

Strategies to Address Substance Use Panel: Q&A

1) What do we know about the interaction between antiretrovirals and meth, crack, heroine, cocaine, etc.?

Dr. David Goodman-Meza: There are no significant interactions of ART or PrEP with cocaine, amphetamines, alcohol. There is an interaction with Protease Inhibitors and Opioids leading to increased effects of Opioids. I know this is the case with fentanyl, methadone, buprenorphine, oxycodone. I haven't seen a paper specifically with heroin but I would assume so. Luckily, we don't use protease inhibitors as much.

2) One of the participants commented that many MSM inject meth during sex. Would safer consumption services benefit this population also?

Laura Thomas: Probably the single most important overdose prevention message is for people to not inject drugs alone. People who are injecting meth for sex already have that part down! Supervised consumption services wouldn't be necessary in that use case. However, if people wanted to learn better injection techniques or other chemsex first aid skills, an SCS would be an excellent place to provide that kind of training. They could also offer drug-checking services for people who would be injecting or using those drugs at a later time. It's one of the things we've been discussing at SFAF, given that MSM who use meth are one of our priority populations, and so we're thinking about how to offer contingency management and low threshold counseling in a SCS setting.

3) Do we have any overdose data broken down by housing status? What do we know about the relationship between overdose and housing?

Dr. David Goodman-Meza: I tried doing some ecological analyses with a medical student related to homelessness or housing instability in LA County, but we couldn't find an association at the geographic level. There may be something at the individual level, but this data can be hard to come by due to privacy concerns.

Laura Thomas: In San Francisco, we get overdose death data from the Medical Examiner with housing status ("fixed address"). I don't know about other counties, though, and that data is not on the state dashboard.