

ChemSex

A published, working definition

**ChemSex is NOT the same as recreational drug use.
It is a specific form of recreational drug use**

Associated with:

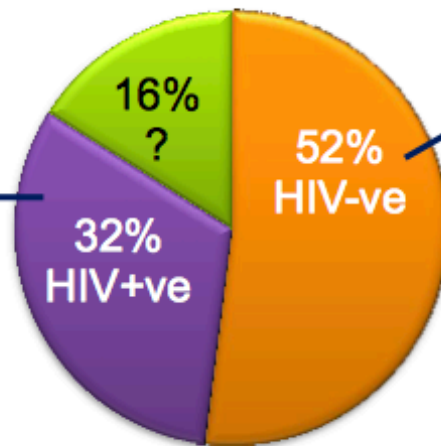
- Extended sex for many hours/several days
- More extreme sexual practices
- Multiple partners
- Extreme sexual disinhibition/extreme sexual focus
- Unpredictable drug interactions (eg GBL & alcohol)
- Increase in number of inexperienced injectors who are naïve to (or lack knowledge of) the risks of BBV and other injection-related harms
- Poor condom use
- Poor ARV adherence
- Frequent STIs (including a current Shigella outbreak), HIV infections, HCV infection/repeated re-infections
- Multiple and repeated use of PEP
- Psychosis

56 Dean Street ChemSex data

874 unique MSM using (combinations of) methamphetamine, mephedrone and GBL for sex consented to a brief intervention for drug use support

- 98% had never previously accessed drug use support
- 45% reported average of between four and 10 partners per episode
- 70% reported no 'chem-free' sex in previous 6 months (Zero Sober Sex)

HIV status



42 not on ARV

- 64% reported zero condom use

238 on ARV

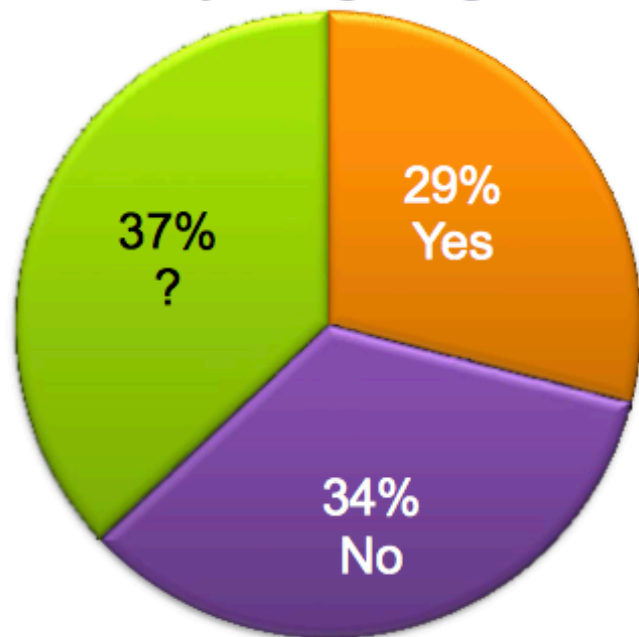
- 25% reported zero condom use
- 64% reported good ARV adherence

- 40% reported using condoms for intercourse less than 50% of the time
- 55% had done 1 or more courses of PEP (typically, between 3 and 8 courses)
- 75% expressed an interest in PrEP as an HIV prevention tool

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Injecting

Injecting drug use



Of the injecting drug users

- 23% reported having shared needles
- 27% reported never having injected themselves (allowing others to inject them)
- 30% had been injected by both themselves and others

This is an injecting-inexperienced population

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HCV

HCV

- 12% of the cohort disclosed that they had previously tested positive for HCV; of these:
 - 52% were mono-infected
 - 40% co-infected with HIV
 - **32% had been HCV infected multiple times**
 - **47% had never injected**
 - 36% were injecting drug users
 - **23% were HIV-ve, non-injecting drug users**
 - **(Self-disclosure resulted in some missing data)**