Injection drug use among men who have sex with men (MSM)

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Patterns in MSM IDU

• Historically low, relative to other drug use
• Rising use of crystal methamphetamine, mephedrone & GBL/GHB
• Injection of crystal and meph on the rise (“Slamming”)
• Among 8000 patients in 2011-2012 at Club Drug Clinic:
  – 24% currently injecting; 18% previously injected
• Among CODE clinic patients:
  – In 2011, 30% of crystal meth & meph users injected; in 2012 risen to 80%
• Drug use often within highly sexualised environments
Harms experienced/exposed to

- Needle sharing – BBV transmission
- Higher likelihood of engaging in HIV transmission risk behaviour
- High prevalence of HIV among drug using men
- Treatment non-adherence issues for men with diagnosed HIV
- Dependency and ‘comedown’
Harm reduction need

- Unique context of IDU among MSM
- Professional population of dependent drug users
- Many MSM not comfortable accessing generic services
- Generic services not providing appropriate harm reduction information
- Only one dedicated community service (London Friend) and two clinics (Club Drug Clinic & CODE Clinic)
Useful resources

• Antidote @ London Friend [http://londonfriend.org.uk/get-support/drugsandalcohol/](http://londonfriend.org.uk/get-support/drugsandalcohol/)
• Club Drug Clinic, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital [http://www.clubdrugclinic.com/](http://www.clubdrugclinic.com/)