

## **Childhood sexual abuse and alcohol and drug use among Black men who have sex with men in six US cities: Findings from the HPTN 061 study**

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### **Abstract**

**Background:** Prior research has found a high prevalence of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the US, and has indicated that CSA is associated with higher rates of alcohol and drug use among this population. However, the majority of these studies have focused almost exclusively on White MSM. The purpose of this study was to understand the relationships of CSA, alcohol problem, and drug use among adult Black MSM (BMSM).

**Methods:** Participants were 1,016 BMSM recruited from six US cities (Atlanta, Boston, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, DC) between July 2009 and December 2011. We used hierarchical logistic regression to evaluate the associations between CSA, alcohol problem ( $\geq 8$  AUDIT), and drug use (excluding marijuana).

**Results:** The mean (SD) age was 37.8 (11.7) years, and 28.6% and 49.2% reported alcohol problem and drug use in the past six months, respectively. CSA before age 12 was reported by 39.2% of participants, while 30.4% reported CSA between 12–16 years. CSA before age 12 was associated with higher odds of alcohol (odds ratio (OR) =1.64, 95% CI 1.14, 2.34) and drug use (OR=1.57, 95% CI 1.14, 2.16] compared to non-CSA group. Also, CSA between 12 and 16 years was significantly associated with higher odds of drug use (OR=1.60, 95% CI 1.17, 2.30) compared to non-CSA group.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of CSA is high among BMSM in the US, and is positively associated with alcohol and drug problem. Substance use interventions should address the psychological health needs of BMSM with a history of CSA.

**Presentation preference:** No preference

**Key words:** Black MSM, Childhood sexual abuse, alcohol use, drug use, US

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Estimate the prevalence of alcohol and drug use among BMSM in the six US cities
2. Identify the association between history of CSA and alcohol use among BMSM
3. Identify the association between history of CSA and drug use among BMSM

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