



Correlates of risky sexual behaviour among HIV-negative men having sex with men in Montreal.

Results from the Argus 2005 Survey.

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Context

- Cohort Omega (1996-2003)
- Increasing STI among MSM
- Argus 2005:
 - 1st of biennial surveys of Montreal MSM
 - First site to participate in M-Track
 - second-generation surveillance system among MSM
 - monitor HIV, HCV & syphilis & risk behaviours
 - Public Health Agency of Canada

Objectives

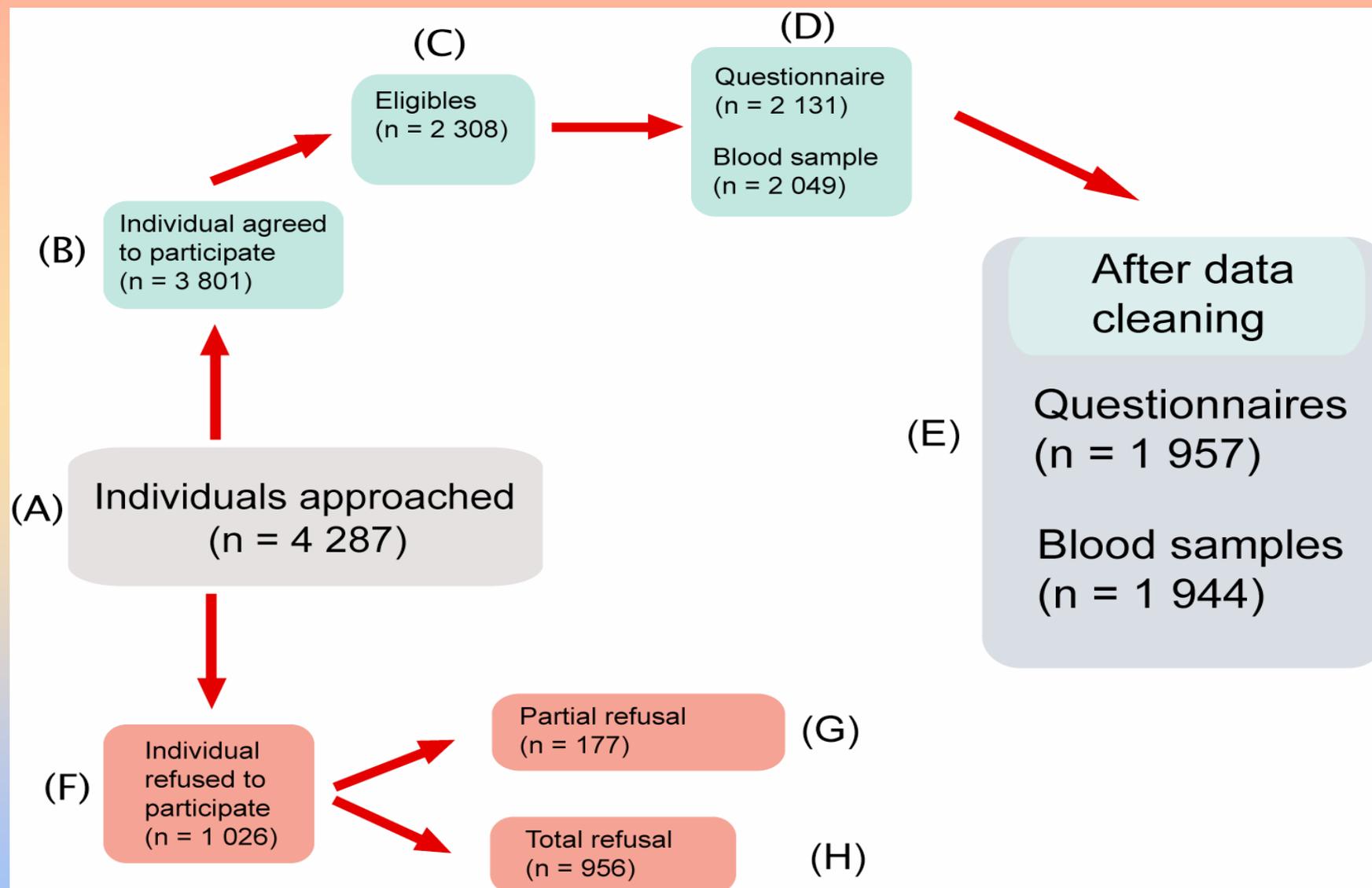
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- 1. To describe the sexual behaviours of HIV-negative MSM**
- 2. To characterise the factors associated with risky sexual behaviour**

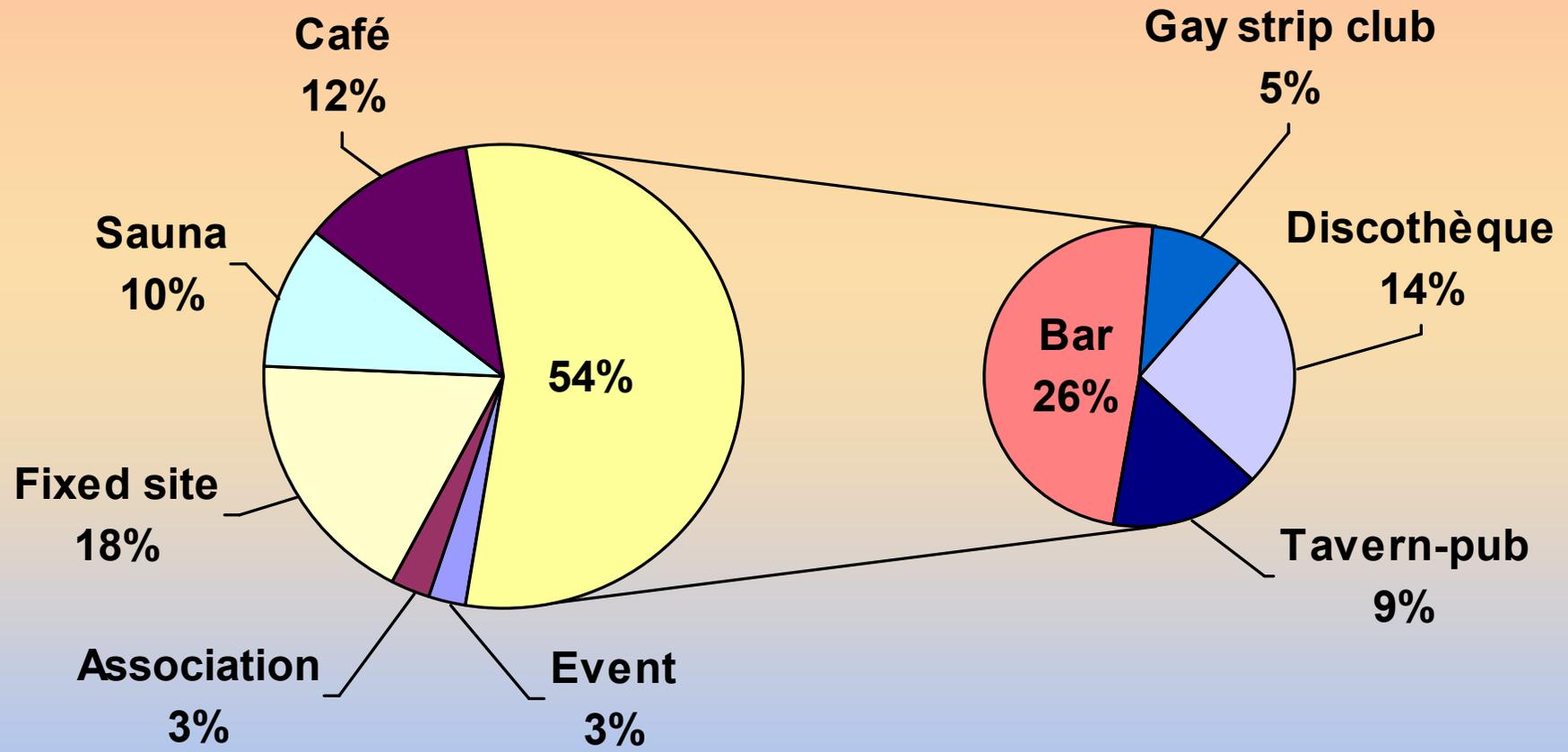
Method

- Cross-sectional
- MSM
 - 18 years or older, resident of Montreal
- Recruitment
 - Convenience sample, diversity focus
 - Gay social spaces (bars, saunas, cafés, community groups, etc.)
 - January – August 2005
- Data collection
 - DBS
 - self-administered anonymous questionnaire
 - 30 min, \$10

Recruitment



Participation by recruitment sites (n=1957)



Analysis

- Limited to HIV-negative MSM (n= 1709)
- Correlates of interest
 - Sociodemographic, alcohol and drug use, sexual behaviours, and attitudes towards HIV, safer sex
- Outcome of interest
 - Unprotected anal intercourse with at least one casual partner (past 6 months)
- Multivariate logistic regression

Sociodemographic profile (n=1709)

	(%)	
Age	18 to 29 yrs	31
	30 to 39 yrs	26
	≥ 40 yrs	44
Education	≤ High school	30
	College, post-secondary	70
Gross annual income	< \$20,000	32
	\$20,000 – 39,999	36
	≥ \$40,000	32
French (1st language learned)		81
Birth place	Quebec	76
	Elsewhere, Canada	9
	Outside Canada	14

Sociodemographic profile (n=1709)

	(%)
Homosexual orientation	80
Currently in a common-law relationship with a man	17
Half or more friends are gay	75
Spend at least half of free time with gay men	78
Have at least one gay friend who is seropositive	49
Quite or very satisfied with social life	61
Quite or very satisfied with sexual life	46

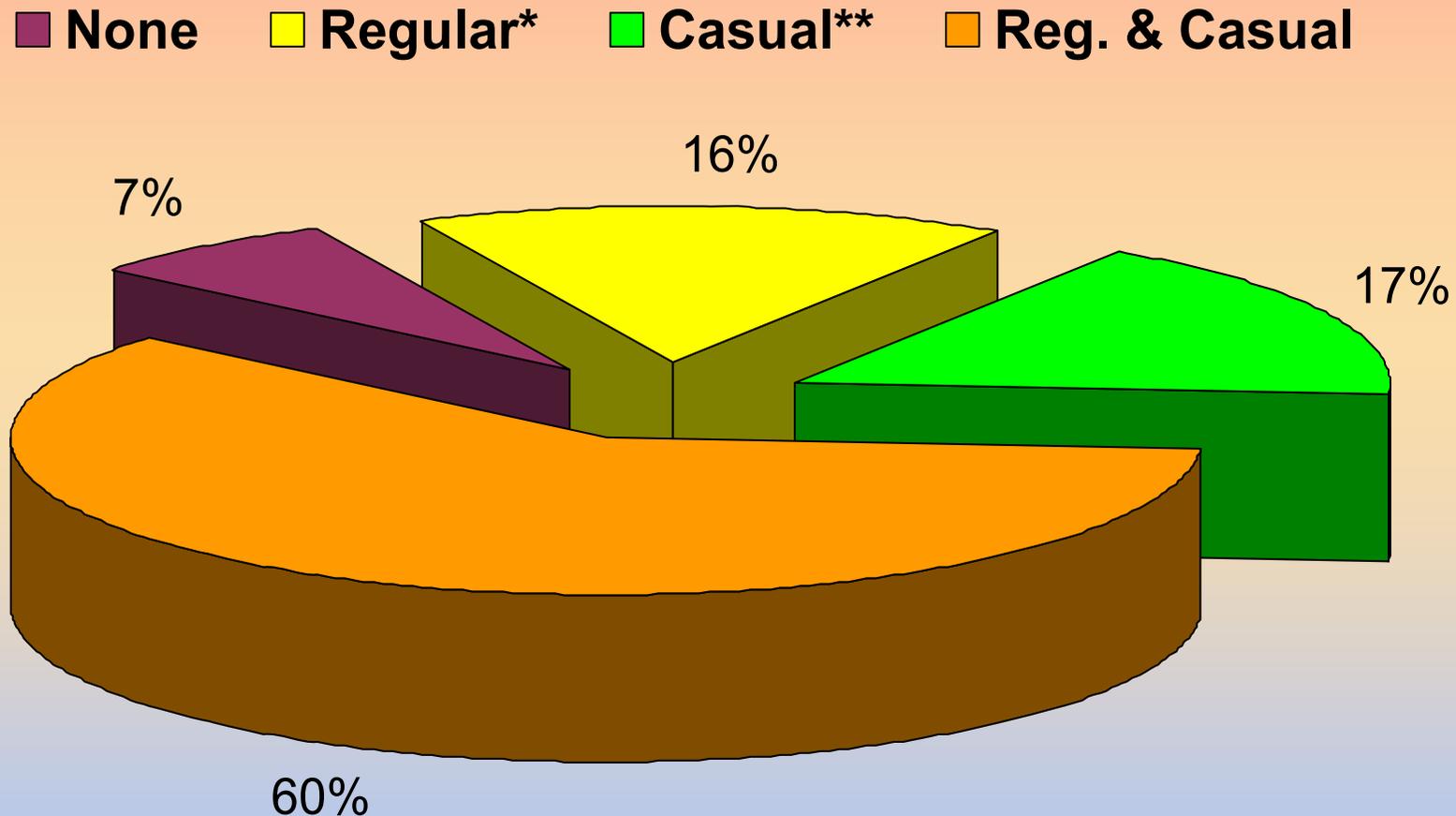
Sexual and EtOH/Drug Use Behaviours

(n=1709, past 6 months)

	(%)
Sexually active (at least 1 male partner)	93
Looked for sex at least once	
Gay bars	60
Saunas	44
Internet	36
After-hours	34
Public spaces (parks, washrooms)	24
Café	21
EtOH & drugs during sex*	
EtOH	70
Marijuana	36
Poppers	27
Recreational ("E", "G", "K", LSD, crystal, speed)	22
Cocaine/crack	18

* 2 hours before or during sex

Types of Sexual Partners (n = 1675, past 6 months)



*Partner with whom you have had sexual relations more than once (partner, sex buddy, etc.)

**Partner with whom you have had sexual relations only once

Sexual Behaviours (n=1709, past 6 months)

	(%)
≥ 2 regular male partners	34
≥ 6 casual[†] male partners	32
Group sex*	25
Received \$/drugs/services in exchange for sex*	10
Anal sex with a man*	64

[†] Partner with whom you have had sexual relations only once * ≥ one time

Sexual Risk (past 6 months)

At least one episode of:	(%)
Deliberately had anal sex without using a condom with a casual* partner (“bareback”)	10
Unprotected anal sex with a partner other than a regular HIV-negative partner	28
Unprotected anal sex with a casual* partner	20

* Partner with whom you have had sexual relations only once

Variables[†] associated with risk

- \geq half of friends are gay
- HIV positive gay friend
- \geq half of time with gay friends
- Quite to very satisfied with sex life
- looked for sex \geq 1 time*:
 - Gay bar, afterhours, rave/circuit party, sauna, sex party, internet
- use during sex \geq 1 time*:
 - EtOH, pot, poppers, viagra, cocaine, sedative, recreational drugs (crystal, E, G, K, LSD, speed)
- Received \$/drugs/etc for sex*
- Group sex*
- Sex with ♂ partner from outside PQ*
- Couple relationship with ♂
- More casual** partners
- More regular partners
- Sex with a regular HIV+ partner*
- Visit with MD past year
- Syphilis test lifetime
- Hx of STI
- HAV vaccine
- Less concern about potential infection
- An HIV+ taking ARV less likely to transmit HIV
- I believe I am at risk for HIV infection
- Less intention to use condoms every time anal sex with casual partner
- Fed up being told to use condoms
- Tired of always monitoring my sexual behaviour
- Less confident will be successful in using condoms every time anal sex with casual

[†] $p \leq 0.05$, *at least one episode, past 6 months, ** “one-night stand”

Multivariate model of factors associated with UAI with a casual partner among HIV-negative MSM (n =1423)

Factors associated with risk [†]		OR	CI 95%
Recreational drugs during sex ^{‡*}		1.56	1.11 – 2.19
Tired of monitoring my sexual activity ^{‡*}		1.48	1.08 – 2.02
Fed up being told to use condoms ^{‡*}		1.95	1.42 – 2.69
Marijuana/pot/hash during sex ^{‡*}		2.01	1.49 – 2.72
Number of regular partners*	0	-	-
	1	1.29	0.88 – 1.89
	2 – 5	1.51	1.02 – 2.25
	≥ 6	2.34	1.32 – 4.14
Number of casual partners*	0	-	-
	1 - 9	2.66	1.69 – 4.19
	≥ 10	5.05	3.07 – 8.31

† adjusted for age, ‡ 2 hours or during sex, * ≥ 1 time, past 6 months, † agree a little to very much

Summary

- 20% of HIV negative MSM in the ARGUS 2005 study report unprotected anal sex with a casual partner
 - possible increase since 2003?
 - 12.2%, George et al, JAIDS 2006
 - Different study design
- Correlates independently associated:
 - Use of the recreational drugs (crystal, E, G, K, LSD, speed) and marijuana during sex
 - More casual and regular partners in the past 6 months
 - Fatigue regarding condom use

Conclusions

- Men at risk either seek many partners or as the frequency of these encounters increases, so does unprotected sex
 - Social pressure by partners? Trussler et al, Abstract 401
- “regular” partner
 - Couples, serial coupling, sex buddies
 - no less risk if having regular partners
 - “relationship” not protective; Kuyper et al, STD 2005; 32(3)
- Use of recreational drugs prior to and during sex
 - Not event-specific
 - a risk marker for targeting prevention
- Confronting safer sex fatigue may help decrease the occurrence of this risk among MSM in Montreal

Limitations

- Study design
 - Cross sectional - temporal relationship
 - limits of SGS enquiry
- Convenience sample
 - MSM who do not use venues/spaces
 - generalizability
- Social desirability and recall bias

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Merci!

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