

Methamphetamine and Other Substance Use Trends among Street- and Venue- recruited MSM from 1999 to 2018

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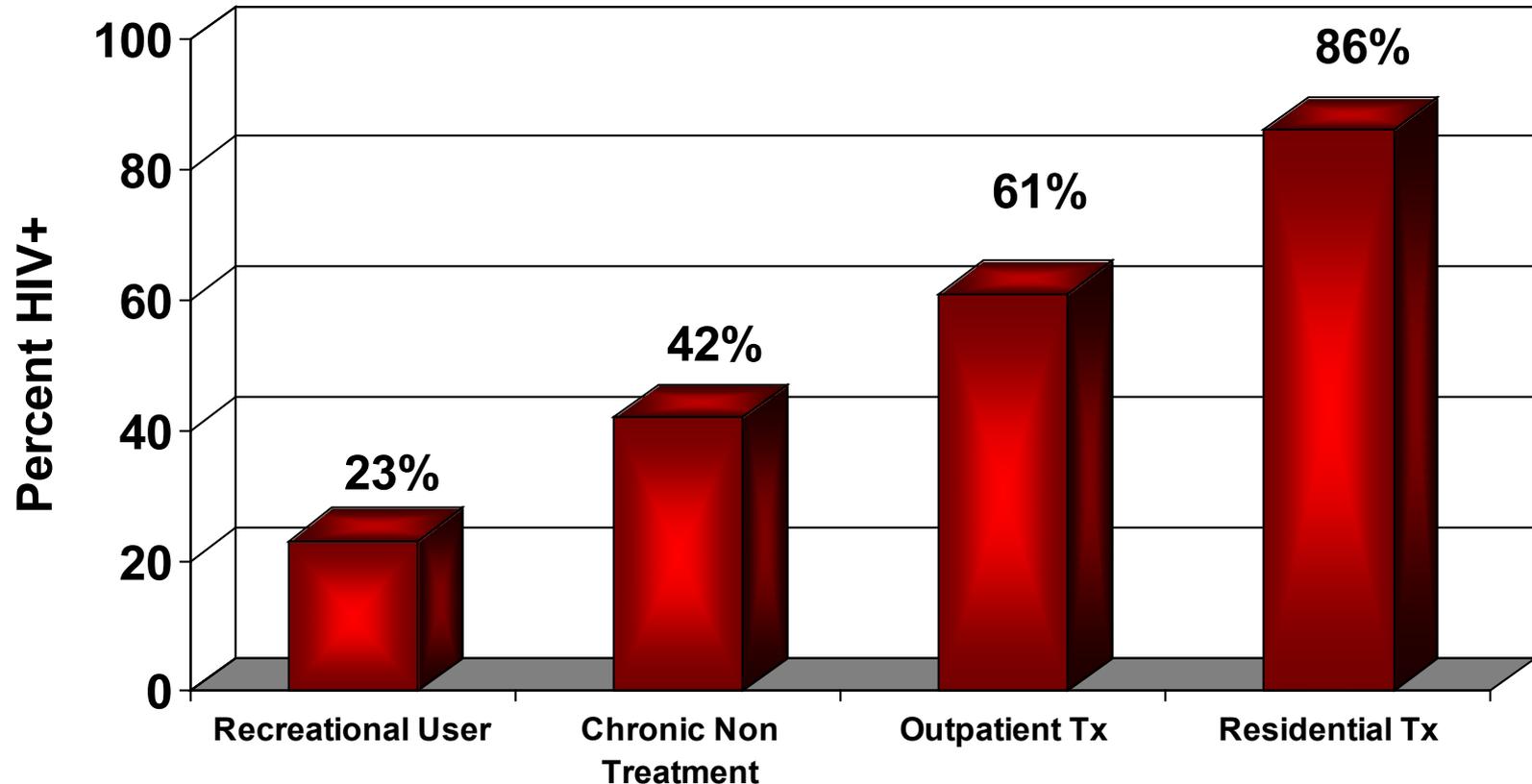
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MSM, Methamphetamine and HIV

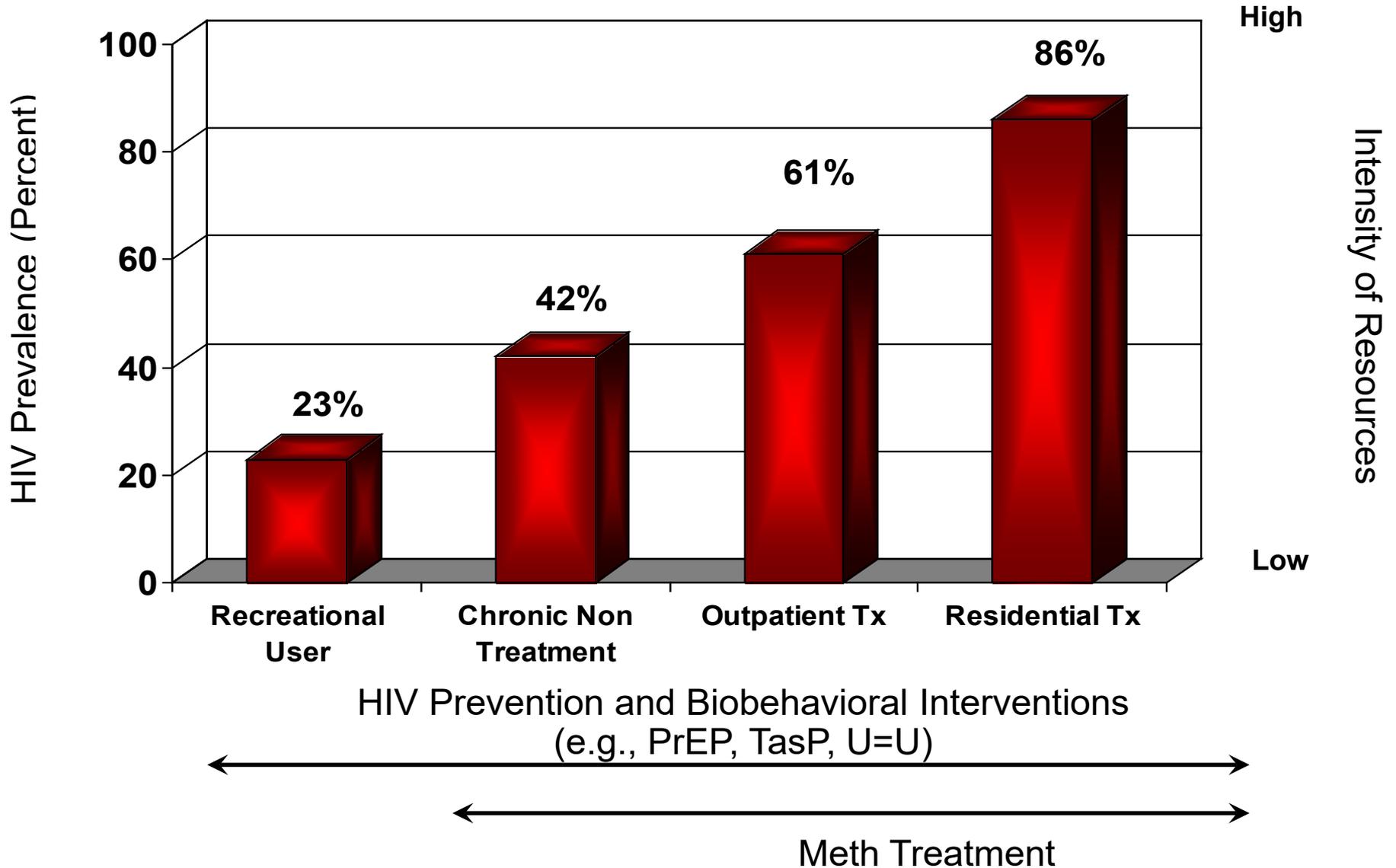
- In the United States, methamphetamine is commonly used by gay and bisexual men (and other men who have sex with men) in conjunction with sex (Semple et al., 2010; Halkitis et al., 2008; Shoptaw, 2006; Reback et al., 2013)
- Among MSM, there are strong associations between methamphetamine use, sexual risk behaviors, and HIV prevalence rates (Plankey et al., 2007; Shoptaw & Reback, 2006; Colfax et al., 2005; Reback, 1997; Molitor et al., 1998; Mattison et al., 2001; Mansergh et al., 2001; Reback et al., 2004)
 - Changes in sexual behaviors
 - Changes in decision-making processes
- Methamphetamine use *triples* HIV incidence in MSM (Buchacz et al., 2005; Plankey et al., 2007)
- HIV-positive methamphetamine users have lower rates of complete viral suppression than *former* methamphetamine users receiving same treatment (Ellis et al., 2003)

Methamphetamine and HIV in MSM: A Time-to-Response Association?

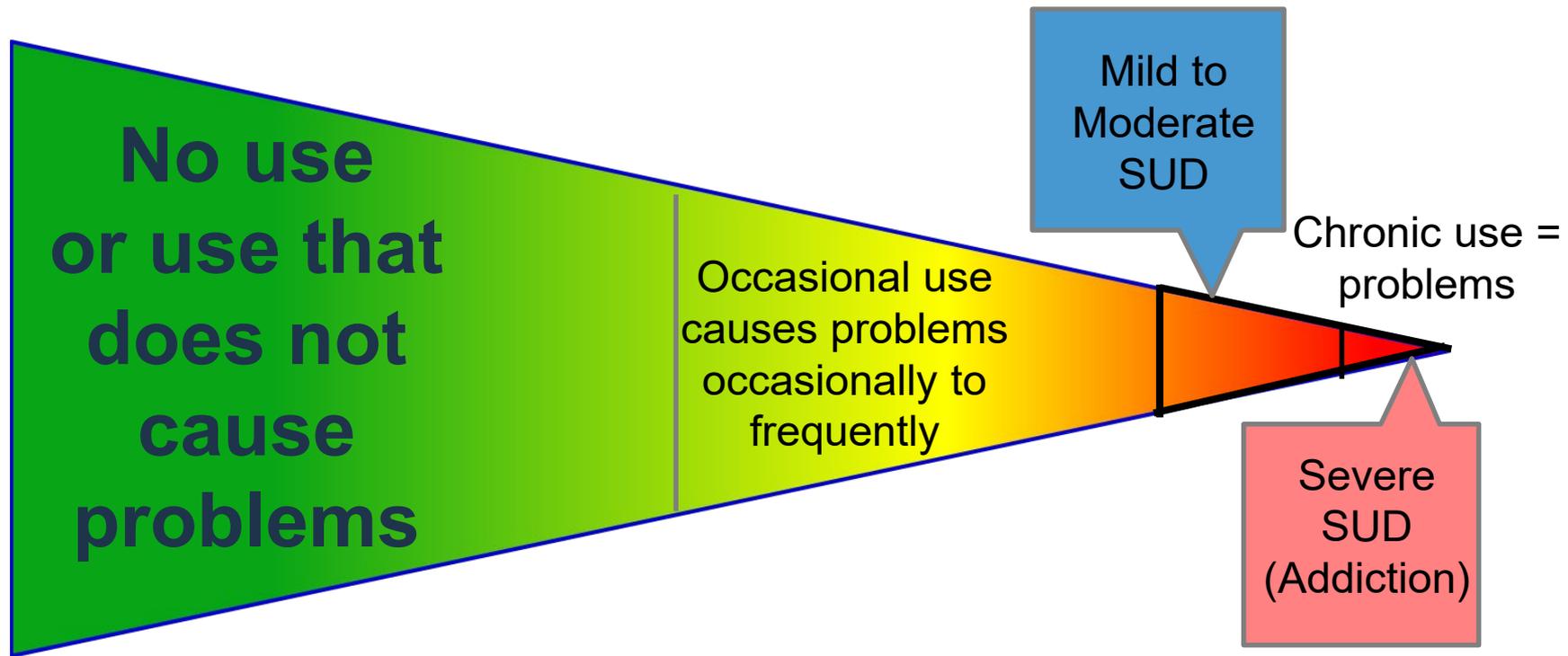


Shoptaw, S. & Reback, C.J. (2006). "Associations between Methamphetamine Use and HIV among Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Model for Guiding Public Policy," *Journal of Urban Health*, 83: 1151-1157.

Implications for Interventions



Definitions of a Spectrum: Substance Use to Substance Use Disorder, Mild to Moderate to Severe



Fun  **Fun with Problems**  **Problems**

Objective

- Track the methamphetamine use and other substance use trends;
- Among MSM in LAC;
- From January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2018 (three studies);
- Using a quasi time-space sampling methodology; and,
- Street- and venue-based outreach.

Design

- **Target Population**

MSM who have used a substance (alcohol and/or other drugs) in the past 30 days

- **Geographic Region**

Hollywood and West Hollywood, California

- **Recruitment Strategy**

Street- and venue-based outreach conducted from 11:00 AM to 1:00 AM; outreach staff were indigenous, culturally diverse, bilingual peers

- **Intervention Sites**

Street corners, bus stops, alleys, parks, cruising areas, bars, bathhouses, sex clubs, abandoned buildings, expensive hotels, coffee houses, parking lots, fast food stands, mini markets

Intervention Model

- **Gifts were given to develop trust and aid with immediate needs**
lotion, comb and brush, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush, lip balm, sunscreen, candy
- **Contacts were made to establish trust and build rapport**
1-5 minutes; including greeting, outreach worker identification, risk reduction supplies, and referrals to HIV-related services, drug treatment, medical social and mental health services, needle exchange programs, food and shelter; contacts were successive and unlimited
- **Encounters were made to introduce risk reduction strategies**
5-60 minutes; includes greeting, outreach worker identification, collect data on socio-demographics, HIV drug and sexual risks, assessment of other needs, risk reduction supplies, direct linked referral(s); encounters were successive and unlimited
- **Referrals were made to assist immediate and long-term needs**
outreach worker transported participant to referred agency; if not interested in immediate service referrals were given in writing with name, address, phone number and name of contact person

Methods

- Data collected from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2018
 - Study 1: January 1, 1999 – December 31, 2007 (N = 11,375)
 - Study 2: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2011 (N = 5,599)
 - Study 3: January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2018 (N = 8,447)
- Data organized in 6-month periods (e.g., 1st half of 2003, 2nd half of 2003)
- Repeat visits, persons reporting no substance use, and those who did not identify as a MSM were deleted from database
- Analytical Sample of **25,421 Unique Encounters** (first visits only)
 - ➔ Total Encounters, New & Repeat = 40,281
 - ➔ Less 10,886 Repeat/Duplicate ID#,
 - ➔ Less 3,968 not MSM, and/or no substance use in past 30 days
- Basic frequencies were calculated using Stata (v. 13.1)

Street- and Venue-based Strategies of Outreach

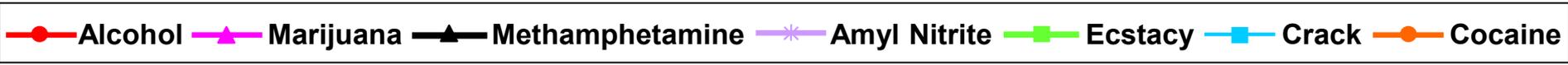
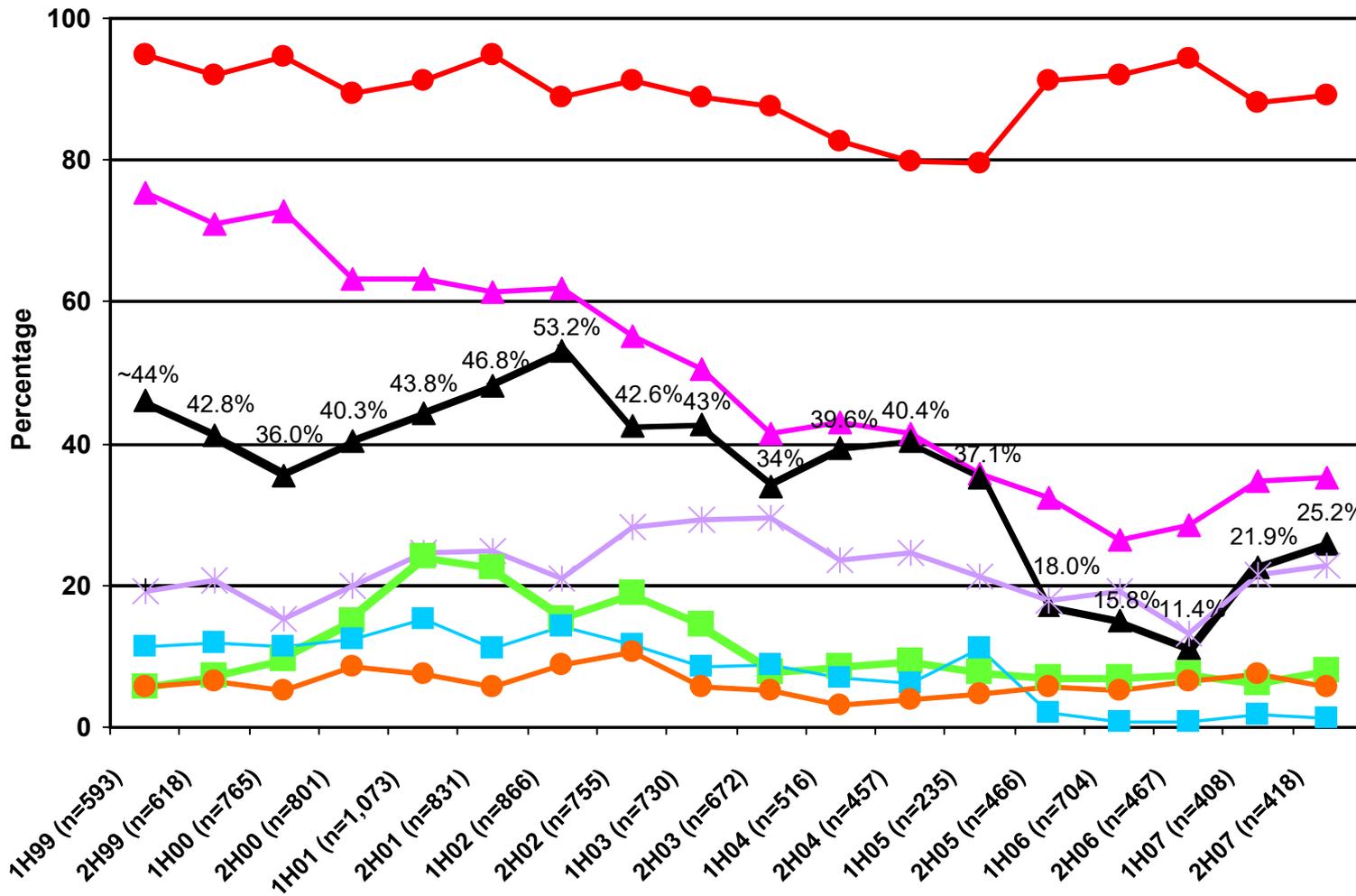
- Harm reduction
- Empower not enable
- Working with participants on their own agenda
- Being client-centered
- Being value clear
- Suspended judgment



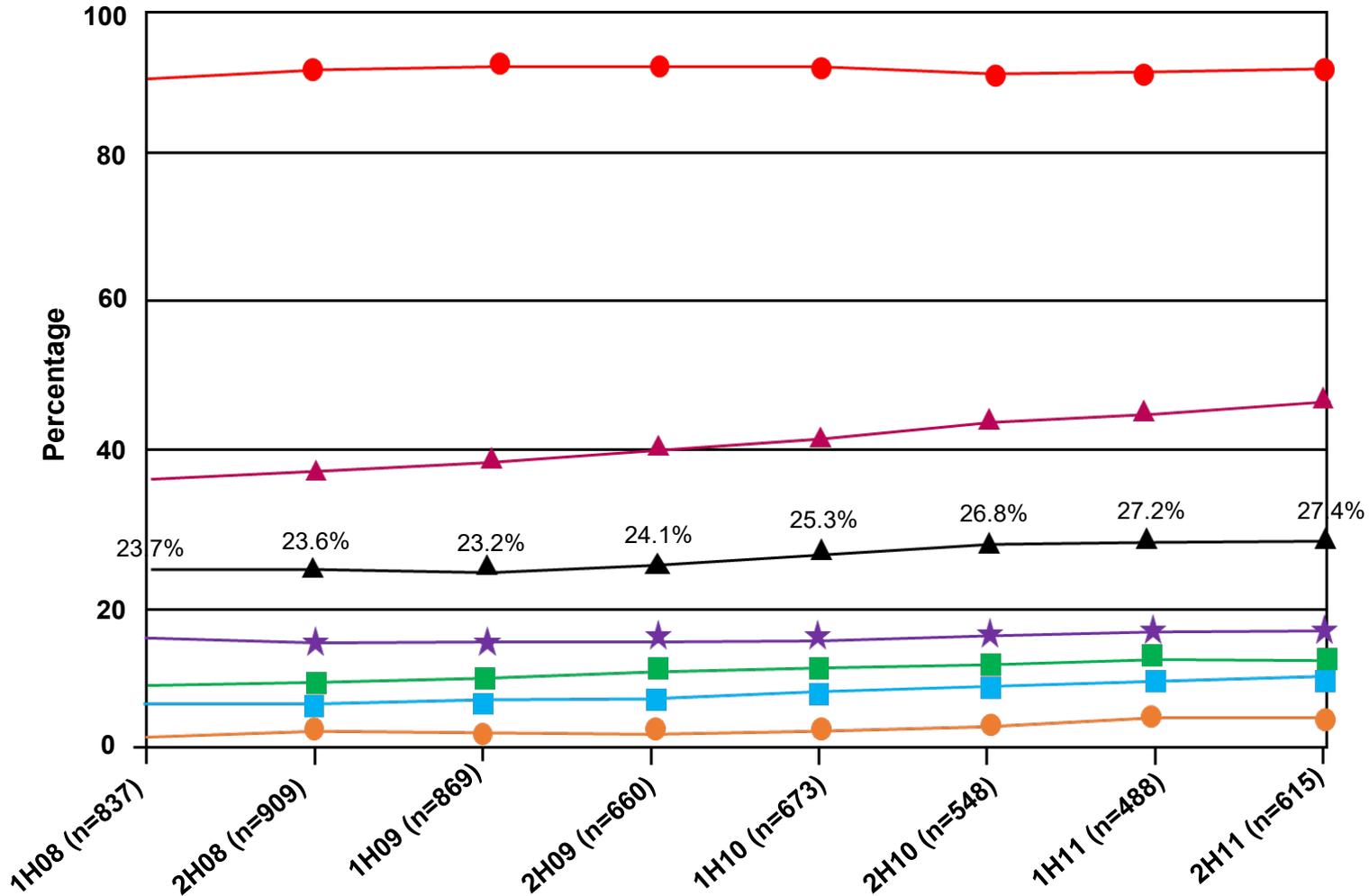
Sociodemographic Characteristics

Variable	Category	1999-2007 (11,375) M(SD) or %	2008-2011 (N=5,599) M(SD) or %	2012-2018 (N=8,447) M(SD) or %
Age		32.3 (7.7)	32.9 (8.2)	34.4 (10.0)
Race/ethnicity	Cauc/White	53.0	47.0	43.4
	Af Amer/Black	17.1	10.4	31.0
	Hispanic/Latin	21.8	31.7	14.9
	Multi/Other	8.1	10.9	10.7
Sexual ID	Gay	85.8	83.6	77.5
	Bisexual	14.2	15.9	22.2
	Heterosexual		0.5	0.2
HIV Status	Positive	20.7	13.4	9.1
	Negative	67.4	82.5	88.3
	DK/refused/missing	11.9	4.1	2.6

Substance Use Trends January 1, 1999 – December 31, 2007; N = 11,375



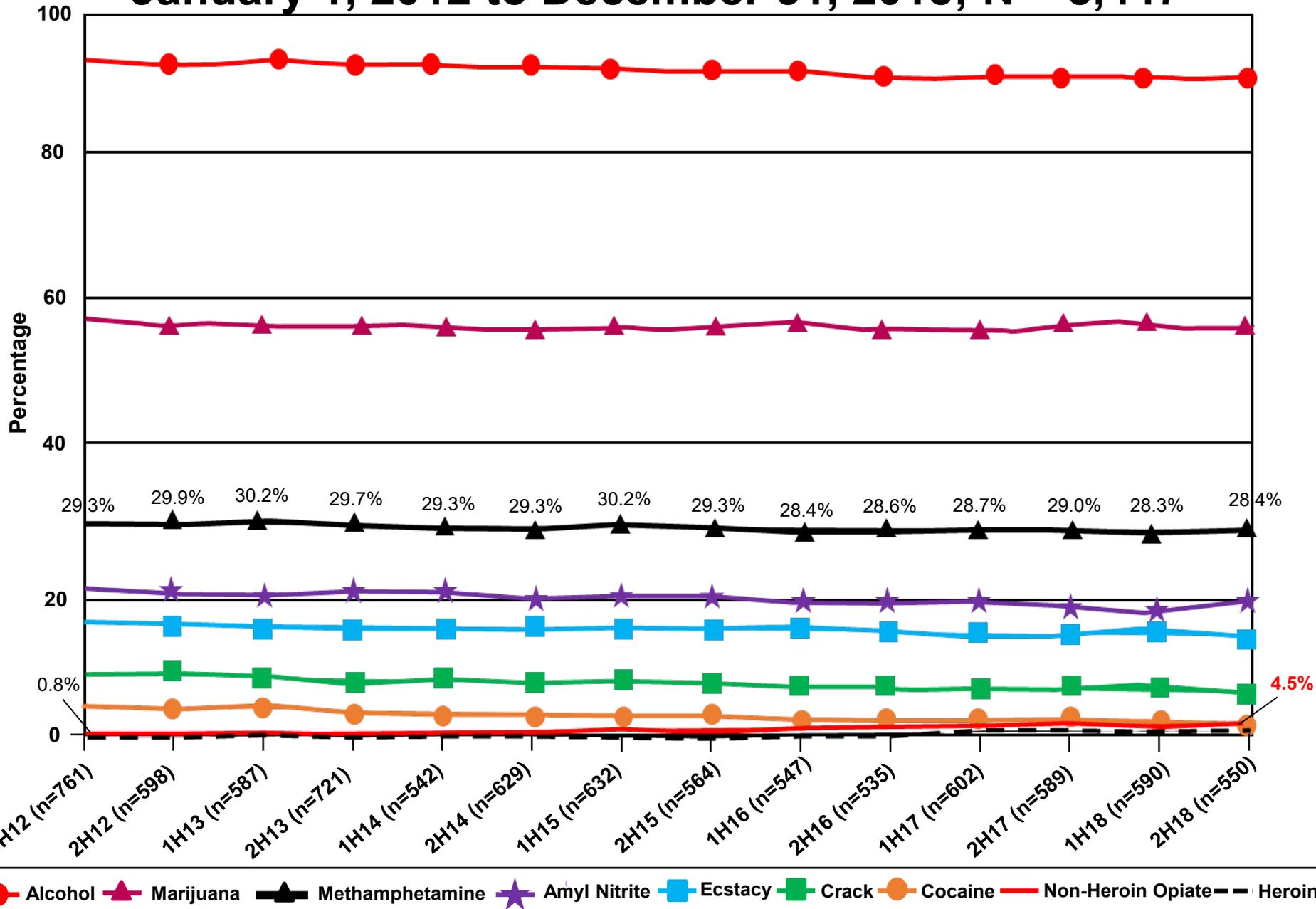
Substance Use Trends January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011; N = 5,599



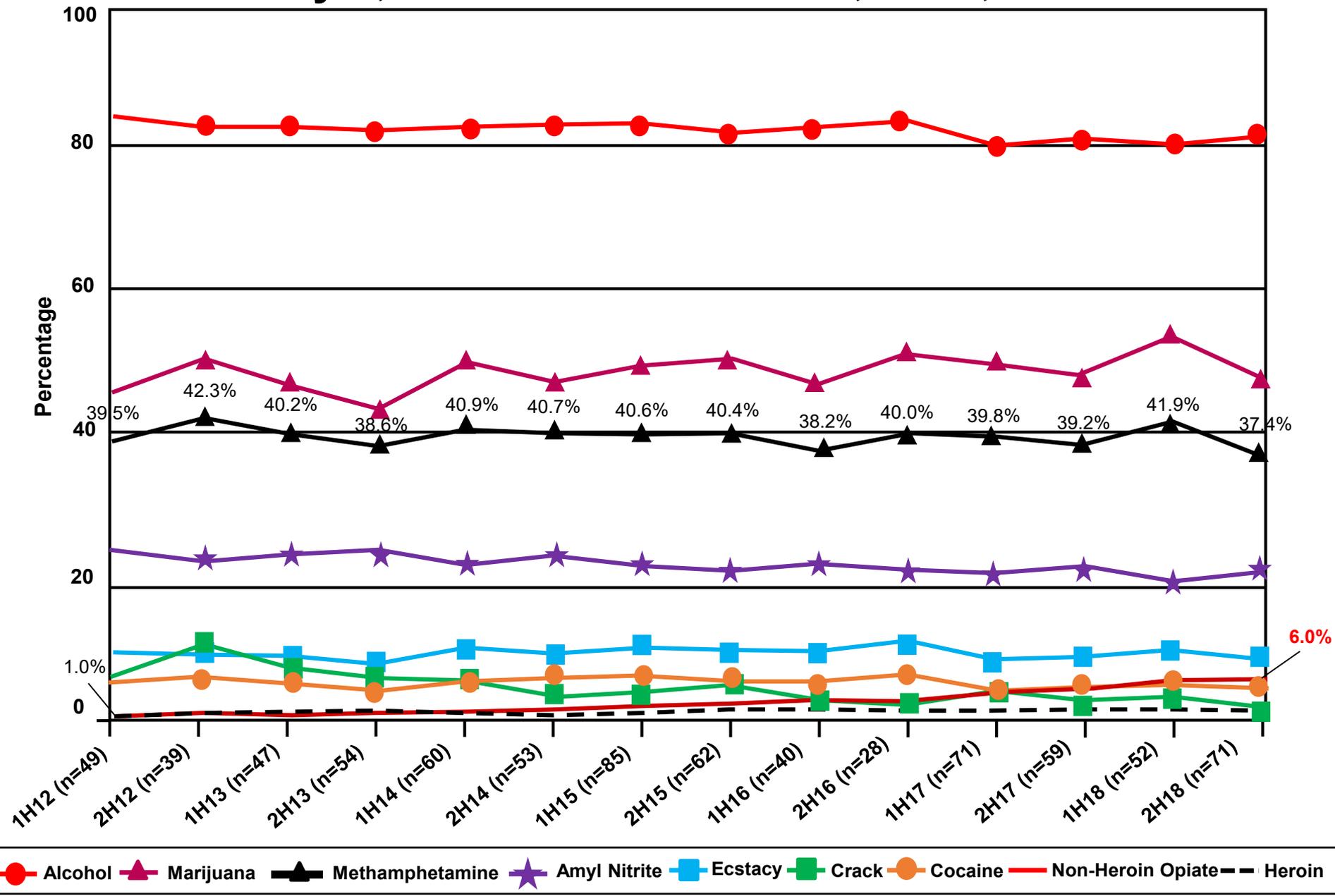
● Alcohol
 ▲ Marijuana
 ▲ Methamphetamine
 ★ Amyl Nitrite
 ■ Crack
 ■ Ecstasy
 ● Cocaine

Substance Use Trends

January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2018; N = 8,447

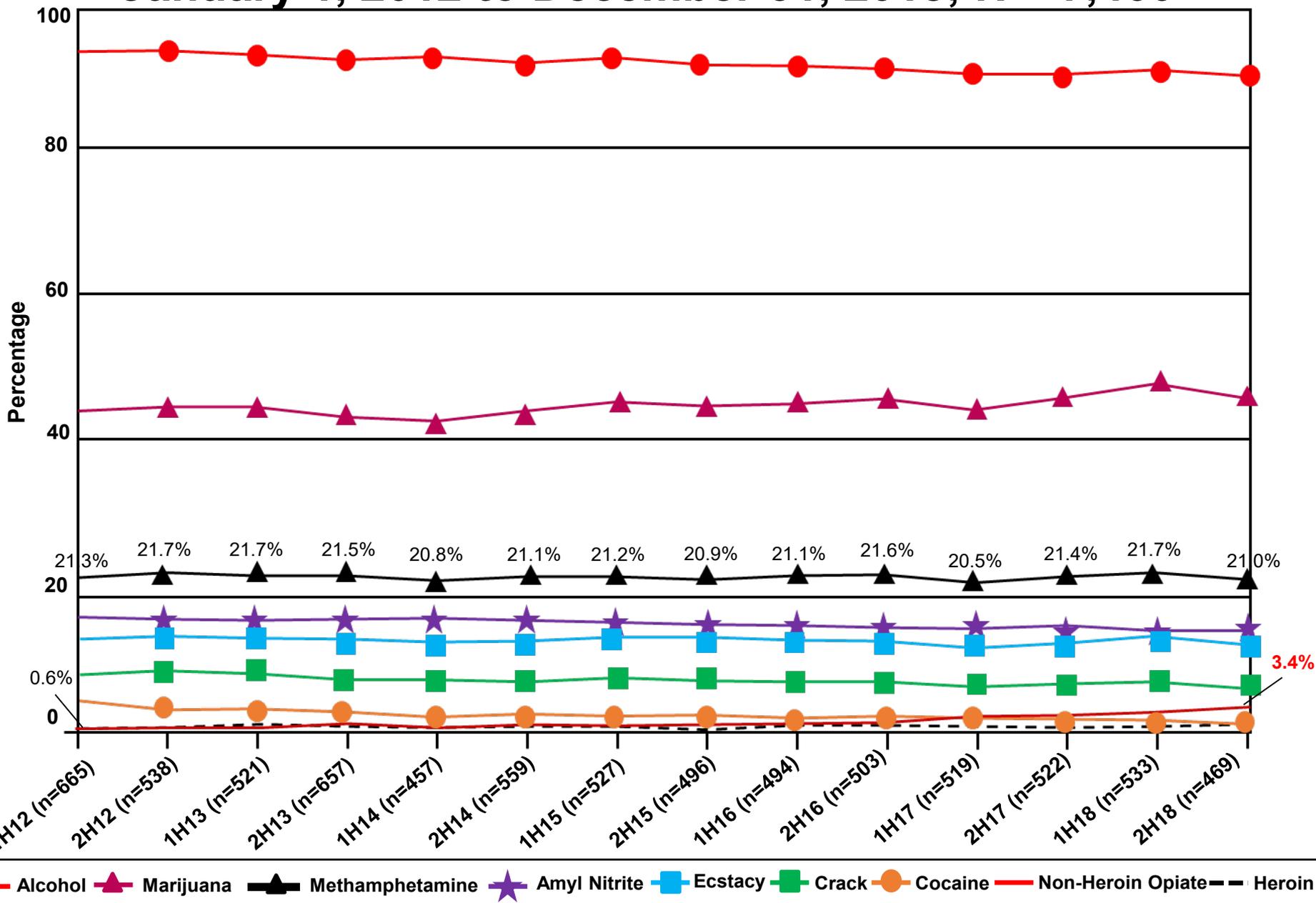


Substance Use Trends among HIV-positive MSM January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2018; N = 770



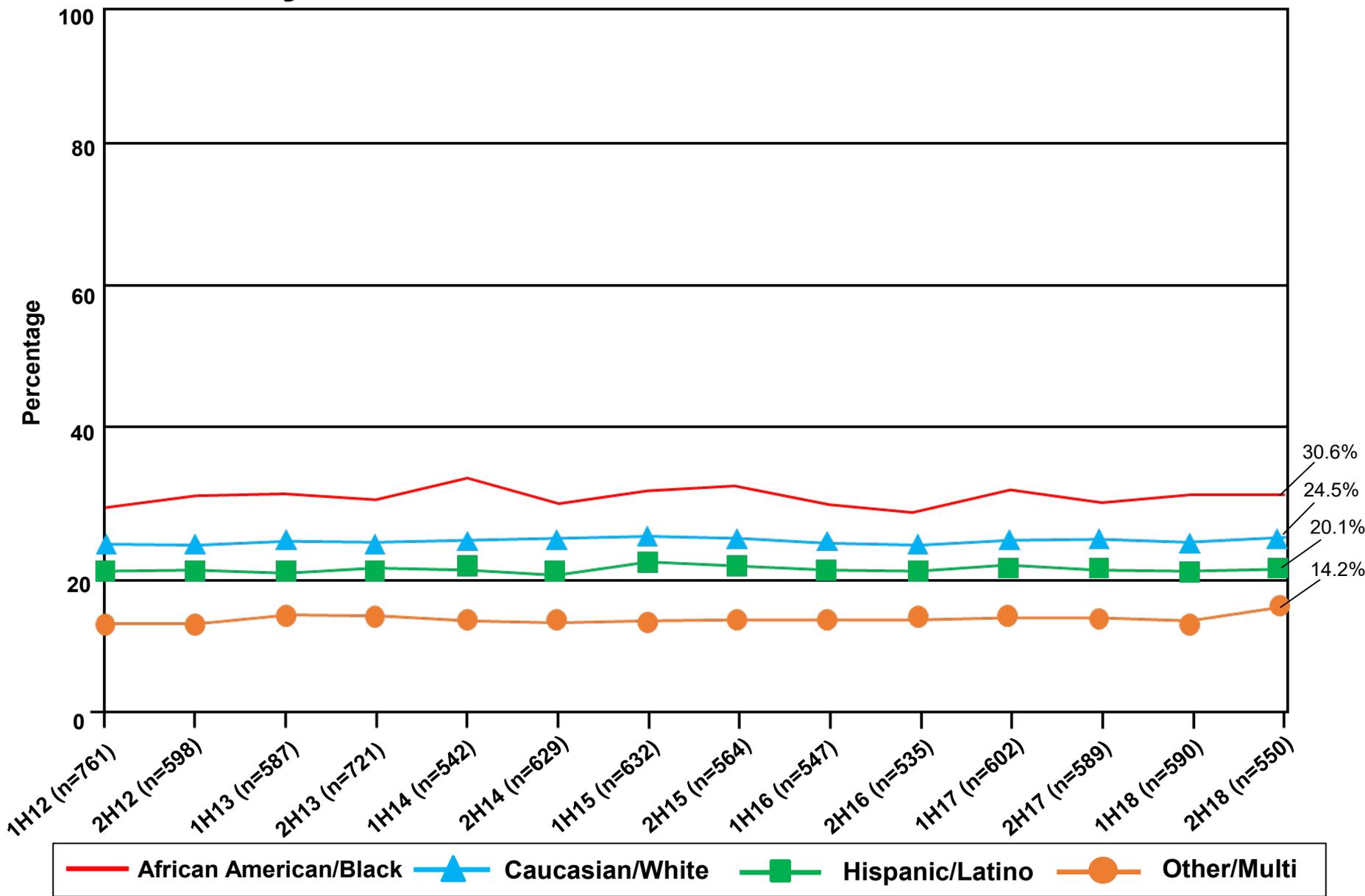
Substance Use Trends among HIV-negative MSM

January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2018; N = 7,460



Methamphetamine Use Trends by Racial/Ethnic Identity

January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2018; N = 8,447



Summary and Conclusions

- Methamphetamine continues to be the most frequently used substance among MSM following alcohol and marijuana.
- In Study 1, methamphetamine use was consistently high, between 33% and 53%, through June 2005, dipped for a 1.5 year period from July 2005 to December 2006, and increased again to 25% in 2H07. In Study 2 the increase continued from 24% in 1H08 to 27% in 2H11. In Study 3, the increase continued and stay high hovering at or just under 30% throughout the 7 year observation period.
- In Study 3, HIV-positive MSM consistently used methamphetamine at higher rates than HIV-negative MSM (rate of use doubled).
- Unlike previous years or in previous studies (data not shown), in Study 3, African American/Black MSM used at a higher rate than Caucasian/White or Hispanic/Latin MSM.
- Heroin use remained steady but, non-heroin opiates (oxycotin, vicodin, hydrocodone, fentanyl, etc.), increased 400% from .08% in 1H12 to 4.5% in 2H18, and the increase was consistent and steady. Opioid use was higher among HIV-positive MSM than HIV-negative MSM.
- Substance use trends documented through street- and venue-based outreach is an ideal mechanism for tracking use among MSM and other populations.

Implication for Interventions

- Given the documented link between methamphetamine use, sexual risk behaviors, and HIV infection, there is a compelling need for ongoing methamphetamine and HIV prevention interventions to both HIV-positive and HIV-negative MSM.
- African American/Black, Caucasian/White and Hispanic/Latin MSM should all be targeted but with culturally responsive interventions.
- Behavioral interventions focused on reducing methamphetamine use should also focus on reducing sexual risk behaviors, and increasing PrEP, TasP and U=U strategies.
- The severe and rapid increase in opioid use demands a Call-to-Action among policy decision makers and community partners.
- Naloxone saves lives. Naloxone kits (and training on use) should be readily available to those who work with opioid users.
- Give users fentanyl test strips. Very sensitive test: High rate of false positives, but a false positive is far better than a false negative, lower rates of false negative.

Guiding Public Policy Reference:

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Associations between Methamphetamine Use and HIV among Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Model for Guiding Public Policy

Steven Shoptaw and Cathy J. Reback

Study 1 Reference:

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Methamphetamine Use Trends among Street-Recruited Gay and Bisexual Males, from 1999 to 2007

Cathy J. Reback, Steven Shoptaw, and Christine E. Grella

Study 2 Reference:

Drug and Alcohol Dependence 133 (2013) 262–265



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Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Drug and Alcohol Dependence

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/drugalcdp



Short communication

Methamphetamine and other substance use trends among street-recruited men who have sex with men, from 2008 to 2011

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Thank you!

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