

LAAM and Methadone Maintenance Treatment: Retention, Drug Use and HIV Risk Behaviors

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Introduction

- The purposes of this study include evaluating LAAM and methadone maintenance on the following dimensions:
 - reducing HIV risk behaviors
 - treatment retention
 - clinic attendance
- Additionally, we will assess which patient characteristics contribute to optimal performance with the two medications;

Method

- Two-group, repeated-measures design.
- Random assignment on a 2:1 ratio to either LAAM (2) or Methadone (1) for 12 months.
- Longer assessments at Intake, 6, and 12 months and at 18 month follow-up.
- Shorter weekly and monthly interviews.
- Data abstraction of urine analysis, dosing records, and clinic files.

Analysis

- Descriptive statistics completed on the 315 clients with Intake interviews.
- Retention analysis completed on the first 136 clients at twelve month assessment point.
- Drug use at six month post-admission on 199 clients.
- HIV risk behavior at six month post-admission on 199 clients.

Demographics of Clinic Patients (N=315)

Variable	N	Percentage
Sex		
Male	223	71%
Female	92	29%
Ethnicity		
White	57	18%
African American	126	40%
Hispanic	116	37%
Random Assignment		
Methadone	107	34%
LAAM	208	66%

Demographics of Clinic Patients (N=315)

Variable	N	Percentage
Finished 12 th Grade	187	59%
Currently Employed	68	32%
Income in past 6 months		
Legal	304	97%
Illegal	112	36%
Ever Arrested	302	96%
Ever Convicted	269	85%
Ever Incarcerated	129	80%

Drug Use at Intake (N=315)

Drug	% Ever	% Past Month
Heroin	100	95
Crack	76	29
Cocaine	89	17
Marijuana	97	22
Downers	79	2
Amph/Methamphetamines	56	3
Alcohol	97	53
Tobacco	98	91

Drug Use at Intake (N=315)

Injection Drug Use	% Ever	% Past Month
Heroin	97	88
Cocaine	68	10
Speedball	78	15
Amph/Methamphetamines	29	2
Past Treatment	97	0

HIV Risk Behaviors at Intake

(N=315)

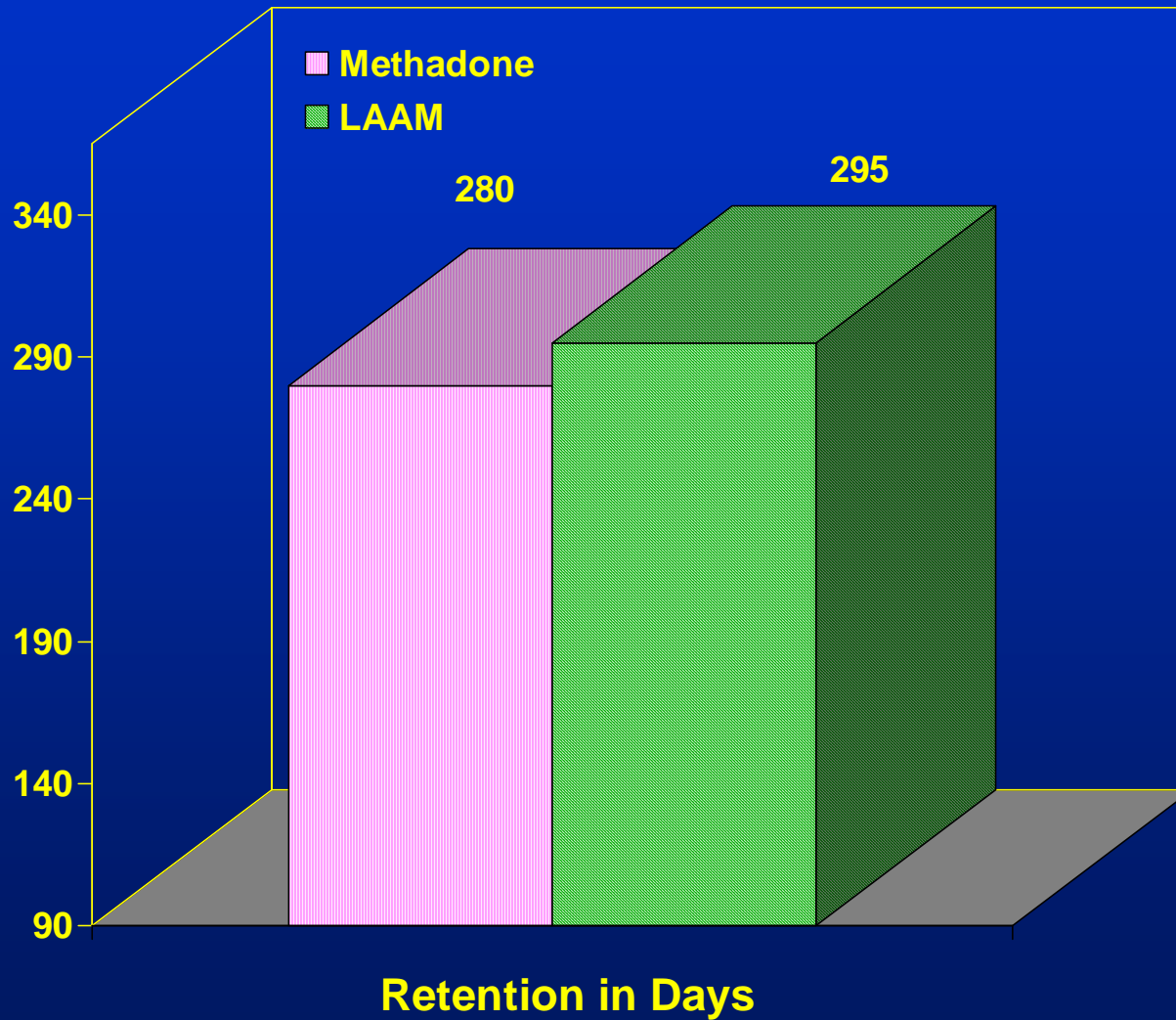
Behavior in the past 6 months	%
Needle Use	96
Use needle to split drugs	23
Use cooker after someone	44
Use same rinse water	32
Used shooting gallery needle	7
Shoot with used needle	27
Shoot after someone with AIDS	1
Shoot drugs after a stranger	5
Clean used needle with bleach	24

HIV Risk Behaviors at Intake

(N=315)

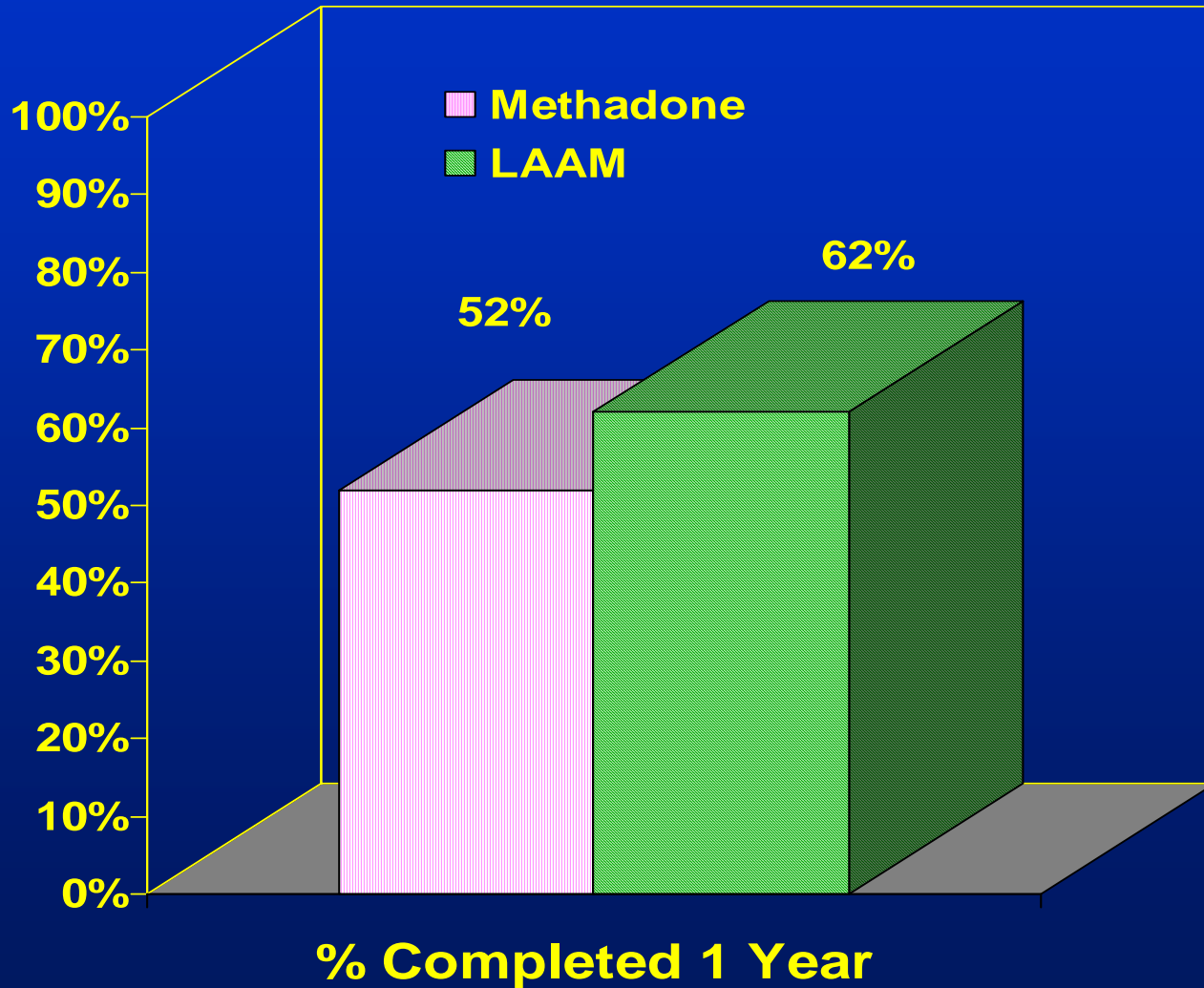
Sex with main sex partner (n=189)	%
Vaginal sex	96
Used Condoms during vaginal sex	26
Anal sex	7
Used condoms during anal sex	2
Used drugs or alcohol during/after sex	82
Sex with persons other than main partner	20

Retention So Far (N=136)



p= NS

Completed Treatment (N=136)

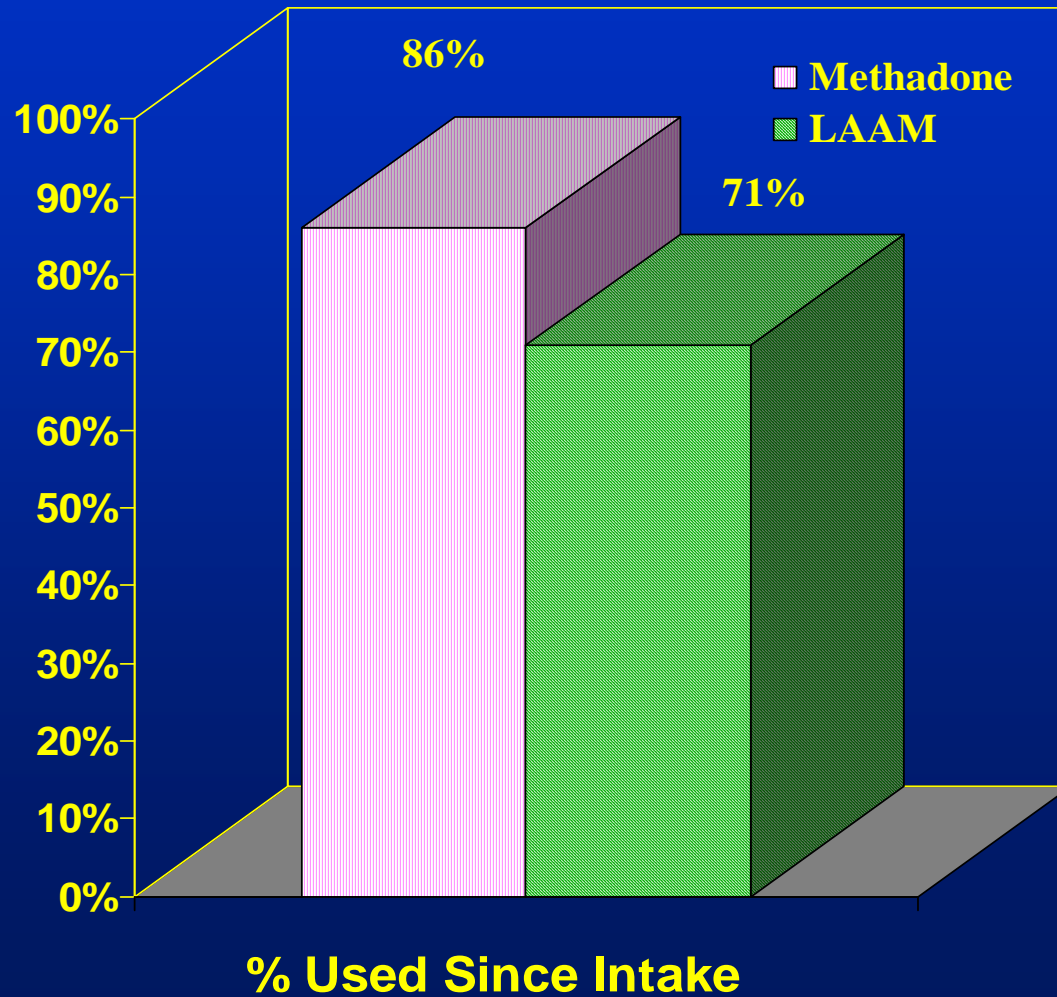


p= NS

Reasons for Leaving Treatment (N=136)

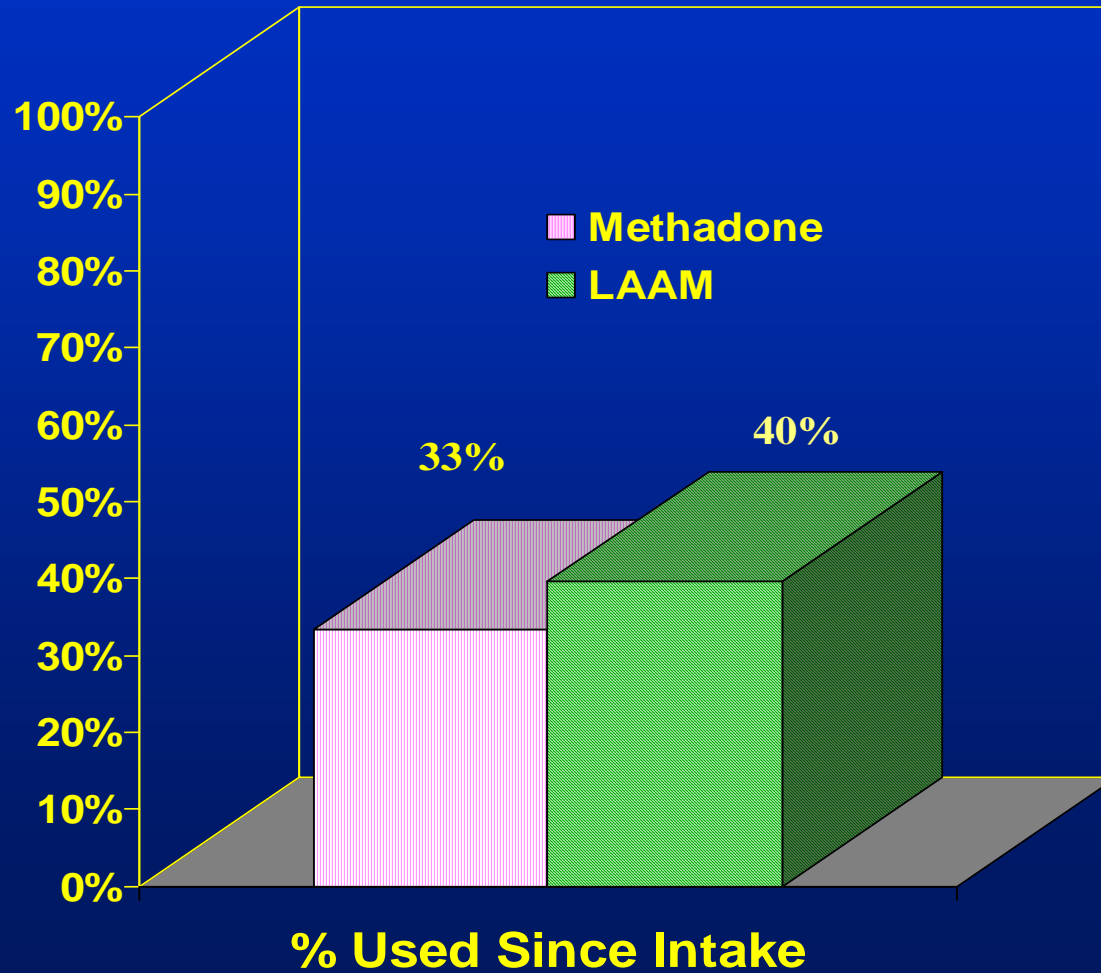
Reason	% MM (n=46)	% LAAM (n=90)
Incarceration	24	17
No-Show	13	9
Medical Problem	4	1
Left for other treatment	2	7
Geographic change	2	3
Deceased	3	0
Completed Program	52	62

Heroin Use at Six Month Follow-up (N=199)



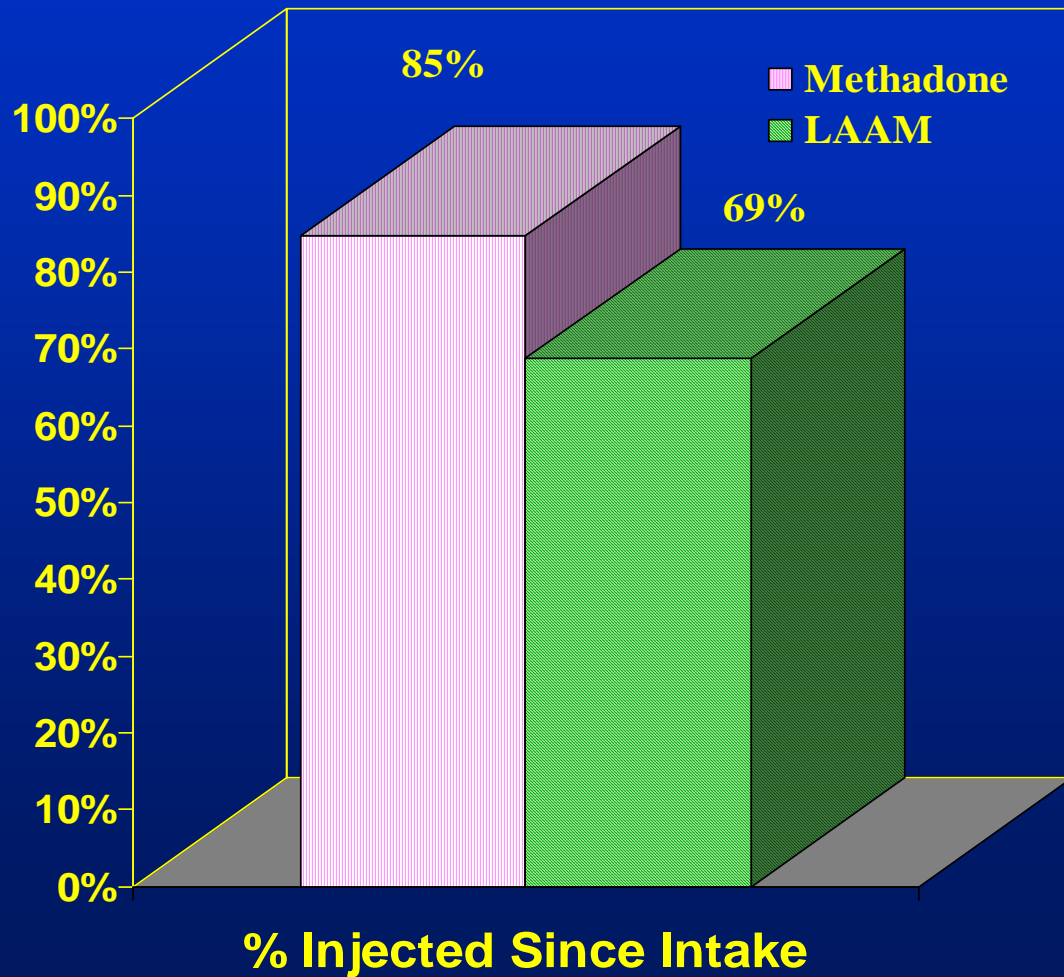
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Crack Use at Six Month Follow-up (N=199)



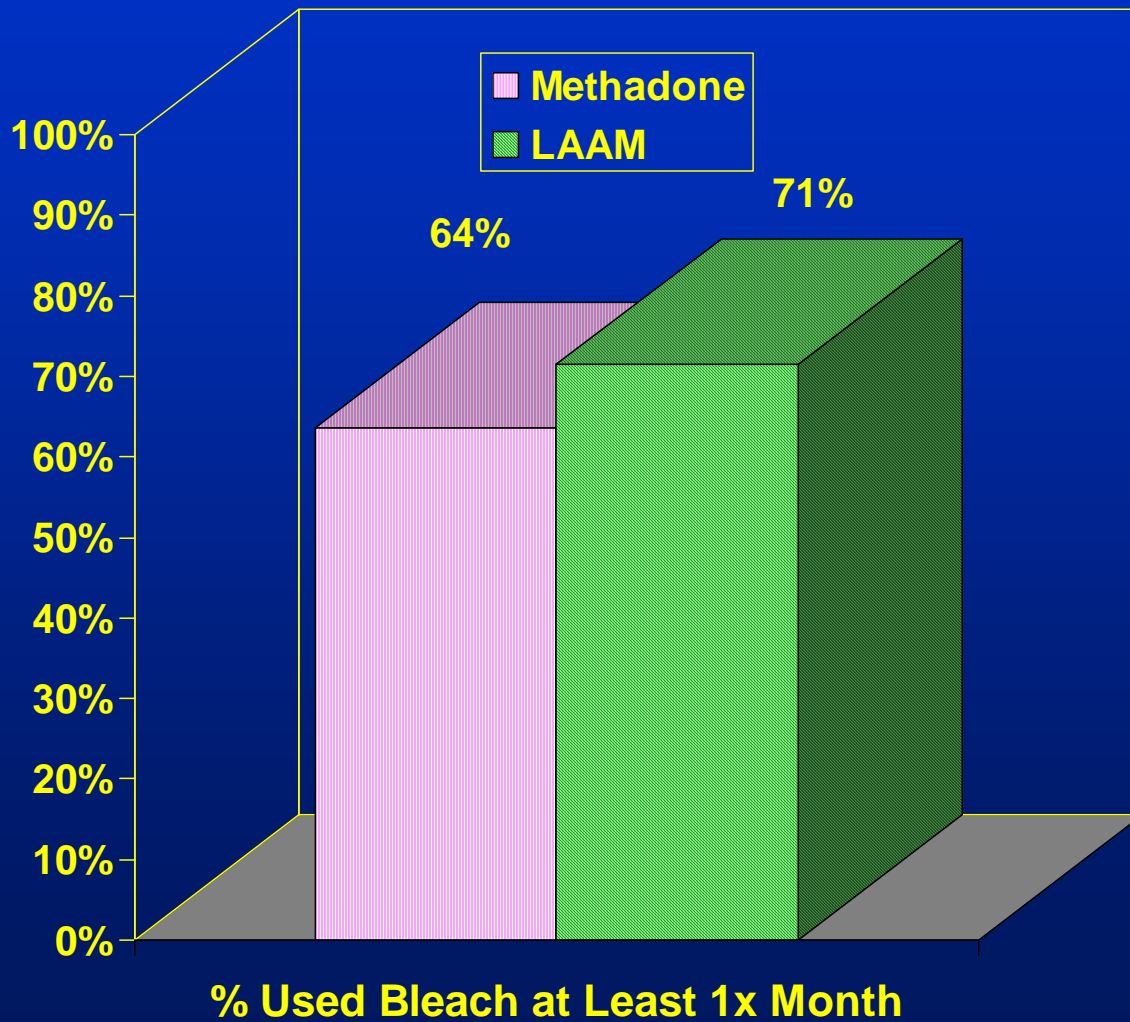
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Injection Drug Use at Six Month Follow-up (N=199)



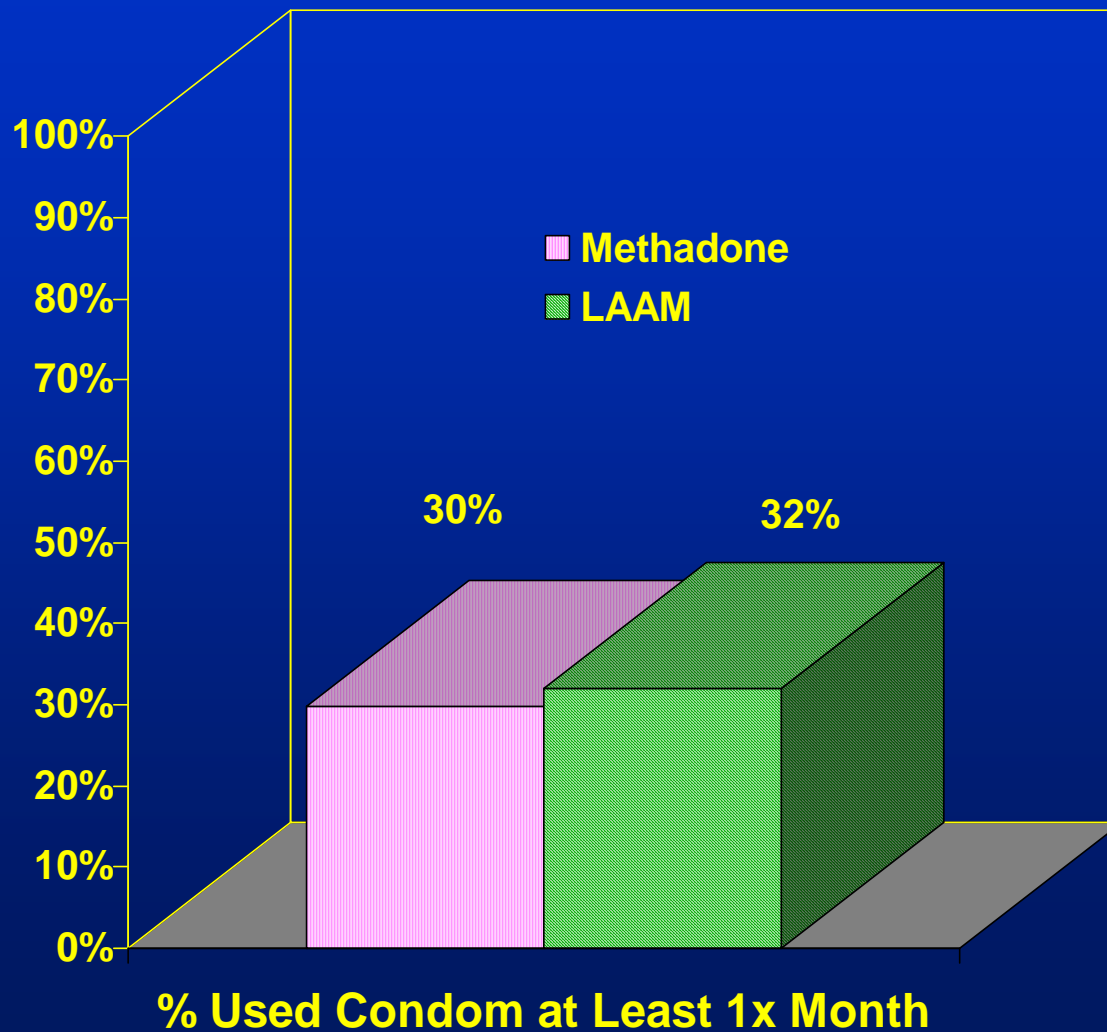
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Bleaching Needles at Six Month Follow-up (N=199)



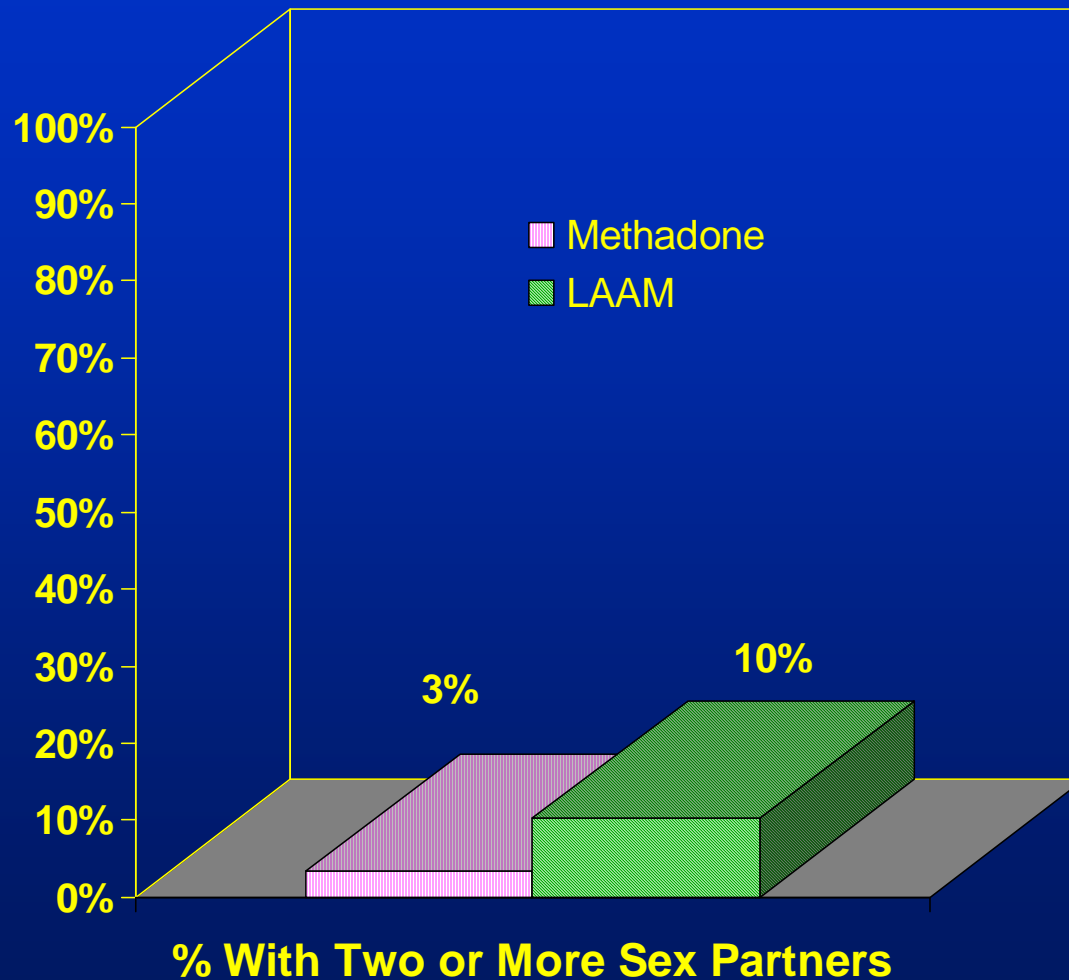
p= NS

Condom Use at Six Month Follow-up (N=199)



p= NS

Multiple Sex Partners at Six Month Follow-up (N=199)



p= NS (.073)

Summary of Preliminary Findings

- Retention is comparable for LAAM and Methadone.
- LAAM treatment was associated with less heroin use and less injection behavior.
- Among individuals who continued to inject, there was no difference in HIV risk behavior according to medication condition.
- Medication condition was not associated with a differential reduction in sex risk behavior

Limitations of Findings

- Results are preliminary.
- Analyses were based only on cases who have reached their 6 month follow-up point.
- Findings may change when we have the full complement of clients and complete follow-up interviews.