

An illustration featuring a large, dark, overturned bottle on the left side, with several white, round pills scattered on a light grey, textured ground. A large, wavy, rainbow-colored shape, resembling a liquid spill or a stylized map, flows from the bottom left towards the right. Several small, stylized human figures are depicted: one sitting on a pill, another standing and holding a pill, and a third sitting on the ground. The overall theme suggests the intersection of alcohol, drugs, and sexual health.

Alcohol Use and gbMSM

Kiffer G. Card, PhD



University
of Victoria

Canadian Institute for
Substance Use Research



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE for EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS





University
of Victoria

Canadian Institute for
Substance Use Research



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE for EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

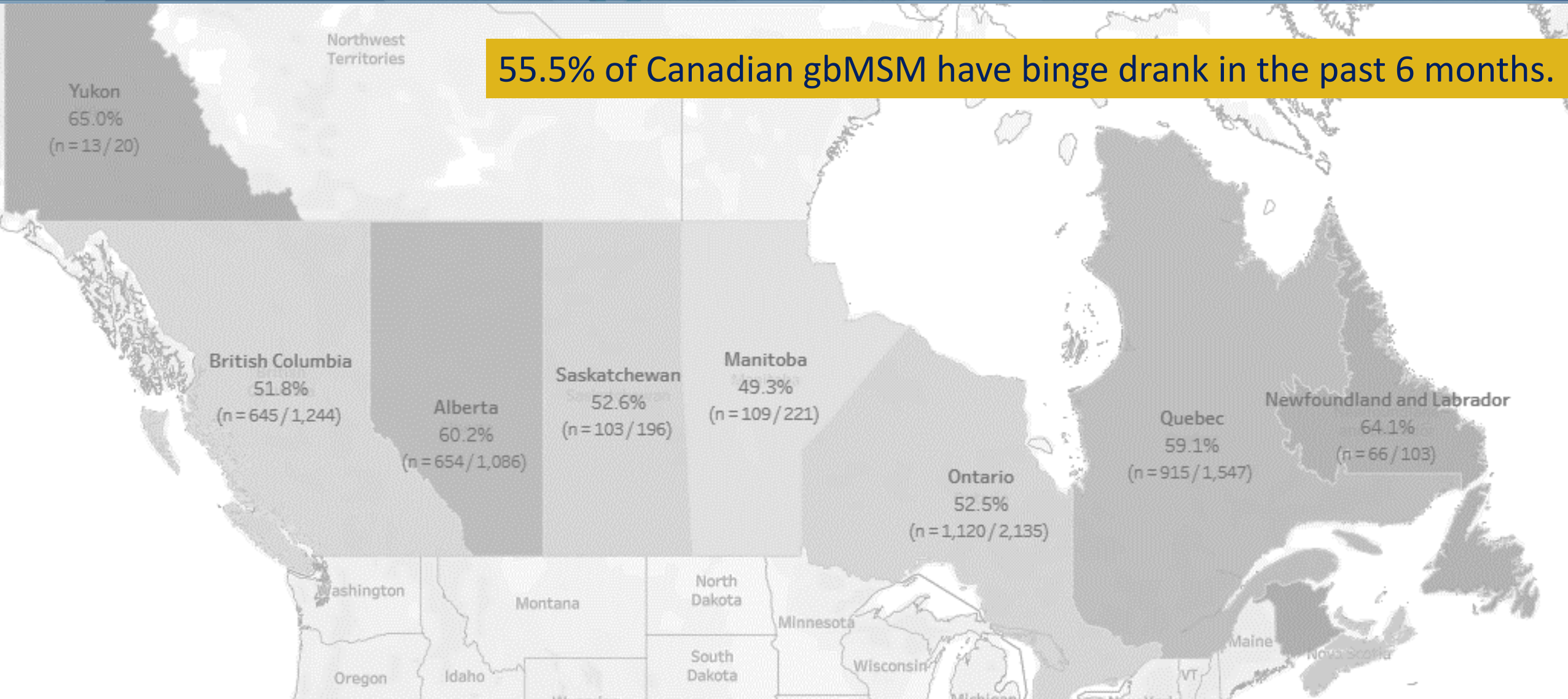


About the Presenter

Kiffer G. Card, PhD, is a social scientist and behavioral epidemiologist specializing in substance use, health policy, and the structural drivers of health inequity. He works in close collaboration with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research and the Community-based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health.



55.5% of Canadian gbMSM have binge drank in the past 6 months.



Source: OurStats.ca, Sex Now 2019, N = 7,010 gbMSM recruited online



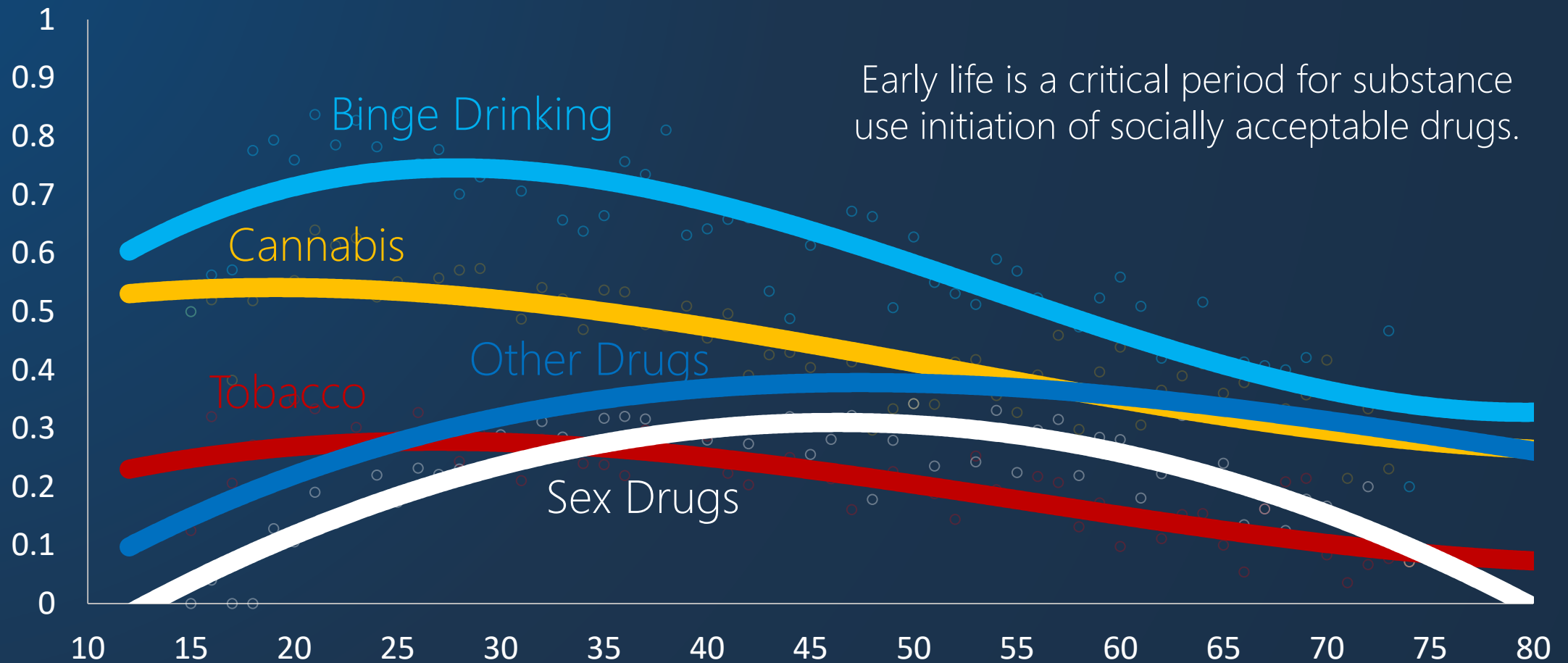
Patterns of Substance Use

Class Names	Limited	Conventional	Sex	Club	Street	Assorted
Distribution	296 (36.7)	203 (25.9)	90 (11.4)	69 (9.5)	82 (12.1)	34 (4.5)
Alcohol	75.6	100.0	84.3	98.6	75.8	92.9
Marijuana	29.6	79.7	74.0	90.2	70.1	93.2
Tobacco	23.2	43.1	47.0	69.1	69.9	84.9
EDD	10.9	22.2	78.0	8.5	14.7	66.8
Poppers	20.1	36.9	74.8	51.9	32.7	73.7
Crystal	1.3	5.0	77.2	2.3	38.7	100.0
Cocaine	0.9	15.2	44.6	72.5	44.1	96.3
GHB	0.6	2.0	86.5	33.4	13.3	81.7
Ecstasy	0.0	20.2	65.7	89.1	4.8	83.3
Ketamine	0.0	2.7	41.3	43.2	0.0	91.2
Mushrooms	0.0	14.9	5.1	51.7	1.4	36.5
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.5	4.2	30.7
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.9	35.8
Oxycodone	0.0	1.5	7.5	5.9	13.9	34.8
Crack	0.7	0.0	14.5	3.2	39.1	58.6

Source: Momentum Study, N = 774 gbMSM recruited using RDS

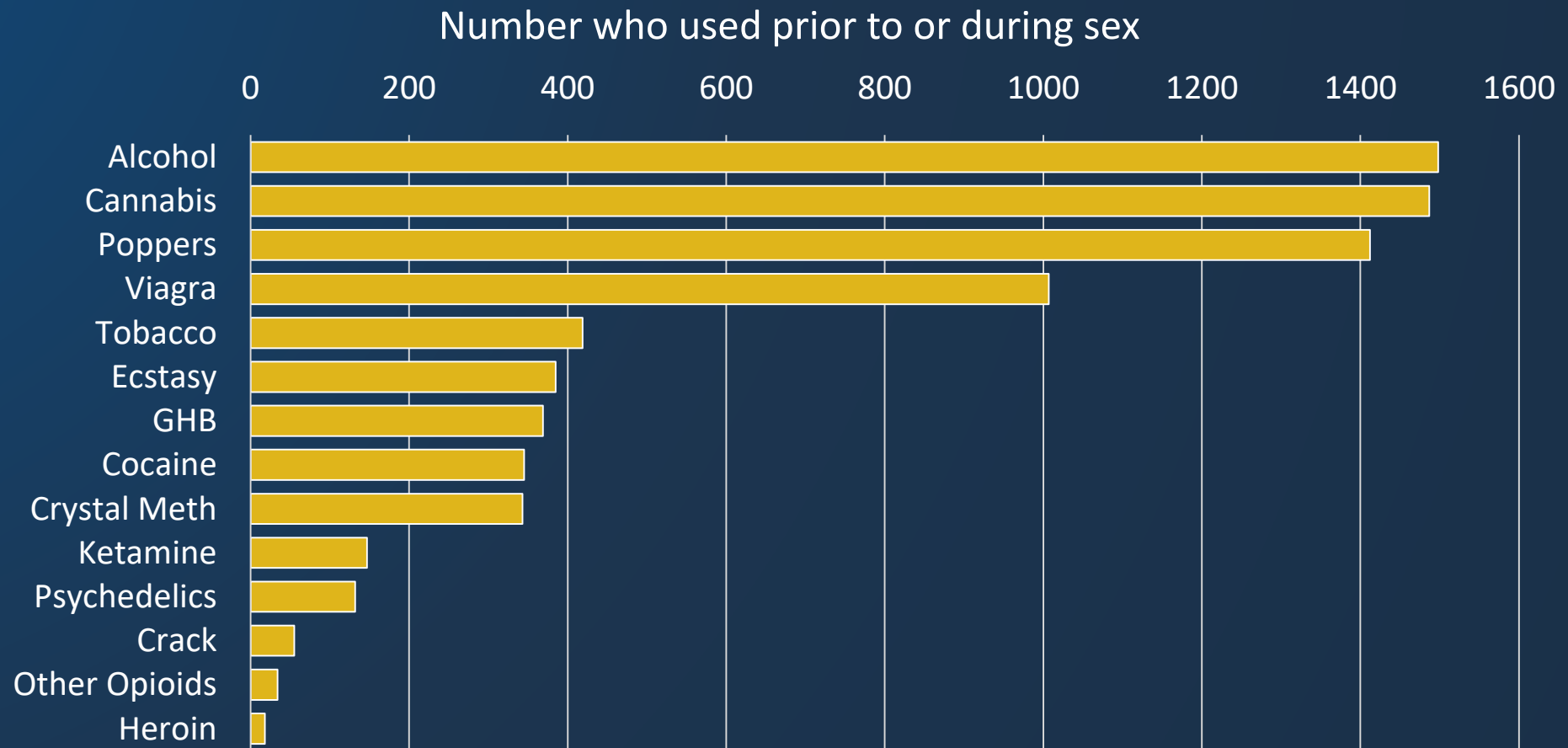


Lifecourse & Substance Use



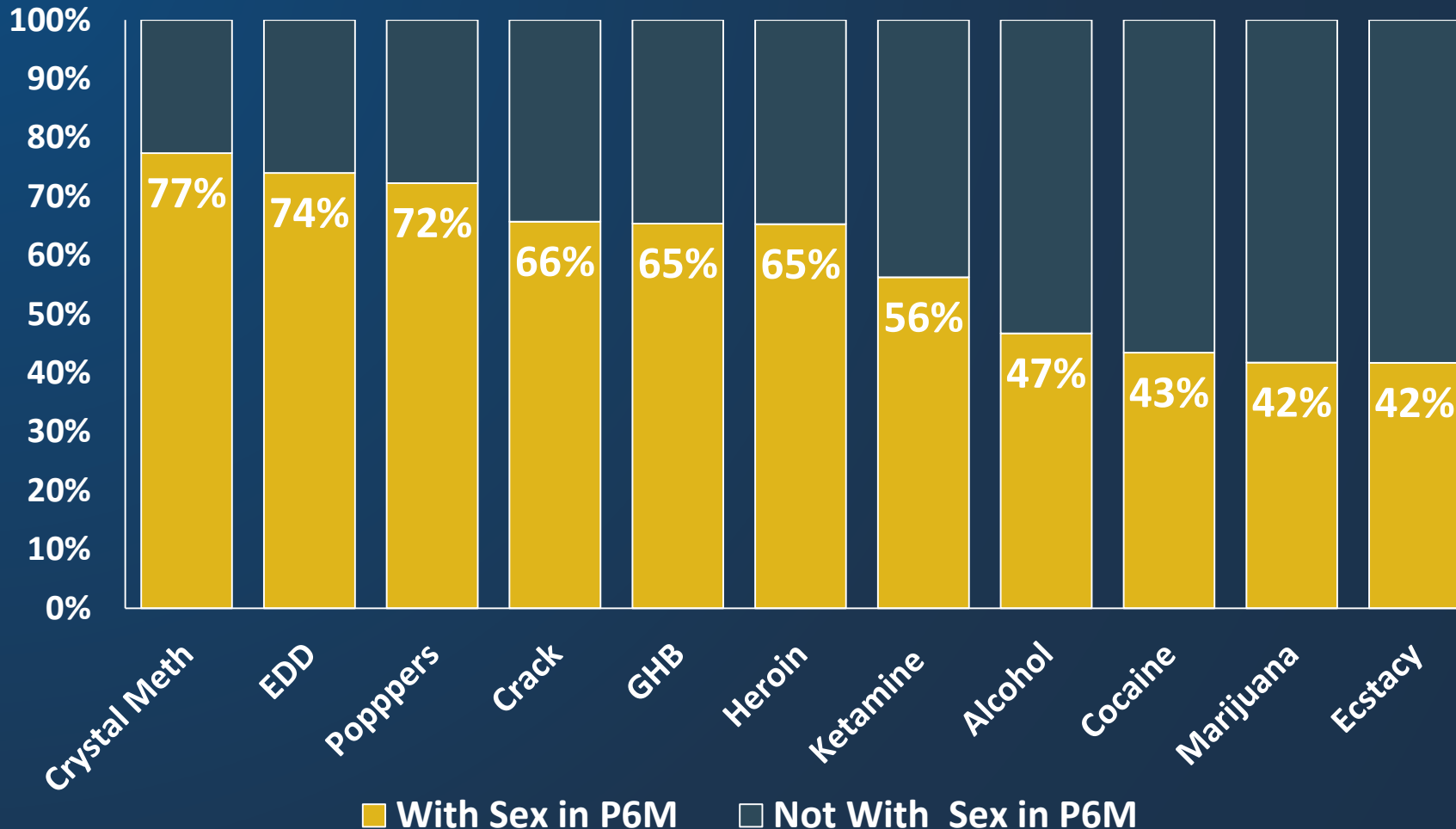


Patterns for Substance Use





Proportion of gbMSM who use each drug during sex if they use it at all.



Among gbMSM who use drugs *
51.7%
used drugs during sex. *

Of men who binge drank,
38.6%
Binge drank prior to or during sex.

*Includes legal drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.



Motives for Substance Use

To feel good / have a good time

To connect with others socially

To connect with others sexually

To have more energy to party

To feel better about bad things that happen to me

To make sex more intense or pleasurable

Because other people offer them

To increase motivation for sex

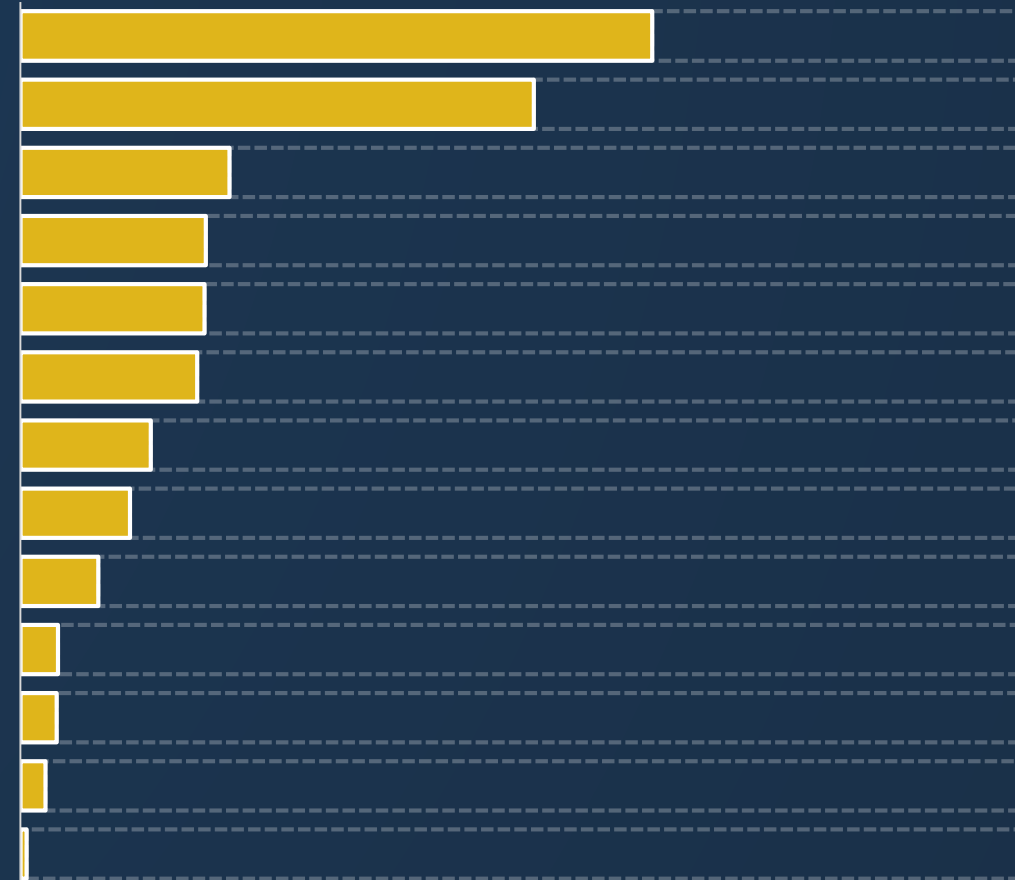
To make sex last longer

Because of stress about my sexuality

Because I am addicted (for example, to avoid withdrawal)

Because of stress about my gender identity/expression

Other





Key Messages

- Alcohol consumption generally and binge drinking specifically is common among gbMSM – both those who engaged in polysubstance use as well as those engaged in conventional patterns of use.
- Binge drinking is the most common form of substance use among gbMSM throughout the life course, and is the drug most often initiated early in the life course.
- Binge drinking has been linked to risky sexual behaviour in gbMSM, is the most commonly used drug prior to or during sex.
- Binge drinking occurs outside of the context of sex too, but about half of those who binge drink do so prior to or during sex.
- Facilitating good experiences – as well as social and sexual connections – are the primary motives for substance use generally.



Thanks!



University
of Victoria

Canadian Institute for
Substance Use Research



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE for EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS



cbrc

Community-Based Research Centre