

## PartyandPlay.info Brief for Ontario's HIV Sector

September 28, 2022



*"Party n Play (PnP) is most commonly understood to be "the use of specific drugs, used specifically for sex, by gay and other men who have sex with men" – David Stuart, 2019*

### ABOUT

The PartyandPlay.info project centres on the experiences of guys who use substances (mainly GHB and crystal meth) before or during sex and brings together resources for them and those who love them. From recreational users to those who are struggling, to those who are abstinent, the project relies on the most recent and relevant research, on the values of sex positivity and anti-stigma, and on the openness of the participants to share a part of themselves. The purpose of the project is to deliver information & interventions that are

timely and meaningful to the needs of 2SGBTQ+ men in Ontario who PnP.

The project is rooted in an anti-stigma and non-judgmental approach. The long-term objectives of our efforts are to:

- Reduce adverse events resulting from PnP practices
- Diminishing shame and stigma around PnP within the 2SGBTQ+ community
- Empowering guys who PnP to participate fully in their communities

### PROJECT RESOURCES

A centralized hub for information, service, and stories of our community. Party&Play.info features evidence-based information, a service provider directory, and resources to help queer men navigate their experiences.

Despite popular representations of queer men's substance use, there is not one story of PnP but rather multiple truths and journeys experienced against a backdrop of factors that shape our lives. Central to the project are the testimonial videos and a podcast series of 11 queer men bravely sharing their experiences with PnP.

For providers, we offer a dedicated set of resources that translates current and emerging evidence into easily digestible articles and summaries. 20 videos feature different experts sharing valuable knowledge and approaches to care.

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Informed and empowered service providers who understand the lived realities of queer men make for better services and improved outcomes for individuals seeking support. A critical aspect of our work on PnP is to increase capacity and promote skills development of front-line staff in our alliance, people working in ASOs, clinicians and other providers.

Each of our trainings are interactive and use multimedia, polls, videos, evidence base knowledge, and case scenario discussions.

Build knowledge, inclusive communications, cultural competencies & skills in providing client-centred services.

At the time of the project launch, we offer several opportunities:

### INTRODUCTION TO PNP/CHEMSEX (CME)-

Intended for physicians and other clinical staff, this 1 credit-per-hour Group Learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario Chapter for up to 3 credits Mainpro+ certified credits.

### INTRODUCTION TO PNP/CHEMSEX (NON-CME)-

Intended for front-line sexual health educators and harm reduction staff who provide services to 2SGBTQ+ men.

Service providers will learn skills and build knowledge of the culture of PnP in gay men's communities. The training explores types of drugs used in PnP, routes of administration, and discussions about drug interactions and harm reduction strategies.

### PNP COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (MONTHLY)-

On the second Tuesday of each month, join the GMSH Coordinator of PnP/Chemsex Initiatives for an informal skills-building session and networking on all things PnP. These are particularly useful for alliance members and other front-line staff working in HIV service organizations.

To view available training and sign up, please visit: <https://partyandplay.info/for-service-providers/get-training/>

These resources were produced by the Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance in partnership with people working in the community-based HIV response, advocates, activists, and people with lived experience.

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Your organization is well-placed to provide low-barrier access to information, resources, support and referrals to gay men interested, engaging in, or wanting to make changes in their sex and substance use.

- Register for upcoming training opportunities

# Party and Play by GMSH

- Support recruitment of health & social service providers in your region to take training and get informed on PnP
- Connect us with local health & social service providers to be included in our provider directory
- Promote the project using agency social media
- Order swag items to use at relevant events and during outreach- contact [office@gmsh.ca](mailto:office@gmsh.ca)
- Invite GMSH to co-host an in-service for your team

For more information on the work of the GMSH please visit [www.gmsh.ca](http://www.gmsh.ca)

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