



Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Vietnam: An Applied Thematic Analysis

Factors that impact Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) adherence among men

who have sex with men (MSM) who frequently use stimulants in

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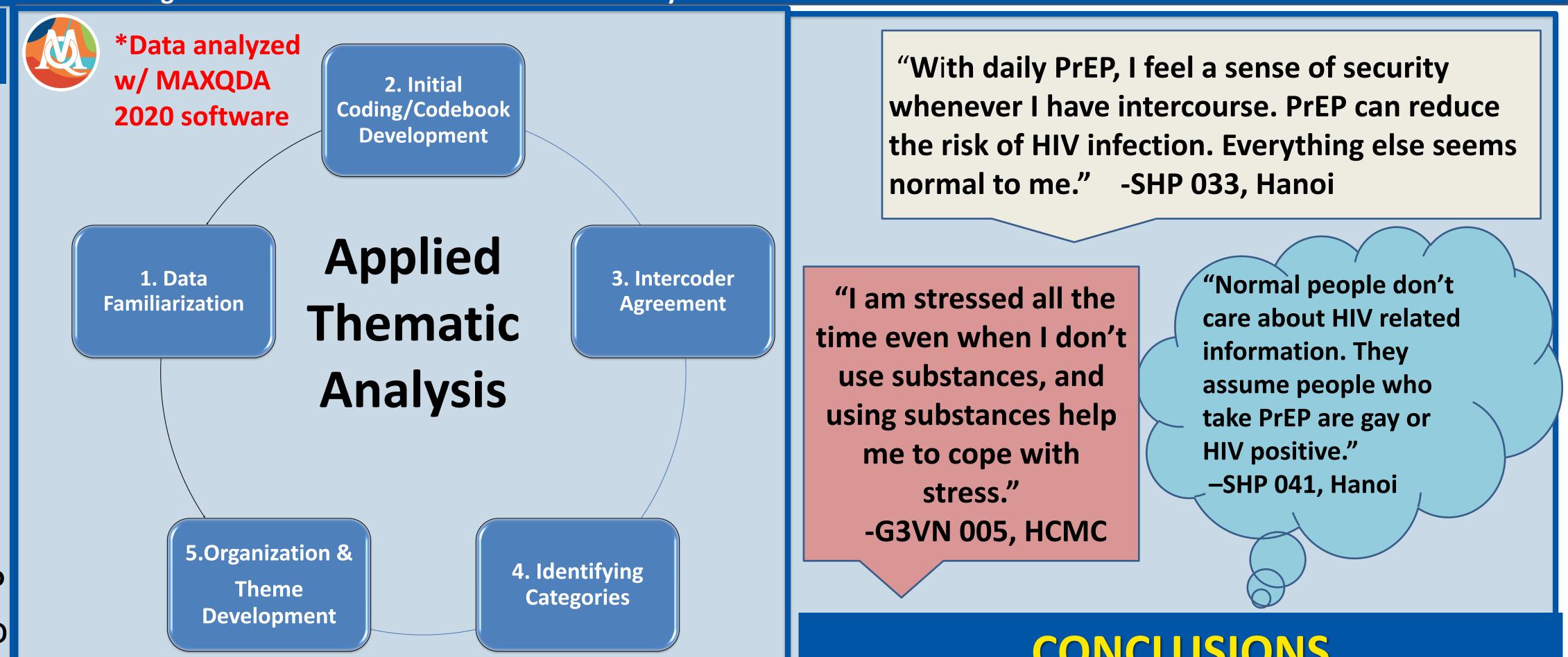
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BACKGROUND

- Men who have sex with men (MSM) who frequently use stimulants (e.g. methamphetamine, amphetamine, ecstasy/MDMA) are one of the most at risk groups for HIV.
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) could substantially reduce HIV transmission, however, the factors associated with PrEP adherence are relatively unknown



in this population.

Objective: Explore factors that impact PrEP adherence among HIV uninfected MSM who frequently use stimulants.

METHODS

Eligibility Criteria

MSM who are $18 \ge older$

Frequent stimulant use on WHO Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) Currently on PrEP in Hanoi/HCMC

Participate in anonymous urine drug dipstick/screen (ABON Multidrug)

Participate in an audiorecorded in-depth interview

Data Credibility and Dependability

RESULTS/EMERGENT THEMES

- **Purposive Sampling of 40 MSM on PrEP**
- Median age: 25 years (range 18-36 years)
- All (n=40) screened positive for frequent \bullet stimulant use. Half (n=20) screened positive for stimulant use on urine dipstick

Theme 1 (N=259):

PrEP adherence facilitated by clinic accessibility, trust in CBOs, affordability, healthcare providers, support from friends, and PrEP as a sense of security from HIV.

CONCLUSIONS

•Likely linked to sex under influence of stimulant use, most MSM report motivation to use PrEP and report minimal challenges with PrEP adherence •Findings suggest that stimulant use may play an important role in facilitating sex with men and in coping with daily psychosocial stressors.

•Overall, most MSM view PrEP as a useful tool in Highfun and a protective factor against HIV infection – as long as PrEP is affordable.

Quality Measures

Measures/ATA adapted from Applied Thematic Analysis by Guest, MacQueen, and Namey (2012)

Data

Stage

team in

study

Research Design Stage

Using Multiple Methods/Data sources

Team-based semi-structured interview guide to gain multiple perspectives and reduce bias

Pretesting interview guide

Data Analysis Collection Stage Training field Transcription &translation protocol at the collection beginning techniques Conceptual Language Structured Equivalence interview guide to fit goals of Developing a precise codebook Data Monitoring data Triangulation in real-time

Theme 2 (N=317):

Risk of HIV infection primarily from condomless sex while using simulants and the varying impacts on PrEP adherence.

Theme 3 (N=150):

Non-substance use related barriers to adherence involving stigma, PrEP side effects, forgetting to take PrEP daily, and attending clinics not sensitive to the needs of MSM

Theme 4 (N=58) :

"Highfun" (Vietnamese term for sex while under the influence of stimulants), and PrEP taking behaviors.

•Findings highlight the need to integrate harm reduction and mental health/social support into current PrEP services in Vietnam.

•Limitations: Lack of transferability due to semi-structured interview only; Half of interviews were conducted via phone due to COVID-19

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Senior Scholarship Day, UCLA





Substance use as a way to cope with

psychosocial stressors and negative mental

health symptoms



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