

TURNING TINA: ONLINE PEER-BASED HARM REDUCTION RESOURCE FOR PLHIV USING CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINES

B Allan¹, N Holas²

¹ Living Positive Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; ² The Institute of Many, Sydney, Australia

Background: This resource promotes harm reduction to people living with HIV (PLHIV) who use (meth)amphetamines in the context of high levels of stigmatisation of the use of this drug by using the experiences of peers in an online format. HIV-positive men are three times more likely to report meth use and seven times more likely to inject than HIV-negative men.

Description: This online resource gathered practical risk reduction strategies and advice based upon ethnographic analysis, survey responses, community forums and interviews with former and current methamphetamine users. This four-part resource outlines some of the facts about using tina, including what it does to your body and how you get it into your body.

Lessons learned: Reasons for trying or using methamphetamines are varied. This resource identifies some of the warning signs that might signal a time to take a break or even get some help. It focuses upon harm reduction advice sourced and supported by peers. Utilising the voices of a peer community resonate with applicability and utility and circumvent the notion of authoritative instruction.

Conclusions/Next steps: Harm reduction works and online resources are both accessible and viable for this population considering the shame and stigma associated with disclosure of methamphetamine use. Further work with other illicit substances in this area using this process of peer creation should be considered.