GROUP SEX EVENTS AND HIV RISK AMONG YOUNG ADULT MULTIDRUG USERS

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The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institute on Drug Abuse or the National Institutes of Health.

There are no conflicts to report.

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Club drugs include:
- Ecstasy
- Cocaine
- Methamphetamine
- LSD
- GHB
- Other hallucinogens

Common in nightclubs and parties, especially in Miami
Elevated HIV risks:

- Passed to many people at one time
- Mixing of populations at GSEs
- Occurs alongside substance use

(Friedman et al., 2008; Friedman et al., 2011)

Research is limited and mostly focused on MSM

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THE SOUTH BEACH STUDY

- Randomized clinical trial to reduce substance use and HIV transmission risk among young adults.

- Currently in data collection phase.

- Three arms:
  - 1) Interviewer- administered assessment
  - 2) Self- administered assessment
  - 3) Wait- list control

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Eligibility – Past 90 day behavior:

1. Reported heterosexual sex.
2. Used “club drugs” at least 3 times.
3. Misused prescription medication (e.g. OxyContin; Xanax) at least 3 times.
## Characteristics of Young Adult Multidrug Users in Miami’s Club Scene (N= 300)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ Ethnicity</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American/ Black</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean; SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.6 (5.58)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>79.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school completion</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group sex participation history</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE SOUTH BEACH STUDY
PARTICIPANT SUBSTANCE USE - PAST 90 DAYS

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Examine differences between participants who report group sex participation history compared to those who do not.

Specifically:
- Demographics
- Substance use
- HIV risk behavior
- Health and social risk factors
## RESULTS

### Bivariate logistic regression predicting lifetime GSE participation (N= 300)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>P</th>
<th>OR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>0.062</td>
<td>1.784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0.021</td>
<td>2.093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young age (18-24)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.088</td>
<td>0.663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heterosexual</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## RESULTS

### Bivariate logistic regression predicting lifetime GSE participation (N=300)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>( P )</th>
<th>( OR )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hallucinogens</td>
<td>0.111</td>
<td>1.463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>0.729</td>
<td>0.922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack cocaine</td>
<td>0.101</td>
<td>1.531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>1.437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>2.243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHB</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td>1.393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug injection</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>2.627</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>OR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substance dependence</td>
<td>0.377</td>
<td>1.231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimization (physical/sexual)</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>1.835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe mental distress</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>1.682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprotected vaginal intercourse</td>
<td>0.814</td>
<td>1.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprotected anal intercourse</td>
<td>0.118</td>
<td>0.632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family relationships</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendships</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living situation</td>
<td>0.039</td>
<td>0.599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious attendance</td>
<td>0.607</td>
<td>1.128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## RESULTS

### Characteristics of participants with GSE history (N=129)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>unprotected intercourse during GSE</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>substance use during GSE</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>99.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>age of first GSE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19.86</td>
<td>(4.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of GSE times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13.49</td>
<td>(48.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>largest number of participants at GSE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>(6.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallest number of participants at GSE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>(1.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friends would approve of GSE</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moderate or high risk of GSE</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS

SUBSTANCES USED DURING GROUP SEX

Cocaine | Alcohol | Marijuana | Ecstasy | LSD

50 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0

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CONCLUSIONS

- Participants with a history of GSE participation were more likely to report:
  - White race/ethnicity
  - Recent heroin use
  - Recent drug injection
  - Victimization history
  - Severe mental distress
  - Less relationship satisfaction
CONCLUSIONS

• During group sex events, many participants reported:
  • Unprotected intercourse
  • Substance use
  • Young age

• Multiple group sex events
• Mixed peer norms surrounding group sex
• Acknowledgement of risk of group sex
Education, prevention, and intervention efforts among young people must address:

- Group sex
- Club drug use
- Injection drug use

Outcome data from this study should examine:

- Changes in frequency or use of protection
- Perceptions of risk
- Peer norms
THANK YOU

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