**Club drug use, sexual behaviour & STI prevalence in sexual health clinic attendees in Leeds, UK.**

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**BACKGROUND**

There is worldwide interest in the use of club drugs and their relationship with sexual risk and STIs. Data from the US2 and China3 has shown that club drug use, particularly stimulants, is linked with increased sexual risk. Australian data suggests that methamphetamine use is likely to be implicated in HIV acquisition4.

"ChemSex" is a new term used in the UK to describe the use of methamphetamine, GHB/GL and mephedrone during sex and is increasingly being linked with higher risk sexual behaviour, specifically condomless anal sex with multiple partners in men who have sex with men (MSM)5.

As opposed to MSM, the trends of club drug use and sexual behaviour/STI prevalence in the heterosexual population remain largely unexplored, particularly in the UK.

**AIMS**

To identify:
- The level of club drug (CD) use by clients attending an out of London UK sexual health clinic
- If CD users have a higher prevalence of sexually transmitted infections
- If people would like to reduce or stop their club drug use
- If CDs 2+ partners in the past year and inconsistent condom use in the past 4 weeks

**METHODS**

Sexual health clinic attendees aged ≥16 years were invited to complete a questionnaire on sexual behaviour and drug use for 2 weeks per quarter in 2013 – 14. CD use was compared with age, sexuality, sexual behaviour and STI rate to determine any association.

**Definitions**
- Club Drugs: ecstasy, mephedone, cocaine, GHB/GL and ketamine
- Sexual risk:
  1. Self perceived high risk behaviour
  2. Any Anal Intercourse6
  3. Based on NATSAL survey definition7:
    - 2+ partners and no condom use in the past year
    - 2+ partners in the past year and inconsistent condom use in the past 4 weeks

**RESULTS**

**Demographics:**

- 2332 questionnaires analysed
- Mean age: 27 (16 – 83) years
- 52% male; 75% white British, 83% heterosexuals and 11% MSM.

**Associations with Club Drug use:**
- **Gender:** All drug use was higher in men; heterosexual males versus females 45% versus 29% OR: 1.96 (P < 0.0001)
- **Age:** Significantly higher recent drug use in <24 years versus ≥ 25 years; 44% versus 26% OR: 2.29 (P < 0.0001)

**Club Drug use & STIs:**
- Overall STI rate was 15%
- There were no associations between lifetime or active use of club drugs and overall STI prevalence in heterosexuals (lifetime OR: 0.91 p = 0.54; active OR: 1.02 p = 0.94)
- There were no associations between lifetime or active use of club drugs and overall STI prevalence in MSM (lifetime OR: 1.30 p = 0.35; active OR: 1.21 p = 0.63)
- In MSM there was a higher rate of gonorrhoea in those recently using GBL OR: 2.26 but this did not reach significance.

**REFERENCES**