



## National HIV Prevention Conference

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### **[TITLE:] METHAMPHETAMINE USE AND SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR AMONG MSM DIAGNOSED WITH EARLY SYPHILIS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

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**BACKGROUND:** Methamphetamine use has been associated with risky sexual behavior and STD/HIV transmission among men who have sex with men (MSM).

**OBJECTIVES:** To evaluate sexual risk behaviors of MSM with the diagnosis of early syphilis (ES) reporting methamphetamine use.

**METHODS:** We reviewed field interview records for MSM with ES reported in Los Angeles between January 2001 and July 2004 for factors associated with methamphetamine use.

**RESULTS:** There were a total of 2,341 ES cases reported during the study period. Of these 1,493 (63.8%) were MSM. Of these MSM, 146 reported methamphetamine use and 1,347 did not. Methamphetamine use was associated with having multiple sex partners (PR 2.2, 95% CI 1.5-3.2), not using condoms (PR 2.0, 95% CI 1.3-2.5), having anonymous sex partners (PR 1.1 95% CI 1.04-1.2), history of recent incarceration (PR 5.1, 95% CI 3.0-8.7), and meeting sex partners via the Internet (PR 1.8, 95% CI 1.4-.2.3), at bathhouses (PR 1.4, 95% CI 1.2-1.9) and on the streets (PR 2.7, 95% CI 1.7-4.2) In multivariate analysis having multiple sex partners, not using condoms, recent incarceration, and meeting sex partners at bathhouses remained significantly associated with methamphetamine use.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Effective STD risk reduction interventions targeting MSM methamphetamine users are needed to curb risky sexual behavior and syphilis transmission.



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