

Men who have chemsex with men: a path to centring our stories

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JCURA
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 ... and to Casanova, Cynnamon, and Harvey, **thank you**. Thank you for sharing your wisdom and entrusting me *and now us* with your stories. There is beauty in stories of men having chemsex with each other.

Research on men who have sex with men and also engage in chemsex is important to the broader field of social work because it challenges structural oppression (Souleymanov et al., 2020, 2021) and has broadened the practice of harm reduction (Roth et al. 2018).

01 Background

Marginalization and the subsequent determinants of health are well established for men who have sex with men & people who use drugs
 The intersection of these two groups *men who have sex with men + engage in chemsex* & the dearth of community-based research led to exploring
 What can be learned from the lived experiences and stories of men who have chemsex with men?

02 Methods, Approaches

Considering the practice of valuing *insider* knowledge is not new and members of communities given stigmatizing labels are justified in their unwillingness to get involved in research done by *outsiders* (Berndt, 2020) the following methods and theories were used:

- queer theoretical framework
- a combination of convenient & purposive sampling methods
- semi-structured interviews
- community-based research approach

This research project received approval from the University of Victoria Human Research Ethics Board.

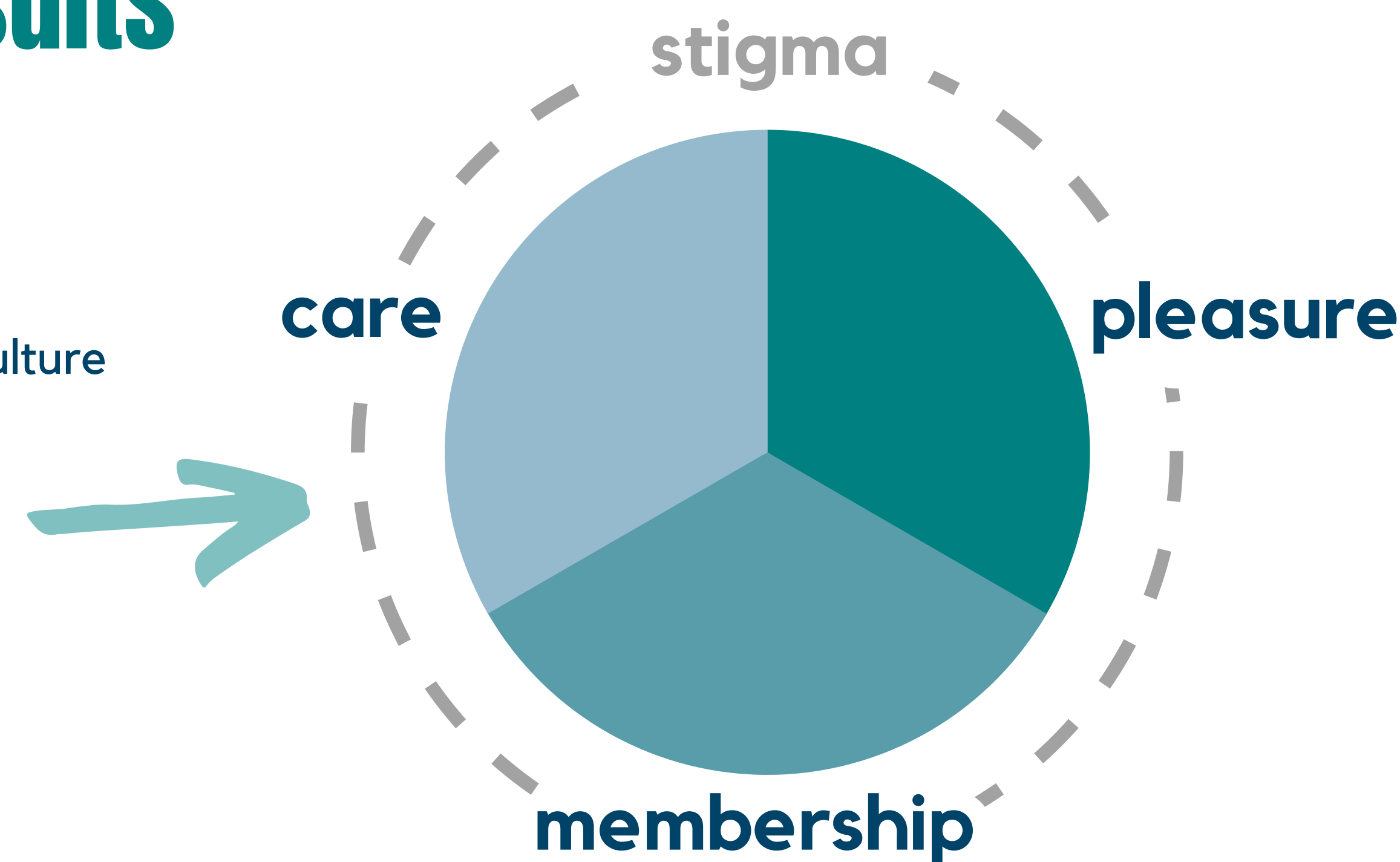
03 Process, Results

participants and principal applicant have shared membership in chemsex sub-culture

3 x 1 hour semi-structured interviews

participants were over 40 and identified as

- male
- gay, bisexual, queer, or MSM
- someone who engages in chemsex



04 Discussion

Single stories hold power
 how told, who tells, when told, how many told
 Power is ...
 being able to tell many versions of a story so that there isn't a single story (Adichie, 2009)

END STIGMA
 How can **our** stories be an antidote to stigma?

05 Citations

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Cynnamon

Casanova

Harvey