

LAMIS 2018

Objetives:

- To describe the pattern of recreational drug use and its sexualized use; and,
- To characterize users among Latin American GBMSM.

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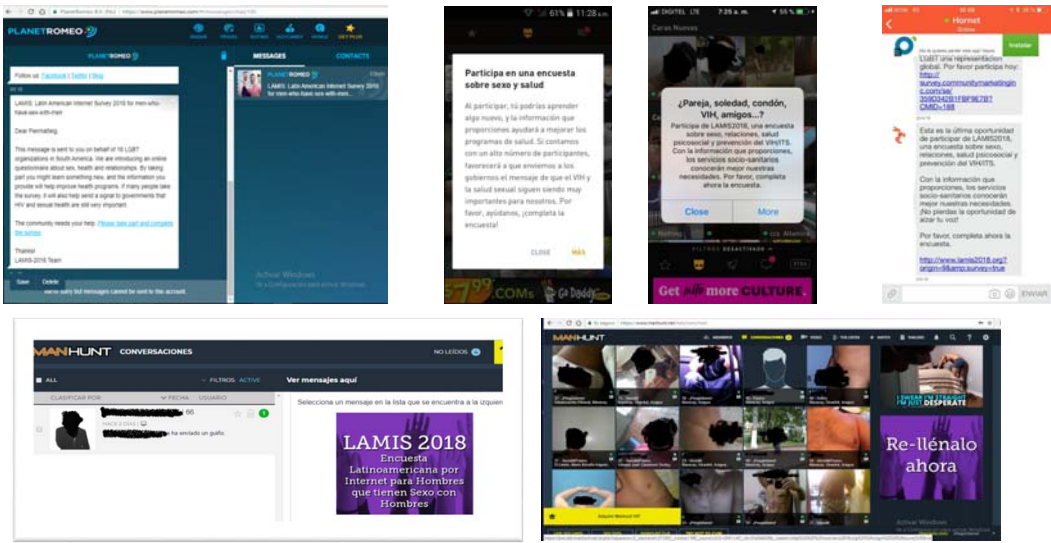
Method

- The [Latin America MSM Internet Survey 2018](#) (LAMIS2018) is the Latin American adapted version of the [European MSM Internet Survey 2017](#) (EMIS2017).
- LAMIS2018 was undertaken by the *Red Iberoamericana de Estudios en Hombres Gay, otros HSH y Personas Trans* (RIGHT) in association with the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University (The Netherlands), the Robert Koch Institute (Germany), and Sigma Research, LSHTM (UK).
- LAMIS2018 was live between January and May 2018 (110 days).
- Online questionnaire available simultaneously in three languages (Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch), in 18 countries.
- Information collected: sexual behaviours, drug use, psycho-social health (mental health, Internalized homonegativity, social homophobia, social support), HIV/STI knowledge, HIV/STI testing, HIV/STI diagnosis, etc.
- Central and local promotion was carried out to recruit participants.

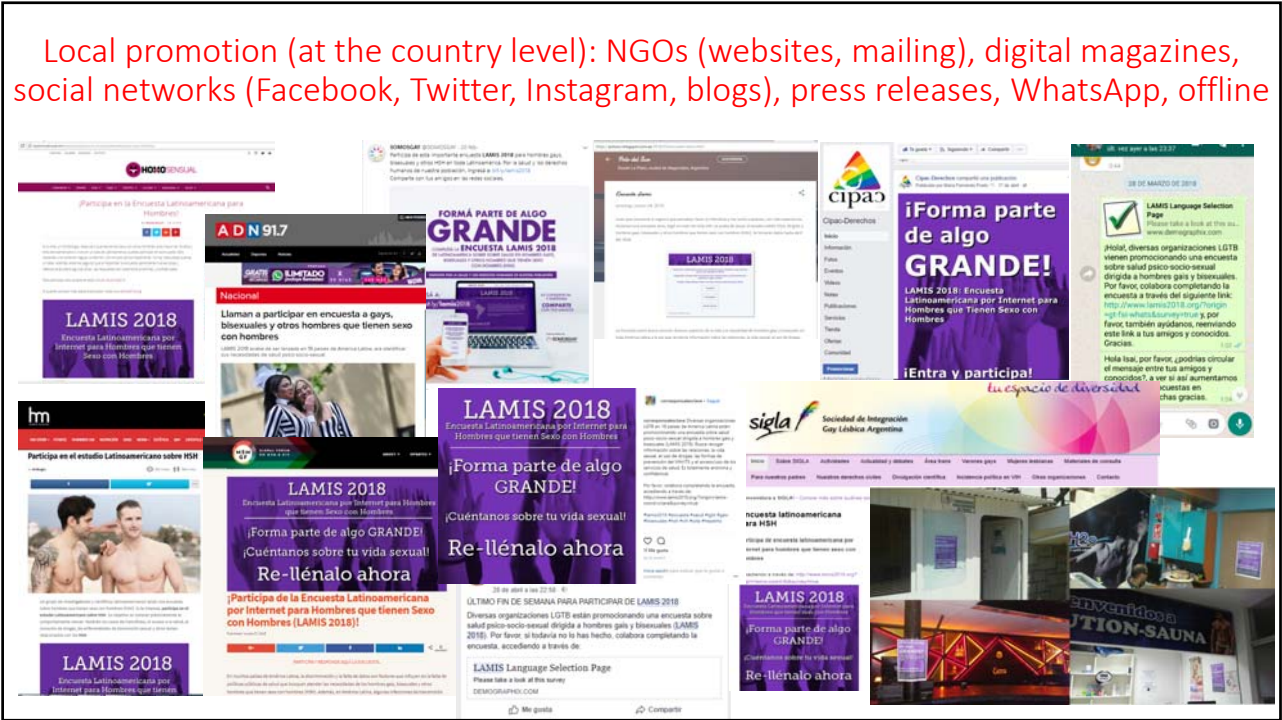
18 countries and collaborating partners in each country (LGBTB+/HIV NGOs or academic centres)



Central promotion (at a continental level): international gay websites and apps (PlanetRomeo, Grindr, Hornet, ManHunt)



Local promotion (at the country level): NGOs (websites, mailing), digital magazines, social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogs), press releases, WhatsApp, offline

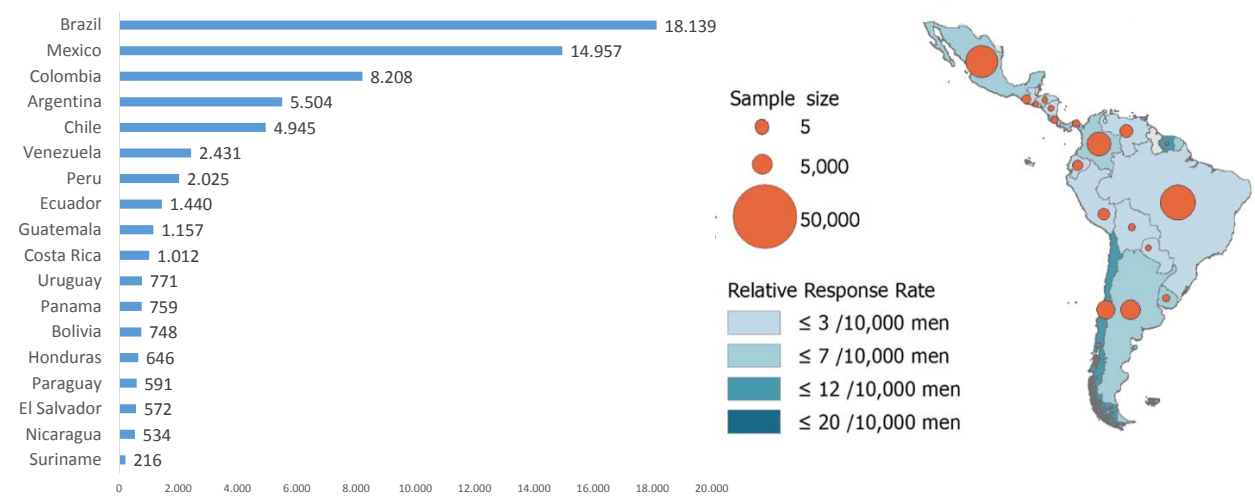


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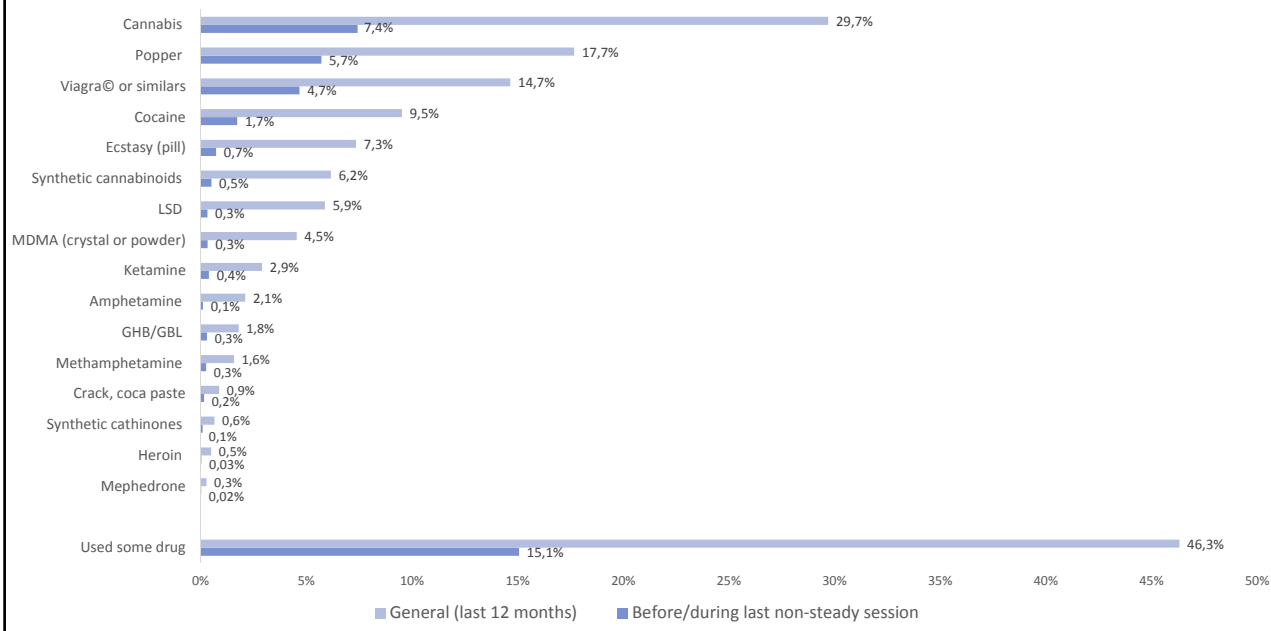
Results

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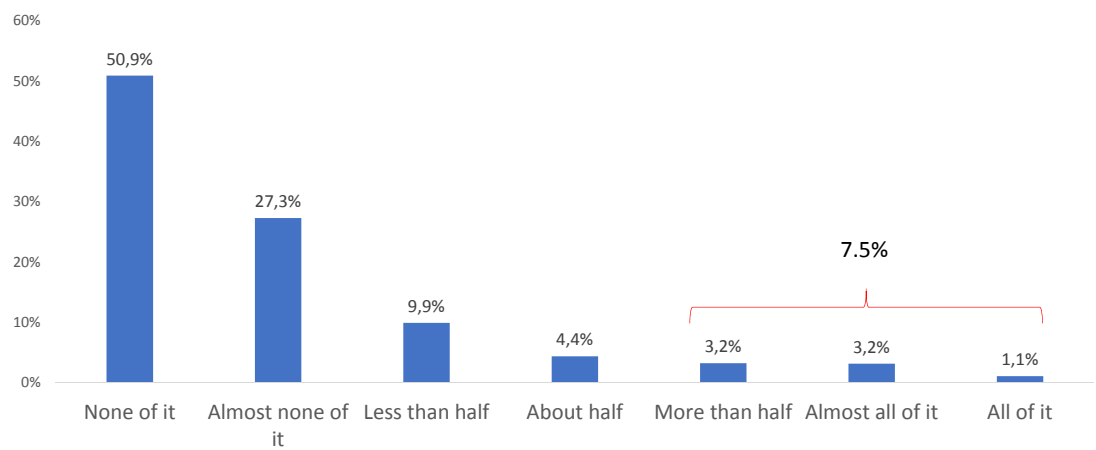
Number of participants by country (n=64,655)



Drug use by context (general vs. last non-steady sex) (n=64.655)

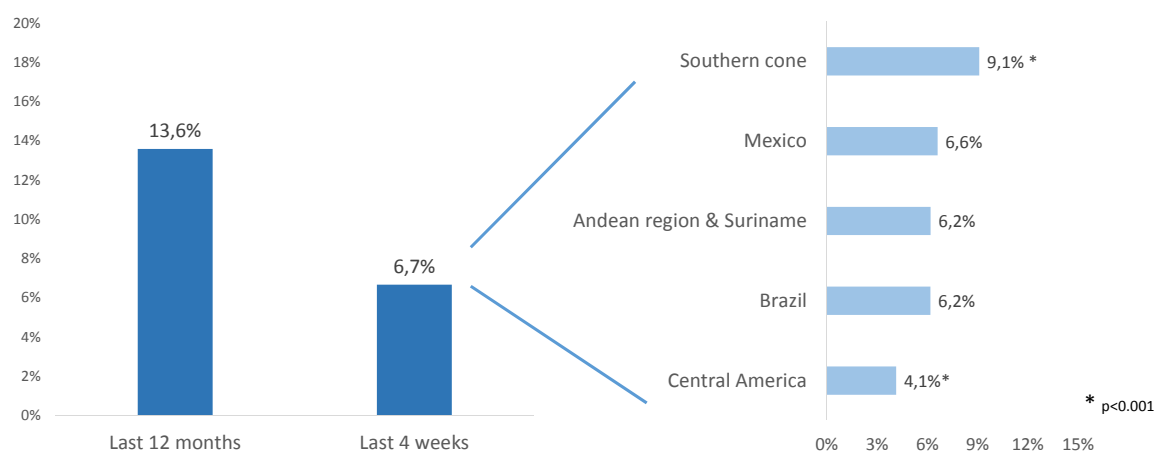


How much of the sex you've had with men has been under the influence of alcohol or any other drug in the last 12 months?¹
(n=60,842²)



¹ Among those who had some kind of sex with a man in the last 12 months; ² 143 missing cases

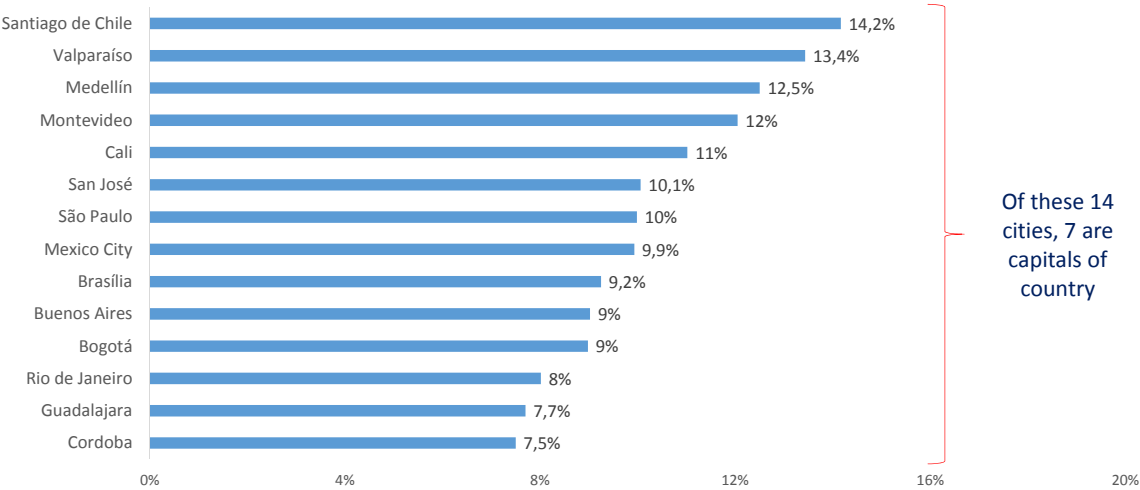
When was the last time you used drugs to make sex more intense or last longer? (n= 63,939¹)



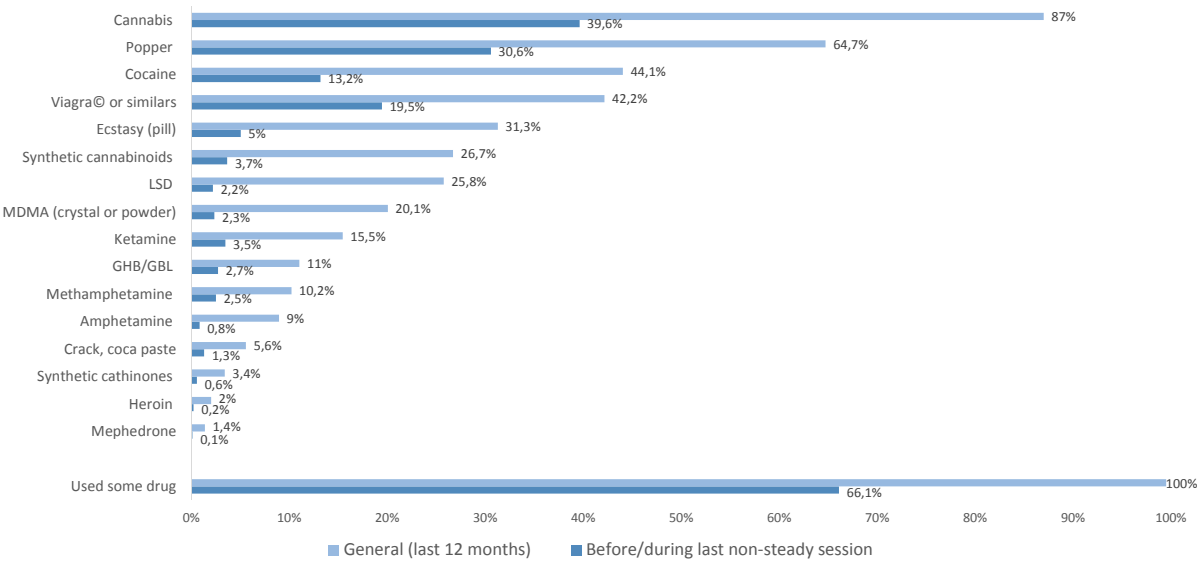
¹ 716 missing cases

Souther cone: Argentine, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay
Andean region: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Veneuela

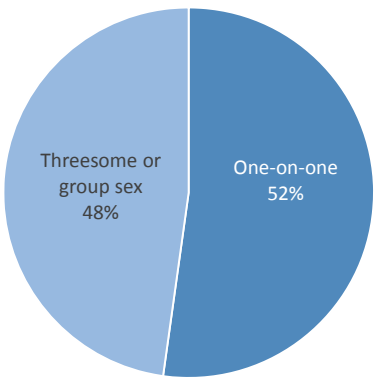
Cities (>1,000,000 inhabitants) with the higher percentages (>6.7%) of men which used drugs to make sex more intense or last longer in the last 4 weeks



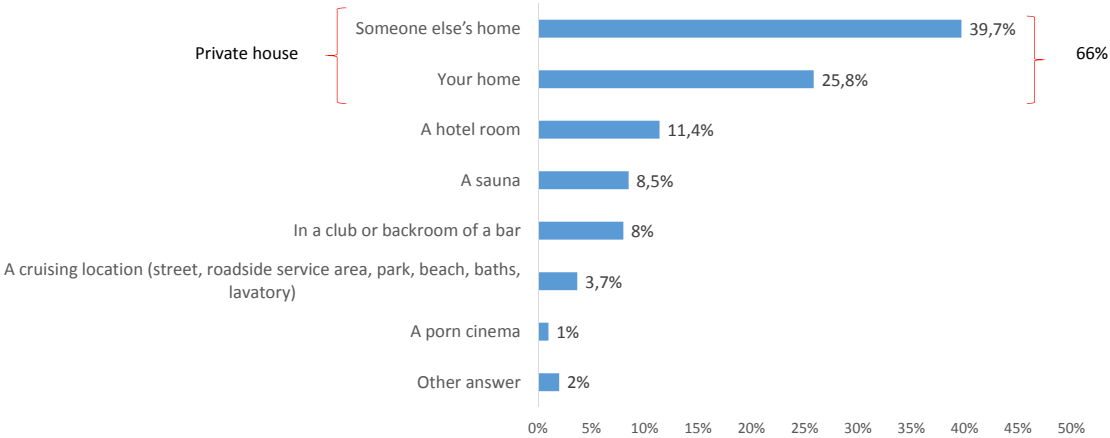
Drug use (general vs. last sex) among those men who used drugs to make sex more intense or last longer in the last 4 weeks (n=4,264)



Number of men with whom he combined drugs and sex in the last 12 months (n=8,829)

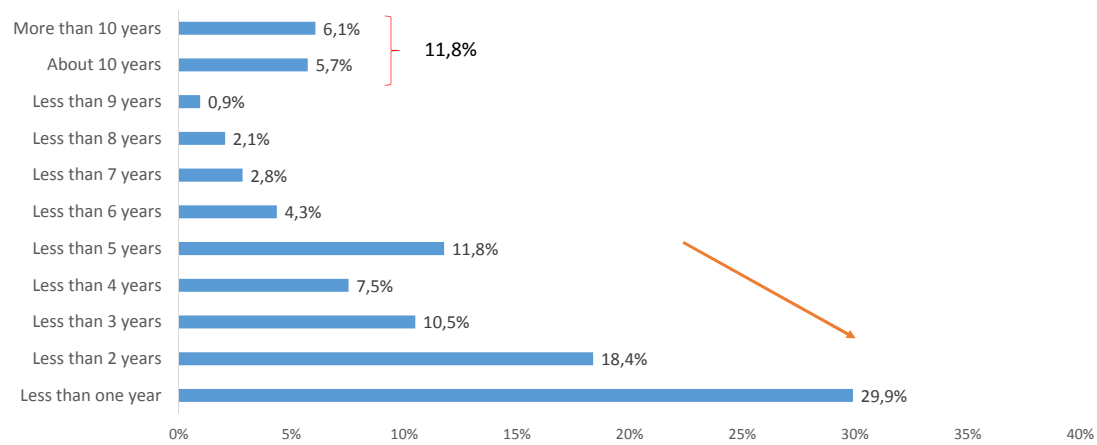


Where did that most recent sex with drugs and multiple partners take place?¹ (n=4,218²)



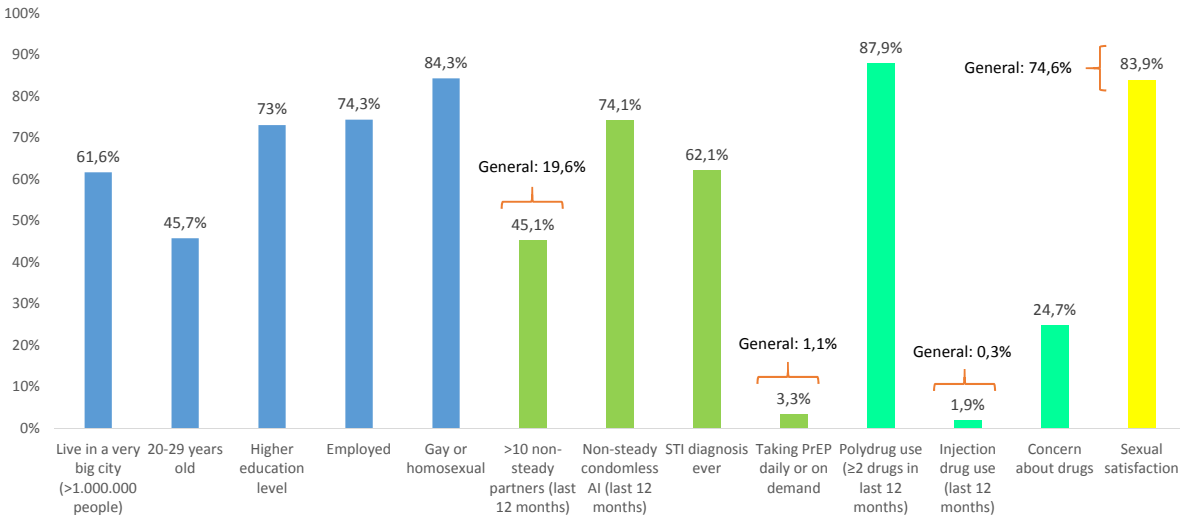
¹ Among those who combined drugs and sex with more than one man at the same time in the last 12 months: ² Two missing cases

For how many years have you been combining drugs and multiple sexual partners?¹ (n=4,146²)

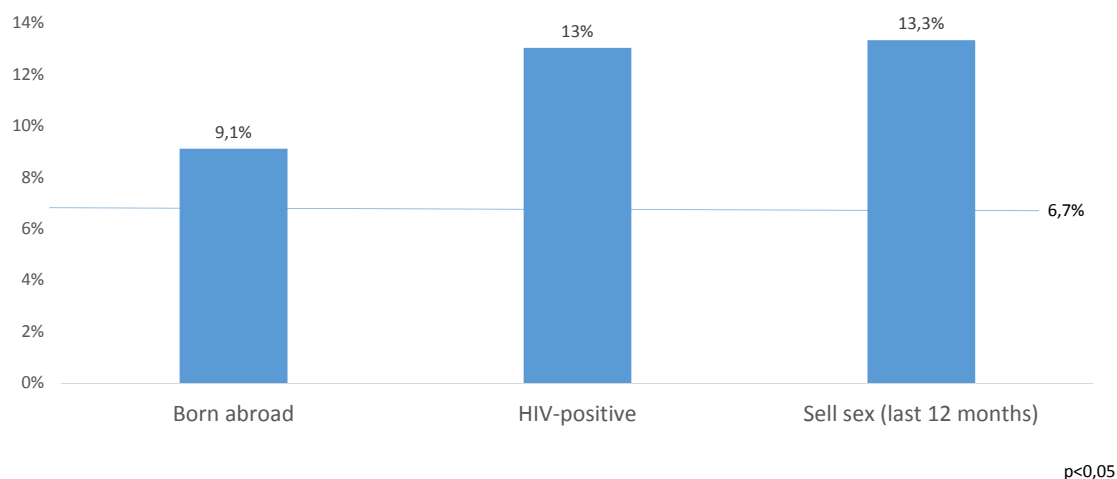


¹ Among those who combined drugs and sex with more than one man at the same time in the last 12 months: ² 74 missing cases

Characterization of men who used drugs to make sex more intense or last longer in the last 4 weeks (n = 4,264) (p <0.05)



Subgroups of men who used drugs to make sex more intense or last longer in the last 4 weeks

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Limitations

- More than 70% of the sample was recruited on web sites/apps aimed at sexual encounters (overestimation of sexual behavior).
- Differences between *online* and *offline* samples (e.g. exclusion of men who could not have data access through their mobile phone).
- Data were self-reported (recall bias).
- Mostly questions on SDU were not specific to ChemSex.

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Conclusions

- SDU among Latin-American GBMSM is noticeable, particularly in big cities and Southern Cone countries.
- SDU has had a growing trend in the last 5 years among the Latin-Americans GBMSM, and, apparently, it will continue so.
- The percentage pattern of drug use before/during the last non-steady sex is closely related to as the ones of general use.
- The profile of the SDU user is that of a polyconsumer, with a high risk of acquiring HIV and other STIs. However, some of them seem to be more likely to engage in protective behavior against HIV infection, like being on PrEP.
- Drugs most used for SDU users are different if we compare with European users (e.g. EMIS2017). Cocaine plays a special role in the SDU in LA.
- SUD is practiced, in a higher proportion, among men with certain vulnerable characteristics (HIV infection, foreigners, transactional sex).

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Recommendations

- In research: it should be taken into account and include (e.g. in the design of questions), **understandings at the population level of GBMSM**.
- The understanding and approach of the SDU (e.g. ChemSex) must be from a cultural vision ("cultural competence"), **comprehensive** and **holistic** health perspective, **wellness**, **multidisciplinary** and **risk reduction** model, which includes the recognition of **personal individualities**:
 - It is not appropriate to define ChemSex only from a vision of risks and harms related to dependence/addiction (e.g. consumption of certain drugs), mental health or HIV/STIs.

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As well as to all the NGOs who act as collaborating partners and of course to all the 65.000 participants who have trusted the project.

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Thank you!

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