harm reduction. In: *The Global State of Harm Reduction* (C. Stoicescu Ed.) <http://www.ihra.net/global-state-of-harm-reduction-2012>
- Antidote @ London Friend <http://londonfriend.org.uk/get-support/drugsandalcohol/>
- Club Drug Clinic, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital <http://www.clubdrugclinic.com/>