Milken Institute School of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Missed Opportunities for Drug Use Screening and Discussions Among People With HIV

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Sydney Bornstein[1], Blair Altman[1], Hannah Yellin[1], Madhu Balachandran[1], Irene Kuo[1], and Manya Magnus[1]
[1]Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

BACKGROUND

- Drug use is more prevalent among people with HIV (PWH) and can worsen HIV-related outcomes.
- Screening and discussions about drug use with a healthcare provider (HCP) have been found to be associated with higher perceived need and receipt of drug treatment.[1]
- We explored differences in past-year drug use, screening, and discussion with a HCP among younger and PWH and people without HIV (PWOH).

METHODS

- We used nationally representative data from the 2021-2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health among the civilian, non-institutionalized population in the US.
- Past-year drug use (marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, inhalants, hallucinogens, and methamphetamine), screening as assessed by a HCP, and discussion about drug use with a HCP among younger adults (18-49) and older adults (50+) with and without HIV were estimated using weighted frequencies and percentages and compared using Rao-Scott chi-squared tests.

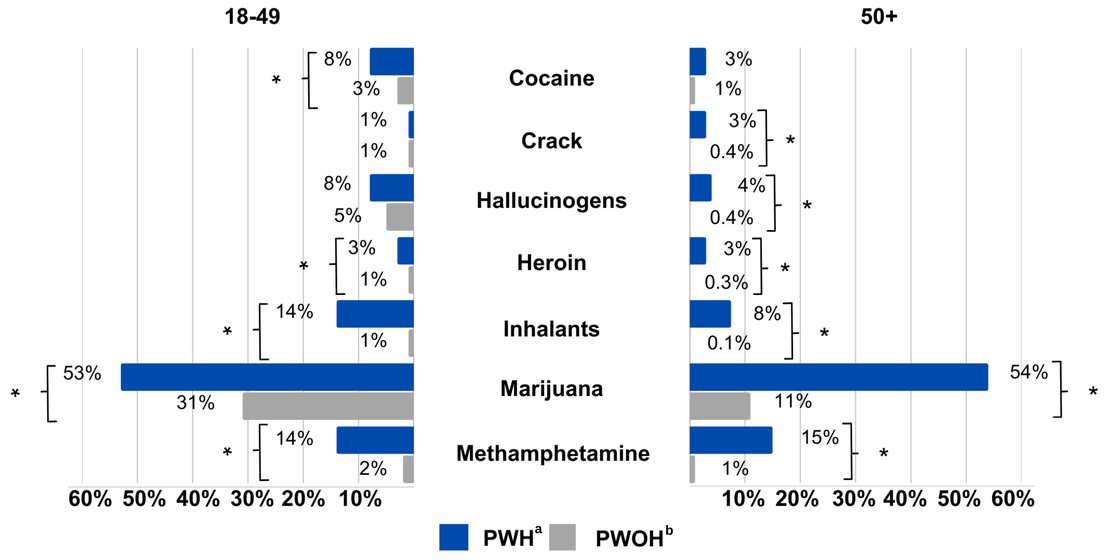
TABLE 1. Sample characteristics by HIV status, weighted % (N= 108,717,167)

Characteristic	PWH (n=933,799)	PWOH (n=107,783,369)
Male	85.2%	47.3%
Age		
18-29	9.7%	9.4%
30-49	37.6%	23.5%
50-64	47.0%	29.8%
65+	5.7%	37.3%
Race/ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic White	41.8%	67.2%
Non-Hispanic Black	31.1%	12.2%
Hispanic	24.9%	13.2%
Other	2.2%	7.5%

Drug use screening and discussion with a HCP among PWH were not higher than among PWOH, suggesting missed opportunities for intervention.

RESULTS

FIGURE 1. Drug use in the past 12 months among adults aged 18-49 and 50+ by HIV status, 2021-2022, weighted %



*** p<0.05**
[a] PWH: N= 933,799; 18-49 n= 440,990; 50+ n= 492,809
[b] PWOH: N= 107,783,369; 18-49 n= 35,510,625; 50+ n= 72,272,744

RESULTS (CONT.)

FIGURE 2. Drug use screening and discussion in the past 12 months among **adults aged 18-49** who saw a HCP and reported drug use by HIV status, 2021-2022, weighted %

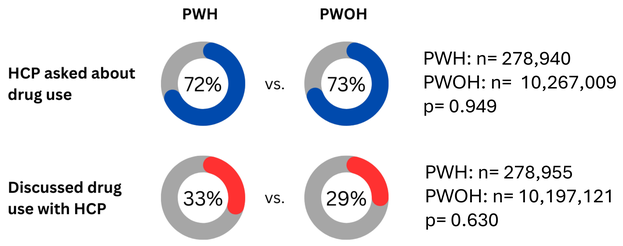
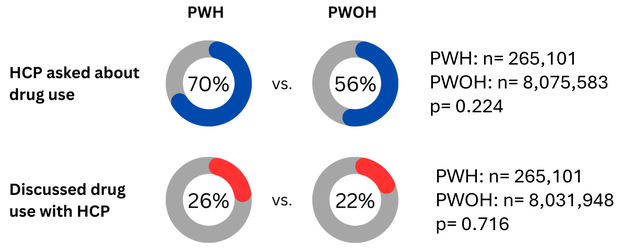


FIGURE 3. Drug use screening and discussion in the past 12 months among **adults aged 50+** who saw a HCP and reported drug use by HIV status, 2021-2022, weighted %



CONCLUSIONS

- Our findings suggest that despite having a higher prevalence of drug use, PWH did not have a higher prevalence of drug use screening and discussions compared to PWOH.
- Future research is needed to determine individual and structural-level factors associated with missed opportunities for drug use screening and discussions among PWH.

REFERENCES

1. Mauro PM, Samples H, Klein KS, Martins SS. Discussing Drug Use With Health Care Providers Is Associated With Perceived Need and Receipt of Drug Treatment Among Adults in the United States: We Need to Talk. *Med Care*. 2020;58(7):617-624. doi:10.1097/MLR.0000000000001340

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sydney Bornstein, MPH Email: sbornstein@gwu.edu