

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Crystal Meth Use in The AA SGL Community: Health Risk, Trends and Solutions

Lawrence Bryant, PhD, MPH, BSW, RRT
Kennesaw State University
CEO, Founder, P & P Consultants



My Journey

Learning Objectives



Identify

Identify factors related to crystal meth use in the AA SGL community

Explore

Explore issues and trends related to race and homophobia

Examine

Examine health disparities among AA SGL men

Explore

Explore inclusive language in working with AA SGL men

Identify

Identify strategies and best practices in working with AA SGL men

We will Chat!

Fact Check!

When compared with the general population, LGBTQ+ people have higher non-medical substance use, compared to the general population (CDC, 2016)



Crystal Meth

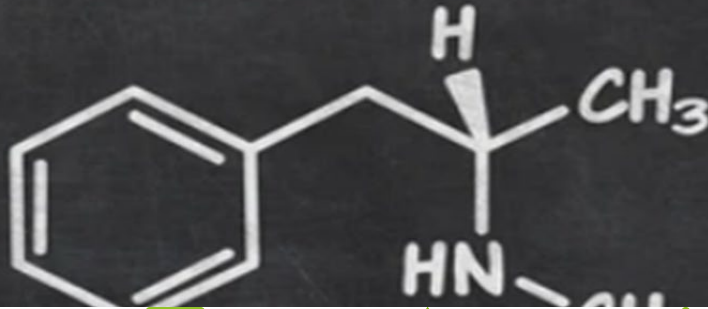
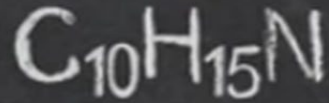


<https://nida.nih.gov/drug-topics/substance-use-suds-in-lgbt>



STIMULANTS

Methamphetamine



A highly addictive stimulant that affects the CNS



Also called ice, chalk, meth, crystal, crank



Snorted,
smoked



Injected

Crystal Meth (Tina)



Photo by [DEA](#)

Crystal methamphetamine

Crystal meth is a very strong form of meth

The differences between crystal meth and meth is the strength and appearance of the drugs

Crystal meth is cheap, high last longer

Can be mixed with Fentanyl

Significant Health Risk

The Recovery Village (2021) The Difference Between Crystal Meth and Meth? Retrieved? from: [The Difference Between Ice \(Crystal Meth\) & Meth | The Recovery Village](#)

Health Risk



Hepatitis C+

Endocarditis

Dental issues (severe) ☆

Neurological damage

HIV/AIDS

Overdose - Death

National Institute of Health (2019). Methamphetamine Drug facts. Retrieved From:
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/download/1076/methamphetamine-drugfacts.pdf?v=04b49969b52aade627329386a3e9d265>



End Game (overdose-Death)



Knowledge Check (poll)

All are health risks associated with crystal meth, except

- a. Endocarditis
- b. HIV/AIDS
- c. Dental problems
- d. Cardiac problems
- e. Blood infections
- f. Gynecomastia
- g. The answer is (f)



TRENDS



Exploring influences on methamphetamine use among Black gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Atlanta: A focus group study

- ▶ Eight focus groups with 54 key informants between **December 2019** and **March 2020**.
- ▶ Participants represented community-based and healthcare organizations
- ▶ Sophia A. Hussen, MD, MPH^{a,b}, Daniel M. Camp, MPH^a, Marxavian D. Jones, MPA^a, Shivani A. Patel, PhD, MPH^a, Natalie D. Crawford, PhD, MPH^c, David P. Holland, MD, MHS^{b,d,e}, Hannah L.F. Cooper, ScD^c

Findings



Participants unanimously agreed that methamphetamine use was increasingly prevalent among Black GBMSM in Atlanta (December 2019 and March 2020)

Participants described contributors to increasing methamphetamine use including use as a sex drug, and the interrelated burdens of stress and mental illness, housing instability, geographic mobility and poverty.

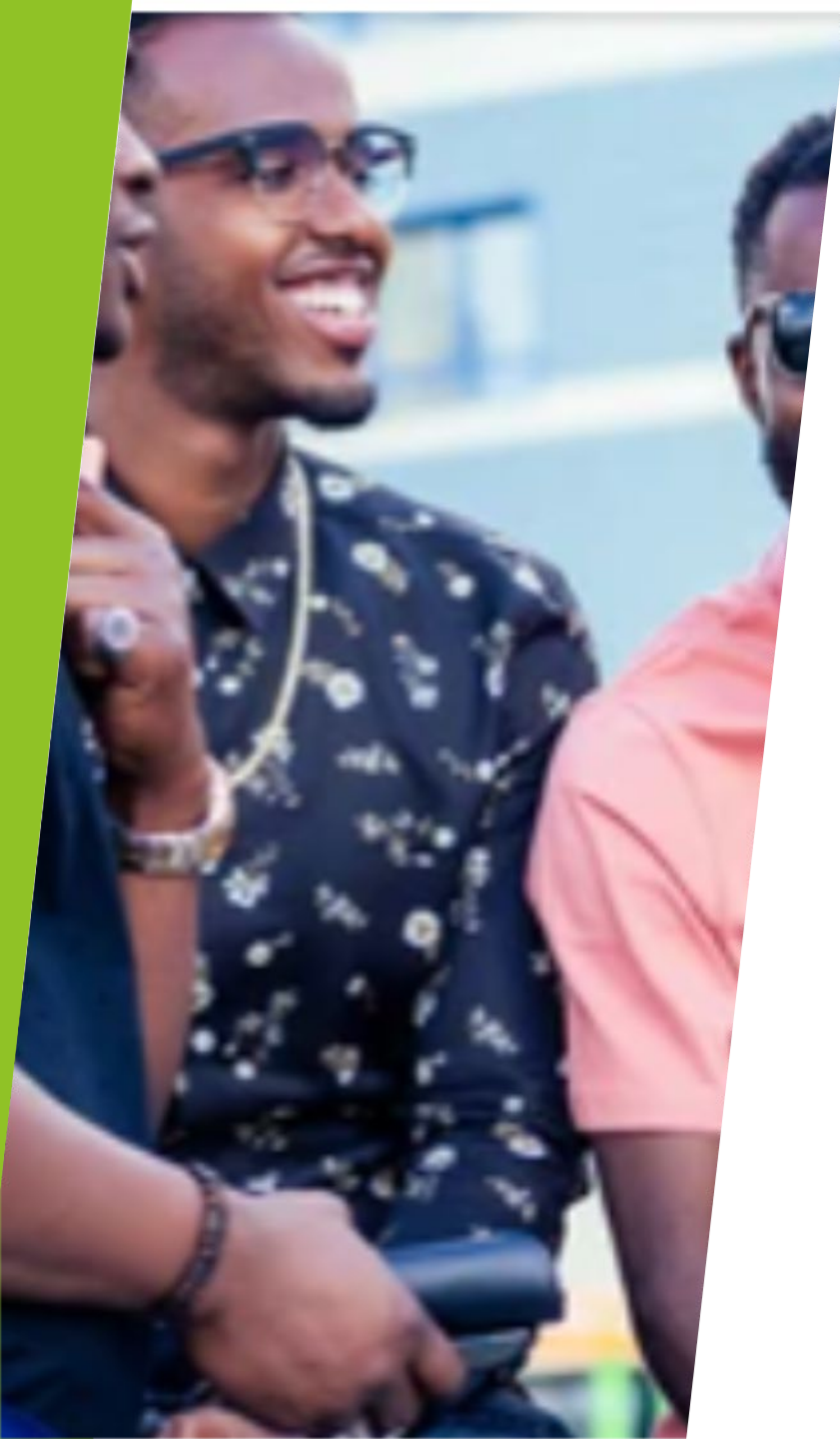
Participants described how policies prioritizing other concerns (e.g., HIV, opioids) seemed to limit resources available for methamphetamine prevention and treatment programming.

These trends impact health and well-being and **undermine HIV prevention and treatment efforts.**

Moving from the White gay community to the Black SGL community

Focus Groups Respondents

- ▶ *“I feel like a lot of young Black boys, when they turn to escorting and then they go out there and they get introduced to this drug through, you know, other races and nationalities.....” (FG #1)*
- ▶ *“So, unfortunately, because of class, white versus Black.....the trend has become to basically get young Black men hooked on it so that they could be objectified by white, older men, as like a novelty...it’s just exploitation (FG#2)*
- ▶ *Because of the homelessness, poverty, things like that, um, in relation to the go-get-it-ness of the drug, like have to have it, have to have it, it comes into this cycle of being basically a slave to somebody else, pretty much. Being abused, traumatized, exploited... (FG #4)*



Surprisingly
Some participants expressed concern that methamphetamine use was likely to become more prevalent in the larger Black community in the future

- ▶ *“The straight, Black, African-American males are now surprisingly selling it, versus selling weed and selling coke.....because they know that this a marketable source considering the fact that Atlanta is full of gays and they are all going towards Tina, so nobody is buying a gram of weed for \$10 when they can buy a gram of T for \$60?”*

Race and Exploitation of Black Men





(reaction-lets chat)
**What thoughts come to mind after
viewing this video?**

What Can We Do?

Inclusivity

- ▶ LGBTQ+ community
- ▶ Heterosexual community
- ▶ Cultural Humanity
- ▶ Mission statement
- ▶ Website (images)
- ▶ Leaders (do they reflect the population?)
- ▶ Intersectionality

Stigma
Against Sex
Work

Unstable
Housing

History of
Incarceration

Transphobia



HIV Status

Racial
Discrimination

Surgery
assignment

Violence

19

Intersectionality

Language Matters

Language Matters (LGBTQ+)

Stigmatized Language

- ▶ Homosexual
- ▶ Sexual preference
- ▶ Gay lifestyle
- ▶ BMSM
- ▶ Special rights
- ▶ Tranny

Preferred Language

- ▶ Gay persons
- ▶ Sexual orientation
- ▶ LGBTQ people and their lives
- ▶ Same-gender loving
- ▶ Equal rights
- ▶ Transgender People

Effective Strategies

Cognitive/Behavioral Therapy (CBT)

Motivational Interviewing (MI) (empathy)

12 step support

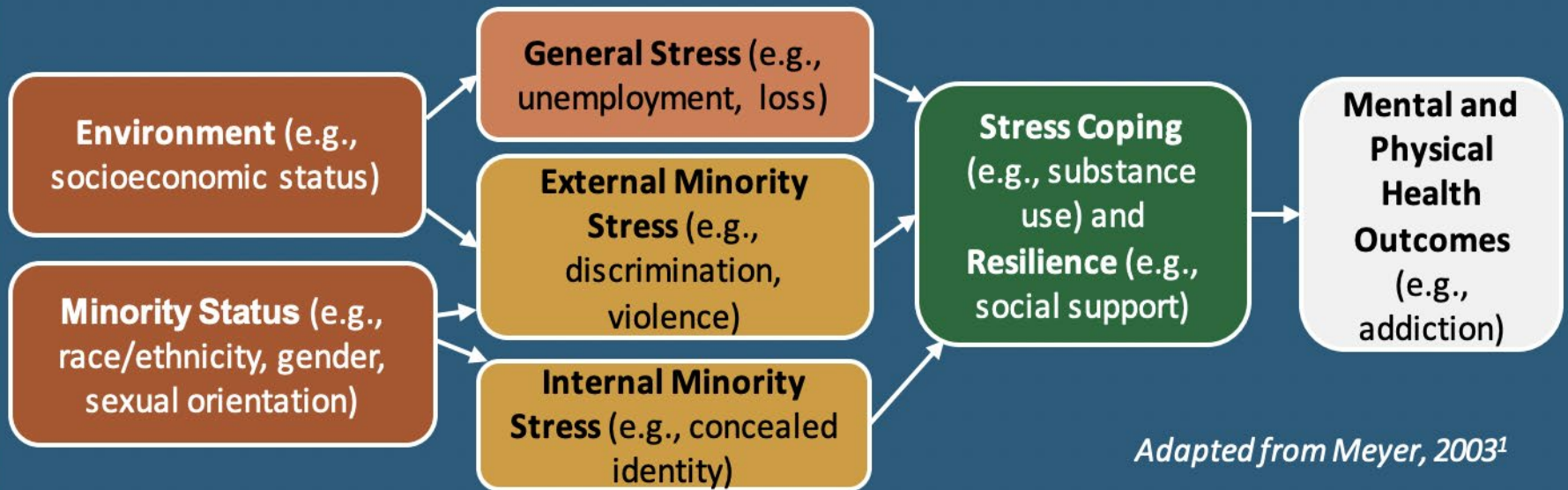
Minority Stress Model

SOURCES: NIH, 2011

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/methamphetamine/what-treatments-are-effective-people-who-misuse-methamphetamine>

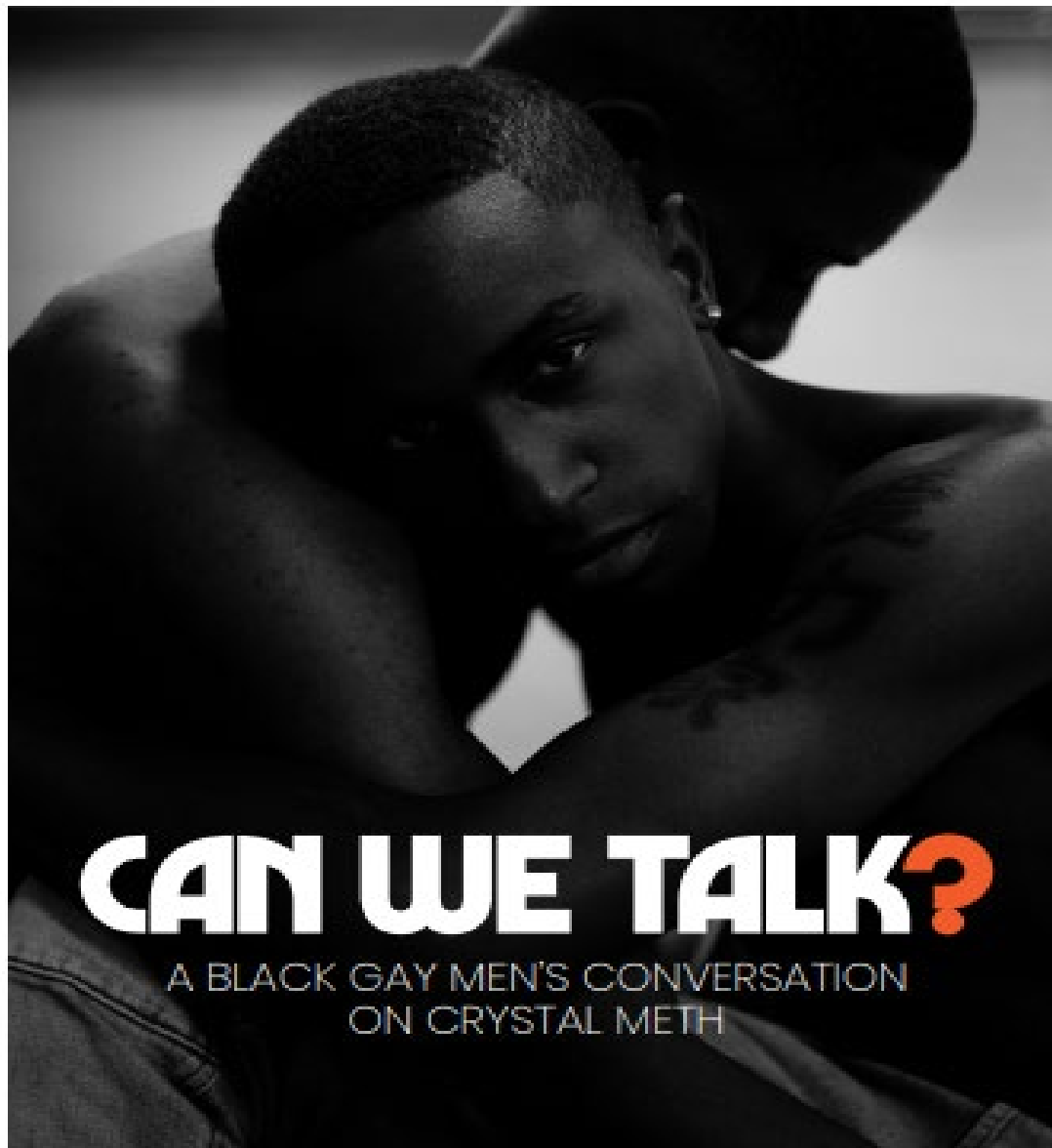
LGBTQ+ and Substance Use

According to the **Minority Stress Framework**³, LGBTQ+ populations face stigma in addition to general stress. Coping may involve substance use and subsequent addiction.







Adapted from Meyer, 2003¹





https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fc545e19698b02c7f3d833b/t/6127bc106e0f78e4d7cf/1629994047563/CNP_CWT2021_Booklet.pdf

Table of Contents

Introduction: How to Use This Guide	3
What is Crystal Meth 	3
T1: Crystal Meth Appearance	3
T2: Crystal Street Names	4
What Signs May Alert You to Crystal Meth Use/Dependence? 	5
When Broaching the Topic of Crystal Meth Harm Reduction	5
T3: A Few Motivational Interviewing Basics	5
Language Dos and Don'ts for Engaging a User About Crystal Meth 	6
A Recognition of Why People Use Meth	7
Influencing Cost/Benefit Analysis for Harm Reduction or Abstinence from Meth	9
The Dangers: Considerations When Using Crystal Meth	9
Administering Crystal Meth - Harm Reduction Considerations 	9
Other Behavioral Risk Concerns with Crystal Meth Usage	10
Other Drug Interactions	12
Long and Short-Term Impact of Meth Use on The Body	12
Managing an Episode of Crystal Meth Induced Anxiety, Delusions, or Paranoia	13

Community Assets



African American
Behavioral Health

CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE



HERE'S TO LIFE



Our Stories



Jaylynn Foster

**Bishop Carl Beam: Minority AIDS
Project, Unity Fellowship Church**

**“Born This Way,” an eventual LGBTQ anthem that later
inspired Lady Gaga to write her own version of the song.**





LAWRENCE BRYANT, PHD
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
LBRYAN61@KENNESAW.EDU
404-585-7440

Passion and Purpose Consultants

[\(49\) Lawrence \(Larry\) Bryant, Ph.D, MPH, BSW, RRT | LinkedIn](#)

Questions

