

“Chasing”: Part 2: of a Story about Addiction and Recovery

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ABOUT US



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Address Stigma and Misconceptions:**
 - Explore common misconceptions about meth use and the stigma faced by persons who use
- **Foster Open Discussion:**
 - Create a safe space for discussion about personal experiences related to meth use in Latino communities.
- **Promote Advocacy and Support:**
 - Highlight resources and organizations that provide assistance and education on meth.

Chasing is a fictional story about Julio, a young Latinx gay man, with a progressing methamphetamine (meth) addiction. He has been living with HIV but hasn't been to see his doctor for over 6 months. His life begins to spiral out of control as his friend Jamal tries to help him. Julio attempts to handle his addiction on his own but withdrawal symptoms are too difficult to overcome causing him to spiral even further.

About Chasing



The Experience of Addiction

Chasing is a health education film that responds to the intersection of meth use and HIV in the gay community, addressing multilevel struggles that accompany meth addiction.

**What is bold,
transformative
and new about
your topic?**

1. Breaking Stigma through Storytelling

- Chasing offers a raw, authentic narrative that confronts the stigmas surrounding both meth addiction and HIV, issues often cloaked in silence or misrepresentation.
- By showcasing real-life experiences, it humanizes individuals who face these challenges, fostering empathy and understanding in a way that educational materials alone cannot achieve.
- Shifts the conversation from shame and blame to compassion and recovery, transforming the way the public perceives these overlapping issues.



2. Intersectional Focus on Health and Identity

- The film highlights how meth use and HIV disproportionately impact gay men, particularly within marginalized communities
- Creates a more comprehensive dialogue about health and well-being through an intersectional approach
 - Addressing the physical and psychological effects of meth use and HIV
 - Focuses on the role that identity, sexuality, mental health, and social pressures play in these struggles.
 - Brings to light how homophobia, societal rejection, and internalized shame fuel both addiction and HIV transmission



3. Multilevel Approach to Addiction and Recovery

- *Chasing* is transformative as it focuses on multilevel struggles and recovery.
- It not only dives into the personal toll of meth addiction but also the broader systemic barriers that prevent individuals from accessing treatment, including healthcare disparities, economic instability, and lack of culturally competent support services.
- The film offers bold solutions by advocating for integrated care—treating addiction, HIV, and mental health concurrently—while highlighting the need for policy change and increased resources.



4. Empowering the Community through Representation

- Elevates voices from within the gay community, allowing those affected by meth use and HIV to tell their own stories.
- Creates a platform for individuals who are often marginalized or ignored in mainstream health discussions.
- Offers representation of the community as resilient, capable of recovery and healing
- Addresses meth addiction and HIV; encouraging the conversation around these issues
 - Offering new framework for understanding and responding to the challenges faced by the gay community



The Power of Sharing Lived Experiences

Advisory Committee's role in guiding the project and messaging of the campaign

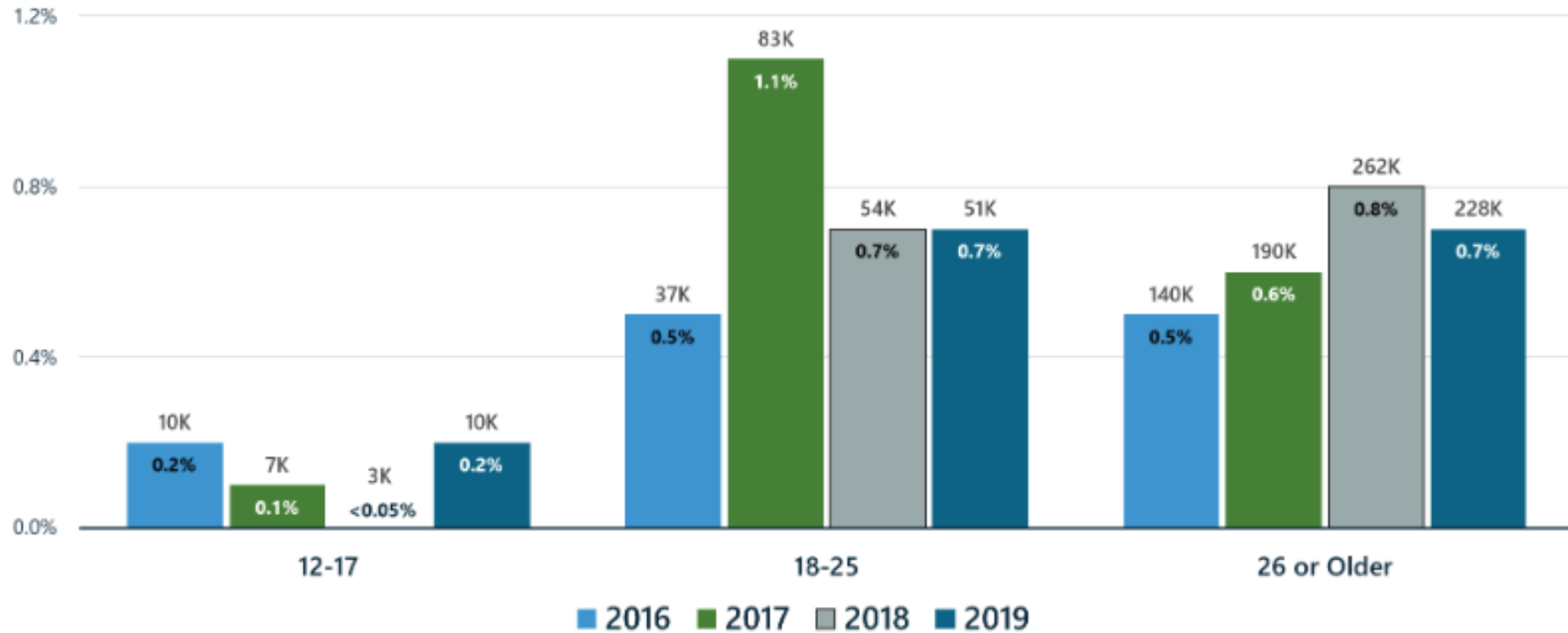
- Meth use is more prevalent among gay and bisexual men than among other men, and it often accompanies sex (sometimes called “party and play”).
- The effects of meth can increase certain sexual behaviors that make transmission of HIV more likely.



Meth use can lead to other serious health concerns, including addiction and fatal overdose.

Methamphetamine Use among Hispanics

PAST YEAR, 2016-2019 NSDUH, Hispanic 12+

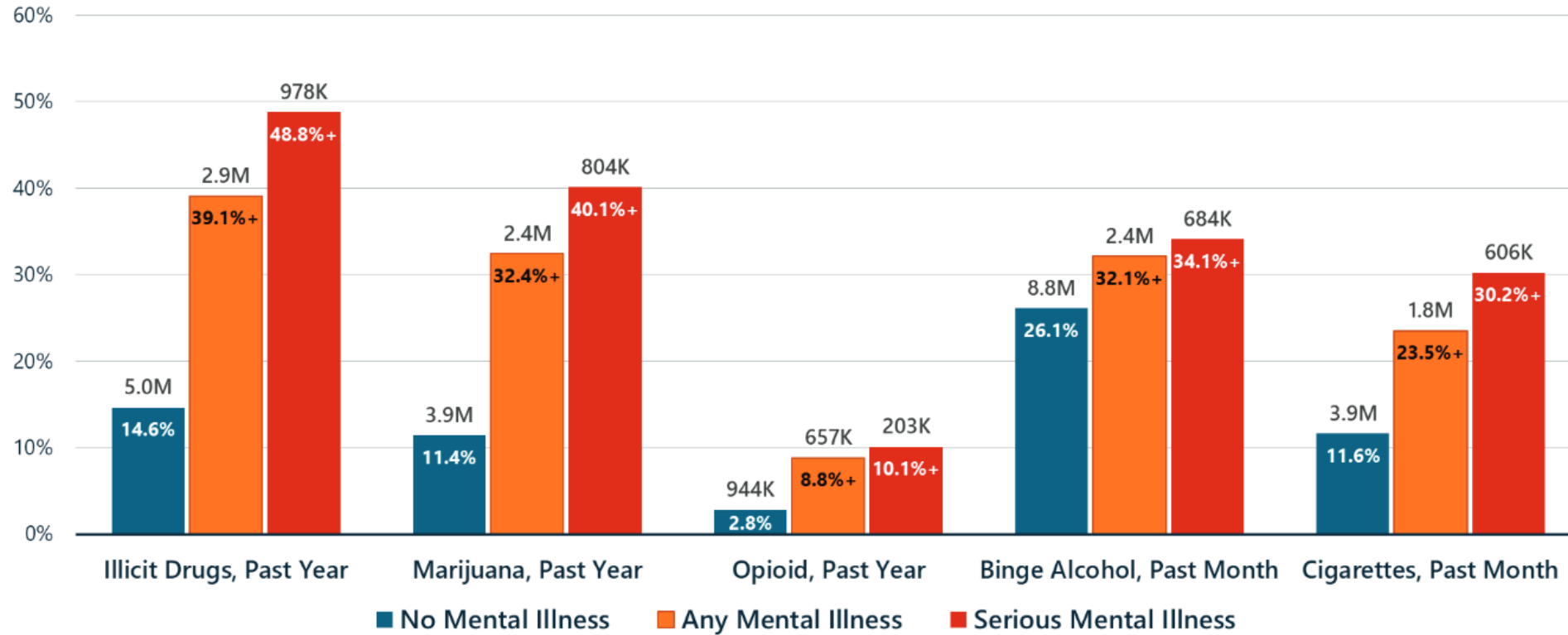


No differences between prior year estimates and the 2019 estimates are statistically significant at the .05 level.



Co-Occurring Issues: Substance Use and Mental Illness among Hispanic Adults

PAST YEAR/MONTH, 2019 NSDUH, Hispanic 18+



+ Difference between this estimate and the estimate for adults without mental illness is statistically significant at the .05 level.



Mental Health/Co-occurring Issues in the US (2019)

- Major Depressive Episodes significantly increased among the Hispanic population for ages 12 – 49.
- Serious mental illness among the Hispanic population continues to increase.
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviors continue to increase in Hispanic adults ages 18-49 between 2009 and 2019.
- Substance use disorder significantly increased suicidality among Hispanic adults ages 18 and older.
- Self-help groups ranked higher than outpatient rehabilitation facilities for the locations where substance use treatment was received.

Treatment Options for Meth Addiction

Evidence-based recovery options

- MAT (Medication Addiction Treatment)
- 12-steps program
- harm reduction
- In-patient/outpatient treatment
- Mental health therapy



Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Meth Addiction

- A combination of two medications:
 - 1. injectable naltrexone and
 - 2. oral bupropion
- Shown to be safe and effective in treating adults with moderate or severe methamphetamine use disorder
- MAT combines specific medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to support the whole recovery

What does MAT do?



- The goal of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is to stabilize your brain chemistry and reduce withdrawal symptoms and cravings
- Benefits of MAT For Meth Addiction
 - Reduces cravings
 - Eases withdrawal symptoms
 - Improves mood and stability
 - Support long-term recovery
 - Reduces risk of relapse
 - Enhances overall well-being

Resources for Meth Addiction

- **Never Use Alone at 877-696-1996**
 - Toll-free national overdose prevention, detection, life-saving crisis response and medical intervention services for people who use drugs while alone. Peer operators are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- **Substance Abuse Service Helpline at 844-804-7500**
- **RecoverLA.org and MethFreeLACounty.org**
 - Information on treatment and meth recovery

Call to Action to End HIV

1. Increase Recovery Support for Meth Addiction to respond to the need.
2. Confronting Dual Stigma- Community education that normalizes conversations about addiction and HIV to reduce shame, encourage earlier treatment, and create a more supportive environment for individuals at risk or living with HIV.
3. Integrated care models—where addiction recovery, mental health, and HIV treatment are offered together.

Thank you



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