



THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CLUB HEALTH CONFERENCE LIVERPOOL

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

RICHARD ANDERSON

University of Liverpool

UK

Matthew Flynn, Eleanor Fielding, and Vincy Huang

Bring back Liverpool City Region night buses: demonstrating the business case

Liverpool is widely known for its vibrant music scenes and club cultures, from The Beatles to Cream, to Eurovision 2023 each weekend thousands of people produce, consume and support nighttime entertainment across the city. Liverpool city-centre currently has over 115 music venues licensed to operate to midnight or beyond, hosting a potential combined capacity of 60,500 people, who all need to get home safely and cost efficiently. However, in 2021 private bus operators withdrew all post-midnight services due to overall reduced post-pandemic bus use across the Liverpool City Region (LCR). At a Liverpool City Region Music Board (LCRMB) live music sector consultation in March 2022 (n=64), a key concern raised by venue owners centred on the removal of night-buses, and its subsequent impacts on attendance figures and implications for worker and audience safety. To explore night bus service demand further, a research team at University of Liverpool began collaborating with LCRMB, Liverpool Nightlife CIC (representing 150 pubs/bars within Liverpool's city-centre BID district), Future Yard CIC (a Birkenhead based venue and community space), and LCR Civic Data Cooperative. The team surveyed staff and customers of live venues, nightclubs, bars, and other businesses across the nighttime economy in spring/summer of 2023 (n=2,600) and additionally analysed public and commercial data (night-time footfall, traffic, emergency service use etc.) to establish the demand for LCR night bus provision. This paper discusses the research results and presents findings that address the feasibility, viability, public demand, and public health safety benefits for regional night buses.

ROSA ANDREE

Trimbos Institute
Netherlands

Matthijs Blankers and Martha de Jonge

The development of a digital screener, advice, and referral for young adults that consider cutting back or quitting their drug use

The Large Nightlife Study conducted in the Netherlands revealed that a significant portion of nightlife attendees wish to curtail or quit their drug use. However, the study also found that the proportion of nightlife attendees seeking assistance for these intentions was relatively small. Despite the availability of effective online and offline support options for individuals wishing to curtail or quit drug use, many individuals encounter difficulties to take the initial step towards seeking help. Consequently, the objective of this study was to address this issue and reduce the barrier to help-seeking by developing an intervention based on the screener, behavioural intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) model. The intervention aims to provide participants with a rapid self-assessment of their drug use, guidance on reducing or quitting, and appropriate referrals to support services. While nightlife attendees are an important target group of this study, the study expanded its scope to encompass a broad group of young adult drug users, considering additional high-risk groups, such as functional drug users, individuals facing psychological issues, and coping-driven users. In 2023, focus groups are conducted to identify the preferences and needs of the target population with regard to the structure of the screener, its design, and its implementation. The presentation will encompass the methodology for setting up the focus groups, participant recruitment procedures, and preliminary results obtained from the focus groups concerning the intervention.

AMANDA ATKINSON

Liverpool John Moores University
United Kingdom

'No one's really thinking about the compromising positions the advertisement puts women in': exploring the role of sexualised night life venue marketing in the normalisation of unwanted sexual attention, and women's perceptions of safety, in the night time economy

Nightlife venues such as bars and clubs are sexualised spaces in which gender and sexual relations are played out, (hyper) sexual identities performed, and unwanted sexual attention normalised. They are also increasingly marketed and promoted through sexualised content that uses women's bodies and sexual expression, to encourage attendance and the sale of alcohol. This includes objectifying imagery, nightlife photography that depicts predominantly female patrons who fit idealised notions of sexual desirability, and female staff (e.g. 'shot girls', hostesses, dancers) as a form of (sexual) entertainment, and as a promotional tool. The paper will present findings of a thematic analysis of individual and group interviews with women (N=118) who participate in nightlife spaces in the North West of England, including women working in sexualised marketing roles (N=12). It will consider the empowerment possibilities of such marketing and sexual expression; how sexualised marketing reinforces the normalisation of unwanted sexual attention and impacts on women's perceptions of safety; and how women navigate the freedom to sexual express in nightlife spaces, alongside the risk of unwanted sexual attention from men. Implications for nightlife policy will be considered.

FRANCES BARBER-SHILLITO

Night Time Economy Solutions LTD

The Netherlands

Shifting Paradigms: Sobriety within Club Culture and the Rising Trends

In a world where indulgence often takes center stage, it's crucial to recognize the powerful movement towards sobriety that is gaining huge momentum. Club culture has long been intertwined with the consumption of alcohol and drugs. The beats, flashing lights, and electric energy are often accompanied by a culture that can normalize drinking and drug use. However in recent years, we've seen a significant shift in this paradigm. With more individuals choosing sobriety, this transformation is becoming increasingly evident. So, why the change? What's driving this evolution? Heightened awareness and education about the physical, mental, and emotional toll of substance abuse have played a significant role. The impact on health and relationships is no longer something to be ignored or trivialized. The rise of wellness and mindfulness movements has led people to seek experiences that nourish their minds and bodies rather than compromise them. Sobriety aligns with this shift, providing an opportunity for individuals to fully engage in the present moment. The inclusive nature of sobriety is breaking down barriers and fostering a sense of community within club culture. Those who choose to abstain from substances are finding it celebrates their decision, rather than stigmatizing it. Rising trends in sobriety within club culture are a testament to the power of conscious choice. It's a movement that embraces inclusivity, health, and well-being, and it's reshaping our social landscapes for the better.

REBECCA BATES

Liverpool John Moores University
United Kingdom

Understanding and addressing risk related night-life behaviour during Eurovision 2023 and future Eurovision song contests

The Eurovision song contest was held in Liverpool May 2023. It was estimated that the event would boost Liverpool's economy by £40million and bring in excess of 100,000 people to Liverpool's night-time economy. Along with the final there was also rehearsals, semi-finals, and other events in Liverpool throughout the preceding week. Surprisingly, despite this being the 67th annual Eurovision, virtually no studies have been undertaken on what the nightlife culture surrounding Eurovision entails or what public health risks it might represent. Health risk behaviours often associated with nightlife include high alcohol consumption, licit and illicit drug use, sexual health risk taking, and engagement in or exposure to anti-social behaviours such as violence. Methodology: A total of 805 nightlife user surveys were conducted over a number of evenings in Liverpool's city centre. The survey aimed to understand nightlife users' perceptions of the Eurovision and Liverpool city and nightlife, measure alcohol and drug consumption and identify levels of violence, anti-social behaviour, health risk behaviours both witnessed and experienced by nightlife users and perceptions of safety and prevention measures. Results: Nearly three quarters (72.2%) of participants had or were planning on drinking alcohol on the night they took part in the survey, mean number of units was 7.6. A third (35.8%) reported ever taking drugs and 3.1% reported they had or were planning on taking drugs the night they completed the survey. Nearly all the participants felt positively about their Eurovision experiences, harms usually associated with the night-time economy were low as was alcohol consumption which was a-typical of previous nightlife research carried out in the city.

BRYONY BEYNON

Good Night Out Campaign CIC
United Kingdom

Golchehr Hamidi-Manesh

Change the Party, Change the World: Ten Years of Good Night Out Campaign

This paper will profile ten years of the pioneering safer nightlife work developed and delivered by Good Night Out Campaign CIC and examine how an independent self-funded community organisation run by young women and queer people with lived experience of gender-based abuse became a leader in training, education, policy design and consultancy and what we have learnt in the process. We will look at how the under-resourced work of grass roots knowledge producers and practitioners is woven into our work with global brands, and using intersectional ways of working to approach skills building in the industry worldwide, from peer-led de-escalation to trauma-informed understandings of the dynamics of transphobic and racist violence to rape and sexual assault in nightclubs and bars. We will share our unique practice-based non-academic insight having framed the stakes and set the tone for the emergent safer nightlife sector as it exists today and how we apply consistent principles for safety, structure and dynamic risk assessments through a sliding scale Accreditation programme which educates and supports nightlife organisers and corporations of every size: from squat raves to your local Wetherspoons. We will present publicly for the first time our proprietary dataset of more than 3,500 trainees feedback to provide an analysis into the state of the knowledge, skills and confidence in responding to incidents safely and set out the most urgent needs in the industry and our proven recipe for what really works (and what won't) for ending sexual violence in nightlife.

BRITT BILDERBEEK

Trimbos Institute
Netherlands

Martha de Jonge

Towards an integrated substance use prevention approach in Dutch nightlife

Research shows that effective substance use prevention strategies for the nightlife setting are embedded within an integrated approach. An integrated approach in the nightlife includes interventions aimed at professionals working in the nightlife setting as well as patrons and the physical and social environment. It entails the involvement and participation of stakeholders with different backgrounds, such as the municipality, bar staff, police, nightlife security and patrons, as well as those attending nightlife establishments. Several possible components of an integrated approach have been developed in the past, including approaches for municipalities, guidelines (such as house rules) for patrons and training sessions for police, security and bar staff. However, to date there is no comprehensive and up-to-date overview of existing prevention possibilities for the nightlife setting. It is also unclear to what extent these are suitable for implementation within an integrated approach. In this study, we aim to make an overview of prevention possibilities for the Dutch nightlife setting. We focus on what is already available, and gain insight on what might still be missing. Based on international research and lessons learned from other countries, we identify barriers and opportunities for implementation. During Club Health 2023 we will discuss the implications of these findings for an integrated prevention strategy for the Dutch nightlife setting.

ALISTAIR BARFIELD

The Brain Charity
United Kingdom

Neurodivergent-Friendly Nightlife: An alternative perspective

In this talk, I will discuss both my own learned experience of nightlife as a disabled, neurodivergent person, and my experiences working with neurodivergent individuals. I will explore how nightlife can be made neurodivergent-friendly and the various ways neurodivergent people interact with nightlife. Additionally, I will delve into how our special interests can contribute to creating a safer nightlife environment for our cities and how harnessing the talents of the neurodivergent community can result in unexpected, accessible opportunities.

ALISTAIR BRYANT

Rave Aid Crew
United Kingdom

Josh Torrance

Drug Services and Grassroots Harm Reduction Services working together keeping ravers safe using outreach and social media to meet the need of the audience

There has been a very real fear from drug treatment services to engage in spaces where people use drugs for over a decade especially in the non-crack and smack world. This has meant people recreationally use “party” drugs have been left without the support that’s needed. Since Cranstoun rebranded as a Harm Reduction Charity this has allowed for more productive work in these spaces. Its allowed for work with Rave Aid Crew who support and create interventions that are meaningful to your speaker side drug takers. Cranstoun and Rave Aid Crew become close after a simple twitter discussion over the importance of rehydrating or cooking up your ketamine. This started a really exciting piece of co-production with Rave Aid Crew. We looked at what was missing as 18 – 34 year old are often the age range who don’t stay in drug treatment we wanted to explore why so we have taken to TikTok to find out 1.5million views later it seems there an appetite for harm reduction from ages who don’t stay in treatment services and both services are on a journey to explore why? We want to share our journey with the audience and encourage other services work closer with people who support the party/rave community on the front line as currently Drug Treatment support for them is limited.

NADIA BUTLER

Liverpool John Moores University
United Kingdom

Zara Quigg, Karen Hughes, Mark A. Bellis

Effects of multi-component programmes in preventing sales of alcohol to intoxicated patrons in nightlife settings in the United Kingdom

Introduction: Alcohol service to intoxicated patrons is common across nightlife settings and preventing such sales is a key priority globally. In England and Wales, three multi-component programmes have been implemented including: (1) community mobilisation, responsible beverage server (RBS) training and routine law enforcement; (2) community mobilisation and enhanced law enforcement; and, (3) community mobilisation, RBS training and enhanced law enforcement. This study estimates the association between sales of alcohol to pseudo-intoxicated patrons and implementation of three multi-component interventions in four nightlife settings. Methods: Alcohol test purchases by pseudo-intoxicated actors were implemented at pre ($n = 206$) and post-intervention ($n = 224$). Actors/observers recorded venue and test purchase characteristics. Logistic regression assessed service refusal by intervention type, adjusting for venue/test purchase characteristics. Results: Pre-intervention, 20.9% of sales were refused. Post-intervention, 42.1%, 68.8% and 74.0% of sales were refused in areas with intervention 1, 2, and 3 respectively. In adjusted analyses, compared to pre-intervention, the odds of service refusal were higher for all interventions, with the highest odds when the intervention included enhanced law enforcement (adjusted odds ratios, interventions 1, 2, 3: 2.6, 7.1, 14.4; $p < 0.01$). Service refusal was higher if the test purchase was implemented on a Saturday/Sunday night; and lower if implemented in a nightclub or if age verification was requested at the bar. Conclusion: Community-based multi-component interventions were associated with significant increases in service refusal to pseudo-intoxicated actors in nightlife settings in England and Wales. Effects were stronger for interventions including enhanced law enforcement, and particularly if all intervention components were implemented.

SAOIRCE CODLING

Hitch

United Kingdom

Nick Godbehere and James Jones

Increasing PrEP Equity Amongst Underserved Populations

PrEP is a drug, that when taken as prescribed, reduces the risk of contracting HIV from sex by approximately 99%. There are individuals in underserved communities that could benefit from taking PrEP but are not currently doing so. Hitch Marketing was commissioned by the English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners' Group (EHSHCG) to conduct research with three audiences: Sex Workers, Black African Women, Trans and non-binary people. The objective of this research was to identify barriers that prevent access to PrEP, uncover potential facilitators that could be harnessed to increase PrEP uptake and make recommendations for how to improve sexual health services. Primary research was conducted using qualitative methods, including focus group workshops and one-to-one interview with individuals in each target audiences. The COM-B model was used as a framework for this research to understand individuals' capability, opportunity and motivation to use PrEP. This presentation will describe individual, provider level and system level findings. Additionally, it will recommend interventions to increase PrEP uptake using The Behaviour Change Wheel. This project aims to add to the body of existing research to help reach the UK Government's target to eliminate HIV transmission by 2030.

IONE COLLINS

Public Health Wales

United Kingdom

Karen Hughes

Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on young people's perceptions and use of nightlife and drinking behaviours in North Wales: a multi-method study

The COVID-19 pandemic had a prodigious effect on nightlife, with restrictions in many countries closing nightlife venues, followed by a staged re-opening and the imposition of rules such as mask-wearing and social-distancing. Although a wealth of research exists measuring changes in young people's alcohol use during the pandemic, there is little information on how young people's perceptions of nightlife and nightlife-related behaviours might have changed following COVID-19. **Methods:** This study uses three approaches: a systematic review of studies examining the impact of COVID-19 on young people's alcohol use and nightlife behaviours; focus groups with young people in North Wales and discussions with key stakeholders; and a survey informed by preliminary thematic analysis of the focus groups. This survey will be distributed to young people (18-30 years) across North Wales in July 2023 and analysed using SPSS. **Results & discussion:** Evidence was synthesised from the 64 studies (from 22 countries) identified in the review. Sample sizes ranged from 50 to 29,663. Study findings did not show uniform effects of the pandemic on nightlife-related behaviours; effects on drinking patterns were mixed and a range of related factors were found. Key themes identified in the focus groups included increased/decreased drinking, binge/hazardous drinking, mental wellbeing, and safety behaviours. This presentation will also provide findings from the survey, exploring changes in nightlife perceptions and behaviours of young people during and following COVID-19. Findings from the study can inform multi-agency work to strengthen health and safety in nightlife environments, both within and beyond North Wales.

EMMA DAVIES

RMIT University
Australia

Alex Frankovitch, Cheneal Puljevic and Monica Barratt

Experiences of drink spiking among respondents to the 2022 Global Drug Survey

While not a new phenomenon, the re-opening of nightlife spaces post COVID-19 coincided with a surge of media reports worldwide on spiking (being given alcohol or other drugs without consent), many focussed on spiking via injection. This study aimed to describe the experience of drink/other spiking in respondents to the Global Drug Survey 2022, a large cross-sectional international study of people who use drugs. In total, 7,607 respondents answered spiking questions; 1,520 (20%) indicated they were spiked > 12 months ago and 166 (2.2%) within the last 12 months. Those 166 were more likely to be cis-women (89) or trans/non-binary (20) than cis-men (57) and under 25 (89) compared to over 25 (77). Respondents from a range of countries including New Zealand (38), UK (30) and Australia (29) reported recent spiking. While club/bars were the most common location (91), 36 reported spiking in a private home. Feeling weird/not drunk (84) was the most common reason to suspect spiking, while 5 reported feeling a sharp needle like pain. Most (141) thought a drug was added to their drink, 10 thought alcohol was added, while 7 thought they were injected. Only 12 reported to police and 22 reported to a venue. One in five respondents (23) indicated they experienced sexual assault during the incident, so while uncommon, it should be explored further, particularly since most incidents went unreported. Drink spiking remains a contentious topic, which we discuss in relation to contemporary discourses on women's safety, victim blaming and moral panic.

JENNY DAVIES

Liverpool City Council
United Kingdom

Liverpool's approach to managing a safer night time economy

Liverpool has a busy night-time economy, weekends attracting more than 150,000 visitors, a student population of roughly 70,000. Studies have found that sexual violence is high in locations associated with the night time economy and women are 11 times more likely than men to be a victim of assault or rape. Night-time economy has also seen high levels of intoxication and a sudden increase in the number of spiking incidents. Training packages have now been produced and delivered by Liverpool City Council Alcohol and Tobacco Unit, to reduce and raise awareness of these issues. The training packages which is delivered to bars in Liverpool City Centre covers these topics by increasing awareness of the legislations, preventing sales of alcohol to someone who is drunk and promoting responsible drinking. Sexual violence training aims to support those who work in nightlife settings to achieve a better understanding and be able to respond to and prevent sexual violence and the whilst the provision of spiking element provides drug test kits that can test up to 7 types of drugs, via swabbing the glass from a person who thinks their drink has been spiked. Evaluations have found a reduction of sales of alcohol to a drunk person, a good awareness of legislation from bar staff and door staff of legislation. The outcomes have included a number of arrests for administering of obnoxious substance and some examples of positive bystander intervention from bar staff in relation to nightlife users reporting sexual violence.

RAFAELA DE QUADROS RIGONI

Utrecht University
The Netherlands

Mac Busz, Damian Zaitch and Stephen Snelders

The XTC store - a public experiment in search of new models to regulate drugs

In 2022, Poppi Drug Museum and researchers from Utrecht University evaluated the societal responses to three scenarios of regulated sales of MDMA, the active ingredient in ecstasy. This was done through a unique public experiment: visitors of an 'XTC store' - an art installation that was built in the heart of Utrecht (the Netherlands) shared their views on three (fictitious) outlets that sold ecstasy. The three points of sale - a smart shop, a pharmacy and a club - each had its unique set of questions regarding the (preferred) conditions for sale and visitors were challenged to think about what they would find acceptable. The XTC-shop experiment offers new insights into the acceptability of the regulated sale of MDMA and concrete pointers on how this can be done in the most responsible way. Results are available in a concise report. Interestingly, the experiment also turned out to be a powerful advocacy tool that deepened the public debate on this heavily polarised topic. The conversation on-site focused on 'how' production, sales, and consumption can be better regulated, instead of repeating arguments around whether we should regulate or not. In the end, the Dutch Minister of Health visited the XTC shop along with a great number of local and national politicians. Media coverage was overwhelmingly positive and the shop to this day attracts ample international attention. We would love to tell you all about it in Liverpool!

SABRINA DUL

Drug Information Centre (DIZ)
Switzerland

Benefits and challenges of drug testing service in the middle of nightlife

For over twenty years, Saferparty has been offering drug checking service at parties in the city area of Zurich. Saferparty is the nightlife label of the Drug Information Centre (DIZ), an institution of harm reduction of the city of Zurich. This on-site service is supplementing the weekly drug checking services taking place in the offices of the DIZ. This input will focus on the long-term experience of Saferparty in on-site drug checking and its benefits and challenges, providing knowledge and expertise for similar services in nightlife settings. Currently, there are twelve parties per year where the team of Saferparty (consisting of social workers) is on-site together with a team of chemists and a mobile laboratory. All visitors are allowed to get their illegal substances analyzed anonymously and for free. Being present in the middle of one of the still most popular settings for recreational substance use offers a lot of possibilities: Reaching out to specific target groups (depending on the party), supplying safer use material where it is needed and used, informing about possible risks in nightlife (in relation to substances, behaviors, settings) where it is taking part. The goal: Making nightlife less risky and more enjoyable for all people spending the night together. However, there are many challenges going along with a drug checking and counselling service during parties. There were and still are various obstacles to overcome to make on-site drug checking a used as well as a useful service for its visitors. Networks and trust are still to be built between DIZ as a municipal institution and nightclubs, hosts and partygoers. Also, there is always a contradiction between the illegality of the substances in Switzerland, the club policy related to substances and the offer of a drug checking service on-site.

CHRISTOPHER EASSEY

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, The University of New South Wales
Australia

Monica Barratt

Enhancing Safety in Nightlife: A Systematic Review of Interventions Targeting Alcohol and Other Drug-related Harms in Licensed Entertainment Settings and Outdoor Music Festivals

Ensuring safety in night-time economies, particularly in licensed entertainment settings (LES) and outdoor music festivals (OMF), is a critical concern in the context of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) use. This systematic review assesses interventions targeting AOD harm in LES and OMF. Methods: A comprehensive search of nine electronic databases was conducted for peer-reviewed experimental and observational studies published between January 2010 and December 2021. Inclusion criteria required studies to be in English and focus on interventions addressing AOD-related harm in LES or OMF. Health, criminal justice, and behavioural outcomes were analysed, and methodological quality was evaluated using standardised tools. Results: Out of 48,303 screened studies, 100 met the inclusion criteria. Of these, 86 studies focused on reducing alcohol-related harm, 7 addressed illicit drug-related harm, and 7 examined both. The majority of studies (n=88) centred on LES and evaluated changes in laws/regulations (n=28) and/or multi-component interventions /policies (n=33). Multi-component interventions demonstrated promising results, with 72% of studies exhibiting strong quality and 85% reporting positive outcomes for health and criminal justice. Evidence also supported measures such as trading hour restrictions, medical services, and drug checking, albeit with a smaller evidence-base. Conversely, policing strategies e.g., drug detection dogs were associated with negative outcomes. Conclusion: The evidence shows many measures that can be used to enhance safety in nightlife settings, but also some for which the evidence shows either null or adverse effects. Further research is required to address illicit drug-related harm, identify effective strategies for OMF settings, and overcome study design limitations.

KRISTIN FELTMANN

STAD (Stockholm prevents Alcohol and Drug problems), Centre for Psychiatry Research, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet & Stockholm Health Care Services, Region Stockholm
Sweden

Bert Hauspie, Tobias Elgán and Johanna Gripenberg

Illicit drug use among electronic dance music festival attendees: Comparison of underreporting in Belgium and Sweden

Attendees of nightlife events often underreport their illicit drug use, but there has been limited research on country-specific differences and the reasons behind this underreporting. To address this gap, the 'Alama nightlife' project examined underreporting among attendees of electronic dance music (EDM) festivals in Sweden and Belgium using biological measurements, surveys (study 1), and interviews (study 2). In study 1, the participation included 669 festival attendees in Sweden (55% men) and 329 in Belgium (71% men). In Sweden, 3% self-reported recent use of illicit drugs other than cannabis, but 12% tested positive. In Belgium, 37% had self-reported recent use of illicit drugs other than cannabis, and 37% tested positive. The use of cocaine, ecstasy and amphetamine was underreported in Sweden. In Belgium, ecstasy use was overreported and amphetamine and heroin use were underreported. Test results and self-reports for various drugs showed slight to fair agreement in both countries (κ 0.00-0.38). In study 2, 54 nightlife goers in Sweden (49% men) and 97 in Belgium (78% men) participated. In Sweden, 38% reported past year use of illicit drugs, compared to 81% in Belgium. Swedish participants were more likely than Belgium participants to believe that drug use is underreported due to fear of legal consequences or overreported to oppose current drug policy. However, this belief was lower among drug users compared to non-drug users. Based on our sample, it appears that Belgian attendees of EDM festivals may use drugs more frequently and are less likely to underreport recent drug use compared to Swedish attendees. The difference could be attributed to differences in drug policy between the two countries.

KAT FORD

Bangor University
United Kingdom

Mark Bellis, Karen Hughes and Natasha Judd

Violence prevention in your pocket: a review of available UK smartphone applications marketed to enhance personal safety and prevent violence

Smartphone technology could provide a platform for violence prevention in nightlife settings. In the UK, evidence on the availability and user experience of smartphone applications (apps) marketed to prevent violence is underexplored. In May 2021, systematic searches were run in the UK Apple and Google Play platforms for smartphone apps marketed for personal safety or violence prevention. Apps were downloaded with online user reviews and ratings extracted. Apps were categorised according to their features and functionality. User reviews were sentiment rated (positive/neutral/negative) and thematically analysed. 86/503 applications met review criteria, with 52 (61%) providing full functionality for free. Over half (52%) were targeted towards the general population, with 16% and 13% targeting women and families respectively. Functionality varied: 22% provided an alarm, 71% sent alerts to pre-designated contacts, 34% had evidence capture and 26% included educational information. Overall, 71% of applications had a user rating ≥ 4 . Reviews for 61 apps were extracted (N=3,820), of which 52% had a positive sentiment (9% neutral, 39% negative). User reviews included positive consequences of app use. However, individuals also reported apps being unreliable, not working as described, having features that others may exploit, and having personal data and ethical issues. Findings have implications for the development of policy on apps to improve personal safety, especially given UK policy discussions about their utility. Without regulation or accreditation to ensure quality and reliability, emphasis should be placed on ensuring user safety; otherwise vulnerable individuals may place reliance on such technology for their safety in dangerous circumstances.

STACEY FORRESTER

Bass Coast Music Festival
Canada

Farah Sandu

Festival Harm Reduction: Thinking outside the tent

While Bass Coast music festival takes place over 4 days, the investment in safety is a year round effort. Typical festival harm reduction programs are contracted externally and engage with patrons for a short window of time, while Bass Coast's investment starts internally and the positive safety impacts are felt by the patrons, staff and performers alike. Everyone working the event (including musical acts) are asked to engage in pre-show learning in the form of videos on topics including caring for the river, bystander intervention, conflict, consent, substance use and cultural appropriation, after which they take a pop quiz! The 100-person volunteer Harm Reduction team completes a custom created course with 6 hours of self-paced learning in the area of reducing risk and supporting people having a hard time at the festival. How do crew and artists respond to being asked this by a music festival? Does the custom training better equip volunteers to support the safety of patrons? Come learn more about the rationale and impact of this unique, holistic approach to creating safer music festivals

ANCA FRINCULESCU

King's College London
United Kingdom

Nunzianda Frascione and Vincenzo Abbate

Cows, Barns and Drugs - Assessing portable instruments at music festivals

Globally, the proportion of the drug using population has increased considerably, with even higher levels seen amongst festival attendees. There is a major concern on how these drugs can be controlled and monitored, especially in nightlife settings. In light of this, advances in analytical techniques used on and off-site will be the focus of this talk, along with over-time changes in the illicit drug market. The qualitative analysis was performed on the Griffin G510 (Teledyne Flir), the Torion T-9 (PerkinElmer), and the Radian-ASAP (Waters). Their diagnostic ability was tested on street samples collected at summer music festivals in the UK. In addition, a quantitative nuclear magnetic resonance method was developed and validated on a 60 MHz benchtop unit from Nanalysis for the analysis of methylenedioxymethamphetamine in ecstasy tablets. Analytical methods for the drugs most commonly seen at festivals were successfully developed and validated on the Griffin G510 and the Radian-ASAP, while only partially validated on the Torion T-9. For tablets and drugs with low proportions of active ingredients, these three proved to be more powerful drug analysis instruments than those currently available. However, for the two portable GC-MS systems the long run times make them unviable in high volume settings such as festivals. The benchtop qNMR method confirmed that this technique is highly efficient and sufficient for quantitative analysis of ecstasy tablets and the higher dosed MDMA tablets seen in recent years highlights the importance of constantly monitoring the market.

MARINE GAUBERT

Fédération Addiction
France

Sacha Hertzog

Analyse ton Prod' network : coordinating a national network of drug checking services

Today, most of the organisations providing drug checking services in France (35) are members of Analyse ton Prod' network. The network is coordinated nationally by the Fédération Addiction under a steering committee is composed of five colleges ensuring the representation of people who have their drugs checked, self-help organizations, organizations doing interventions at parties, organizations collecting samples and labs. Analyse ton Prod' seeks to address the main challenges facing drug-checking in France: making drug-checking available everywhere in France, fully integrating drug-checking in the harm reduction toolset. The Fédération Addiction support the quality of drug-checking services by coordinating with the laboratories of the network internal quality controls. For example, the Fédération Addiction trained trainers for sample collection interview. These trainings are a way of making sure that drug checking fully integrates harm reduction principles. The Fédération Addiction has three main roles as coordinator of the network: organizing best practices exchanges on various subjects (communication, use of FTIR, evaluation, quality control), provide a common database for all the members and support project within the network such as remote drug checking services. The Fédération Addiction also represents the members of the network with the government to voice their concerns and proposals for the development of drug checking services in the country. To conclude, I want to show that Analyse ton prod' is an example that a strong coordination and organized exchanges can be a powerful tool for harm reduction organization in their day-to-day practice and in the development of their services.

JEN GERMAIN

Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group, Liverpool John Moores University
United Kingdom

The importance and use of data to inform violence prevention activity

The Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group (TIIG) is a surveillance system operating across areas within England and Wales. TIIG provides access to reliable data from Emergency Department (EDs), walk-in centres, Ambulance Services, Police, and Fire and Rescue Services, on a monthly basis, working to collate, standardise, process and analyse data, as well as improve the quality of data collected. Data used is non identifiable record level and is shared with local partners and agencies from across health, police, community safety and public health to use in injury and violence prevention initiatives. TIIG data relates to all intentional and unintentional injuries. However, with the development of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) within England and Wales and a renewed focus nationally to reduce serious violence using a public health data driven approach, recent focus has been on the creation of bespoke violence-related data hubs. TIIG is currently commissioned to develop, create and maintain data hubs for several VRU areas, who are all experiencing high levels of violence. These data hubs bring together multiple data sources allowing for identification of at-risk groups for violence, monitoring of trends and to target and evaluate interventions accordingly. In particular, TIIG data is used to support in creating a safer night-time economy through informing and evaluating interventions, supporting in licensing decisions and identification of assault hotspots. Whilst barriers to setting up effective data sharing remain, including capacity and resource constraints, technological and system changes, governance and data quality, models such as TIIG are effective in supporting local partners to target resources effectively, evidence performance, inform the direction of expenditure as well as reducing duplication of effort through the creation of centralised data sharing systems and platforms.

SARAH GRAMAN

Jellinek

The Netherlands

Challenges in Reaching and Educating International Partygoers in Amsterdam's Nightlife: Lessons from an Online Intervention

Amsterdam is renowned globally for its vibrant nightlife and attracts a significant number of international partygoers, with 1 in 10 visitors coming from abroad. While many engage in alcohol consumption, a smaller proportion also use cannabis and other drugs. This presents various health risks, some of which differ from those faced by the local population. To address and reduce risky substance use among international partygoers, Jellinek Prevention developed an online intervention between 2020 and 2022 as part of a broader strategy for this target group. The development of this intervention relied on the Party Panel study, which identified the risk behaviors and motivations of the target audience. By tailoring communication to align with their behaviors and preferences, the intervention aimed to encourage desired behaviors, such as reducing risky substance use. The resulting tool, "Partying in Amsterdam-Tool," was available in multiple languages, including English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Part one of the tool involved collecting information about the audience, their plans, and whether alcohol or other drugs were part of their agenda. The second part provided personalized information based on the earlier responses. Despite significant efforts in recruitment, including investing in sponsored social media advertisements, only a relatively small number of individuals (516) completed the first part of the tool. This indicated that the tool was not effective in reaching the target audience. Excessive alcohol and drug use among these partygoers are often surrounded by denial, trivialization, taboos, and shame, making them even more challenging to engage with for education, drug testing services, and first responders, as well as researchers. This highlights the importance of adopting an integrated approach to reach international partygoers through various means and locations. Strategies encompass policy and regulations (e.g., no security guards for first aid), accessible multilingual education, and training for professionals working with this diverse group. Emphasizing a comprehensive approach will be critical in addressing the unique challenges posed by the international partygoer community and ensuring their safety and well-being.

JODIE GRIGG

RMIT

Australia

Simon Lenton and Monica Barratt

Barriers to seeking help among Australian music festival attendees

Media reports suggest many festivalgoers who have died did not seek help from onsite medical services before falling critically unwell. While early intervention is crucial for reducing risk of drug-related deaths, the reasons why festivalgoers do not seek medical attention has received little attention. Therefore, this study investigated perceived and actual barriers to seeking help. Methods A mixed-methods study comprised qualitative interviews with festivalgoers and a quantitative online survey completed by almost 2000 Australian festivalgoers. Descriptive statistics were performed alongside regression analyses predicting discomfort seeking help. Inductive thematic analysis was used to examine the qualitative data. Results One-in-four festivalgoers reported they would have felt uncomfortable accessing onsite medical services after illicit drug use at the last festival attended. Younger age and female gender were associated with greater odds of discomfort. Key barriers included fear of legal issues (64%), negative treatment/judgment (43%), family being contacted (41%) and others seeing/stigma/embarrassment (32%). One-in-ten reported they should have ever accessed onsite medical. The main barriers were deciding symptoms weren't serious enough (55%) and legal concerns (33%). The qualitative data revealed mixed views, with half unlikely to seek help. Themes included stigma, legal and family consequences, concern about being ejected/banned, service incompetency, burdening and losing friends, and belief they could self-manage symptoms. Additionally, seeking help was sometimes physically or cognitively impossible without bystander intervention. Conclusions A substantial minority of festivalgoers may not seek help when needed. Barriers should be lowered via reviewing onsite medical and drug policing policies/practices, including considering decriminalising use/possession, and campaigns/messaging to encourage help seeking.

NINA-KATRI GUSTAFSSON

STAD, Centre for Psychiatry Research, KI
Sweden

Kristin Feltmann, Tobias Elgán, Johanna Gripenberg

Sustained effects of an intervention in an increasingly drug liberal world: A 20-Year Follow-Up of the intervention 'Clubs against drugs' in Stockholm

INTRODUCTION: 'Clubs against Drugs', is a community-based multi-component prevention program targeting illicit drugs in licensed premises and implemented in 2003. Program components are collaboration, training of staff, improved enforcement, environmental changes, and media advocacy. Earlier studies have demonstrated improvements in entry refusal rates of obviously drug-intoxicated guests over time. This study's aim is to investigate the long-term effects of this strategy. **METHODS:** Cross-sectional data was collected in 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2023. Three research teams, each consisting of two actors and three observers, attempted to visit 139 licensed premises in Stockholm city during the weekend, including all larger clubs and bars with doormen. The professional male actors (pseudo-patrons) were trained by an expert panel to enact standardized scenes portraying obvious drug-intoxication. The main outcome was whether actors were denied entry or not. If allowed entry, two additional scenes were performed at the bar and at the lavatories. Observations and quotes were collected during visits. **RESULTS:** During the 20-year follow-up in 2023, preliminary results reveal a refusal rate of 43.2%, which is considerable higher than 7.5% at baseline and 27.0% 2004, but lower than 65.5% 2008. Teams made several observations of more liberal norms manifested in comments from staff and openly being offered to buy illicit drugs. **CONCLUSIONS:** While the study demonstrates that some of the effect of the intervention can be sustained over a longer period, observations imply that the norms regarding drug use have become more liberal compared to earlier, also among staff which might impact refusal rates negatively.

BERT HAUSPIE

Hogent University of Applied Sciences and Arts.
Belgium

Edith Van Dyck, Tina Van Havere and Koen Ponnet

Perceptions of drug-related interventions at music festivals

Music festivals have been proven archetypal settings for the use of alcohol and other drugs. In order to deal with substance use in this particular setting different drug-related strategies are currently implemented in Belgium, ranging from prevention, harm reduction, health care, to law enforcement strategies. These strategies, designed to reduce drug use and/or related harms, have not always demonstrated to be effective or yet remain uninvestigated in terms of effectiveness. Consequently, following research question was composed: How do festival attendees and -stakeholders perceive the impact of implemented drug-related interventions at music festivals? In this study a special focus was put on the perceived impact of these different interventions on the behavior of people who use drugs (PWUD). In total 15 different drug-related interventions were included. Accordingly, a mixed-method design was conducted, combining a quantitative part (experience sampling method) and qualitative part (semi-structured interviews). In total, 320 festival attendees and 44 festival stakeholders participated in this study. The sample of festival attendees consisted of participants with a high prevalence rate in terms of (illegal) substance use. Overall, none of the drug-related interventions were believed to have a straightforward impact on substance use frequency. Nonetheless, harm reduction actions were believed to reduce substance use-related risks, while repressive actions were presumed to lead to riskier use. Moreover, specific findings will be presented related to the different interventions under study.

KIMBERLEY HILL

The Centre for Psychological Research, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
United Kingdom

Mattias Johansson, Joanne Smith, Emma Davies

“Putting the social back into life for non-drinkers”: Connecting through Conscious Clubbing Dance

Individuals abstaining from alcohol consumption or recovering from dependency frequently report social contexts encourage consumption. Conscious clubbing events exclude alcohol and drugs, but little is known about potential benefits. This study provided an in-depth, qualitative insight into conscious clubbing event experiences. 12 conscious clubbing event attendees and facilitators aged 25-55 from across Europe participated in semi-structured photo-elicitation interviews, analysed using thematic analysis. Participants provided conscious clubbing artefacts or photographs to prompt responses related to pre, within and post event experiences. Participants provided rich descriptions, with main themes highlighting how conscious clubbing enhanced health, healing and growth, aiding recovery from substance dependency and trauma. Participants positioned conscious clubbing dance as a modern ritual, with symbolic and ritualistic preparations and experiences promoting storytelling and self-discovery. Connecting through unchoreographed but synchronised movement, participants engaged in powerful liminal journeys and transformative experiences detached from life constraints. Importantly, inclusive conscious clubbing communities provided a sense of meaning and belonging away from substance use pressures and harms, far beyond events themselves. This was particularly important for those marginalised within society. Findings provide in-depth insights in relation to conscious clubbing dance event benefits and experiences, providing novel harm prevention implications. For example, such events could be incorporated into workplaces or Universities and future research should consider participatory barriers, event sustainability and misconceptions to increase participation.

JOHN HUGHES

Liverpool Nightlife CIC

UK

40 years working in Liverpool's NTE

I have worked in Liverpool's NTE for 39 years from a startup family business, a thriving nightclub, leading one the largest bar groups within the city to now driving a CIC. I am very passionate about Liverpool as a city playing a huge role in operating between the lines of the city centre hospitality scene to ensure the centre as whole is safe, enjoyable and attractive for locals, tourists and businesses alike. Over my 39 years' experience in the city centre nightlife scene and in the past 2 years during the pandemic and more recently the cost-of-living crisis I have continually fought and banged every drum possible to keep the hospitality sector in the spot light to help it keep ticking over and build back up again. I am the go-to contact for a lot of the city centre stakeholders across public, private and emergency service sectors to act as the bridge to business's with in the hospitality sector dedicating my own time working on campaigns, projects, initiatives and attending meetings with in the city centre . I also undertake pro bono media with newspapers, radios or social media all in the name of ensuring hospitality in the city is on the map and essential services, funding and events are secured. I am a great advocate of the night time economy which essentially covers all hospitality ensuring visitors feel safe and welcome whilst playing an important role in the key hard hitting campaigns of the city

CHARLOTTE IRLAM

Merseyside Police
United Kingdom

Preventing Sexual Violence in the Night-time Economy

Operation Empower is Merseyside Police's proactive response, which seeks to prevent sexual violence in open spaces, but more specifically within the Night-time economy. Taking learning from other forces, officers are trained to observe individuals and seek those who are displaying signs of predatory behaviour towards women and girls. This behaviour would include leering, unwanted contact, loitering without good reason or other indication that their behaviour that is making people feel unsafe. Officers would then seek to disrupt this behaviour, which could include arrest or words of advice. Officers are deployed in both plain clothes and uniform and would also ensure that any potential vulnerable persons are safeguarded. The officers are deployed on foot, to NTE hotspot locations including outside nightclubs, takeaway premises and taxi ranks. The operation is supported by the local authority CCTV team (City Watch) and compliments other bystander training which has been delivered street pastors and licensed premises staff by the local authority. This operation also supports wider partnership working, through the Sexual Violence in the Night-time Economy Group which seeks to reduce offending, changing behaviours and supporting survivors of sexual crimes. Although the Operation has focused heavily in Liverpool city centre, the officers who have been trained are able to follow a similar approach in other NTE town centres across Merseyside.

JACOB JEFFREY

Office For Health Improvement And Disparities
United Kingdom

Alberto Oteo

OHID Early Warning System (EWS)

The drugs early warning system (EWS) at the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID, DHSC) aims to monitor and alert to new and emerging trends in substance misuse. It is comprised of two data streams: seizures data, from the national crime agency (NCA) and toxicology data, and drug toxicity data in A&E departments from the Identification of new psychoactive substances project (IONA) led by the University of Newcastle. We have collected data on over 429,000 drug seizures from the National Crime Agency and 1,653 cases from IONA since 2015, giving us a high-resolution picture of substance use over time within the UK. The EWS is a useful tool to alert to immediate changes in substance misuse and has led to several first-UK detections and information on effects of first exposure. It has helped to monitor trends and new detections of substances known to be used in nightlife and recreational settings such as synthetic cathinones, phenethylamines, or tryptamines and to follow trends of more common drugs like ketamine and other hallucinogens. IONA also allows us to look at frequent combinations of substances and discrepancies between reported use and detections. Seizures data allows us to monitor the adulteration of substances. We will present findings from our analysis of 7 years of data collection showing regional differences and demographic characteristics, focusing on drugs that are commonly used in nightlife and recreational settings

GUY JONES

The Loop

United Kingdom

Adam Winstock and Uhna Raath

Dealing with Drug Emergencies – A scenario-based video resource for students (Staying Safer Programme)

Many young people experience short lived unwanted experiences following the use of alcohol and other drug, often in the presence of their mates. Often early recognition and knowing what to do and how to keep people safe can avoid deterioration and reduce risk. Aim – to show the value of video-based education in reducing drug related harm among young people. Method – we will describe the development of an online video training package as part of the Staying Safe Programme that aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to common alcohol and drug-related emergencies, while emphasizing the importance of seeking timely professional help. Excerpts from the training package that incorporates scenario-based learning, involving students and experts in drugs and emergency medicine, to create an innovative, engaging, and enjoyable learning experience will be shown. Results – early feedback and evaluation results will be discussed to show (we hope) how our video can support the accurate identification the signs and symptoms of emergencies and knowing what to do and when to call for help. Discussion - by involving experts in drugs and emergency medicine, the training ensures the accuracy and reliability of the information provided. The training package concludes by summarizing key harm reduction strategies to avoid situations that may lead to the need for emergency medical treatment. Its innovative, engaging, and fun approach ensures that students gain the necessary knowledge and skills to respond appropriately to emergencies. , promoting overall student safety and well-being.

JAMES JONES

Hitch

United Kingdom

Saoirse Codling and Nick Godbehere

Empowering Change: The Crucial Role of Active Bystanders in Combating Gender-Based Violence

Using the platform of our work in gender based violence we will explore the role that bystander theory can play in reducing GBV. This session will discuss what bystander theory is, how bystander theory can be applied in social marketing, using our work as a case study. We will also provide insight into how bystander theory can be used in other work, using case studies and activities to allow participants to consider the relevant issues and behaviours that underpin the use of bystander theory in social marketing and behaviour change.

EVA KALIS

Jellinek

The Netherlands

Partying (and studying) in Amsterdam: A Multi-Component Prevention Approach for International Students

About 12% of the Dutch student population comprises international students who are drawn to the Netherlands, particularly the vibrant city of Amsterdam, for a foreign study experience. While Dutch universities enjoy a positive international reputation, research indicates that the primary motivation for studying abroad is to seek an adventurous and social experience. International students are eager to make new contacts and gain unique experiences, with a strong focus on the social aspects rather than the academic content or academic performance. This emphasis on experience is often accompanied by a more relaxed lifestyle, including partying and substance use. Amsterdam's renowned nightlife adds to the allure, attracting a significant number of international students. The perceived liberal attitude towards substance use in the Netherlands might also contribute to their decision to choose the country for their international study experience. While most international students thoroughly enjoy their time in the Netherlands, it is crucial to acknowledge that they may face additional challenges compared to their Dutch counterparts. These challenges include being distant from their familiar social environment, adapting to a new nightlife culture with different social norms, and unfamiliarity with Dutch alcohol and drug policies, prevention interventions, and the healthcare system. Consequently, this heightened exposure to risk factors increases the potential for substance use problems. This presentation aims to explore the main risk factors associated with substance use among international students in nightlife settings. Moreover, it highlights the best practices employed within a multi-component prevention approach implemented in Amsterdam to educate and support international students during their stay in the city. By addressing these challenges proactively, we can foster a safer and more enjoyable study experience for international students in Amsterdam.

ALEXANDRA KARDEN

Medical University of Vienna
Austria

Anton Luf

The highs and lows of ecstasy

Since the beginning of Drug Checking in Vienna, ecstasy-tablets have been among the substances most often submitted for analysis. Throughout the years, the composition of tablets available on the market have repeatedly undergone changes. After a few years of low adulteration rates, recently, tablets adulterated or substituted with synthetic cathinones re-emerged and posed challenges for harm reduction and in specific for drug checking services both in terms of psychosocial interventions and analytical measures. In the first half of 2023, 20% of ecstasy-tablets showed adulteration or substitution with other psychoactive substances than MDMA, the highest adulteration rate in ten years. In 2022 this number was at 18% and at only 5% in 2019, in comparison. Most recently, in several ecstasy tablets of various appearance different tryptamines instead of MDMA were identified. The unexpected effects of tryptamines can be overwhelming to unaware users and deleterious to health. Albeit this development, the quantitative analysis showed that those tablets actually containing MDMA, presented an extremely wide dosage range. Thus, it is safe to say that the ecstasy market is very dynamic and predictions about future developments are almost impossible, so that constant vigilance is essential. Concludingly, drug checking services nowadays have to anticipate the phenomena named above and have to invest accordingly in their services to safeguard the health of their clients and people who use drugs general.

JOSEPH KIRBY

The Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce,
Ireland

Martin Davoren and Kate Gibney

Delivering drugs, alcohol, and sexual health intervention opportunities via a mobile health unit within the night-time economy

Previous research notes the interaction of risk taking in the areas of drugs, alcohol and sexual health. This is more pronounced among young people. This novel project, combining the work of HSE Drug and Alcohol Services, Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force, the Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Services and the Sexual Health Centre, will deliver drug, alcohol and sexual health information and support directly into the night-time. Implementation In July 2021, the Sexual Health Centre in collaboration with the HSE Drug and Alcohol Services launched DASH (Drugs, Alcohol & Sexual Health), a mobile health unit. This unit brings services into the community and removing the barriers of time and service location for those most at risk of negative health outcomes. Results In 2022, DASH reported 2,721 engagements across the community. It facilitated 115 Rapid Hepatitis C testing opportunities and 547 HIV testing opportunities. It currently has almost 400 followers on social media. In 2023, DASH will launch into the night-time economy, aiming to: - Remain a continuing presence in the night-time economy across Cork and Kerry to build trust and become a normal aspect of the environment. - Foster an environment where accessing drug, alcohol and sexual health information is normalised, thus removing stigma and shame. - Furnish young people with health promotion material, signposting services and resources - Deliver brief interventions directly to young people in the night-time economy to enable young people to make healthier choices and improve their health outcomes.

CARLY LIGHTOWLERS

Liverpool John Moores University
United Kingdom

Alcohol-related violence: is the night-time economy wholly to blame?

Whilst the night-time economy is associated with public drunkenness and associated violence, there have been longstanding challenges to effectively isolating the effects of off-licensed premises on violence. Yet this is a crucial component for understanding of the role alcohol plays in violence generally, and specifically within the home. Licensed premises closures introduced through public health restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic have made it possible, for the first time, to isolate the impact of the off-trade on violent crime. This study makes use of UK Home Office police recorded violent crime data for England to run growth curve models, exploiting this variation in off- and on-trade availability, to examine the association between alcohol availability and violence. Our findings show that the association between alcohol and violent crime was amplified in periods in which on-licensed premises were closed. They challenge the assumption that on-licensed premises and the NTE in which they cluster are wholly driving the alcohol-related violence problem and underscore the importance of disaggregating the impact of on- and off-licensed premise sales and associated alcohol consumption on violence. They provide valuable insight into the role off-trade alcohol sales and home drinking play in alcohol related violence - applicable to areas including alcohol licensing and pricing (including taxation policy) and violence reduction. Moreover, the findings add to the importance of a distinct focus on off-licensed premises and their contribution to crime/violence as well as to an emerging body of work denoting the importance of distinct consideration of alcohol's role in domestic violence.

ANTON LUF

Vienna Addiction Services
Austria

Alexandra Karden

Not so natural: Cannabis adulterated with highly active chemicals

Adulteration of cannabis with highly potent synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs) is a new phenomenon in many European countries which presents a great health risk to cannabis users. Early awareness and preparedness has been driven by the international cooperation of drug checking organizations, which have a unique insight into the market. In Vienna, the first adulterated sample occurred in November 2020. Since then, a number of 12 structurally different SCRAs could be identified in samples submitted as cannabis. In 2022, the chemical analysis revealed, that 22% of cannabis samples at checkit! were laced with SCRAs, with the most prevalent substance being MDMB-4en-PINACA, a highly potent CB1-receptor agonist. As cannabis is a natural product, its chemical analysis is often neither requested by users nor offered by drug checking services. Considering that cannabis has the highest consumption prevalence in Europe among the illicit substances, targeting cannabis users can have a huge impact on harm reduction services. The emergence of synthetic adulteration required a quick response to prevent negative health outcomes due to unintentional consumption. Among others, it meant increasing trust in and awareness of such services among a hitherto relatively underrepresented target group and adapting analytical methods. However, this phenomenon has shown again that the drug market is highly dynamic and predicting future developments is close to impossible. Concludingly, harm reduction services need to invest in structural and technical flexibility in order to respond as quickly as possible to future challenges.

REBECA MARQUES ROCHA

Central European University/Youth RISE
Austria

Exploring Recreational Drug Use Among Youth: Co-Construction Processes of Harm Reduction in Party Subcultures

Scholars investigating recreational drug use among young people have embraced various perspectives concerning the impact of cultural structures and personal choice on drug-taking decisions and the dissemination of knowledge. Differentiating drug objects from cultural consumption practices, they commonly opted for either one as the focal point of analysis. Consequently, these approaches grapple with the task of elucidating the ways in which these factors intersect with drug consumption in specific cases, often leading to a probabilistic approach where certain factors are more or less prone to influencing drug use. Through assemblage thinking, this research identifies different forces, factors and actors operating in the rave subcultures and their strategies in light of the social phenomena connected to drug use. This study combines diverse interpretive research methods, namely in-depth qualitative interviews with young party collective organisers, participatory action research in drug-checking harm reduction services, netnography and autoethnography. The evidence outlined in this discussion indicates that drug-related practices in recreational settings are a co-construction process involving party organizers and party-goers. These dynamics are also influenced by factors, actors and forces, such as the practices of other party collectives, the local legal framework, the drugs market, and the physical features of party spaces. The interplay of these forces results in a complex and context-situated social phenomenon. Acknowledging these aspects' roles in the behaviours observed in such context is the first step to understanding how these settings can be modified to operate differently, unleashing positive and safer outcomes and identifying the ways in which youngsters co-create and engage with their own harm reduction practices.

REN MASETTI

National Health Service (NHS)
United Kingdom

Conversations in the Dark - Harm reduction, Covid 19 and Cryptomarket Suppliers

This project involved online conversations between a health professional and UK-based Cryptomarket Suppliers of NPS and other substances. Online markets are a popular source of club-drug supply in the UK. This resulted in a discussion paper that explored the feasibility of suppliers of illicit drugs being an innovative source of information regarding changes in the drug market and in usage both during and after the pandemic. The paper also discusses whether it is possible to engage individual sellers in the promotion of public health and harm reduction messages. It goes on to explore and challenge the assumption that suppliers of illicit drugs are solely motivated by financial gain and are not willing to engage in promoting health-related activity. Drug supply remains a heavily stigmatised activity and research is limited. With the exception of the EMCDDA special report: COVID-19 and drugs – "Drug supply via darknet markets" (May 2020), Van Hout et al, " 'Silk Road', the virtual drug marketplace: A single case study" (2013), and Munksgaard and Martin, "How and why vendors sell on crypto-markets", Australian Institute of Criminology, (Oct 2020) this area has rarely been studied. This submission offers a descriptive insight into a growing marketplace and culture that is used by clubbers in the UK and around the world.

KAREN MAXWELL

Stirling University
United Kingdom

Carol Emslie and Niamh Fitzgerald

Understanding public opinion on the societal impacts of later opening of nightlife venues: Deliberative Focus Groups

International evidence demonstrates that extensions in late-night opening of nightlife venues are linked to increased intoxication, assaults, injuries, disorder, and burden on public services. Between 2017 and 2019, two different processes led to extensions to opening hours of 10 nightclubs in Glasgow (a 1-hour extension) and ~40 nightlife venues in Aberdeen (up to 2-hours extension) in Scotland, UK. The ELEPHANT study is a mixed-methods evaluation of this natural experiment. We present evidence from one strand of this study: deliberative focus groups with the public (16 focus groups, n=42), exploring two questions: 1) What do the public think about alcohol harms in society and the potential impact of longer opening hours? 2) What is the public's vision for the future of the Night-Time Economy (NTE) post-covid? Deliberative focus groups aim to inform and allow for discussion of evidence, providing higher quality evidence for policy-makers. Our findings demonstrate that the public engaged with evidence about alcohol harms but found it difficult to envision a future NTE not centring around alcohol. Safety in the NTE was a common theme, particularly the need for better transport and better funded services (ambulance, police, emergency departments) to ameliorate the negative outcomes of late-night drinking, such as assaults and pressure on emergency services. Shifting the culture around attitudes to alcohol was discussed, with a mixture of hope and doubt as to whether this was possible. The public placed emphasis on better funded services rather than tackling problematic alcohol-use as a solution to alcohol-related harms in society.

MARK MCCORMACK

University of Liverpool
United Kingdom

Fiona Measham

The Impact of COVID-19 on Queer Creatives Working in London's Nightlife

This paper examines the impact of social lockdowns on queer creatives and queer night-life communities in London. In the UK, nightclubs closed for 16 months from March 2020 to July 2021 with other licenced premises periodically closed across the course of three national lockdowns and varying regional restrictions. The paper is based on a research study undertaken between July 2021 and September 2021, funded by Arts Council England. It draws on a survey of queer creatives (n=115), alongside seven focus groups and six in-depth interviews (n=43) with members of London's queer creative industries and nightlife communities, including artists, producers, and venue owners. Social lockdowns impacted all areas of queer creatives lives, and in this presentation we document this through economic impact, on health and wellbeing, and culture and community. We document the profound economic impact of lockdown, with work vanishing and grants failing to cover many costs. We also show the diverse impact on health and well-being—while respondents felt a loss and experienced anxiety and stress, there was an initial relief that speaks to how queer nightlife was not sustainable prior to COVID-19. We also draw out how the dynamics of urban London impacted on the experience of lockdowns. Some participants left London or felt depressed because of the costs of London living without its benefits, yet moving out of London meant separation from queer communities. Others started to explore and inhabit the city in different ways, such as making a point of socialising with friends in public parks or exploring peripheral open spaces such as Hackney Marshes. We also consider how the nature of London as a capital city afforded greater support but also more difficulties for queer nightlife. We conclude by making recommendations for how queer creatives and queer nightlife can be supported to a more sustainable future.

FIONA MEASHAM

University of Liverpool
United Kingdom

The End of The Pilot Stage! The long and winding road to nightlife harm reduction

A wide range of drug checking, forensic testing and welfare services have proliferated in the last decade in licensed leisure settings in many countries in Europe, Australasia, North and Central America, for harm reduction, public health and intelligence purposes, supported by a growing academic evidence base. This paper considers developments in relation to how different agencies, sectors and disciplines operate in nightlife settings, in often legally, politically and commercially sensitive and fluid contexts. Particular consideration will be given to the transition from the first wave of event-based drug checking and testing pilots by harm reduction and volunteer-led NGOs to the second wave of regular community-based testing services being commissioned and integrated into broader academic, public health and drug treatment services. With 15 years' experience working in this field – as an academic, policy advisor and service provider – Measham will reflect on some of the past and ongoing challenges; provide illustrations of how evaluations, communications, licensing, funding, insurance and best practice remain fraught with complexity; and explore possible future pathways for nightlife harm reduction.

FERNANDO MENDES

IREFREA

Portugal

Irma Brito, Maria do Rosário Mendes and Paulo Anjos

Project NSCCP - community based healthy nightlife

The NSCCP (Healthy Nightlife in Portugal) 2018-2021 project aimed to create an Observatory and increase safety and quality of life in nightlife settings in 25 cities in the Centre Region, based on 2 axes of intervention: I. Organisational and community empowerment through strengthening policies to promote healthy nightlife and networking/partnership II. Raising awareness about health, safety, and quality of life related to healthy nightlife. Activities: Organisational and community empowerment through critical thinking, community-based work and strengthening policies to promote healthy nightlife environments. Health literacy related to nightlife (healthy lifestyles and conditions for enjoying urban spaces reducing interpersonal violence, social disturbance, and harmful consumption) and road prevention. The Centre region covers around 1,663,772 residents, 17% of the population of mainland Portugal, and much of it took place during the COVID pandemic. A complex intervention was designed with 17 sub-projects, 12 of which were to be community-based implemented in each municipality. 109 activities were carried out, involving 2861 people directly and 5413 indirectly. 17 reports were produced to identify and characterise the municipality's needs and 12 community-based sub-projects were implemented to address the problems identified. In terms of promoting health literacy, 43 sensitisation, awareness-raising and/or training actions were carried out for young people and their families in different contexts (associations, schools street.) 50 training actions for technicians from public and private organisations with responsibility for intervention in this area (local authorities, security forces, health, social action, the recreational industry, education and the media) multiple information, awareness-raising and awareness-raising actions for a variety of audiences, including workshops, debates, seminars, forums and others and news items to publicise and disseminate activities. The NSCCP Observatory was created, whose mission is: to draw up and implement an evaluation protocol for monitoring the actions and results of community-based interventions in the context of night-time recreation and to develop methodological guides for community-based intervention by municipalities and integration into local authority strategies.

FERNANDO MENDES

IREFREA

Portugal

Pedro Fins, Pedro Pereira and Mónica Fagundes

Healthy Nightlife in Azores Region

Recreational nightlife plays an important role in the city's economy and the young people's lives, but, in several situations, it's associated with the disruption of healthy lifestyle habits and with a multiplicity of risk factors in multiple areas. The Autonomous Region of the Azores is one of the regions in Portugal with the highest indicators of consumption, of cannabinoids and new substances. The insularity alone can potentiate some consumption behaviors but if we combine this with a huge number of festivals and festivals associated with the "Festa do Mar" that involves almost all the islands of the archipelago in which there is a huge youth mobility accompanying these parties with very high consumption of alcohol and other illicit substances. IREFREA Portugal was invited to established partnerships with the Health Regional department and the Addition Regional Services) to implement the night life project in some islands and cities (7) of Azores. This project aims building capacities among the social actors that directly or indirectly are involved in the prevention/intervention of the night life problematic problems. Therefore, the project's main target publics are nightlife industry (bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and hotels) and others. The main purpose of the activities of the project is to reinforce the cooperation, institutional capacity, and networking, through the construction of mechanisms of articulation at regional and sub-regional levels of the 7 municipalities involved. The goal is to improve the health and security conditions in recreational nightlife settings and to empower communities, involving them in this process.

EVELIEN METTIVIER MEIJER

Jellinek

Netherlands

Antenna Amsterdam; 30 years of local drug monitoring

Amsterdam Antenna is an annual research study in Amsterdam. Qualitative and quantitative data are collected every year, to document recreational substance use among adolescents and young adults. It has done so every year since 1993. The researchers use a variety of sources: interviews with a nightlife panel of insiders who report on trendsetting nightlife scenes; interviews with a vulnerable youth panel, which includes professionals who work with neighbourhood youth; an annual survey using questionnaires to gather quantitative data about substance use in specific target groups, which vary from year to year; and analyses of testing results from the Amsterdam drug checking services. Altogether, the information obtained from those components produces a diversified picture of trends and patterns in Amsterdam's world of recreational substances. This time we will present the results of Antenna 2022: Alcohol and drug use in clubs and festivals in Amsterdam. It shows that 'traditional' partydrugs like alcohol, XTC, speed and cocaine are still popular. The party scene is back on its feet after Covid-19. Other substances, like ketamine and more recently the research chemical 3-MMC, are also part of the palette of substances used in nightlife scenes in Amsterdam. We will discuss minor changes, but also the stable position that some substances have acquired over the years.

FLORIAN MEYER

Drug Information Centre (DIZ)
Switzerland

Dominique Schori

Drug checking in the middle of nightlife – Zurich's innovative Drug Checking approach

In spring 2023, the city parliament of Zurich decided that the Zurich Drug Information Centre (DIZ) should expand its drug checking services significantly. In 2022, around 3,000 substances were handed in for analysis at the walk-in-service and at the mobile service at parties. The new service will massively increase capacity. With a worldwide new approach, a walk-in drug checking in the middle of the nightlife with a mobile HPLC laboratory, the advantages of both existing services are combined and the low threshold is increased. The new service will be located in the office of Flora Dora, a counselling service for sex workers. The presentation focuses on the opportunities and risks of this new service, which will open in November 2023. Conceptually, the aim is to provide different target groups (partygoers, sex workers, marginalised groups, minors) with diverse needs with the lowest possible threshold access to drug checking and counselling. At the same time, it will be important to monitor the influence on the dynamics in Zurich's nightlife district (the so called Langstrassenquartier) on different levels (trade, consumption etc.) and to derive possible consequences.

NIKHIL MISRA

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Trust
UK

Nicole Russel, Kristian Tattam

The KnifeSavers Bleeding Control Campaign - A Public Access Approach to Population Empowerment

Knife Crime remains a leading cause of mortality in the UK with major haemorrhage a preventable cause of death. KnifeSavers is a charitable social enterprise originating from Liverpool's NHS Major Trauma Centre, created by trauma clinicians, and its aims are to educate and empower the public how to control major bleeding, with a significant focus on the nighttime economy. There are three pillars of the campaign - public education, distribution of bleeding control packs (containing specialist medical dressings) and cabinets and public awareness campaign of the fatal risks of a single knife wound. Since the inception of the campaign in 2019 almost 3000 people from a wide cross-section of society have been trained by the clinicians from KnifeSavers, including bar and door staff of nighttime economy venues and taxi drivers covering these areas. Almost 1600 bleeding control packs have been distributed around the Merseyside region, with public access cabinets imminently about to be installed. The campaign is evaluated regularly including surveys and interviews. Pre and post-course surveys assessed the experience of participants. Differences in proportions were calculated for the category responses pre and post-course. Themes regarding participant experiences were deduced from the data. There were a total of 167 participants and the data showed statistically significant improvements in willingness, preparedness and comfort level dealing with a bleeding wound after the course. Participants reported positively on the course design and feeling empowered, educated and supported. This study shows the campaign's bleeding control education is an effective intervention to improve public preparedness.

CATHY MONTGOMERY

Liverpool John Moores University
United Kingdom

Harry Sumnall

How do users perceive risk in relation to illicit drugs?

Technical definitions and decision making on 'risk' typically takes into account the probability of a particular (harmful) outcome taking place and the severity of that outcome. This is especially relevant with recreational substance use, where drug testing and information about potential risks need to be communicated to substance users in a timely manner. However, work in practical fields such as medicine and developing technologies (e.g. nuclear power, GM food) suggests that when members of the public consider and explain risk they do so in non-technical ways. Previous research suggests that risk perception is informed by factors such as characteristics of the risk communicator the perceived voluntariness of the risk (i.e. does the individual think they have control over the risk) and the level of dread it invokes emotional (affective) responses (e.g. fear and anxiety) ethnicity and gender experiences of discrimination and stigmatisation. Understanding public risk perception is important in order to develop effective health risk communications. Risk communications are likely to only be persuasive and efficacious if the communicator has a good understanding of how the message recipients perceive risk. However, despite risks of harm being significant (including the risk of death), there has been minimal research on risk perception and the role of trust and credibility in relation to communications around harms emerging from illicit drug use. This study investigated how substance users perceive risk in relation to illicit substances, which could help us inform communication of risks related to illicit substances in the night-time economy. Participants were recruited to take part in an online survey from the UK, Switzerland and Australia. Overall 1100 participants completed the survey and analyses of the data are underway and will be completed over the summer.

ANDRÉ MÜRNER

Pharmaceutical Control Laboratory, Health Office, Health and Social Welfare
Department, State of Berne
Switzerland

Daniel Allemann, Jessica Balsiger and Manuela Langos-Mabboux

25 years of drug checking with a mobile high-tech lab at parties in Switzerland

For more than 25 years the mobile lab unit is testing so called "Party Drugs" on the dance floor. In cooperation with addiction support organizations Contact Bern, Drug information center Zurich, Addiction support region Basel, NuitBlanche? Geneva and Drug information Luzern the team has tested more than 6000 samples at more than 250 parties. The method of choice for reliable chemical analysis in the field is high performance liquid chromatography coupled with diode-array detector (HPLC-DAD), which includes separation of multicomponent samples coupled with spectroscopic detection, a well-established analytical technique. Compared to simpler practices (Colour tests, thin layer chromatography, infrared spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy etc.), HPLC-DAD allows for qualitative and quantitative determination of compounds in complex drug samples (impurities, pharmacological active additives, excipients). With our system more than 160 substances have been reliably characterised. The mobile lab has a capacity of about 10 samples per hour. Clients can have their samples analysed free of cost and anonymously. Each client attends a structured counselling session with social workers. The implicit scientific background of the lab reinforces the credibility of the information provided concerning potentially risky substances and/or behaviour. In cases of unknown or dangerous compounds, hazardous combinations or high doses, the potential consumers and - if necessary - a greater public is warned with appropriate means (www.saferparty.ch). On a long-term view attending about 12 parties per year together with the stationary facilities gives an insight into the situation on the illegal market regarding new drugs, changes in consumption trends and associated health risks.

PHILIP MULLALLY

Merseyside Police
United Kingdom

The role of Hot Spots Policing in reducing Serious Violence in the night time economy

Between July 2022 and March 2023 Merseyside Police used Home Office GRIP funding to target serious violence across the Force's highest crime and harm hotspots. Analysts identified twelve serious violent crime hotspots measuring an average of 300m² across Merseyside. The twelve hotspots represent 0.5% of Merseyside's geographical area but contribute significantly to the serious violent crime rate and a number of the hotspots feature in the Night Time Economy areas of Merseyside. In the twelve-month period ending 31st March 2022, 23% of reported serious violent crime occurred within these hotspots. These areas were geo-fenced to allow for the collection of GPS data from Police radios issued to officers deployed to conduct foot patrols. On a randomised schedule uniformed officers from Merseyside Police delivered foot patrol to between four and seven of the hotspots per day. On a scheduled deployment day each hotspot received two thirty-minute periods of high visibility foot patrol. Officers deployed on late shifts, between 15:30 and 00:00, to cover the majority of the peak serious violent crime hours. Results showed that there was a 36% reduction in serious violent crime during the deployment phase compared to the same period of the previous year. There was no significant difference in serious violent crime volumes on deployment days compared to non-deployment. This lends support to residual deterrence theory which proposes that the benefits of a police intervention can persist beyond the intervention period. In this case, the random deployment schedule may have caused offenders to feel like there was a greater chance of apprehension on all days, not only on deployment days.

ANDY NEWTON

Nottingham Trent University
United Kingdom

James Hunter

Why are there streets where only women and girls are victimised in the NTE? An analysis of violent and sexual offences across Essex

The idea of opportunity structures prevailing at the street level has become well-established within the crime and place literature, and spatial and temporal concentrations of violence are well established in the Night-Time Economy (NTE). Considerable attention has also focused on uncovering the importance of crime generators, crime attractors, and street characteristics in shaping these opportunity structures. Little attention, however, has been paid to identifying and analysing whether there are gender differences in the profile of NTE street victimisation. This paper analyses police-recorded violent and sexual offences occurring in public places (therefore excluding domestic violence) at the street level between 2018 and 2021. It identifies four types of street profiles in the NTE - streets where the victimisation profile is (i) women and girl victims, (ii) male only, (iii) mixed, and (iv) streets where no recorded violent or sexual victimisation occurs. This paper explores potential explanations of these findings – and asks what is distinctive about the type, location, and characteristics of those these four gender typologies of victimisation at the street level in the NTE. Drawing upon a range of official data sources to construct a contextual profile of the street network across Essex (including the presence of different crime generators and attractors), the paper presents a multivariate analysis of the location and drivers of gender-based patterns of violent and sexual victimisation in the NTE.

BRYONY PARRY

Wales Violence Prevention Unit, Public Health Wales
United Kingdom

Emma Barton

#SafeToSay: Engaging Men in Sexual Harassment Prevention

Sexual harassment is a widespread problem within society. Occurring on a continuum of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV), it is often fuelled by problematic attitudes and beliefs. Studies demonstrate that bystander interventions and campaigns yield positive outcomes in the prevention of VAWDASV. With this in mind, the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) developed and delivered the #SafeToSay campaign, aimed at empowering prosocial bystander responses against sexual harassment within the night time economy. The campaign was delivered in two phases. Phase One, called everyone to action and Phase Two, specifically looked to engage men as prosocial bystanders. A process and outcomes evaluation was carried out during both phases of #SafeToSay. Results showed the campaign successfully highlighted an important issue within the night time economy, and provided members of the public with information and resources to take prosocial bystander action against sexual harassment. However, while evaluation findings for Phase Two revealed social media engagement rates were higher than the average for similar campaigns, a large proportion of engagement from men in particular was negative. Phase Two's evaluation indicated a need for further exploration on why a campaign targeting men to be prosocial bystanders against sexual harassment was not received as positively as Phase One. The VPU commissioned behavioural insights for men aged 18-54, to better understand the motivations and barriers to intervening when witnessing sexual harassment. Findings from the behavioural insights, coupled with the evaluations provide further insight into what works to effectively engage men in violence prevention and will be used to inform future phases of the campaign.

JOHAN PISSON

Psychonaut.fr

France

Salomé Gilles

Remote drug-testing: how to shift the nightlife's landscape by providing quantitative and qualitative analysis to the clubbers anonymously and for free.

Being able to know what drug is being used as well as knowing its purity should be a priority when it comes to harm reduction surrounding drug use. On our forum (<https://www.psychoactif.org/forum/index.php>) we get to witness everyday threads ending up with comments about how not knowing the precise composition of one's drug heavily restricts the ability to provide relevant advice regarding one's drug use. In addition, clubbers and nightlife goers are unwilling or unable to go to the facilities where drug-testing is done for fear of stigmatization, or because the facilities are geographically remote, most notably in rural areas where drug-testing isn't easily accessible, whilst still having a very active nightlife. This gap has now been bridged mid-2022, thanks to the collaborative endeavor from the two biggest French drugs-related forums & associations: Psychoactif.org, Psychonaut.fr, with the help of ATP IDF (drug-testing lab). People who use drugs (PWUD) must request their drug(s) to be tested through an e-mail. PWUD can send their drugs through the governmental French postal service (La poste) straight to our drug-testing lab with their drug(s) sealed. Once it's arrived, it gets quantitatively and qualitatively analyzed, the results are then sent back to Psychoactif.org and displayed on our forum, free of access for anyone. Any PWUD can subsequently open a thread about said analysis to discuss the results. Those discussions offer never seen before insights, which opens new harm-reduction opportunities.

MERLIJN POOLMAN

Nachtraad Groningen

Netherlands

The Night City Hall (A safe space in the city centre)

After forming the Groningen Nachtraad (Nightlife council of Groningen) night mayor Merlijn Poolman and his team set up various initiatives with the goal of enhancing the safety of the nightlife visitors of Groningen. At first one of the big success stories was the implementation and funding of trainings for students and bar staff. These were two types: Sexual harassment prevention and responsible substance use. But apart from these the ambition was there to create a permanent safe zone during the night where people could receive acute and preventive help within the wide range of topics that are relevant. Currently this 'Nachtstadhuis' is in the making and the political majority is a near certainty, but in order to fully develop it and receive the required budget there are still hurdles to take. Nachtraad Groningen is convinced about the happy ending though, despite a few setbacks during the process and gladly take the conference goers in their process... Since this will eventually be the first Night City Hall in the world!

ANNA POWELL

Liverpool John Moores University
UK

Harry Sumnall, Catharine Montgomery

Younger, drunk, and fast: Paradoxical rapid reaction time in hazardous drinkers

Background and aims: Many individuals who drink alcohol in nightlife spaces do so hazardously. Research consistently links hazardous alcohol use with reduced cognitive function but is less consistent with regard to processing speed, which underpins many cognitive functions. Using vibrotactile perception to assess cognitive function may have benefits over other sensory stimuli, as this method gives lower variability in reaction time (RT) and shorter latency. This cross-sectional study assessed vibrotactile simple and choice reaction time (RT) across hazardous (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test score ≥ 8) and non-hazardous drinkers. Methods: Participants (n = 86; 29m, 57f, aged 18-80; 33.47 ± 17.65 years) completed vibrotactile tasks and alcohol, mood, and subjective function (Executive Function Index; EFI) questionnaires. MANCOVAs were performed on RT and EFI scores to investigate function, and a bivariate correlation assessed relationships between objective/subjective function. Results: Hazardous drinkers were faster during choice RT. This was investigated further by analysing 'older' (30+ years) and 'younger' (18-29 years) hazardous and non-hazardous drinkers as four groups. Young hazardous drinkers performed better than both older groups for simple RT, while older non-hazardous drinkers were worse than both younger groups at choice RT. Regarding subjective executive function, Strategic Planning and Impulse Control were significantly better in non-hazardous drinkers. Finally, Organisation and Impulse Control both significantly positively correlated with choice and simple RT, indicating that as subjective function improved, RT increased (a decline in performance). Conclusions: Individuals who drink hazardously, often in nightlife spaces, display complex relationships between alcohol, age, and processing speed. These results are considered in the context of the premature ageing hypothesis, impulsivity, and the impact of alcohol use on various neurotransmitter systems. Furthermore, the poorer subjective function in young hazardous drinkers indicates a possible metacognitive deficit, increased effort or issues with vibrotactile perception as a cognitive function assessment in this group.

UHNA RAATH

Staying Safer Ltd / UCL
United Kingdom

Adam Winstock

The 3 Ds Disrupting Sexual Assault: An ultra-brief education module - part of the Staying Stay Programme

Background: Many cases of sexual assault take place in the presence of others, such as in private houses or clubs. While excellent initiatives such as Ask Angela and various bystander training programmes have been rolled out it can often be a challenge to engage young people and empower them to act. Too often not doing something is seen as a passive act - when it is in fact an active decision not to do something. At Staying Safer we wanted to convey the basics and the call to action in an acceptable timeframe for young people - 3 minutes!

Aim: To produce an impactful video education module to empower young people to intervene when they see someone at risk of sexual assault to help reduce the risk of harm across nightlife environments whether public or private. An important aspect of this resource is that it doesn't put the onus on the victim. This usually comes in the form of somewhat unhelpful advice acknowledging that the perpetrator's actions are accepted in society as the norm, and that it is the victim's responsibility to minimise their own risk.

Method: As part of the Staying Safe Programme we already include modules on sexual assault and consent. Based on feedback from students and staff we created an ultrabrief module on demonstrating the 3 Ds of disruption Direct, Delegate and Distraction.

Results: A short impactful video - we will share it and early evaluation / feedback.

Discussion: We hope the video will prompt discussion and we are keen to get suggestions for our next videos in this area.

DOMINIQUE SCHORI

Drug Information Centre (DIZ)

Switzerland

Zurich's cannabis regulation project. A drug checking service as a selling point for cannabis

With the study "Züri Can - Cannabis with Responsibility", the city of Zurich and the University of Zurich are evaluating the possibilities and effects of a regulated cannabis supply. The Drug Information Centre DIZ, which offers drug checking in the city of Zurich, has been offering harm reduction and prevention for recreational drug users for more than 20 years. With its nightlife label saferparty the DIZ offers also on-site drug checking in Zurich's nightlife. In Zurich and in Switzerland in general cannabis has always been the most commonly used illegal substance, also in nightlife settings. Since 2021 the DIZ offers a weekly drug checking service specifically for cannabis. Alongside 10 pharmacies and 10 self-organized cannabis social clubs, the DIZ is one of the selling points in Zurich's cannabis regulation project. With its extensive knowledge of cannabis as a recreational drug, the DIZ is regarded as a best practice model. Under the scientific leadership of the University of Zurich, the study examines different health issues as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the different sales settings in a regulated cannabis market. In addition to playing an active role in the implementation phase of the project as its own selling point, the DIZ was involved in the multi-year planning of the project from the very beginning. Among many other things, the DIZ was able to provide great help with their many years of experience with its knowledge of cannabis and experience in counselling in selecting the most suitable cannabis producers and determining the cannabis products, accompanying and counselling the social clubs in their establishment, and training the sales staff of all selling points. The input provides an insight into the planning phase of the regulation project and present first findings.

LAURA SMIT-RIGTER

Trimbos Institute
Netherland

Lavinia Stegmann and Daan van der Gouwe

Celebrating 30 years of drug checking in the Netherlands; lessons learned and challenges for the future

For over three decades, the Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS) has been instrumental in monitoring the recreational drug market in the Netherlands. From its humble beginnings as a small-scale drug checking project, DIMS has evolved into a comprehensive nationwide monitoring system, comprising 32 office-based testing facilities. This growth has enabled DIMS to accurately monitor trends on the Dutch drug market and to efficiently respond to the detection of extra hazardous substances. Moreover, its collaboration with institutions for addiction care and drug prevention, has proven to be an effective tool for harm reduction, particularly for recreational drug users who would otherwise remain unseen. In 2022 alone, DIMS received close to eighteen thousand drug samples, with nearly two-third of them being purchased as ecstasy pills. However, this success has also presented DIMS with a series of challenges that demand immediate attention. To address these challenges, DIMS is actively exploring additional on-site analysis techniques that can be implemented for different drugs and target populations. By embracing these advancements, DIMS aims to enhance its preparedness in navigating the increasingly complex drugs market. Overall, these endeavours signify the commitment of DIMS in mitigating harm.

DESIREE SPRONK

Trimbos Institute
Netherlands

Britt Bilderbeek, Laila Zaghoudi and Martha De Jonge

Drugs communication: towards preventing unwanted effects of public communication about drugs

A diverse group of professionals communicate about drugs, such as journalists and police (communication) officers. Their motives may vary; expressing concerns about new developments in drug prevalence rates, warning others, or simply bringing news. However, public communication about drugs can have unwanted (iatrogenic) effects. Lots of media coverage and the use of normalising language may make it look like more people are using than is factually true. Telling (young) people about drugs may illicit curiosity and copy-cat behaviour. Use of stigmatising language can cause further stigma which limits access to resources for people who need it. In order to counter and prevent possible unwanted (iatrogenic) effects of public drug communication, the Trimbos institute developed a set of 7 tips or guidelines for professionals who communicate about drugs. These tips include knowing your target group and adapting your message to their needs, and staying away from normalising and alarming language. It also includes providing a drugs disclaimer referring to support resources underneath news articles about drugs. Based on focus groups with journalists and police (communication) officers, we developed a number of activities in order to disseminate and implement these 7 tips. In this talk I will present and discuss the 7 tips and will demonstrate which activities and products were developed in order to disseminate them to the relevant professionals.

LAVINIA STEGMANN

Trimbos Institute
Netherlands

Laura Smit-Rigter and Pieter Oomen

FT-IR analysis: an unmissable asset at the drug checking service in The Netherlands

The drug information monitoring system (DIMS) has been playing a vital role in monitoring the recreational drug market and promoting harm reduction in the Netherlands for over thirty years. With 32 office-based locations offering drug checking, DIMS has experienced significant growth. To alleviate the pressure on the total laboratory analysis capacity, DIMS has embraced Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) analysis as a supplementary testing method. Since 2016, extensive development and implementation of FT-IR methods have established semi-quantitative analysis techniques for substances such as amphetamine, caffeine, MDMA, ketamine, and GHB. In the coming years, also cocaine and levamisole will be added to this set of substances. Not only does the expansion with FT-IR enables DIMS to monitor the drug market more extensively, it also lowers the threshold to visit a drug checking service in particular for those who want a direct test result. While the adoption of FT-IR analysis has proven beneficial, it does come with certain challenges. Ensuring proper training for personnel is crucial to ensure accurate and reliable testing, and not all samples are suitable for FT-IR analysis. In conclusion, the incorporation of FT-IR analysis into the drug testing service has significantly enhanced capacity, enabling prompt results and contributing to harm reduction efforts and monitoring the recreational drug market. Ongoing advancements and optimizations are pursued to maximize its effectiveness.

TINA STEINER

Drug Information Centre (DIZ)
Switzerland

How to make Drug Checking and other harm reduction services more accessible for marginalized people who practice sexualized drug use?

The drug checking and harm reduction service DIZ in Zürich, Switzerland presents two practical examples on how to make harm reduction services accessible to marginalized groups such as MSM or sex workers. The focus lies on the adjustments of counselling services for these target groups: adjustments of counselling setting, the build of trust, how to address fears and how to create personal connections. The presentation also highlights the interdisciplinary collaboration with institutions who offer health and social support for the target groups. Sexualized substance use with illegal psychoactive substances and chemsex as part of it happens in nightlife-like settings, but often in private spaces. This makes it more difficult for harm reduction professionals to offer harm reduction measures to this target group on site - unlike services in clubs where professionals can be on site in person.. As DIZ services are meant to be accessible to all people, different ways to reach specific target groups became more and more important. Therefore, in 2018 the DIZ started to focus on the two groups of MSM and sex workers who tend to be marginalized. Thanks to intensive networking and collaborations with other specialized institutions, the DIZ developed approaches to the lowering of barriers to drug checking services and counselling.

PETER JAMES STEPHENSON

Merseyside Police
United Kingdom

Operation Golden – maximising intelligence yield and opportunities in the night-time economy

Crime control strategies for the night-time economy have long focused on drug supply as central to other cross-cutting crime types. Operational responses have previously used overt resources for disruption and to deter violence and proactive investigations have temporarily removed drug suppliers. Approaches are variously resource intensive, disjointed, and produce limited improvements to wider public safety once activity ceases or resources are withdrawn. In 2022, Merseyside Police's Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) created a problem profile for Liverpool City Centre to increase understanding of the relationship between offences, offenders, victims, and locations. This confirmed the relationship between drug supply, violence, sexual offences, criminal exploitation, and robbery and identified key risk areas where individuals were more vulnerable to becoming victims of crime. Operation Golden was instigated to provide a longer-term response to these. This team of Local Policing Officers, Intelligence Officers, Analysts and Detectives collated and reviewed intelligence and identified opportunities that fed into a 4P Plan (Pursue, Prevent, Protect & Prepare) so that outcomes were not solely focused on judicialization, but on a wider spectrum of changes that would have lasting benefits. While Pursue remained at the core, the team included staff with wider skill bases and experience who were tasked and equipped to scan a wider range of intelligence sources. Combined with improvements in governance and briefing, communications and IT, this made the tasking of specialist resources and overt teams more effective. Diversity within the team also removed barriers between stakeholders and identified opportunities for activity under Prevent, Protect and Prepare.

ELINE VAN AUDENAERDE

The Unicorn Mothership

Belgium

The importance of safeguarding mental health in the nighttime economy

It is important for nightlife workers to know how to strengthen their own capacity for mental and emotional resilience. Spreading knowledge and raising awareness on how they can do that and continuing to normalize that conversation is key so they can not only support themselves but also their peers. In doing so, they are more likely to use their resources (time, energy, knowledge, skills, talent, money) more effectively and efficiently, opening themselves up to opportunities for growth. Being able to give and receive feedback, being proactive, being able to make decisions quickly, having a strong sense self-awareness and ability to respond assertively, being stress-resistant, being able to deal with conflicts and clear communication, and the ability to take responsibility for one's own well-being as well as contributing to the collective - these are all factors which promote a higher internal locus of control, which in turn promotes confidence and happiness. Just as much as data, business, strategies and marketing are discussed to elevate the nighttime economy, we should equally as much talk about how to BE a professional in nightlife, aiming to achieve sustainable success and living smarter, not harder.

RUBEN VAN BEEK

Trimbos Institute
Netherlands

Rosa Andree, Matthijs Blankers and Desiree Spronk

Blue Tuesdays - an Epiphenomenon of Ecstasy Use: Evidence from A Longitudinal And Momentary Analysis in the European Nightlife Scene (ALAMA).

Background: There is a lack of understanding of the nature of the post-acute affective response several days after ecstasy use (blue Tuesday) and whether or not it can be attributed to ecstasy use or be explained by circumstantial factors.

Objectives: We evaluated whether reduced mental and emotional well-being is observed during the three days following ecstasy use.

Method: Data for this study were obtained from the ALAMA Nightlife study, a longitudinal and momentary analysis in the European nightlife scene. Using ecological momentary assessment, young adult ecstasy users were asked to complete a 3-minute questionnaire in response to daily investigator initiated prompts during a 35-days sampling period. Using mixed effects regression models, we also evaluated whether any observed drop can be attributed to a range of sociodemographic, clinical-psychological, substance use, sleep, mental well-being and/or applied harm reduction measures.

Results: Data from a total of 244 participants were available for the analyses. Participants reported significantly reduced mental and emotional well-being in the three days following ecstasy use – even when accounting for other substance use, socio-demographics, and measures of depression, anxiety and sleep quality. For commonly used substances other than ecstasy, no such robust effects on mental and emotional well-being in the three days following use were found – except for cocaine use.

Conclusions: A drop in mental and emotional well-being in the days following ecstasy use can be attributed to ecstasy use alone, in addition to other factors such as (co-)use of other substances, especially cocaine, sleep duration and quality in the days following use, and baseline levels of depression and anxiety.

DAAN VAN DER GOUWE

Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN)
Netherlands

Rafaela de Quadros Rigoni

Bridging the Gap: Civil Society Monitoring as a means to link and identify needs of traditional and new users of harm reduction services.

The Civil Society-Led Monitoring of harm reduction in Europe, conducted by C-EHRN (Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network), complement existing monitoring efforts on new drug trends. Via a network of 36 C-EHRN Focal Points, it gathers qualitative city-level information in a reliable and timely manner. Data is collected via local Focus Group Discussions (FGD), where various stakeholders contribute to a nuanced understanding of current trends: sub-groups of people who use drugs, policymakers, and service providers. Among the topics discussed in the FGDs are the emergence of new substances, the use of known substances by new groups, new routes of administration, or new combinations of substances. Through the FGDs, the C-EHRN Monitoring bridges gaps between different communities of people who use drugs: problem users, e.g. of heroin and crack cocaine and recreational users, e.g. of ecstasy and psychedelics. The FGDs offer a central space for the community's first-hand experiences and serve as a platform for open dialogue, mutual understanding of current trends and developments, and knowledge exchange between various communities of people who use drugs and those working with them. These discussions foster collaboration between groups and address gaps in current harm reduction services. This enables the monitoring project to recommend the development of more targeted and effective interventions and guide the advocacy for improving services and policies. Its input to enhance existing harm reduction services goes beyond traditional divisions of groups, contributing to a more effective response to emerging drug trends.

NICOLAS VAN DER LINDEN

4motion

Belgium

Cedric Fisher, Bérénice Libois, Carlos Paulos

A theory-based evaluation of the impact of drug checking on the intention to dispose of a product that does not match expectations

Nightlife exposes clubbers to health risks. Some of these risks are associated with drug use, which tends to be higher in this population than in the general population. Recent reports highlight a number of developments in the drug market that magnify these risks. For example, the range of products in circulation is increasingly wide and their composition is increasingly complex, with samples containing several psychoactive substances (e.g., *tusi*; Keenan, Killeen, & the Emerging Drug Trends and Drug Checking Working Group, 2021). Added to this is the arrival of a new generation of drug users who are often unfamiliar with the harm reduction strategies of previous generations (Fisher & Measham, 2022). One of the challenges of nightlife research is to identify effective interventions in nightlife settings, i.e., interventions that reduces potential drug-related harms, with the aim of encouraging their implementation. Although a growing body of literature highlights the usefulness of drug checking in reducing drug-related harms in nightlife settings, this literature is limited in a number of ways (for a synthesis, see, e.g., Maghsoudi et al., 2021). To address these limitations, we conducted a theory-based (i.e., Theory of Planned Behavior; Ajzen, 1985) evaluation of drug checking on the intention to dispose of a product that does not match expectations. The research took place in two community-based services operating in two different countries, Belgium and Luxembourg. We predicted that attitudes, perceived norms, and perceived behavioural control will be positively related with intention to dispose of a product that does not match expectations. This prediction was tested controlling for habits, prior (i.e., prior to the consultation) intention to dispose of a product that does not match expectations, and frequency of drug use (predictions were pre-registered on OSF: <https://osf.io/bxgzq>) with a sample of 74 service users, a sample size calculated a priori for a desired statistical power of 80%. Results will be presented at the conference

MICHAEL VIGGARS

Healthy Stadia

UK

Bystander interventions: bridging the gap between community and spectator sports and the night-time economy.

Sexual harassment and violence are global public health, human rights, and gender equality issues. Whilst there is increasing understanding and recognition of sexual harassment and violence, addressing problematic behaviour in practice can be challenging. Many environments, from community and spectator sports to the night-time economy, can foster harmful behaviour, particularly if left unchallenged. Stereotypes and myths relating to how people dress and behave can lead to tolerance and acceptance of sexual violence and prevent victims from disclosing and others from intervening. The addition of alcohol and drugs can also reduce people's inhibitions and increase risk of vulnerability. It is therefore imperative that sexual violence is challenged to counter this normalisation – training staff and the public to notice inappropriate behaviour, interpret it as a problem, feel responsible for dealing with it and intervening safely and effectively through bystander interventions is a promising means of preventing sexual harassment and violence. Our “Are you onside?” bystander intervention training programme has been upskilling community sports coaches to address misogyny and sexism in sport and wider society. Evidence suggests that early intervention is a promising means to prevent escalating violence and we believe tackling misogyny and sexism in sport can have knock-on benefits for other settings including the night-time economy.

SAMANTHA WELLS

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Canada

Sharon Bernards and Kathryn Graham

Understanding alcohol-related sexual harassment and aggression (ASHA) in bars and clubs

Background. Alcohol-related sexual harassment and aggression (ASHA), typically involving unwanted sexual contact, sexually objectifying behaviors, and unwanted persistent sexual advances, are common in bars and clubs. Our previous research demonstrated the importance of men's normative beliefs and attitudes and peer group norms in explaining alcohol-related physical aggression between men. In the present study, we are examining men's beliefs/attitudes and peer factors in explaining young men's perpetration of ASHA toward women as well as men's bystander action in preventing or stopping ASHA.

Methods. Street intercept recruitment is being used to recruit young adult men (aged 18 to 25) to complete a brief street survey and a follow-up online survey. Measures include men's beliefs and attitudes regarding ASHA perpetration, heavy episodic drinking, rape myth acceptance, hostility toward women and perceived effects of alcohol on women.

Results. So far we have recruited 515 men, of whom 378 completed the follow-up survey. Preliminary analyses show that about 55% reported perpetrating ASHA and 59% reported acting as a bystander. Logistic regression models reveal that beliefs and attitudes about ASHA and hostility toward women are associated with ASHA perpetration. However, no measures were associated with bystander action. Additional analyses will be presented regarding the role of peer group norms in ASHA perpetration and bystander action as well as the role of peer status.

Conclusions. Data collection is ongoing and results are preliminary. However, this innovative research is expected to be important for informing the development of effective programs to reduce ASHA perpetration and increase bystander action.

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The Staying Safe Programme – an online course about alcohol and other drugs for students.

Background – moving to university is a time of transition and can be associated with the higher risk use of alcohol and other drugs. Many universities have been reluctant to move away from zero tolerance and embrace harm reduction. The SSP is a NIHR supported 26 modules on-line course that was launched in 2022 and is currently being piloted across several universities in the UK. It was developed in collaboration with students, universities and experts in health, law, policy and drugs. Aim – to showcase the programme, explain its development and share early evaluation and describe the next steps in its evolution.

Method – the SSP has in built evaluation tools assessing knowledge transfer and trustworthiness. Additional independent evaluation has sought to determine the acceptability to university staff and identify barriers for universities incorporating alcohol and other drug education into wider mental health and well-being service provision at universities. Excerpts from various modules within the training package will be shown.

Results – early feedback is very positive with the course reported as being credible, engaging and trustworthy. Further data on wider evaluation results will be discussed on the day.

Discussion – to our knowledge this is the first on-line video based education course focusing on harm reduction for university students in the UK. It will be one of many strategies required to reduce demand, reduce risk and support honest conversations within the higher education sector. It challenges stigma, raises awareness of personal risk and is honest about the pleasures and problems of using drugs.

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A Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling Related Harms

The Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling Related Harms provides a framework for action to help employers and staff build good practice in health and work in their organisation. Gambling harms can be the causes of, and contributors to, short and long term ill health for a considerable proportion of people of working age. For example, it is estimated that there are in the region of 1.3 million harmful gamblers in the UK and with many times that number experiencing gambling-related harms. The charter offers practical, evidence based ways in which employers and staff can commit to promoting the health and wellbeing of their workers experiencing gambling related harms. It endeavours to help reduce sickness and absence and support those who want or need to change their relationship with gambling. Employees are the lifeblood of any organisation. Their health and wellbeing are central to its sustainability. There are clear links to areas of deprivation and greater health inequalities including increased levels of alcohol consumption (74% drinking 50 units per week), financial and mental health impacts shown as the most significant harms. A healthier workforce has a positive impact on the productivity and sustainability of organisations. It also benefits society as a whole, by reducing health and social care costs, and the human costs of ill-health. Harmful gambling makes a considerable contribution to workplace absence. This has a significant cost to business and the economy. The economic burden of harmful gambling is substantial, with estimates placing the annual cost in the UK to be over £1.4 billion. The charter has been developed to promote an emphasis on addressing gambling harms as a public health issue. In April 2023, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) estimated that the annual fiscal cost of ‘problem gambling’ (PGSI 8+) is roughly £1.4 billion (in 2023 prices). The Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling Related Harms includes the ‘Bet You Can Help’ (BYCH) training programme, which is a universal education programme, which offers a practical first aid approach to tackling gambling related harms. Organisations and businesses working within the night-time economy would benefit from learning more about this initiative and how it can support their practices, not only in helping to protect their business and workforce but also how this relates to their customers and patrons who frequent cafes, restaurants, bars and clubs from a risk-taking behaviour and wellbeing perspective.

CRAIG WINSTANLEY

Merseyside Police

UK

Operation Ghost – Reducing theft from person offences during the Night-time economy

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a report in August 2022 into how effectively police respond to serious acquisitive crime (SAC). The report states 'SAC strikes at the heart of people's feelings of safety in their homes and communities. It isn't just a 'volume crime.' It affects people on a daily basis and failing to target it damages public confidence in policing.' Theft from person offences committed within Liverpool City Centre during the Night-time economy had long been considered as a 'volume crime' with few investigative opportunities to identify offenders and prevent further offending. Prior to the publication of that report and in response to these offences being committed during the NTE, Merseyside Police launched Operation Ghost. The operation had one key aim, to reduce theft from person offences during the NTE. Through research and analysis, one group interlinked through community and familial ties were classified as an Organised Crime Group thus encouraging a multi-agency response to their criminality whilst also addressing safeguarding concerns surrounding juveniles associated with the group. The on-going management of offenders would also prove key in managing the risk individuals posed. In addition to Police Bail conditions, Merseyside Police explored the implementation of specific Anti-social behaviour legislation to impose conditions on those involved in such criminality to prevent further offending. Through continued collaboration with partners, Merseyside Police have increased arrests and detection rates linked to these offences and supported other Police Forces with similar challenges.

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Virtual Connections, Real Consequences: Dating Apps and Substance Use Dynamics

The surge in dating app prevalence introduces new challenges and dimensions of risk for the nightlife culture. While forging connections, these apps may inadvertently normalize substance use behavior, easing pathways for substance acquisition and raising public health concerns. This dynamic, especially within a nightlife context, blurs lines of informed decision-making and unclear consent, fostering adverse impacts on individual's mental and physical well-being. The inherent anonymity in dating apps aids substance peddling through coded languages and emojis. Our study investigated the intricate interplay of dating app engagement, substance use, and mental and sexual health in a cohort of 229 Men-who-have-sex-with-men (clinicaltrials.gov, NCT04714034). More than fifty percent of the participants in our study indicated engaging in interactions involving illicit substances through dating apps, while 41% reported receiving offers for such substances directly on these platforms. Notably, 22% directly linked an increase in their substance intake to dating apps. Regarding the implications on mental health, participants presented with symptoms for depression (21%), anxiety (38%) and problematic alcohol intake (25%) in self-reporting screening questionnaires. In response, our research advocates for dating app and nightlife providers to ensure user safety. Tailored harm reduction interventions, such as safer use advertisement on apps, are needed for individuals to empower responsible and informed decision while navigating nightlife.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

ANNELIE ANDERSON

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Results and Dissemination of the Swedish STADmodel in Responsible Beverage Service

Introduction: In 1996, our research unit 'STAD' developed and implemented a community-based multi-component prevention program named Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) in Stockholm, Sweden. The program is still ongoing and the aim is to decrease overserving, underage drinking, and alcohol-related violence in the nightlife setting. **Methods:** The RBS-program has three components. (1) Mobilization and collaboration between the service industry and other stakeholders; a steering group with all stakeholders meets six times annually. (2) Training; three trainings are available including a two-day course targeting nightlife staff, a brief web-based training, and a X-day course targeting police officers and alcohol inspectors. In Stockholm, on a yearly basis, 800-1000 individuals partake in either of the trainings. **Results:** The program has been evaluated in several studies demonstrating for instance that serving staff's refusal rate of alcohol service to obviously intoxicated and to underage have increased; nightlife-related violence has decreased by 29%, and a cost-effectiveness ratio of 1:39, meaning that for every Euro spent on the program, society saves 39 Euro on costs related to police work or healthcare. **Dissemination:** The positive results, showing sustainable effects over a 25-year time-span, have resulted in a nationwide dissemination and the program has been implemented in over 200 municipalities (290 in total) across Sweden as well as to other European countries, for instance in the EU-project 'STAD in Europe'.

FRIDA BERGENBLAD

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Results and Dissemination of Clubs against Drugs –A Substance Use Prevention Program in the Swedish Nightlife

Introduction: Our research unit 'STAD' has previously developed the alcohol prevention program Responsible Beverage Service (RBS), which has demonstrated positive results in Stockholm nightlife. To combat the rising prevalence of drugs in the nightlife, STAD expanded its prevention efforts and developed Clubs against Drugs in 2001. Like RBS, Clubs against Drugs is a comprehensive, community-based multi-component intervention targeting the nightlife. The program aims to reduce drug use among staff and guests, thereby creating a more nightlife environment. Methods: The program employs a systems approach, involving components such as policy work, community mobilization and collaboration, improved enforcement, training of staff, changes in the physical environment as well as media advocacy. Results: Clubs against Drugs has demonstrated sustainable effects over a 20-year time-frame revealing decreased substance use among staff in the nightlife, and that staff to a larger extent intervene towards drug-intoxicated guests. In an attempt to raise the issue of club drugs, a campaign was launched in Stockholm in December 2022 and relaunched nationwide in June 2023. The campaign highlights societal consequences of drug use and were seen at nightlife establishments in Stockholm as well as in social media, radio, TV, and newspapers. Impact assessment revealed that 81% were positive to the campaign and that 56% had talked to others about the negative consequences of drugs. Dissemination: Recognizing the effects and need for broader impact, in 2023, the Swedish Government granted STAD the mission to nationally disseminate and coordinate the implementation of the Clubs against Drugs program

TOBIAS ELGAN

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Alcohol Service to Underaged at Licensed Premises: A 25-Year Follow-Up of a Responsible Beverage Service Program in Stockholm, Sweden

Introduction: In 1996, a multi-component alcohol prevention program in Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) targeting licensed premises was initiated in Stockholm. Program components are mobilization/collaboration, training, and enforcement. Research has previously demonstrated improved refusal rates of alcohol service to underaged (i.e., aged 18 and under). Methods: A repeated cross-sectional study with data collected in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2007, 2013, and 2022. Six females and six males, all 18 years old but with a younger appearance were recruited. A total of 328 licensed premises located down-town Stockholm were randomly selected. The 18-year-olds worked in pairs and visited licensed premises during nights Wednesday through Saturday. They were instructed to never show their ID when entering premises or attempting to purchase a beer. Results: The refusal rate at the latest assessment point in 2022 was 80%, which is higher than in 1996 (55%), 1998 (59%), and 2001 (68%), but not higher than 2007 (88%) and 2013 (91%). Conclusions: Results show sustained effects over time from 55% refusal rate in 1996 to 80% in 2022. However, the refusal rate in 2022 is lower than the assessments in 2007 and 2013, which may be attributed to a large turnover of serving staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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I FED MY BENCHTOP NMR ECSTASY TABS - 3,4- Methylenedioxymethamphetamine Quantification via Benchtop ^1H qNMR Spectroscopy

Introduction: Quantitative analytical methods for recreational drugs are important in monitoring their clandestine production and more recently, in harm reduction. We describe a method validation for the quantification of MDMA in tablets based on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) guideline for quantitative Nuclear Magnetic Resonance analysis. Method: qNMR experiments were carried out on a 60 MHz benchtop NMR spectrometer employing ethylene carbonate as an internal calibrant. A series of 'ecstasy' tablets seized at music events were quantified and the results discussed regarding their within-batch variation and yearly median concentration. Results and Discussion: The method showed good specificity and selectivity, with linearity, precision, accuracy, and recovery well within the UNODC recommended limits. The limit of detection and quantification are 0.33 mg/mL and 0.10 mg/mL respectively, proving the method works well when encountering small amounts of MDMA. Overall, the lowest amount of MDMA free base detected in this study was 9.35 mg in a piperazine mix, while the highest dosed tablet contained 237.55 mg MDMA free base, with a 9.1 wt% decrease in median amount compared to the pre-pandemic data (2019). The within-batch variation was insignificant for one of the seizures but showed greater variation for the other, which confirmed that the MDMA content of a single tablet may not reflect that of the whole batch. Conclusion: Benchtop NMR has been successfully employed in mobile laboratories and the present study demonstrates its beneficial application in forensic science, field testing and in harm reduction.

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Testing the Utility of Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy in Detecting Neurocognitive Differences Across Social Drinking

Understanding the relationship between alcohol consumption and neurocognitive functioning is vital for supporting informed decisions amongst the general public about the risk of harm associated with drinking. Previous research has demonstrated that heavy drinking patterns are related to altered prefrontal cortex (PFC) activity and potential impairment of executive control. A variety of neuroimaging tools have investigated this relationship, yet functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) has seen little utilisation. The current study aims to test the utility of fNIRS in detecting differences in prefrontal cortex (PFC) haemodynamics across social drinking levels during performance of executive control. fNIRS covering the bilateral PFC recorded haemoglobin activity whilst 30 social drinkers (21.40 ± 4.72 years old) completed four tasks measuring executive function. There were no performance differences between participants who reported lower and higher levels of drinking on three of the tasks, however, on the Wisconsin Card Sorting Task (WCST), heavier drinkers made significantly fewer perseverative errors. During the WCST, greater decreases in oxyhaemoglobin (HbO) and increases in deoxyhaemoglobin (HHb) were observed in the superior and inferior right dorsolateral PFC amongst heavier drinkers. PFC activity during the other cognitive tasks is currently being analysed. Overall, cognitive performance mostly did not differ by alcohol consumption, yet when it did, heavier drinkers made fewer set-shifting errors than lighter drinkers. Participants reporting greater alcohol consumption also exhibited greater HbO and HHb changes, indicating increased cortical activity in the right dlPFC to support performance. Without the neuroimaging data, alcohol consumption would seem to have little to no effect on cognitive abilities. However, the compensatory increased cortical activity associated with greater alcohol consumption is a subjectively hidden consequence, thus greater awareness of such information may encourage earlier harm reduction behaviours



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