Longitudinal Associations between Recent Incarceration and Anal Sex Involving Drug Use among Black Men who have Sex with Men

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Aim: We examined longitudinal associations between incarceration in the past six months and incident drug use before/during anal sex.

Methods: We used data from the baseline, six-, and 12-month surveys of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) 061 (N=1553), a study conducted among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) in six US cities. Recent incarceration was defined as reporting having spent at least one night in jail/prison in the past six months at the six-month followup survey. Outcomes were measured at the 12-month followup survey and included dichotomous indicators of any drug use at last anal intercourse and condomless anal intercourse (CAI) in the past six months within two hours of marijuana and crack use. We used logistic regression to estimate associations between recent incarceration and incident engagement in anal intercourse involving drug use by conducting analyses within the subgroups who did not report engagement in each risk behavior at baseline. Adjusted models included age, education level, and marital status.

Results: Approximately 14% reported incarceration in the past six months at the six-month followup. After adjustment for baseline sociodemographics, recent incarceration was associated with over twice the odds of incident drug use at last anal intercourse reported at 12-month followup (AOR: 2.68, 95% CI: 1.47, 4.88). Recent incarceration was also associated with incident CAI within two hours of marijuana (AOR: 1.97, 95% CI: 1.05, 3.70) and crack use (AOR: 3.03, 95% CI: 1.19, 7.71).

Conclusions: Recent incarceration may be associated with increased risk of condomless sex among those who have not engaged in such practices previously. The association between incarceration and marijuana-related risk is more modest than that for cocaine-related risk, the high prevalence of marijuana-related CAI underscores the potential population-level importance of marijuana as a driver of post-release sex risk.