# *Preliminary Results of a Street-Based, Drug Checking Needs Assessment in the Southeastern United States*

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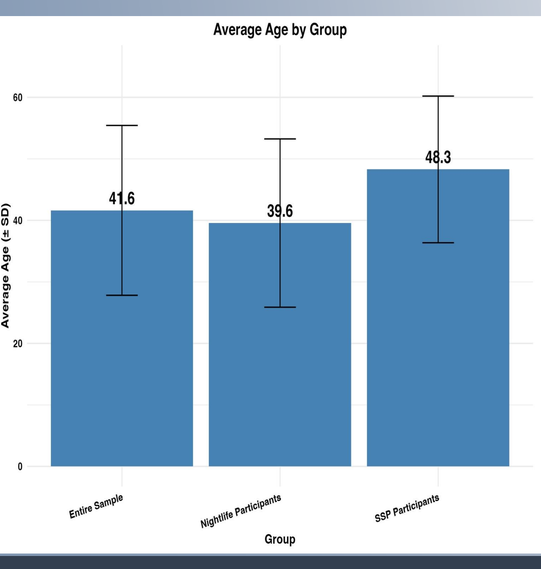
## BACKGROUND

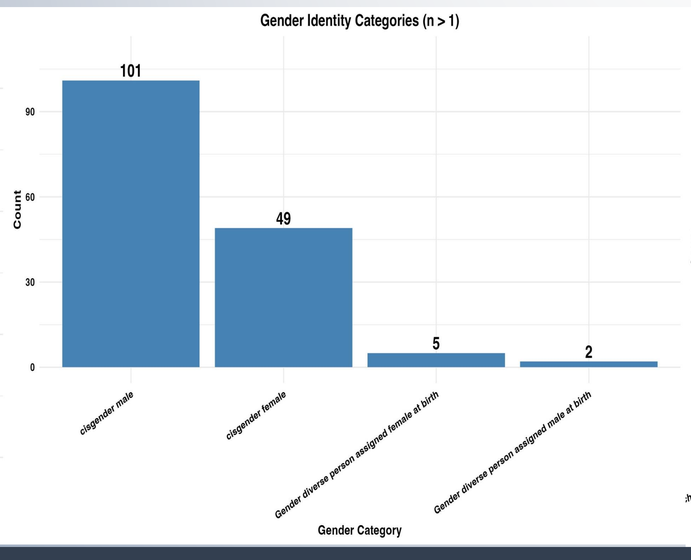
- **Polysubstance use is common, both intentional and unintentional.**
- **Higher rates of overdose and drug-interactions.**
- **Drug supplies vary based on the community.**
  - **Philadelphia – confirmed xylazine and medetomidine.**
  - **Atlanta – worries of xylazine, but unconfirmed.**
- **Need street-based drug checking programs.**

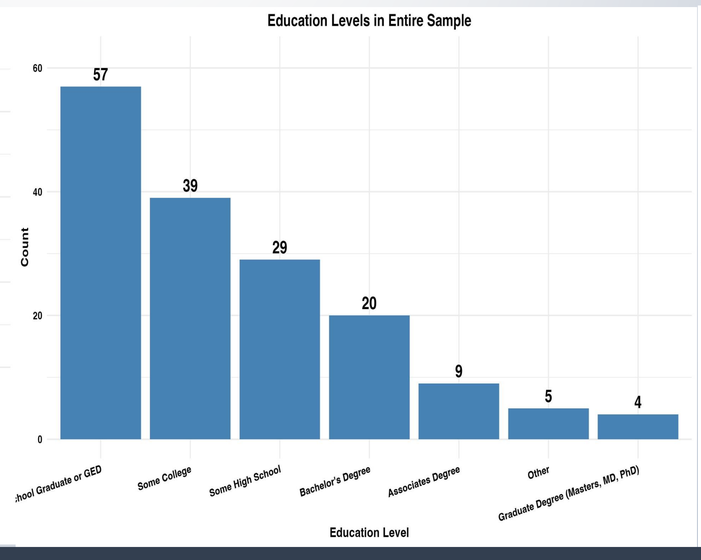
## METHODS

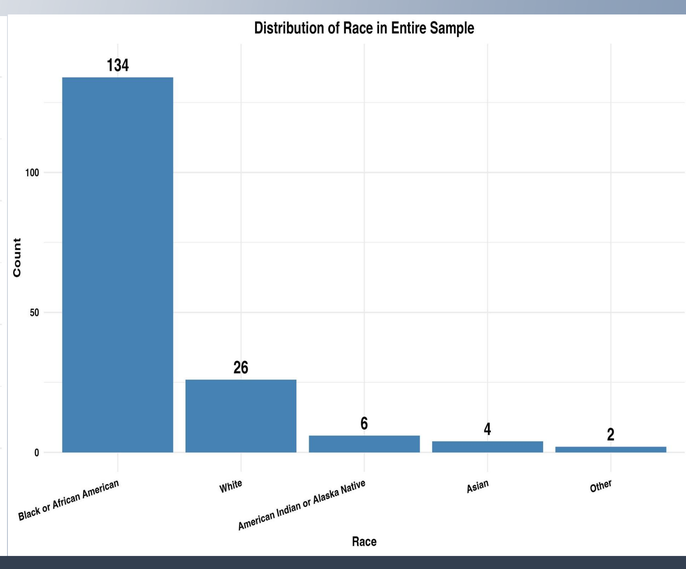
- **Survey of persons utilizing syringe service programs (n=37) and a community sample from bars, nightclubs, festivals, and trap houses (n=124) in Atlanta, GA.**
- **Descriptive statistics to analyze participant demographics.**
- **Network analysis to investigate substance co-usage.**
- **K-means cluster analysis to investigate clusters of substance use.**

## DEMOGRAPHIC RESULTS




# <u>Polysubstance use is common</u> in persons who use drugs. Community resources should be <u>**designed to detect unintentional polysubstance use**</u> to <u>**reduce potential adverse events**</u> due to overdose and novel drug-drug interactions.

## ADDITIONAL RESULTS

| Substance Pairs | Co-Usage |
|---|---|
| Crack & Cocaine | 28 |
| MDMA & Cocaine | 27 |
| Cocaine & Adderall | 22 |
| MDMA & Adderall | 22 |
| Oxycontin & Adderall | 22 |
| Xanax & Adderall | 21 |
| Codeine & Adderall | 19 |
| Fentanyl & Cocaine | 18 |
| Oxycontin & Cocaine | 18 |

Table 1. Substance Co-Usage Pairs

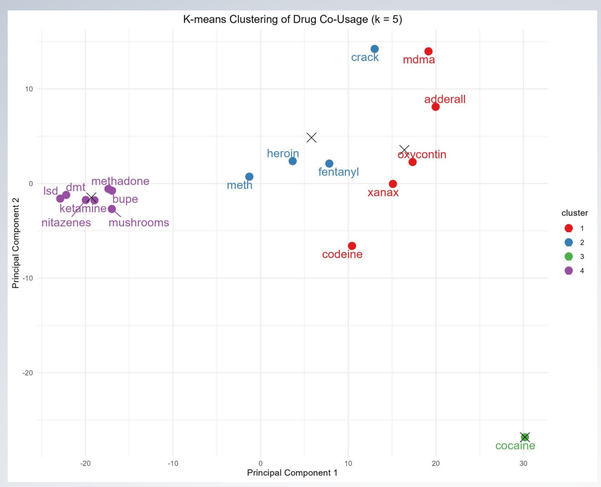



Figure 2. K-Means Cluster Analysis of Polysubstance Co-Usage.

- Proposed Clusters of Polysubstance Use:
  - 1 – Club/"Cuddle Puddle"
  - 2 – Street
  - 3 – Cocaine
  - 4 – Synthetics/Designer

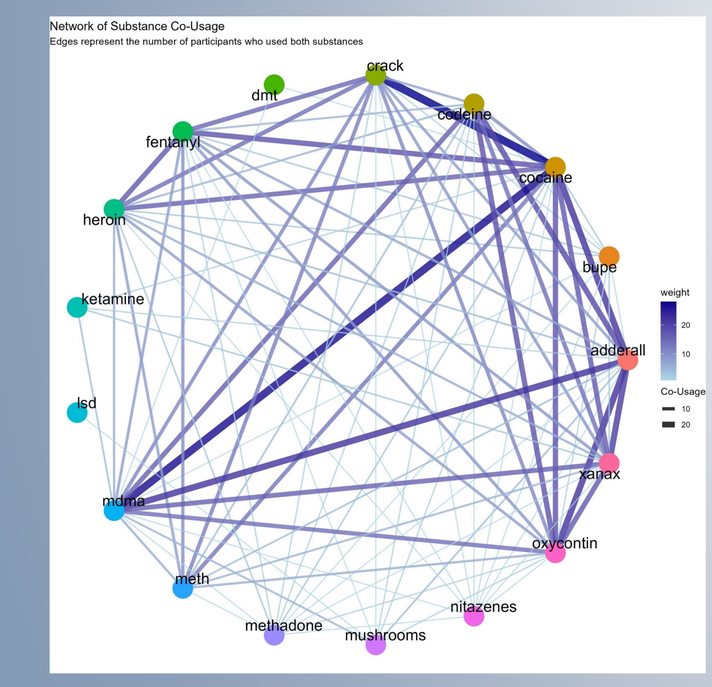



Figure 1. Network Analysis of Polysubstance Use

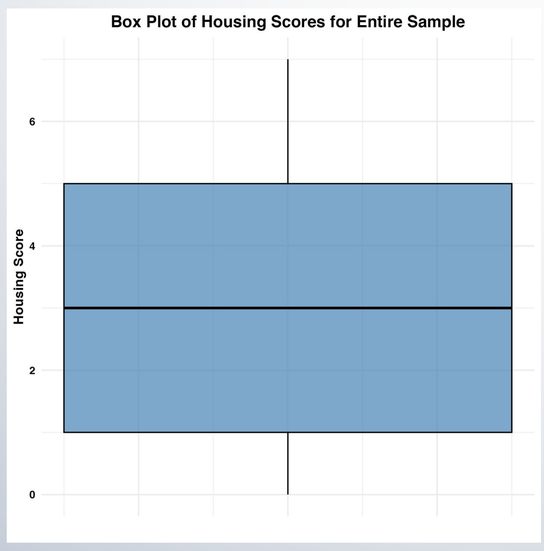



Figure 3. Levels of Housing Instability. Higher scores = higher instability.

## Next Steps

- **Contextualize these results through 1:1 qualitative-interviews, ongoing.**
- **Develop local recommendations for clinicians based on polysubstance use in Atlanta, GA, yet-to-come.**

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