

Substance use, adolescent pregnancy and adverse social factors among young adults living with perinatally-acquired HIV in Argentina

V.Z. Ortiz^{1*}, M.L. Santos¹, J. Vega¹, S. Arazi Caillaud², J.A.E. Barletta¹, M.J. Rolón¹

¹Infectious Diseases Division, Hospital General de Agudos "Dr. Juan A. Fernández"

²Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases Department, Hospital de Pediatría "Dr. Juan P. Garrahan"

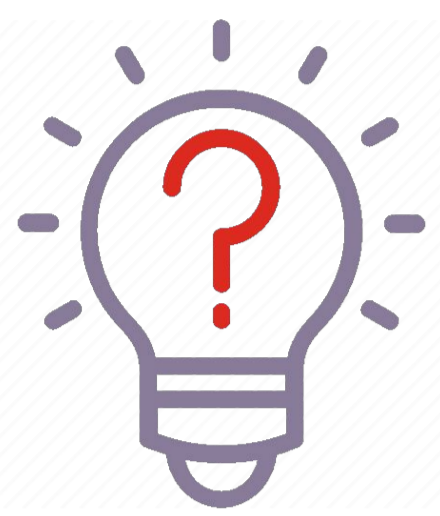
*vvioletaortiz@gmail.com



WEPED349

Background

Adults living with perinatally-acquired HIV (paHIV) face a high burden of HIV-related and non HIV-related complications.



In Latin America, there is no available data regarding the social and behavioral aspects of this population and their potential impact on HIV-related outcomes.

This study aims to describe the prevalence of substance use, adolescent pregnancy, psychotropic medication prescription, incarceration and housing instability in a cohort of adults living with paHIV in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Methods



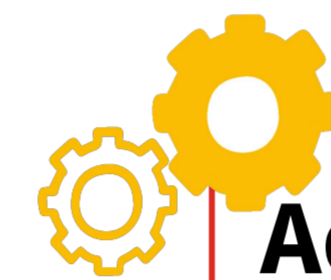
Retrospective cohort study

Setting: HIV referral clinic in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Population: people living with paHIV aged >16 years

Period: October 2008 to September 2023

Data sources: clinical records and epidemiological surveillance systems



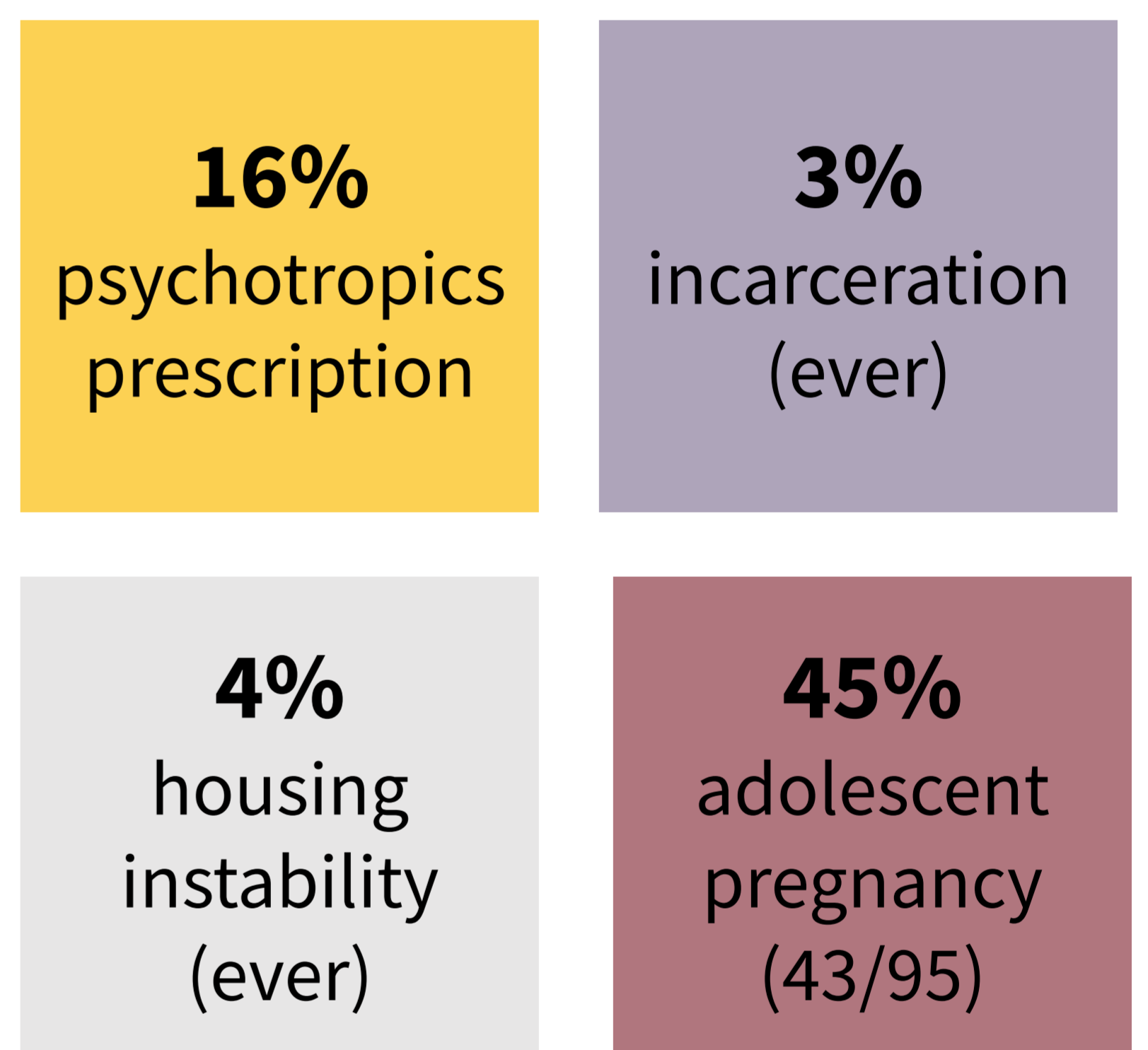
Advanced HIV disease: CD4 <200 cel/uL and/or WHO clinical stage 3/4

Undetectable viral load: <400 copies/mL until 2011 and <50 copies/mL afterwards

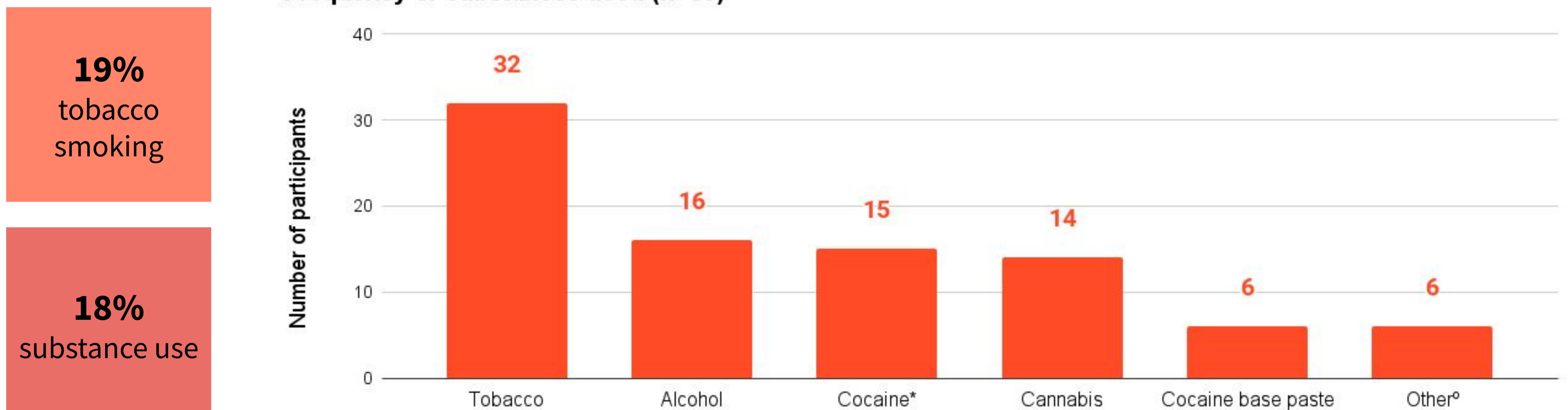
Housing instability: homelessness or living at a children's home

Results 169 people 60% women

Cohort characteristics (n=169)	n/median (%/Q1-Q3)
Age at start of follow-up (years)	19 (18-21)
Individual follow-up (years)	5.7 (3.2-9.4)
Prevalence of advanced HIV disease	109 (64.4)
Viral suppression¹	
Participants with undetectable viral load in >90% of determinations	43 (25.4)
Participants without any undetectable viral load determination	38 (22.5)
Notes: ¹ Plasma viral load data was missing in 9 participants	

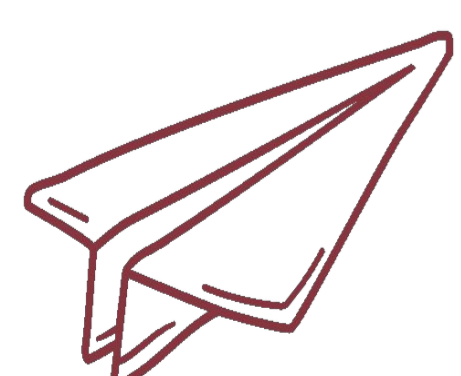


Frequency of substances used (n=89)



Notes: *Inhaled. Additionally, one participant reported IDU. †Includes benzodiazepine, LSD, MDMA, ketamine and methamphetamine

Conclusions



In our cohort, adults living with paHIV have a **high prevalence** of **substance use, adolescent pregnancy and adverse social factors**. These results highlight the importance of having an **interdisciplinary approach** in the HIV services offered to this population.

To our knowledge, this is the **first non-biomedical description** of adults living with paHIV in Latin America.

Further research is needed to **explore the potential association** between our findings and HIV-related outcomes.