

RECREATIONAL DRUG USE AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG OLDER GAY & BISEXUAL MEN AT BASELINE IN THE LONGITUDINAL STUDY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANAL CANCER (SPANC)



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Introduction

- The *co-occurrence* of recreational drug use (RDU) with higher risk sexual behaviours for the purpose of intensive sex partying in younger gay & bisexual men (GBM) is well-described.
- Effect of older age (>60 years) on this phenomenon has been less consistently explored in Australian research.
- Hypothesis: The association between RDU & higher risk sexual behaviours persist into older age.

Methods

- Prospective cohort study of anal HPV infections and precancerous lesions among GBM age ≥ 35 years in Sydney.
- Cross-sectional analysis of baseline data.
- Associations between RDU and sexual behaviour in last six months were examined using logistic regression.

Results

- 617 GBM, median age 49 years (IQR 43-56), 35% HIV+.
- Baseline RDU, n(%):
 - Methamphetamines 113 (18.3%)
 - Sildenafil 261 (42%)
 - Cocaine 98 (15.9%)
 - Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) 89 (14.4%)
 - MDMA 154 (25.0%).
- In 35-44 year olds, methamphetamine use was significantly associated with higher number of partners, condomless insertive and receptive anal intercourse.
- Sildenafil, cocaine, and GHB use were also associated with these sexual behaviours.
- Similar associations were found among men aged 45-54 years.
- Associations not found in men >55 years, *except* sildenafil was associated with having ≥ 10 partners in men 55-64 years and more *insertive* sex in those ≥ 65 years.

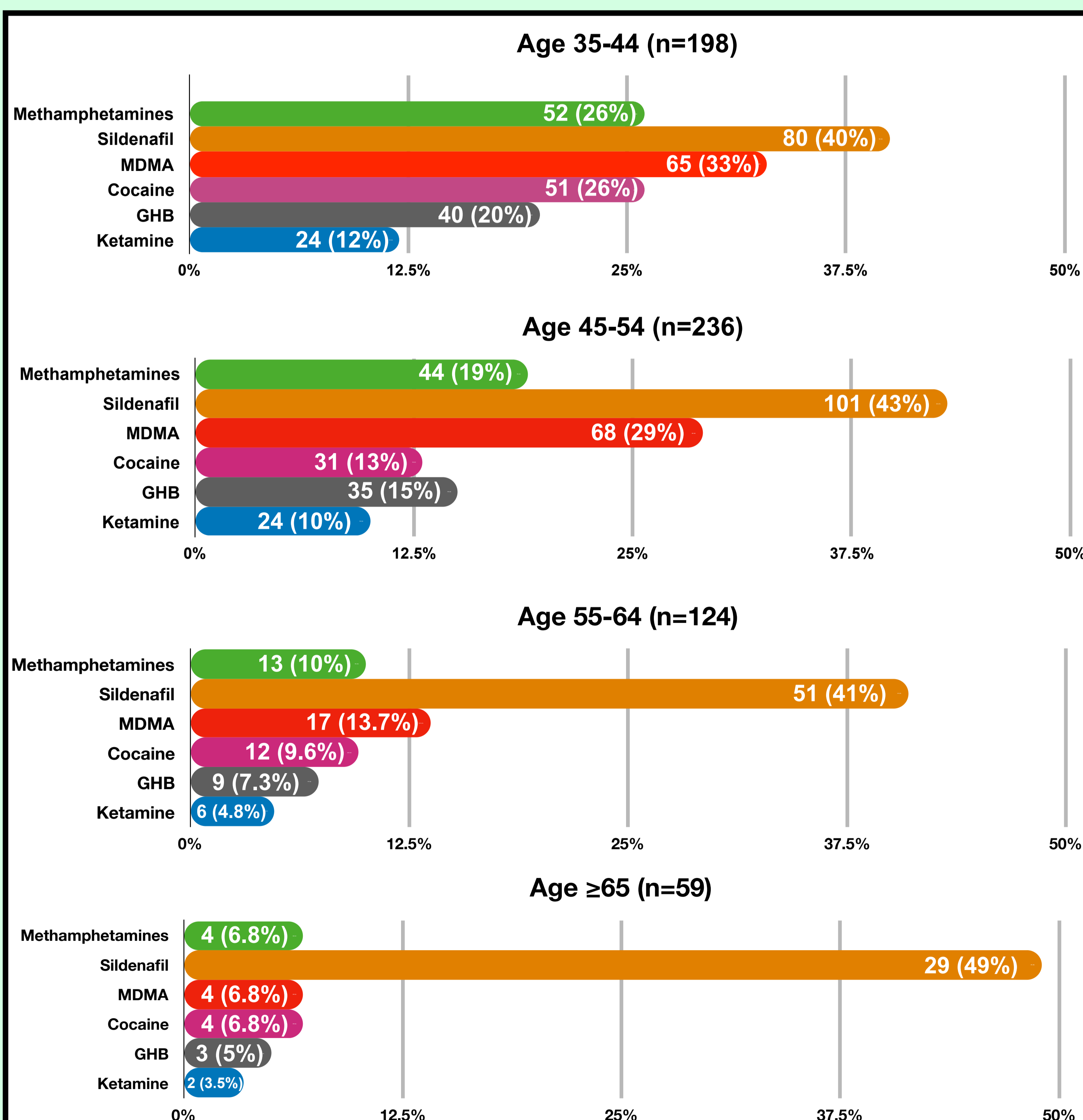


Figure 1. Proportion of participants who reported RDU, stratified by age group & drug. n (%).

	≥ 10 Partners*		CL-IAI [#]		CL-RAI [‡]	
	aOR (95%CI)	p-value	aOR (95%CI)	p-value	aOR (95%CI)	p-value
Age 35 - 44 years						
MA [^] (n=52)	3.5 (1.2-10)	0.03	2.9 (1.3-6.5)	0.008	3.5 (1.5-8.3)	0.004
Sildenafil (n=80)	4.2 (1.9-9.4)	0.001	4.4 (2.3-8.6)	0.001	4.0 (2.0-8.0)	0.001
Cocaine (n=51)	2.1 (0.9-4.9)	N/S	3.1 (1.5-6.6)	0.003	3.3 (1.5-7.2)	0.004
GHB (n=40)	2.9 (1.1-7.7)	0.025	3.9 (1.2-6.4)	0.005	14.8 (3.3-66)	0.001
Age 45 - 54 years						
MA (n=44)	3.4 (1.3-9.2)	0.008	3.4 (1.6-7.2)	0.002	7.8 (2.9-21.1)	0.001
Sildenafil (n=101)	5.0 (2.2-11)	0.001	2.2 (1.3-3.9)	0.005	2.8 (1.6-5.0)	0.001
Cocaine (n=31)	1.8 (0.6-5.0)	N/S	1.2 (0.3-1.1)	N/S	2.2 (0.9-5.0)	N/S
GHB (n=35)	2.5 (0.6-7.5)	0.05	4.1 (1.8-10)	0.001	4.8 (1.9-12)	0.001
Age 55 - 64 years						
MA (n=13)	2.8 (0.4-18)	N/S	1.8 (0.6-5.8)	N/S	4.6 (0.9-22.6)	N/S
Sildenafil (n=51)	3.1 (1.1-8.1)	0.031	1.4 (0.7-3.1)	N/S	1.4 (0.7-3.1)	N/S
Cocaine (n=12)	0.6 (0.1-5.7)	N/S	1.0 (0.3-3.5)	N/S	1.5 (0.4-5.4)	N/S
GHB (n=9)	2.8 (0.4-18)	N/S	1.5 (0.4-6.2)	N/S	1.2 (0.3-5.4)	N/S
Age ≥ 65 years						
MA (n=4)	1.2 (0.1-14.6)	N/S	2.7 (0.3-21.1)	N/S	5.3 (0.5-54.8)	N/S
Sildenafil (n=29)	1 (0.2-4.7)	N/S	4.6 (1.1-19.7)	0.037	0.9 (0.3-2.9)	N/S
Cocaine (n=4)	Nil	N/S	2.8 (0.3-21.1)	N/S	5.3 (0.5-54.8)	N/S
GHB (n=3)	Nil	N/S	2.5 (0.2-43.7)	N/S	1.6 (0.1-26.5)	N/S

Table 1. Associations between RDU & sexual behaviours stratified by age group and drug. [^]Methamphetamines, ^{*}Sexual partners in past 3 months, [#]Condomless Insertive Anal Intercourse, [‡]Condomless Receptive Anal Intercourse, N/S = non-significant (p>0.05).

Conclusions

- Consistent with prior studies, GBM 35-54 years who reported RDU also reported higher risk sexual behaviours.
- In our cohort, this *co-occurrence* was not consistently found in GBM ≥ 55 years using drugs other than Sildenafil.
- However, small number of men reporting RDU in older age groups limited statistical power.
- Future studies into the drug use and sexual behaviours of GBM ≥ 60 years would better inform interventions targeting risks of STI/HIV-acquisition as well as drug-related harms in this group.