



New York City's Public Health Approach to Crystal Meth

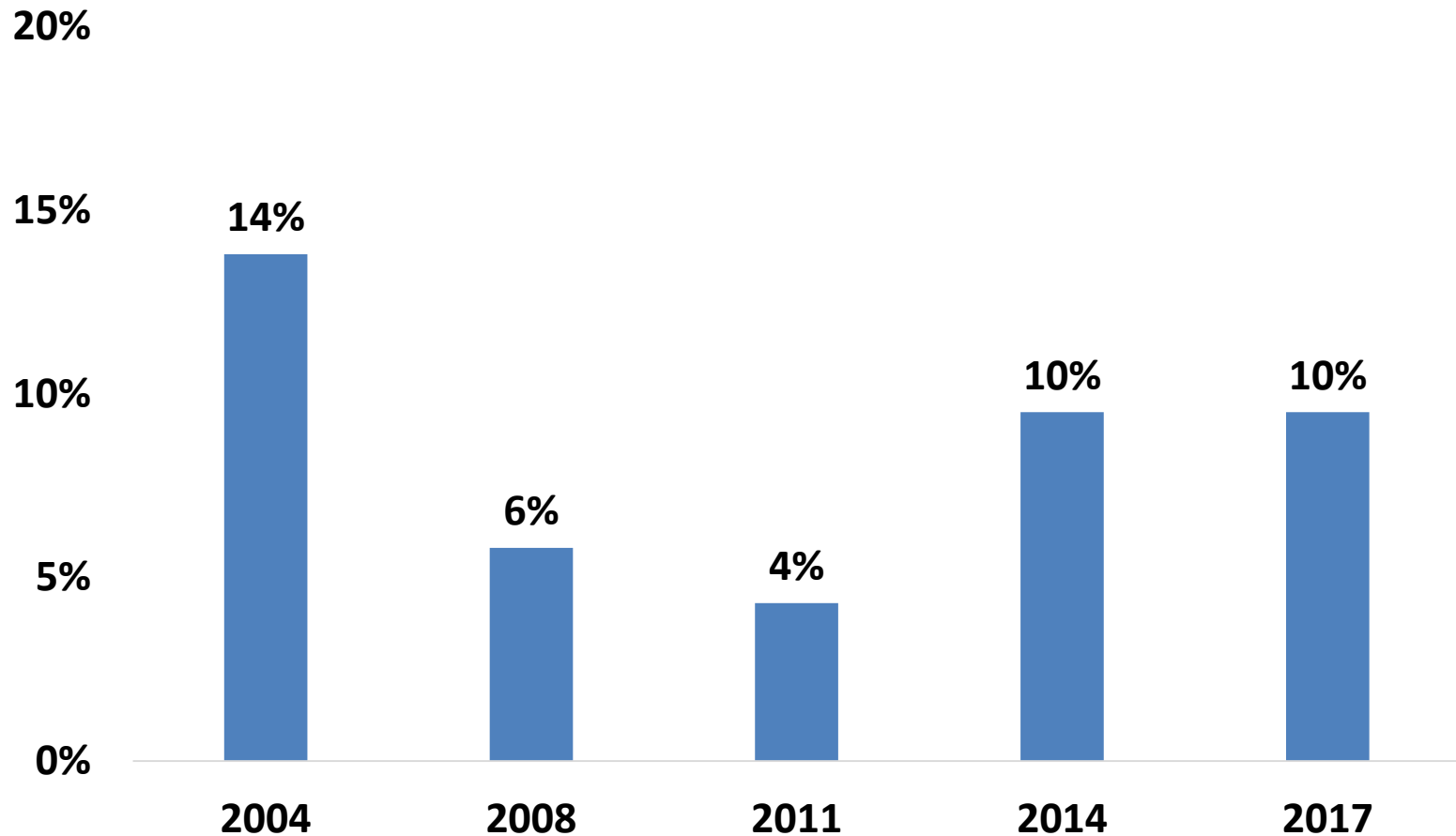
Biomedical HIV
Prevention Summit

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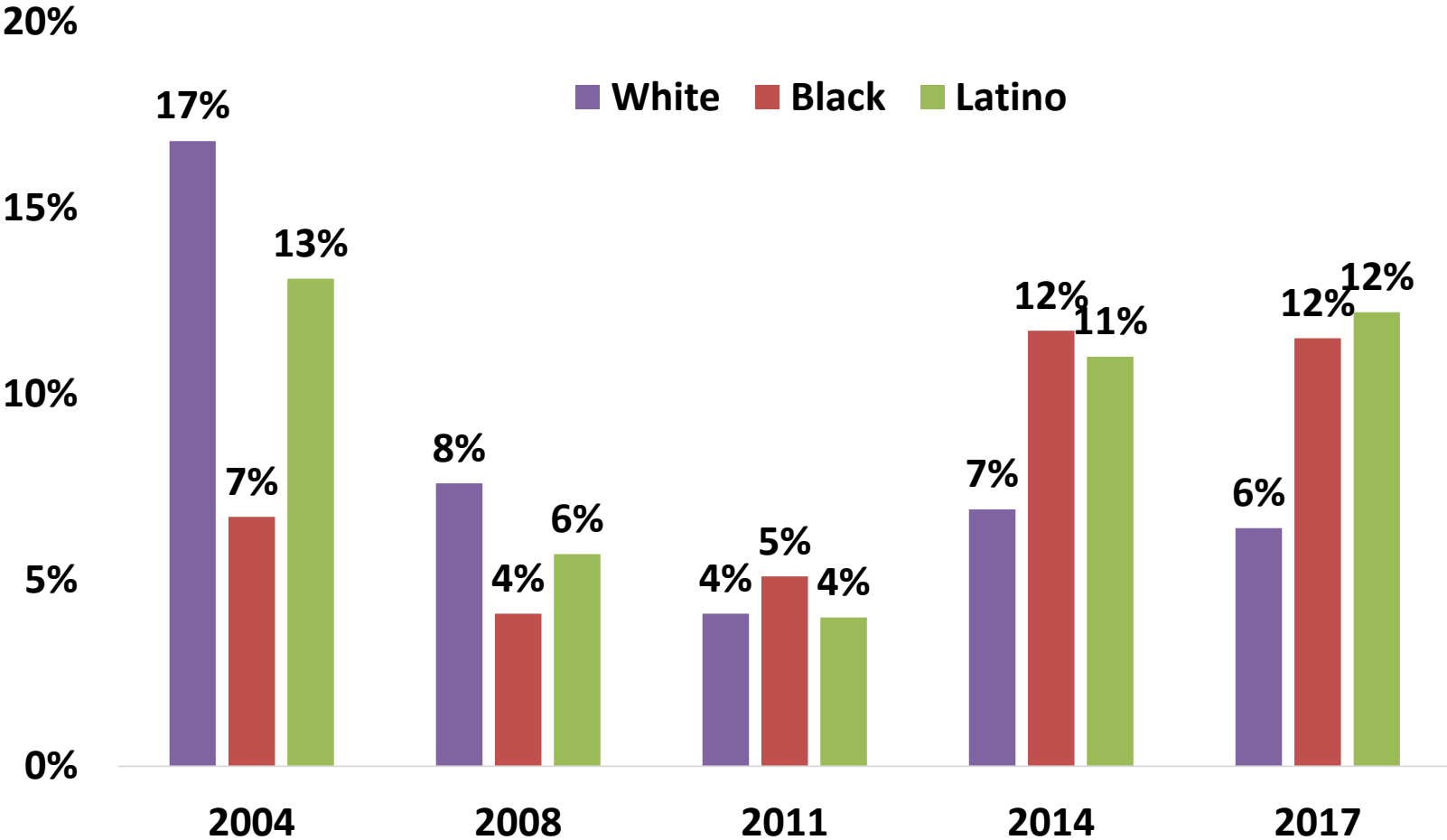
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Health

Crystal Meth Use among NYC Men who Have Sex with Men



*Self-reported use in the past year among sexually active men.
Source: National HIV Behavioral Surveillance study, CDC.*

Crystal Meth Use among NYC MSM, By Race/Ethnicity



*Self-reported use in the past year among sexually active men.
Source: National HIV Behavioral Surveillance study, CDC.*

The ReCharge Program



- (1) Outreach to people who use meth (*apps, bars, sex parties*)
- (2) Drop-in groups
- (3) When ready...
 - health education
 - individual and group counseling
 - medical and psychiatric visits

NYC Crystal Meth Study

30 interviews with people actively using meth

- 28 men who have sex with men
- 2 transgender women
- 15 Black; 7 Latino
- 8 over age 50
- 9 under age 30
- 14 diagnosed with HIV (*all with an undetectable viral load*)
- 7 had ever used PrEP



**Are you
the life of
the party?**

Share your experiences and help NYC improve services for people who use crystal meth.

The interview is confidential, and you will be paid for your time.

Interested? Text or call Paul at 646-887-7500.

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Morris, 58

“Look at my dentures. **That's not the right way to party...** So, I was like ‘Well maybe I'm taking this drug too often. **Maybe instead of me doing it every other month – do it every three months.’”**

“Most of the people that I know that are 40 and older that use Tina, It's a form of a recreational drug. **I take it when I want it. (Older people) have more stability...** a better level of self-confidence. Whereas, **someone that's younger: ‘I'm indestructible – this does not apply to me.’** We thought the same thing about AIDS and look what happened.”

Phillip, 27

“**HASA was a blessing and a curse, because it provides you a place to stay and you don’t have to sleep on the streets any more. But it also kind of makes you complacent and lazy.**”

“Eventually I would want it to move me towards quitting, but I mean I don’t want it to be like right there from the door. **I want someone to listen to me: actually consider my words or consider my side. Make me feel comfortable enough to make that agreement with them or make that bond with them to start stopping.**”

Benny, 59

“I like everything about meth... The only way I think it affect my life is I’m living on the streets... **It is destroying my life...** I need is to listen very carefully to what people are telling me... and try to get out of the hole.”

“He told me, ‘I know a little place that is a program place that is right here. **But forgot about the program, you can go there and relax, catch a couple hours rest.**’ That’s how I end up here.”

Meth in NYC: Summary

- Meth use is **on the rise** among men who have sex with men, especially men of color
- Men can create **their own harm reduction** approaches
- **New programs** serve people who are actively using
- Low-threshold engagement and support programs **appear to fill a need**, and can support abstinence
- **NYC Health** will continue to explore how to promote PrEP and HIV treatment for people who use meth
- Including for **transgender persons**

Thank you!

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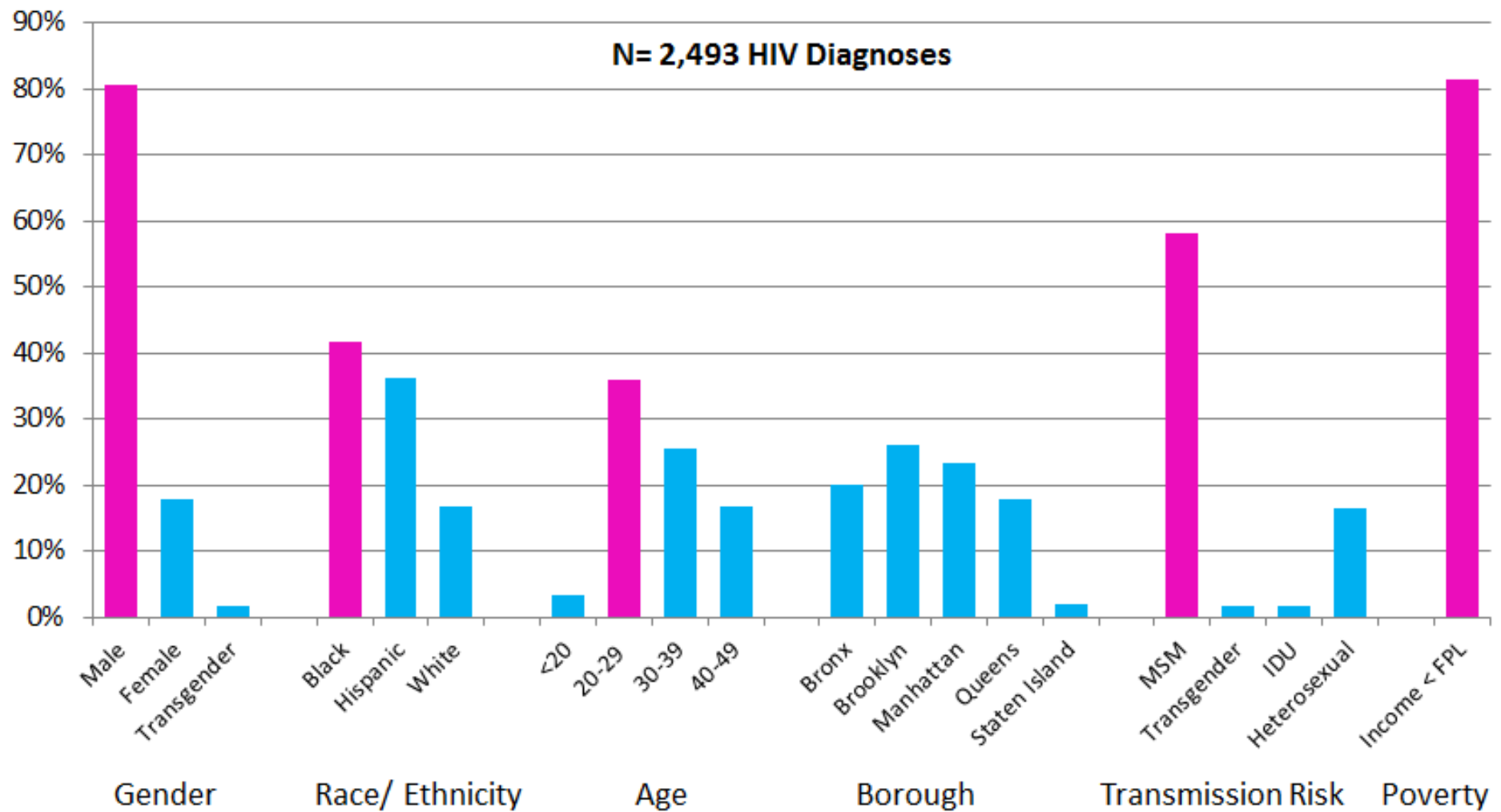


Extra slides

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New HIV Diagnoses in NYC, 2015



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