

HIV-Associated Medical, Behavioral, and Psychiatric Characteristics of Treatment-Seeking, Methamphetamine-Dependent Men Who Have Sex with Men

This paper examines medical and psychiatric symptoms and disorders associated with reported HIV serostatus among methamphetamine-dependent, treatment-seeking men who have sex with men (MSM) in Los Angeles. Baseline data from a NIDA-funded, randomized clinical trial of behavioral drug abuse therapies included medical examinations and behavioral interviews of the 162 randomized participants. Variables identified as significantly associated with HIV infection were entered into a multivariate, hierarchical logistic regression analysis to optimally predict HIV serostatus. The disturbingly high 61% of the sample with reported HIV-seropositive status represents 3-4 times the prevalence for all MSM in Los Angeles County. HIV infection status strongly associated with prior treatment for methamphetamine dependence; unprotected receptive anal intercourse; history of sexually transmitted infections; and health insurance status. Findings demonstrate the powerful connection between methamphetamine dependence and HIV infection, and strongly suggest a need for development of interventions that function as both substance abuse treatment and HIV prevention for this population.