

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several white circular and semi-circular elements. A prominent feature is a large circular scale on the left side, with numerical markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other elements include various concentric circles, dashed lines, and arrows, some pointing inwards and some outwards, creating a sense of movement and complexity.

LIVING WITH TOXICITIES: USES AND PLEASURES OF CRYSTAL METH AMONG GBMSM

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Table 1

Trends in methamphetamine use in the 6 months preceding the survey, 2005–14.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	p-Trend ^a	
											Overall	5-year
Any crystal use (%)												
All respondents	15.6	17.4	13.2	12.2	10.1	9.6	9.7	11.3	11.2	11.4	<.001	<.001
HIV status												
Negative/unknown	14.7	16.0	11.8	10.7	8.6	8.4	8.2	9.9	9.4	9.9	<.001	<.001
Positive	25.5	31.5	27.6	26.9	27.6	22.8	25.3	27.4	28.9	27.4	.10	.004
Regular crystal use (%)												
All respondents	–	–	6.1	5.2	4.2	3.9	3.2	3.8	3.4	4.0	<.001	.64
HIV status												
Negative/unknown	–	–	5.3	4.4	3.5	3.3	2.6	3.2	2.7	3.3	<.001	.71
Positive	–	–	14.2	12.4	12.5	10.9	10.2	11.1	9.7	10.8	.14	.96

- Lea, Toby, et al. "Methamphetamine use among gay and bisexual men in Australia: trends in recent and regular use from the Gay Community Periodic Surveys." *International Journal of Drug Policy* 29 (2016): 66-72.

Table 27: Recreational drug use among HIV-negative men in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 n (%)	2014 n (%)	2015 n (%)	2016 n (%)	2017 n (%)
Cannabis	604 (30.8)	524 (30.8)	680 (29.4)	711 (29.9)	882 (33.7)
Amyl nitrite (poppers)	871 (44.4)	735 (43.2)	950 (41.1)	1,046 (44.0)	1,225 (46.7)
Ecstasy	607 (31.0)	515 (30.2)	602 (26.0)	584 (24.5)	702 (26.8)
Amphetamine (speed)	220 (11.2)	174 (10.2)	192 (8.3)	182 (7.7)	229 (8.7)
Crystal methamphetamine	238 (12.1)	216 (12.7)	236 (10.2)	233 (9.8)	258 (9.8)
Viagra	435 (22.2)	355 (20.9)	409 (17.7)	460 (19.3)	525 (20.0)
Total (not mutually exclusive)	1,960	1,703	2,313	2,380	2,621

Table 26: Recreational drug use among HIV-positive men in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 n (%)	2014 n (%)	2015 n (%)	2016 n (%)	2017 n (%)
Cannabis	106 (39.7)	106 (41.4)	84 (38.5)	82 (38.0)	97 (38.5)
Amyl nitrite (poppers)	149 (55.8)	134 (52.3)	115 (52.8)	132 (61.1)	142 (56.4)
Ecstasy	81 (30.3)	60 (23.4)	50 (22.9)	58 (26.9)	54 (21.4)
Amphetamine (speed)	30 (11.2)	26 (10.2)	10 (4.6)	19 (8.8)	16 (6.4)
Crystal methamphetamine	90 (33.7)	92 (35.9)	68 (31.2)	66 (30.6)	70 (27.8)
Viagra	105 (39.3)	95 (37.1)	88 (40.4)	95 (44.0)	102 (40.5)
Total (not mutually exclusive)	267	256	219	216	252

- Hull et al. *Gay Community Periodic Survey: Sydney 2017*, Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW

- Crystal meth is used to enhance and/or enable sex

“How to say this? What I find on crystal, I kind of enter into a special space. A particularly sexual, sensual space” in which “every touch is enhanced”.

- Isaiah Green, Adam, and Perry N. Halkitis. "Crystal methamphetamine and sexual sociality in an urban gay subculture: An elective affinity." *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 8, no. 4 (2006): 317-333, p. 323.

- Crystal meth is used to deal with negative affects associated with being HIV positive

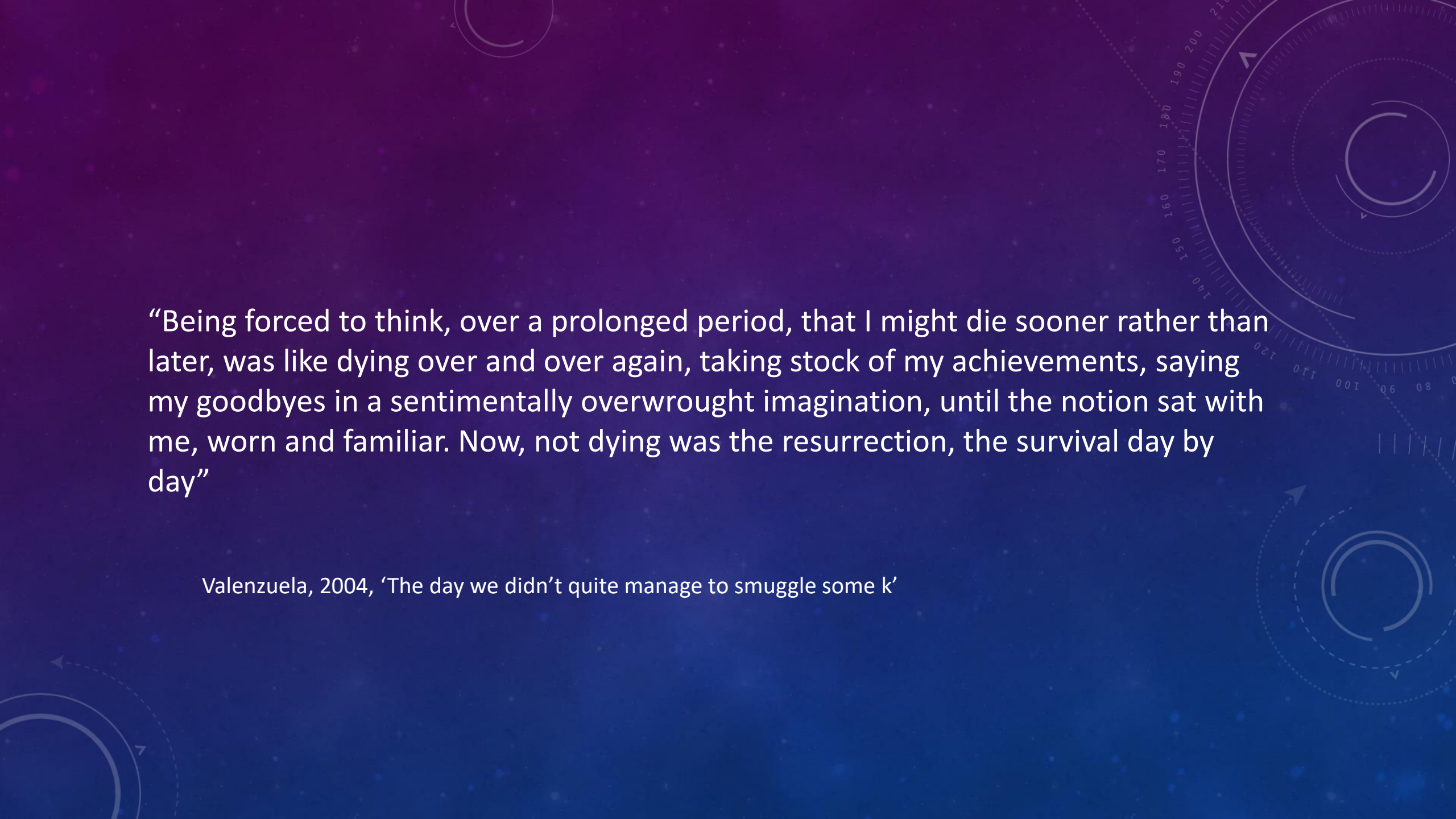
“When I found out I was HIV +, I didn’t know what was going to happen. I didn’t know what to expect with HIV. I didn’t know where I was going. But after I started using [crystal] – I started making some positive choices in my life. And actually I think I did some pretty good things. It helped me. I don’t know how I would have ever got started again”

- Semple, Shirley J., Thomas L. Patterson, and Igor Grant. "Motivations associated with methamphetamine use among HIV+ men who have sex with men." *Journal of substance abuse Treatment* 22.3 (2002): 149-156.

'Dosed', short story by Tony Valenzuela, 2006

I want to get twisted, gnarly high on Tina where I don't care about tomorrow and yesterday and time is reduced to an acute yen for body parts

On crystal, all that remains of me is my body with its moist orifices, ravenous as summer tornadoes. I am, otherwise, held in glorious suspension from the nuisance of the day's worries. I am erased of complicated history, like high school textbooks in the South. There is only lust here now, an empire of prurience whose frontier plots against the horizon: orgasm is defeat, is desire's drowning



“Being forced to think, over a prolonged period, that I might die sooner rather than later, was like dying over and over again, taking stock of my achievements, saying my goodbyes in a sentimentally overwrought imagination, until the notion sat with me, worn and familiar. Now, not dying was the resurrection, the survival day by day”

Valenzuela, 2004, ‘The day we didn’t quite manage to smuggle some k’