

Multilevel Stressors are Associated with Cannabis Use in Young Black Men and Black Transgender Women in Chicago: The Neighborhoods and Networks (N2) Cohort Study

Renessa S. Williams, PhD RN,¹ Ella Remund MPH,² Ellen Almirol MPH MAMS,² Yen-Tyng Chen PhD,³ Adam Carrico PhD,⁴ Jade Pagkas-Bather MD, MPH,² Denise Vidot PhD MPH,¹ Justin Knox PhD,⁵ John Schneider MD, MPH,² Dustin T. Duncan ScD⁵

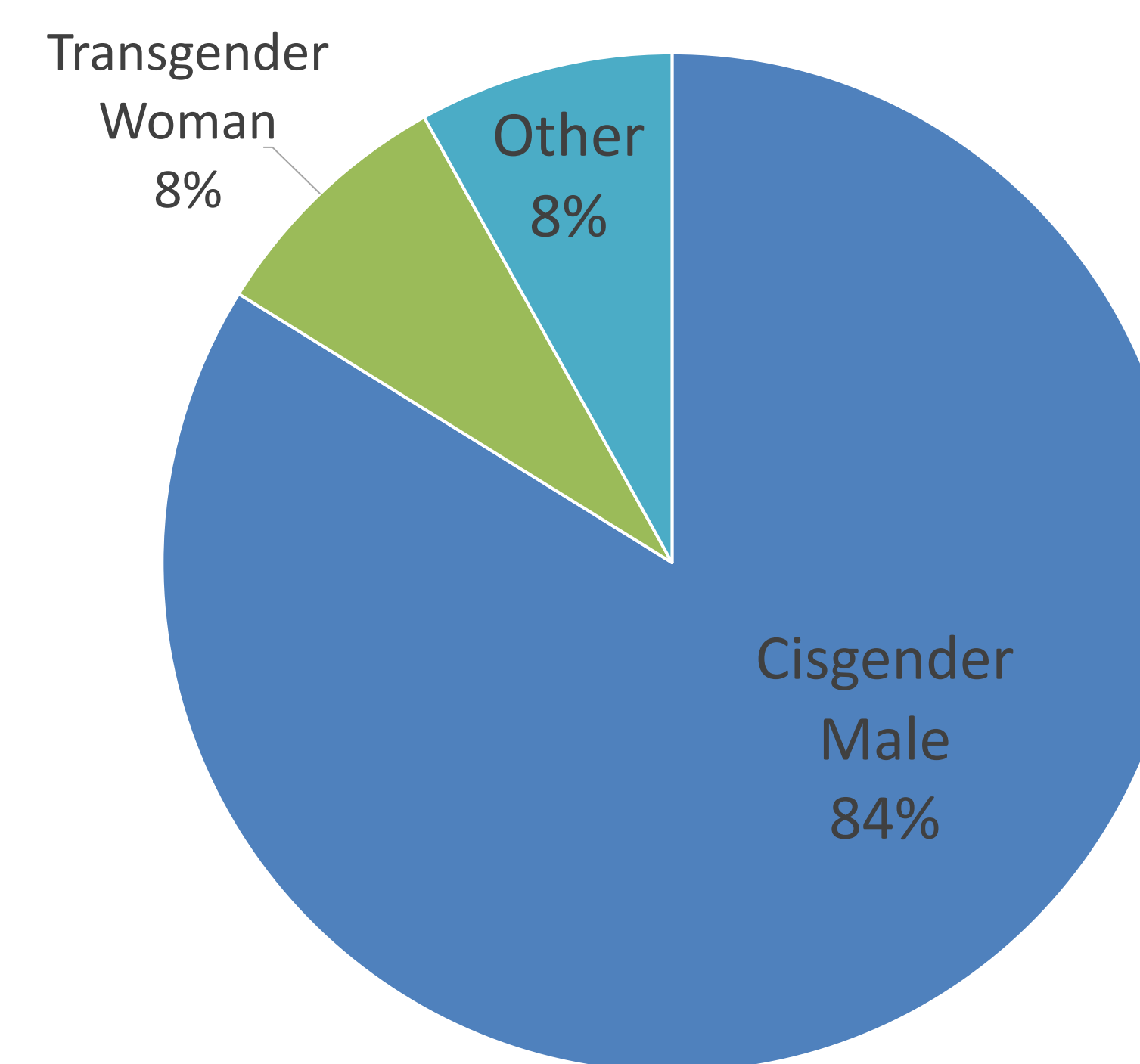
¹University of Miami,²University of Chicago,³Rutgers University,⁴Florida International University,⁵Columbia University, MPH,¹

Background

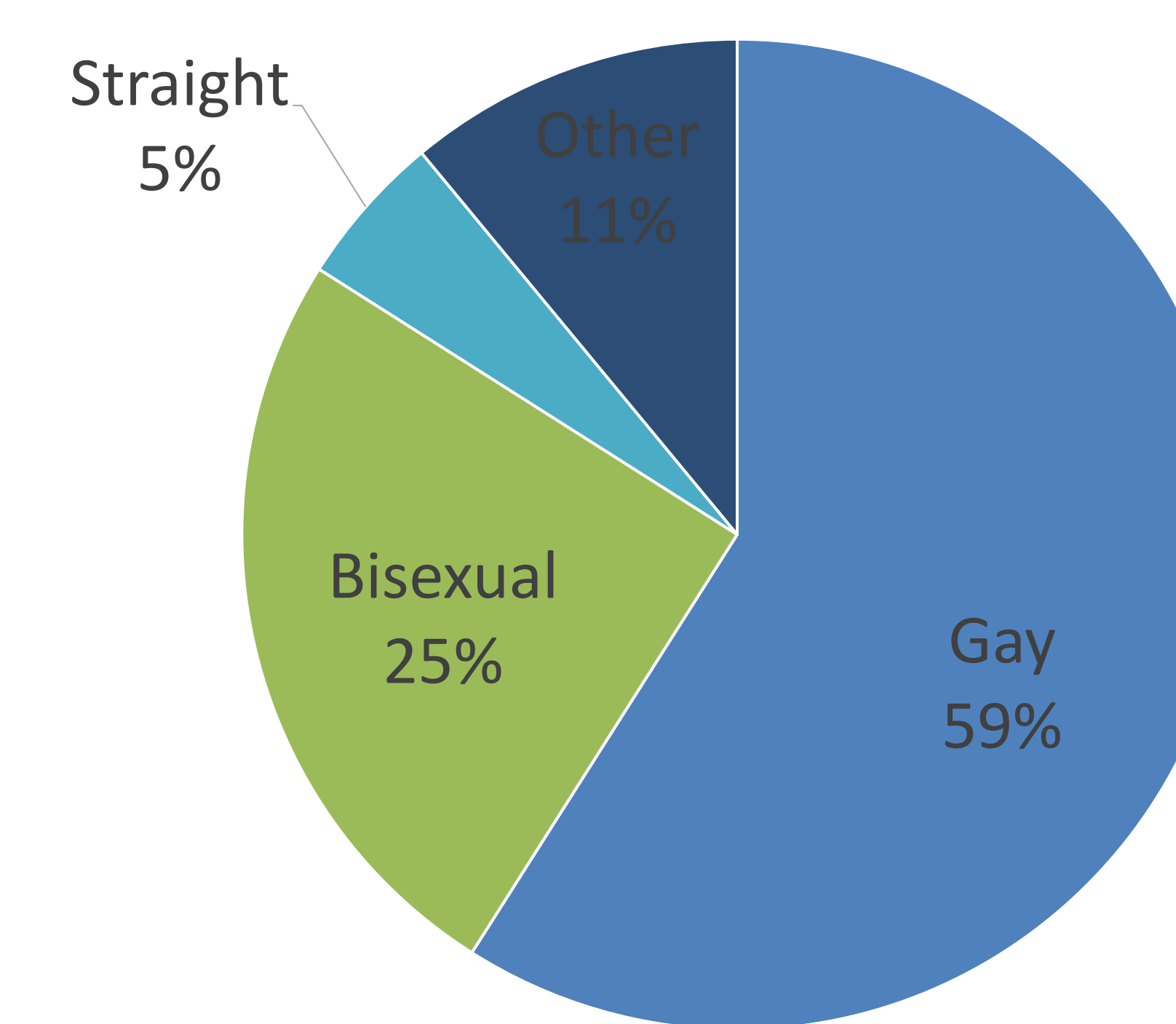
- Black gay, bisexual, and other sexual and gender minorities (SGM) face many stressors including but not limited to:
 - racial minority stress (e.g., race-related housing and job discrimination, racism within and outside the LGBTQ+ community)
 - sexual minority stress as well (e.g., sexual minority-related discrimination, SM-related violence, homophobia).
- There is evidence to suggest cannabis use is linked to stress, therefore, assessing multi-level stressors may yield novel insights into the broader determinants of health that contribute to cannabis use.
- Multilevel stress encompasses individual (e.g., socioeconomic status, demographics), interpersonal (e.g., discrimination), community (e.g., safe spaces) and structural (e.g., neighborhood conditions) factors that may further contribute to health inequities in the Black SGM community.

Sample Characteristics

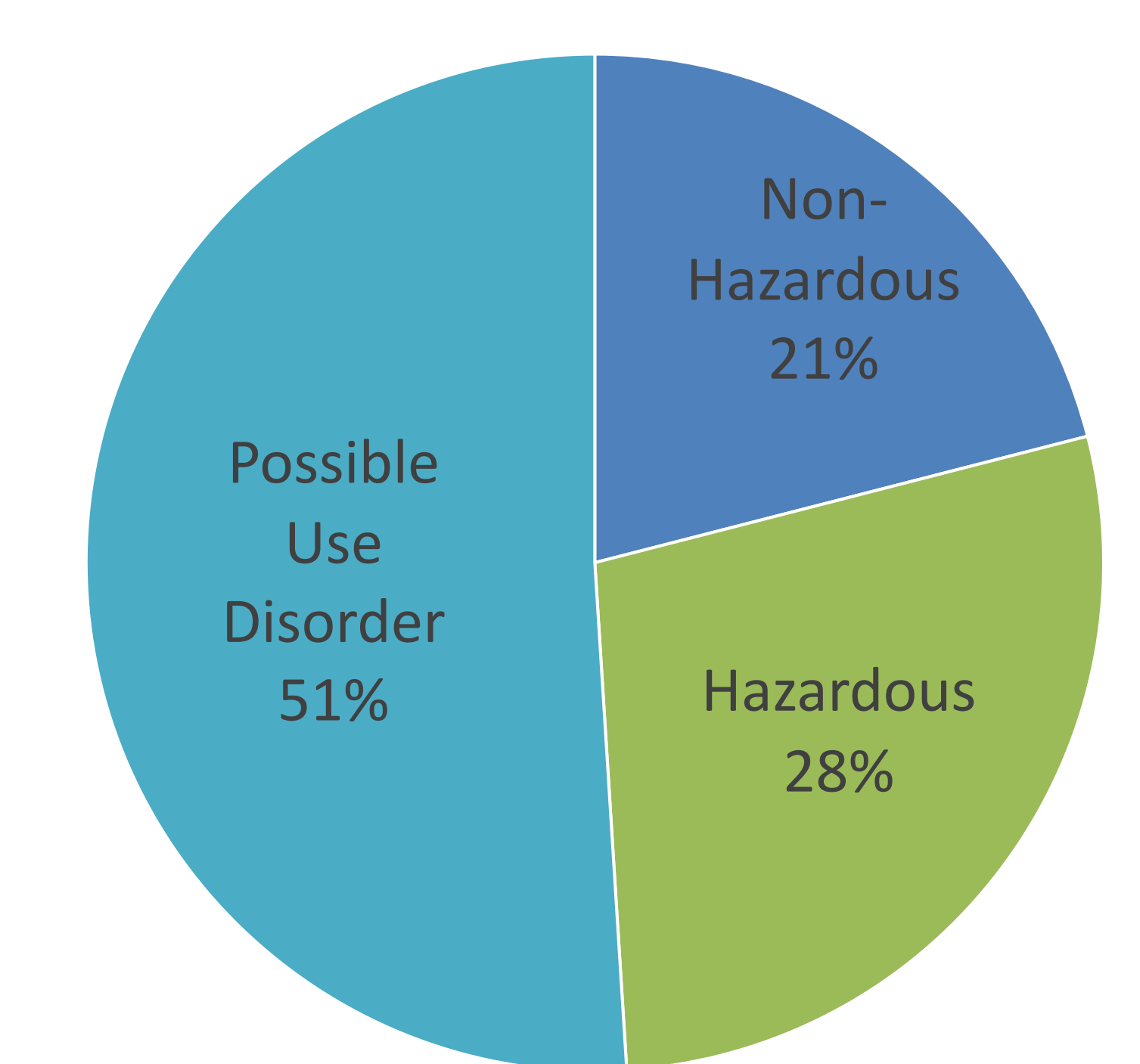
Gender Identity



Sexual Orientation



Cannabis-Using Behaviors



- Among our sample of cannabis users (N=489, 88%), 62% were older than 27 years, 83% were cis-gender male, 59% were gay, and 55% were living with HIV.
- Among those who reported symptoms of possible cannabis use disorder (n=250, 51%), approximately 56% had experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), 37% had anxiety symptoms, and 44% were incarcerated, which was proportionally higher than those who reported hazardous or non-hazardous use.

Methods

- Cross-sectional data from a Chicago-based cohort of Black men and Black transgender women aged 16-35 years were collected from October 2022 to February 2023 (N=553)
- Correlates were chosen based on the SGM framework; Participants self-reported multilevel stressors including age, gender, income, employment, mental health, discrimination, violence, incarceration, neighborhood access and safety
- Based on established cut-offs, the revised Cannabis Use Disorders Identification Test (CUDIT-R) identified:
 - non-hazardous use
 - hazardous use,
 - possible cannabis use disorder
- Bivariate analyses and regression models were used to examine the correlates associated with cannabis use.

Main Findings

Compared to those with non-hazardous using behaviors:



Those with possible use disorder had a significantly greater likelihood of reporting microaggressions (OR 1.66, 95% CI 1.00, 2.75, p=0.05).



Those with possible use disorder had a significantly greater likelihood of reporting anxiety symptoms (OR 2.27, 95% CI 1.24, 4.10, p<0.01)



Those with possible cannabis use disorder were significantly more likely to experience IPV (OR 1.88, 95% CI 1.12, 3.15, p=0.02), an interpersonal stressor.

Conclusion

- Findings suggest multiple levels of stress are associated with cannabis use.
- Future research should consider how mental health, discrimination, and violence mediate cannabis usage to mitigate stress and improve health among Black SGM, a population underrepresented in health research.

Acknowledgements

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