

Serious About Getting to Zero? **Then We Must Address Methamphetamine Use** **Among Black Gay Men**

Presented by Keith R. Green, PhD, MSW

Executive Director, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus

Co-Chair, Chicago Methamphetamine Task Force



Disclosure: *Presenter has no financial interest to disclose. This continuing education activity is managed by The St. Louis STI/HIV Prevention Training Center and accredited by Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Public Health.*

Disclaimer

- This presentation addresses substance use among Black gay, bisexual and same gender loving men, with a specific focus on methamphetamines.
- The content of this presentation may be triggering for some, particularly those who struggle with substance use and/or have a loved one who is or has struggled with substance use.
- We encourage you to take care of yourself during (and after) this presentation. If professional assistance is needed, please check in with the conference organizers.

The Effects of Meth Use

- Using **meth**...
 - Increases sexual desire and pleasure
 - Allows for disinhibition
 - Helps alleviate the effects of stigma related to sex with other men
 - Can contribute to condomless sex
 - Can cause mental distress, physical damage and social isolation

What We Know About Meth Use

- Data on methamphetamine use among Black gay, bisexual and same gender loving (GBSGL) men is limited
- Data from a recent NIDA study suggests that meth use increased among all populations by 22% between 2015 and 2019
- Frequent meth use increased by 66% during this same time period
- Additionally, use of meth with cocaine increased by 60% during this time

The Chicago Methamphetamine Task Force

The mission of the **Chicago Methamphetamine Task Force (CMTF)** is to address the destructive use of methamphetamine among Black gay, bisexual, and other men in the City of Chicago by:

- **Identifying** and amplifying quality of life needs for individuals who are vulnerable to methamphetamine use, abuse and addiction
- **Stimulating** dialogue among service providers, public health officials, elected officials, researchers and other key stakeholders to identify, design, implement and evaluate effective support and treatment programs grounded in the principles of harm reduction



CMTF Mission (cont.)

The mission of the **Chicago Methamphetamine Task Force (CMTF)** is to address the destructive use of methamphetamine among Black gay, bisexual, and other men in the City of Chicago by:

- **Advocating** for the designation of existing and/or the creation of new funding streams for addressing this escalating crisis; and
- **Encouraging** public health officials and service providers to develop protocols for methamphetamine use screening and data collection.



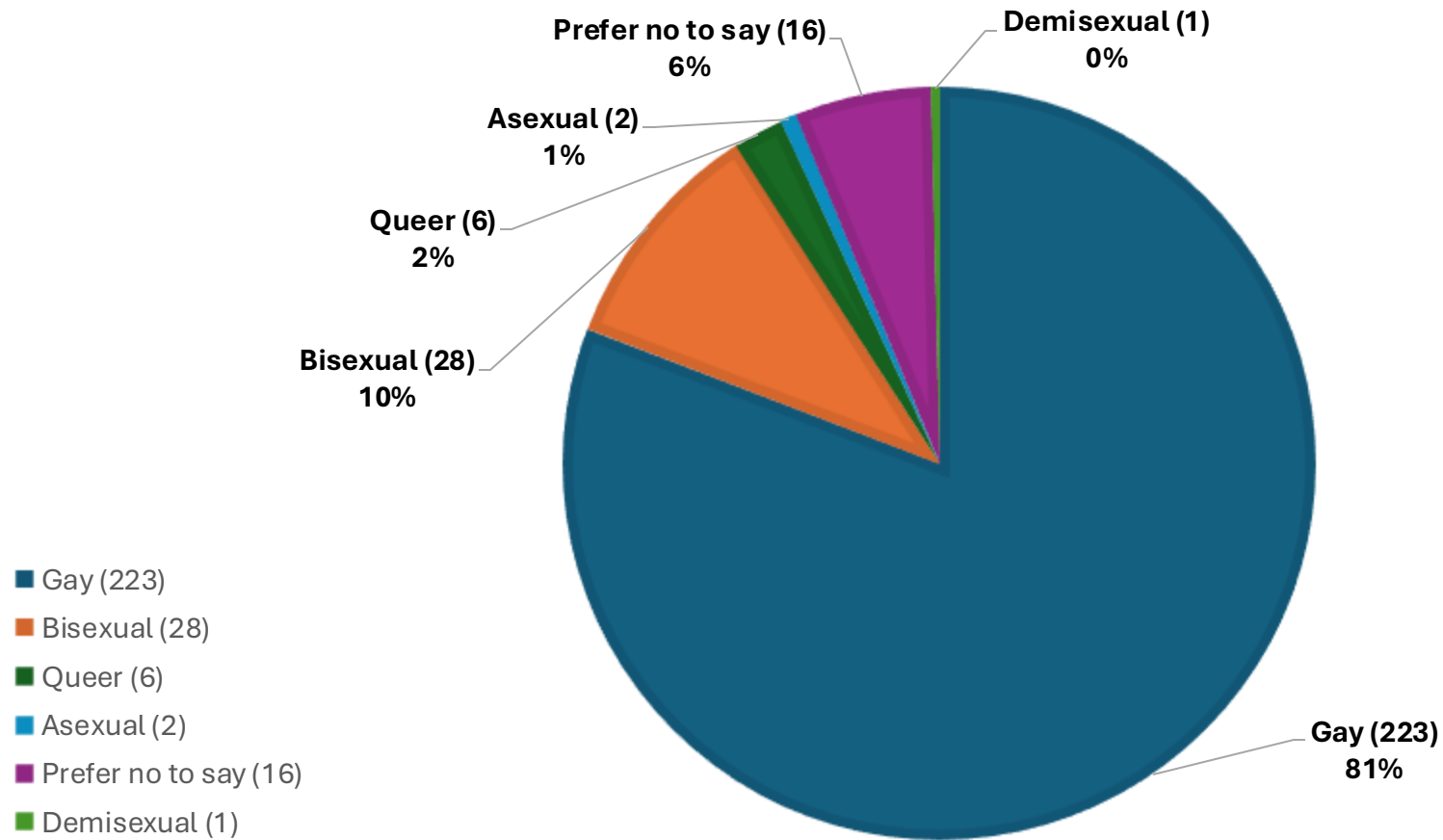
CMTF Community- Wide Survey

July -
November
2023

A cross-sectional, community-wide survey of 276 Black GBSGL men in Chicago was conducted to:

- **Understand** substance use behaviors and experiences with substance use treatment among this population;
- **Identify** needs among those who are vulnerable to substance use;
- **Promote** dialogue among service providers;
- **Advocate** for existing and new funding streams for addressing this escalating crisis;
- **Encourage** public health officials and service providers to develop enhanced protocols for substance use screening and data collection

CMTF Survey Demographics



Key Survey Findings

- Survey **participants aged 25-34** more frequently report using substances from *each* licit and illicit substance category within the past three months to **make sex easier, better, last longer**, or something similar
- Majority of participants **take substances** either with their **sexual/romantic partner** or in a **social setting** rather than alone
- Slightly more than **30%** of participants express either *currently being in treatment; previously having been in treatment; or previously having been in detox for substance use*

Key Survey Findings (cont.)

- More Black gay, bisexual, and other men who have used methamphetamine within the past three months report **currently experiencing homelessness** than those who report *not* having used methamphetamine within the past three months
- Current methamphetamine users mostly report residing on the **South and West sides** of the city
- Participants who have used methamphetamine within the past three months more frequently report simultaneously using *cannabis, poppers, alcoholic beverages, party drugs, cocaine, or nicotine/tobacco products*

Key Survey Findings (cont.)

Participants report *methamphetamine* as the substance they most frequently use in conjunction with other licit and illicit substances



More than 20% of participants are currently either **experiencing homelessness** or **living in a shelter**



60% of participants are **currently unemployed**

Relationship between **meth** use and HIV

Figure 1 | Black Gay, Bisexual, Same Gender Loving Men Who Have Reported Using Methamphetamines in the Last 3 Months

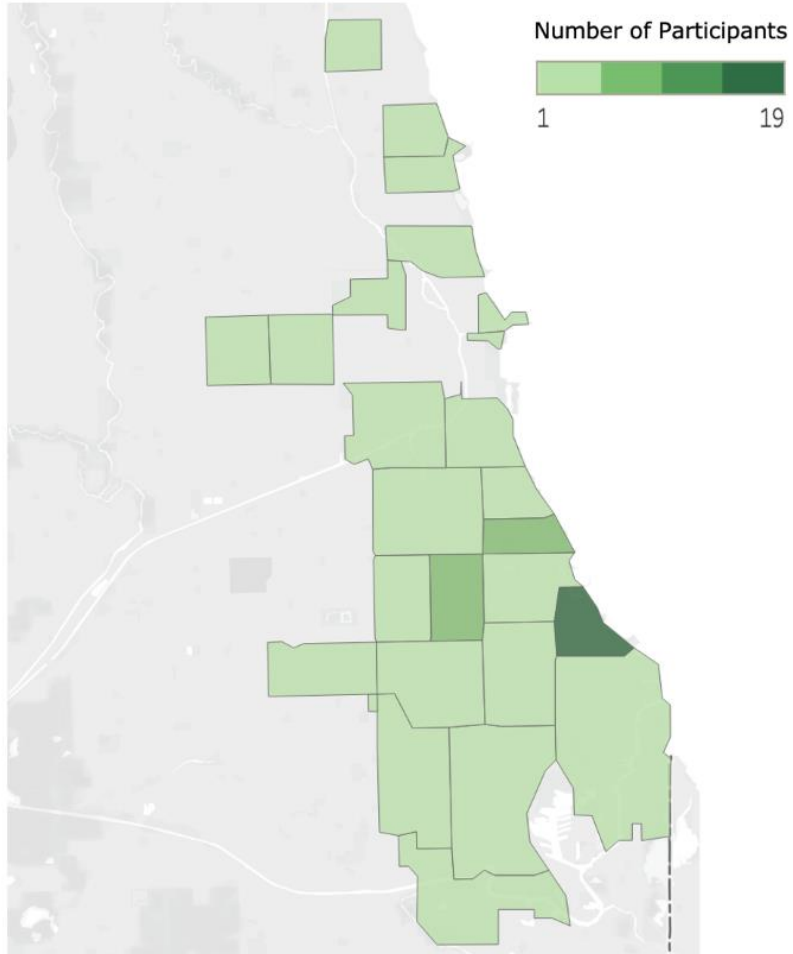
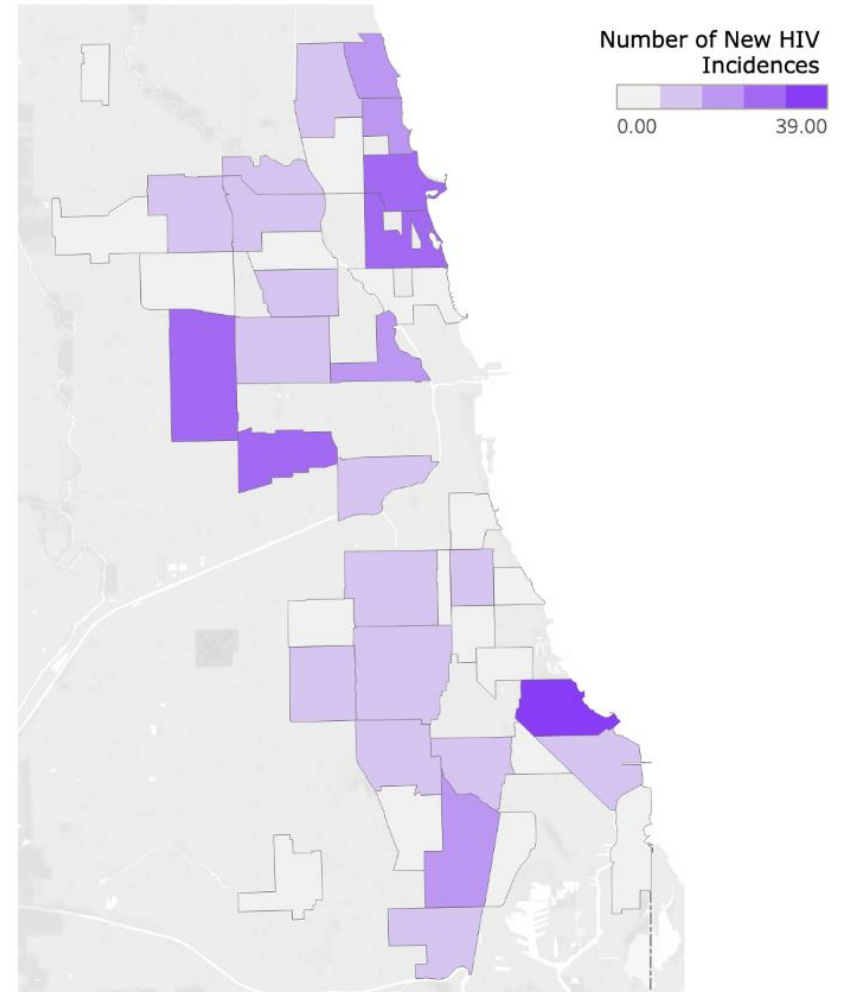
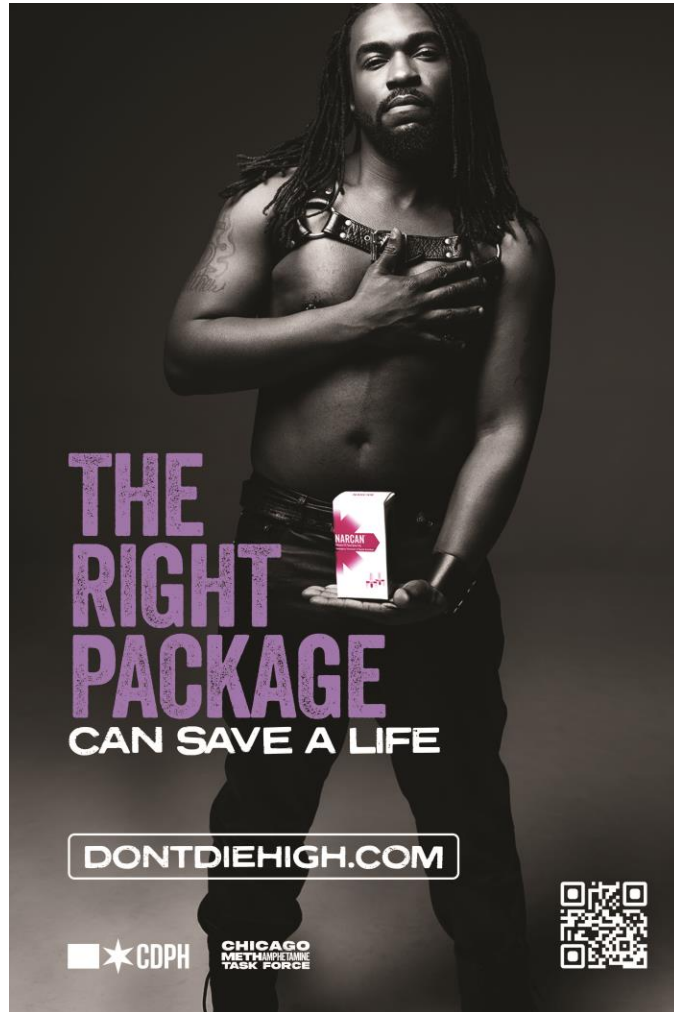


Figure 2 | New HIV Incidences in 2021




Don't Die High

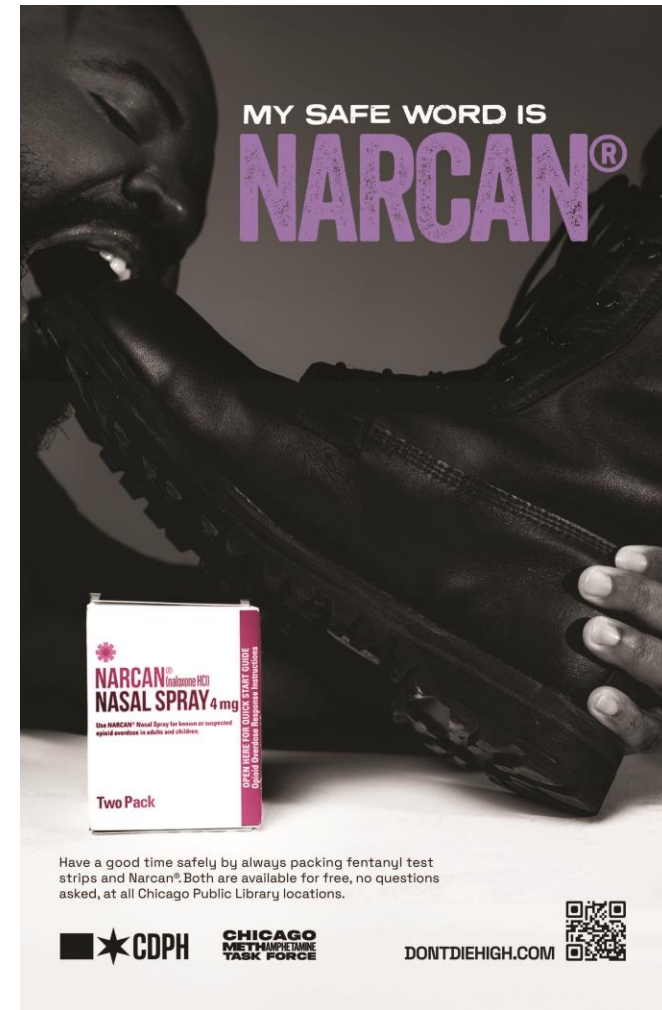

Social Marketing Campaign



**THE
RIGHT
PACKAGE**
CAN SAVE A LIFE

DONTDIEHIGH.COM

 **CHICAGO
METHAMPHETAMINE
TASK FORCE**




MY SAFE WORD IS
NARCAN®

NARCAN® (naloxone HCl)
NASAL SPRAY 4mg


Use NARCAN® Nasal Spray for known or suspected opioid overdose in adults and children.
Open Here for Quick Start Guide
Original Overdose Response Instructions

Two Pack

Have a good time safely by always packing fentanyl test strips and Narcan®. Both are available for free, no questions asked, at all Chicago Public Library locations.

 **CHICAGO
METHAMPHETAMINE
TASK FORCE**

DONTDIEHIGH.COM



Don't Die High

Social Marketing Campaign



Thank you!

Questions?

Contact info: kgreen@cbgmcaucus.org