Community Convening on Crystal Meth

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Act Now Against Meth Coalition  
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Overview

- Background on Meth & HIV
- HIV Counseling and Testing Data
  - HIV New Positives by Prioritized Behavioral Risk Groups (BRGs)
  - Meth Users by BRG
  - HIV New Positives by Meth Use
  - Meth Users by Race
  - Meth Users by Age
- Implications for an HIV Prevention Response
- OAPP’s Response
- Next Steps
- Community Leadership
What We Know About Crystal Meth, Sex & HIV Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)

• Highly associated with risky sexual behaviors (decreased condom use, multiple sex partners)

• Poor adherence to HIV medication among HIV positive individuals compromises health

• Drug holidays and party lifestyle further destroys immune system and overall health

• 1 out of 10 gay men in LAC have used meth within the last 6 months

• Meth using MSM are between 2-3 times more likely to be HIV+ than MSM who don’t use meth
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2005

All New HIV Positives by Behavioral Risk Group

- MSM/IDU: 41%
- MSM/W: 13%
- MSM: 20%
- Non-MSM/IDU: 4%
- TransG: 4%
- WHiRisk: 9%
- WLowRsk: 4%
- Non-BRG: 5%

n=454
Positivity Rate = 1.2%

Source: 2005 LAC HCT Data
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2001-2005

Meth Use Among all Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001 (n=4,085)</th>
<th>2002 (n=5,173)</th>
<th>2003 (n=8,323)</th>
<th>2004 (n=8,075)</th>
<th>2005 (n=4,788)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meth Use (%)</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2001-2005 LAC HCT Data
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2005

Meth Use Among Behavioral Risk Groups

Source: 2005 LAC HCT Data
**Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2005**

New HIV Positives Among Meth Users by Behavioral Risk Group

- **MSM/IDU**: 14%
- **MSM/W**: 4%
- **MSM**: 7%
- **Non-MSM/IDU**: 8%
- **TransG**: 4%
- **WHiRsk**: 17%

Positivity Rate = 1.8%

n=84

Source: 2005 LAC HCT Data
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2005

New HIV Positive Meth Users vs. New HIV Positive Non-Meth Users

- MSM (n=9,086)
- Non-MSM/IDU (n=2,640)
- WHiRsk (n=7,325)

Relative risk = 2

Source: 2005 LAC HCT Data
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2001-2005

HIV prevalence Among MSM by Race

What percentage of each race (among MSM) are positive?

Source: 2001-2005 LAC HCT Data
Note: “Other/Unknown” category not included
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2001-2005

Meth Use Among all MSM by Race

What percentages of each race (among MSM) are using?

Source: 2001-2005 LAC HCT Data
Note: “Other/Unknown” category not included
Los Angeles County Counseling & Testing Data, 2005

Meth Use Among all MSM by Age

Source: 2005 LAC HCT Data
Meth Use Among all MSM by Age and by Race

Source: 2005 LAC HCT Data

Note: “Unknown/Other” category not included
Implications for an HIV Prevention Response

- HIV prevention efforts should specifically target MSM due to high HIV positivity rates among this population that are using meth.

- Any interaction that MSM have within the healthcare system should be used to discuss HIV risk and meth use.

- Understand overlapping risk factors for MSM.

- Prevention efforts should address use of internet partnering (PnP) by MSM.
OAPP’s Response

• Conducted Crystal Meth Situational Assessment (2005) to gain a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding crystal meth use among MSM in LAC

• HIV Prevention Planning Committee
  • Convened Meth WorkGroup
  • Recommendations added to HIV Prevention Plan as Addendum
  • HIV Prevention Plan 2009-2013: Comprehensive section on meth
OAPP’s Response (con’t)

• Funded 3 new HIV and Crystal Meth Prevention Programs (for MSM)
  • LA Gay and Lesbian Center
  • CA State Long Beach
  • Van Ness Recovery House
• Increased funding to expand services of 2 current HIV and Crystal Meth Prevention Programs (for MSM and family/friends)
  • APLA
  • CA Drug Consultants
OAPP’s Response (con’t)

• Collaboration/support for continuing research efforts examining evidence based prevention and treatment strategies
  • Project Tech Support (research partnership with Van Ness Prevention Division/UCLA)
    • CDC-funded grant targeting out-of-treatment meth-using MSM
Next Steps (OAPP)

- Continue to monitor trends in populations at risk (e.g. YMSM of color) to best align services
  - Coordinated Joint Needs Assessment: Data will be available by August 2007
- Examine opportunities for programming for women & adolescents in context of HIV (PPC)
- Commitment to integration of County health services
Community Leadership/Ownership

- Actively raise awareness in your community about meth use
- Be familiar with signs of use to identify problems among friends & family
- Encourage users to seek help
- Work to change the community norm around acceptance of meth
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