

Are drug use and situational characteristics at last sex associated with sexual outcomes?

Initial findings from a national survey of MSM in England

G.J. Melendez-Torres¹, Ford Hickson², David Reid², Peter Weatherburn², Chris Bonell³

¹Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention, University of Oxford; ²Sigma Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine;

³Department of Childhood, Families and Health, University College London



A brief overview

- What encounter-level analyses tell us and why we need them now
- Methods and analyses from the Sigma Panel 2011
- Key findings

A brief overview

- What encounter-level analyses tell us and why we need them now
- Methods and analyses from the Sigma Panel 2011
- Key findings

Research tells us that people who use drugs are more likely to engage in risky sex...

- ...but how helpful is this finding when drug use is *recreational* rather than *addictive*?
- ...and what are we missing about context of drug use?
- ...and why is sexual risk the only thing we are interested in?
- ...and what do we know about encounter-level risk in MSM living in England?

A brief overview

- What encounter-level analyses tell us and why we need them now
- Methods and analyses from the Sigma Panel 2011
- Key findings

The Sigma Panel 2011

- England-wide monthly survey of MSM conducted online in 2011
- Last sexual encounter asked in five months (months 2, 5, 7, 10, 13)
- Last sexual encounter with a new partner asked in two months (months 1 and 3)

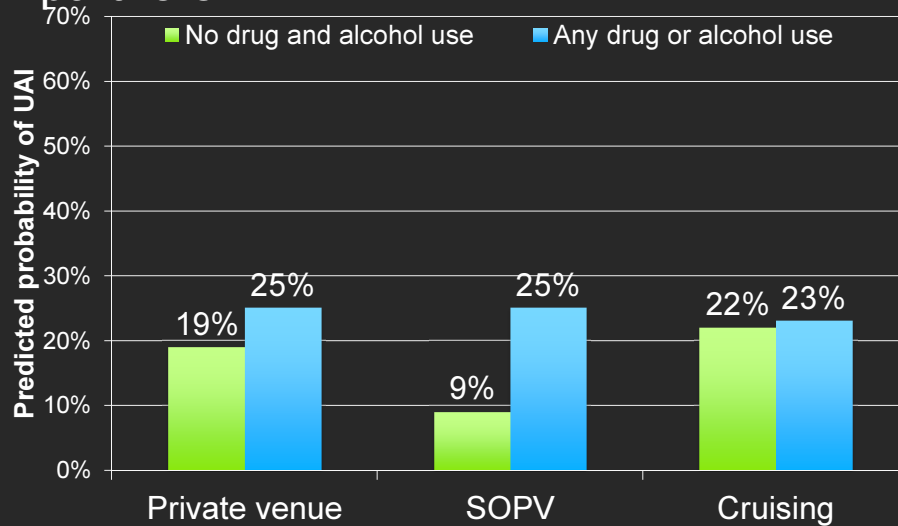
Three analyses on three different groups of encounters

- 1,879 MSM reported 2,913 *encounters with new male partners* in months 1 and 3
- 321 MSM reported 438 *multipartner encounters* with other men in months 7, 10 and 13
- 2,142 MSM reported 6,742 *dyadic encounters* with other men in months 2, 5, 7, 10 and 13
- We examined unprotected anal intercourse, pleasure and control over sexual behaviour as outcomes

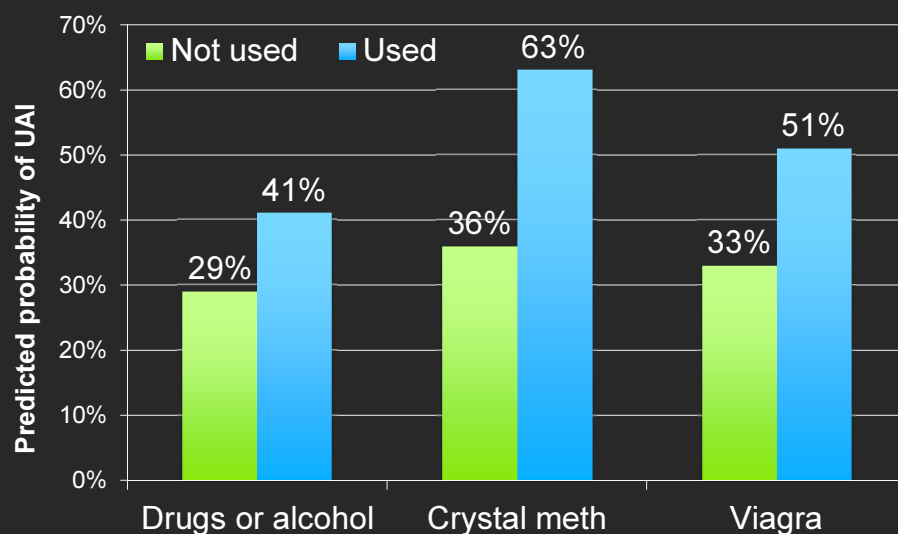
A brief overview

- What encounter-level analyses tell us and why we need them now
- Methods and analyses from the Sigma Panel 2011
- Key findings

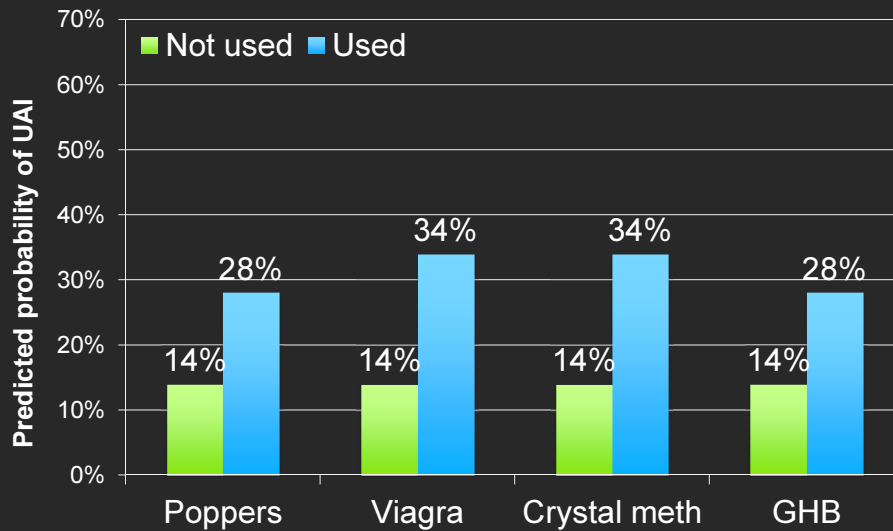
Drug and alcohol use and venue of sex interact in encounters with new partners



Any drug or alcohol use and specific drug use are associated with increased UAI in multipartner encounters



Poppers, Viagra, crystal meth and GHB are each associated with UAI in dyadic encounters



Pleasure and control

- Any drug or alcohol use was associated with increased pleasure in new partner encounters and all dyadic encounters, but not in multipartner encounters
- Drug and alcohol use was not associated with decreased control over sexual behaviour—with the exception of crystal methamphetamine in multipartner encounters

What do you think?

- What do you think accounts for the difference within SOPVs in UAI probability?
- What do you think about the lack of significant findings around control and drug use?
- Do these findings match up with your experience?