



APCS

Asia-Pacific **Chemsex** Symposium

Pleasures, Policies, Possibilities

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Chemsex in Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific
Symposium

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6-7 November 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

#APCS2024

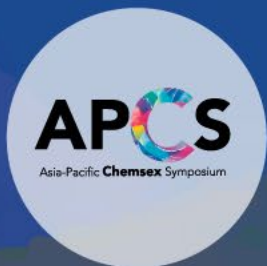
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CHEM-SEX

Sex between men that occurs under the influence of drugs taken immediately preceding and/or during the sexual session to facilitate or enhance the experience.



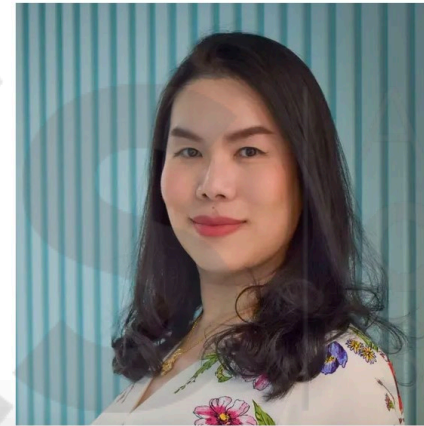
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Chemsex Among Other Key Populations



Thematic talk 2:
Chemsex in adolescents and young people

Wipaporn Natalie Songtaweessin



Thematic talk 3:
Chemsex in the transgender community

Rena Janamnuaysook

Outlines

- **Demographics**

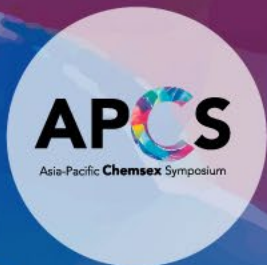
- In our region, what is the prevalence of chemsex?
- What drugs are the most commonly used?
- Who are the most affected?

- **Harm reduction**

- In our region, what strategies are available?
- How accessible are these strategies?

- **Policy and barriers**

- In our region, what is the policy for chemsex intervention and harm reduction strategies?
- What are the personal, organizational, and structural barriers to these strategies?



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Chemsex in Asia-Pacific Region

Vietnam

- 14.3% with crystal meth during sex in the past 3 mo (Vu et al., 2016)

Thailand

- 17.9% with chemsex among YMSM ever in life (Kongjareon et al., 2022)

Hong Kong

- 42.6% with sexualized drug use in the past 12 mo among PLWH (Kwan et al., 2022)

Malaysia

- 9.0-11.8% with chemsex in the past 6 mo (Maviglia et al., 2022; Eger et al., 2022)

Taiwan

- 9.1% with chemsex in the past 3 mo, 26.5% among PLWH; 4.7% slamming crystal meth during chemsex in the past 3 mo, 15.9% among PLWH (Ku et al., 2023)

Japan

- 11.3% with any drug use in the past 6 mo (Miwa et al., 2023)
- 4.3% with chemsex in the past 6 mo (PrEP Survey, 2018)
- 5.8% with crystal meth use in the past 12 mo among PLWH (Futures Japan, 2016)

Singapore

- 4.7% with crystal meth use among YMSM ever in life (Tan et al., 2022)
- 9.4% with drug use in the past 12 mo (Wong et al., 2014)

Australia

- 14% with crystal meth use and 4.5% with slamming in the past 6 mo (Hammoud et al., 2019)
- 29.7% with chemsex in the past 12 mo among PLWH (HIV Futures, 2016)



(depending on definition used and population assessed)

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Review

Chemsex and chemsex associated substance use among men who have sex with men in Asia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Haoyi Wang^{a 1} ✉, Kai J. Jonas^{a 2} ✉, Thomas E. Guadamuz^{b c 3} ✉

Nevendorff L et al. *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 2023; 26:e26054
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jia2.26054/full> | <https://doi.org/10.1002/jia2.26054>



REVIEW

Prevalence of sexualized drug use and risk of HIV among sexually active MSM in East and South Asian countries: systematic review and meta-analysis

Laura Nevendorff^{1,2,3,*} ✉, Sophia E. Schroeder^{1,2,*}, Alisa Pedrana^{1,2,*}, Adam Bourne^{4,5,*} and Mark Stoové^{1,2,*}

- **Methamphetamine** was the default substance associated with Chemsex among MSM in Asia (**prevalence: 16%**), followed by **GHB/GBL (15%)** and **ketamine (8%)**
- **MSM engaging in transactional sex (both clients and sex workers)** showed a higher prevalence (28% each) of Chemsex
- **MSM living with HIV** also showed higher odds of Chemsex activity (OR = 3.35)
- The **pooled prevalence of recent sexualized drug use (past 12 months)** was **13%**
- Sexualized drug use was associated with **greater odds of CAI (OR=3.21)** and **living with diagnosed HIV (OR=4.73)**

Wang H et al. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2023;243:109741. Nevendorff L et al. *J Int AIDS Soc* 2023;26:e26054.

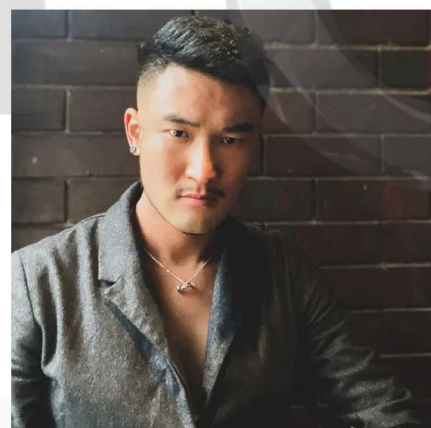
	HK	ID	JP	KR	MM	MY	PH	PK	SG	TH	TW	VN
What is "chemsex" called by GBMSM community in your country?	chem fun (CF)	hi fun	キメセク kimeseku	high fun	hi fun (HF), party and play (PNP), slam, saut	chem fun (CF)	chemsex, CF, fun	hi fun, hi, HF, bruf	chem fun (CF)	hi fun, hi, <small>หอย</small> / lhoy	hi fun, ice fun, SL, 51	high fun, 2Fun, FF, 2F, ice fun, bê, 2, high
What is the most common substance used for chemsex?	crystal meth	crystal meth	crystal meth	crystal meth , poppers	meth, crystal meth , ketamine, poppers	crystal meth	crystal meth	crystal meth	crystal meth , GHB/GBL	crystal meth	crystal meth	crystal meth
What is the most common way to take such substance?	smoking	smoking	smoking/injection	injection	smoking/injection	smoking	injection	smoking/injection	smoking	smoking/injection	smoking	smoking
Have you observed intravenous injection (or slamming) of such substance?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Have you observed that PLWH have higher chance of having chemsex than people without HIV?	yes	N/A	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

HK: Hong Kong. ID: Indonesia (Bali). JP: Japan. KR: Korea. MM: Myanmar, MY: Malaysia. PH: Philippines. PK: Pakistan. SG: Singapore. TH: Thailand. TW: Taiwan. VN: Vietnam.

Are All Chemsex Problematic...?

Thematic talk 1:
'Problematic chemsex' - Problematic to whom?

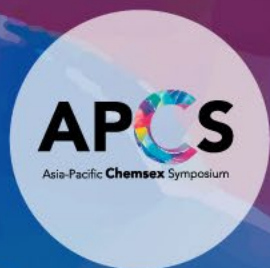
Charlie Witzel



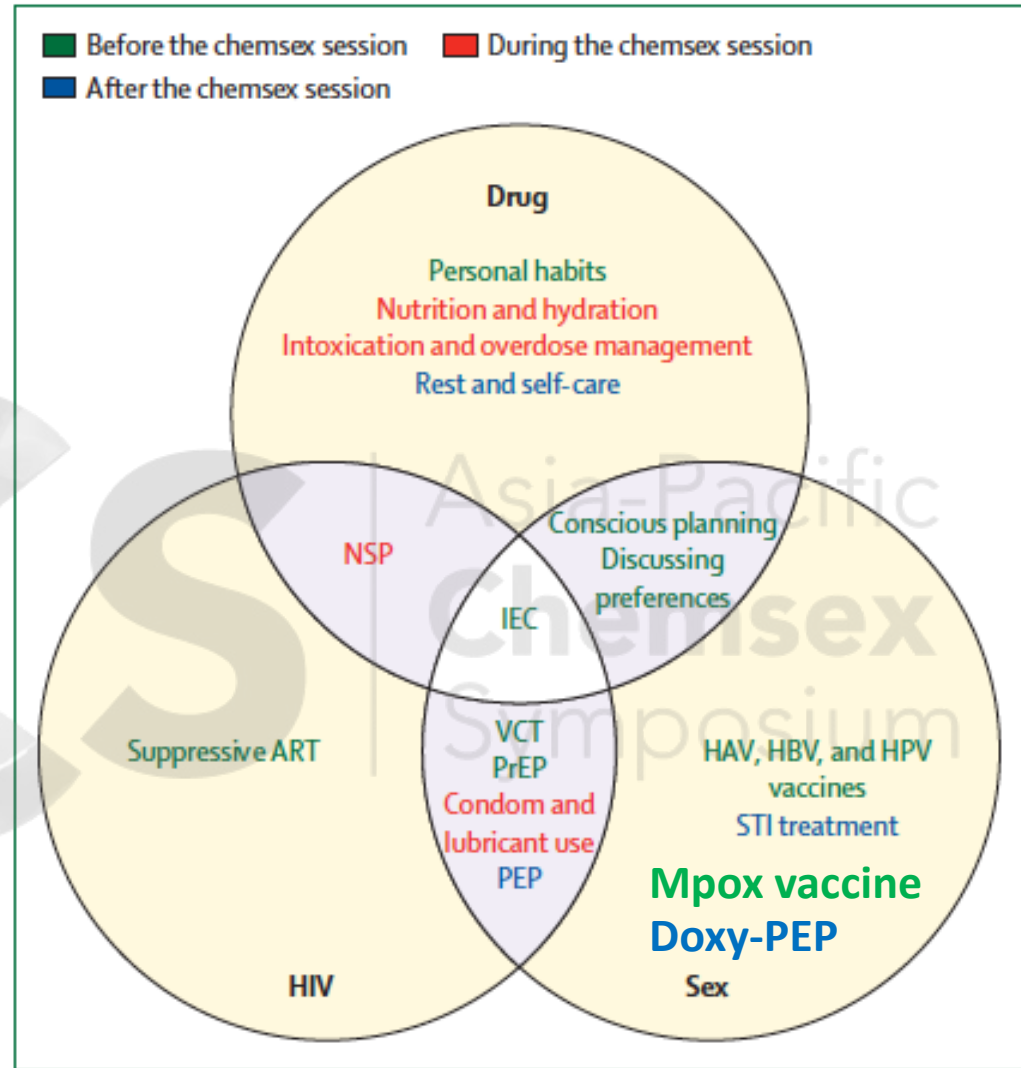
Parallel Workshop 1:
'Agency, Pleasure, and Choices in Chemsex'

Facilitators: Doan Thanh Tung, Bo Justin Xiao
Speakers: Ben Collins, Rodenie Arnaiz Olete,
Poyao Huang

Harm Reduction for Chemsex



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Thorne Harbour (AU)



Lighthouse (VN)



HEART (TW)



Harm Reduction Model by Countries



Roundtable discussions:

Models of innovative integrated chemsex harm reduction services

Stephen Mills

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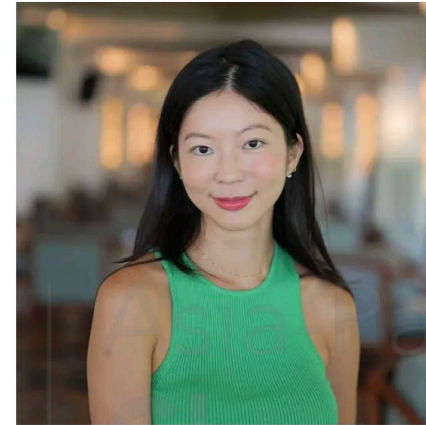
Panelists:

- Vichet Kem, Men's Health Cambodia, Cambodia
- Simran Sherchan, Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities in Nepal, Nepal
- Nazik Abylgazieva, Attika, Kyrgyzstan
- Nguyen Minh Trang, Program Manager of Harm Reduction and Addiction Treatment & Program Manager of Children and Youth, SCDI, Vietnam

Delivery of Chemsex Intervention and Harm Reduction

Keynote speech 4:
Pleasure-based chemsex intervention and harm reduction

Eleanor J. Ong



Parallel Workshop 2:
'Let the dialogue start'

Facilitators: Stephane Wen-Wei Ku, Sazali Basri
Speakers: Isaac Chen, Ashwin Thind

Chemsex Toolkits for Service Providers



UNAIDS/UNODC Session:

Chemsex toolkit for clinical service providers in Asia-Pacific

Suniya Taimour

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Training toolkit for community outreach workers in Vietnam

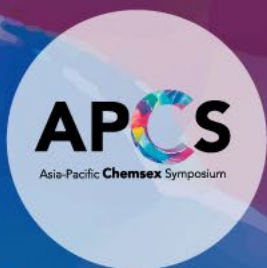
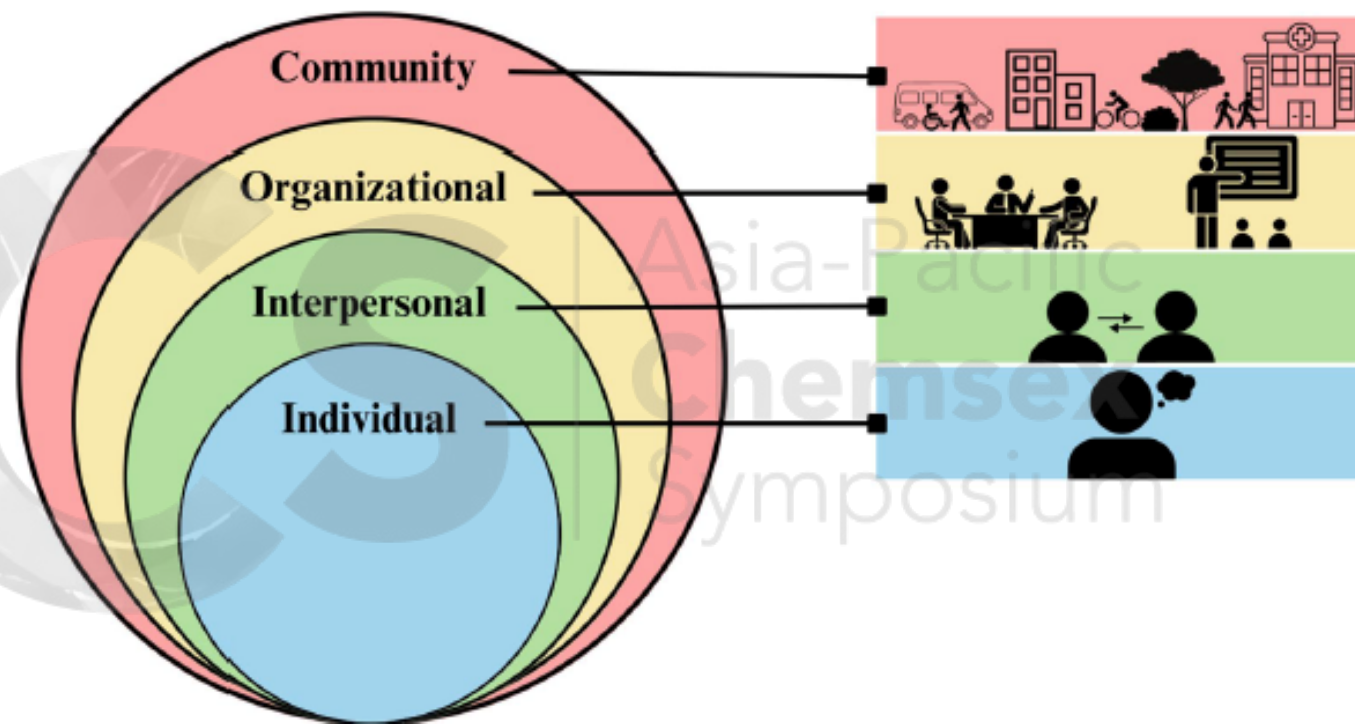
- Dr. Nguyen Thi Minh Tam, Head of Prevention, Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC)
- Dr. Do Van Dung, Director, HCMC UMP/ VHATTC
- Nguyen Thi Bich Hue, Programme Adviser, Services for All Implementation, UNAIDS Vietnam Country Office

	HK	ID	JP	KR	MM	MY	PH	PK	SG	TH	TW	VN
Are the following harm reduction services available to people having chemsex?												
1) Antiretroviral therapy for HIV	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes#	yes	yes	yes	yes
2) PrEP for HIV	yes*	yes	yes*	no	yes	yes	Yes	yes#	yes*	yes	yes	yes
3) PEP for HIV	yes	yes*	yes*	no	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes#	yes*	yes	yes*	yes*
4) Mpox vaccination	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	yes*	yes*	yes	no
5) HPV vaccination	yes*	yes*	yes*	no	no	yes*	yes*	no	yes*	yes*	yes*	no
6) HCV medication	yes	yes*	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes#	yes	yes	yes	yes*
7) Doxy-PEP	no	yes	no	no	no	no	yes*s	no	yes*	yes*	yes*	no
8) HIV self test	yes	yes*	no	yes*	no	yes*	yes	yes#	yes*	yes	yes	yes
9) Clean needles and syringes	yes*	yes	no	yes*	no	yes	no	no	no	yes*	yes	yes
10) Condoms and lubricant	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes#	yes*	yes	yes	yes

*: out-of-pocket only. #: from global fund

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Barriers to Harm Reduction



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Are there LGBTQ-friendly, culturally-sensitive, integrated sexual health and drug services available in the following settings?

1) Public hospital/clinic	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes, but rarely	yes	yes, but few
2) Private hospital/clinic	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
3) NGO/CBO	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes

Are there LGBTQ-friendly, culturally-sensitive interventions aiming for cessation and sobriety from substance use available in the following settings?

1) Public hospital/clinic	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes, but few
2) Private hospital/clinic	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes, but few
3) NGO/CBO	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes

In general, do the following stakeholders provide LGBTQ-friendly, culturally-sensitive harm reduction services to people having chemsex?

1) Doctors	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	yes, but few
2) Nurses	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	yes, but few
3) HIV/PrEP case managers	N/A	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
4) Psychologists	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
5) Peers from NGO/CBO	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes

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Do HCPs have a legal obligation to report their patients' use of illicit substance to the police?	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes - doctors	no	no	no
Are there any "medicalization" or "decriminalization" policies available for people having chemsex and arrested by the police? (i.e. interventions other than sending the substance users to jail)	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Does the central government invest in harm reduction policies?	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Does the local or regional government invest in harm reduction policies?	N/A	no	no	no	no	Yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes, but few

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Policy and Advocacy



Keynote speech 2:
Drug policy trend in Asia-Pacific

Gloria Lai



Keynote speech 3:
The ever changing legal status of cannabis in Thailand

Chopaka Kitty Chokwan

Conclusions

- Crystal methamphetamine is the most commonly used substance for chemsex in Asia-Pacific region, and injection (or slamming) is universally observed.
- GBMSM living with HIV have been associated with Chemsex more frequently in our region.
- Various harm reduction strategies have been available, yet mostly not fully accessible to people having chemsex in different countries.
- LGBTQ-friendly, culturally-sensitive HCPs, interventions, and integrated sexual health and drug services are scarce in our region
- Substance-related structural barriers still exist in most countries, and direct investment from the governments is lacking.

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Acknowledgements

- **LAPDANS (last-minute Asia-Pacific drug-associated network survey)**
 - Donald Kwan (HK), Yogi Prasetia (ID), Yamaguchi Masazumi (JP), Nam Cho (KR), Aung Yu Naing (MM), Sazali Basri (MY), Rod Olete, Ed Busi, Kate Leyritana (PH), Yasir Ali Khan (PK), Eleanor Ong (SG), Jakkrapatara Fair Boonruang (TH), Doan Thanh Tung (VN)
- **Our collaborators/sponsors**



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Thank You &
Enjoy the Symposium!

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