

## **DO LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND QUEER WOMEN HAVE CHEMSEX? EXAMINING CONTEXTS OF DRUG USE**

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### **Introduction:**

Chemsex (sometimes called party and play) is the phenomena of men who have sex with men using illicit drugs such as crystal methamphetamine and GHB to have extended sessions of sex, sometimes with multiple partners and sometimes without condoms. Chemsex has caused a lot of discussion within LGBT communities and among health providers, and received a lot of panicked media coverage especially around the connection between chemsex and HIV.

### **Abstract body text:**

Our survey of lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women's health (SWASH) has been asking about illicit drug every two years since 1996. We've consistently shown rates of drug use among LBQ women are nearly 4 times higher than among their heterosexual peers – in 2016, 46% had used any illicit drug in the preceding 6 months, 8% had ever injected drugs. In 2016, for the first time, we asked our respondents about where they used drugs: at home, at a party/venue, and/or during sex. In this Food For Thought presentation we present these findings.

### **Discussions and Conclusions:**

Developing appropriate resources for harm reduction and models of treatment for problematic drug in this population requires an understanding of the social contexts of drug use. While research consistently shows high illicit drug use, this population has received relatively little attention in terms of tailored harm reduction or treatment.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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