

PARALLEL SESSION 3D

Drugs in clubs: trends and tests

Types of consumption among recreational drug users within Austrian techno party scene

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ChEck iT! is a service of the Verein Wiener Sozialprojekte in cooperation with the Clinical Institute for Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics of the Medical University of Vienna (AKH). ChEck iT! Provides, besides information and counselling, a high quality, anonymous and free of charge chemical analysis of illegal drugs directly at music events. The general objective of the project is the prevention of problematic consumption patterns as well as of short, middle and long term adverse health consequences. Another objective is the collection of scientific data. Through the documentation of the chemical analysis and the realization of user surveys - focusing on patterns and reasons of use - essential data for the early detection of new trends regarding substances and use should be collected.

In 2005 ChEck iT! conducted a secondary analysis of questionnaire data collected by the project at rave parties in 1998 and from 2001 to 2003 (N=838). The main results are: Concerning their consumption recreational drug users within the party scene are an inhomogeneous group. A cluster analysis based on frequencies of consumption in the last 30 days showed that participants can be divided into four characteristic groups. The “non users”, the “occasional users”, the “Cannabis consumers with occasional use of other recreational drugs” and the “high risk” group. The groups can be reached by onsite secondary prevention programmes more than by “traditional” facilities. For the last two groups additional strategies should be developed.

Types of consumption among recreational drug users within the Austrian techno party scene

Alexander Eggerth

ChEck iT! Vienna

Club Health Conference 2006

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What is *ChEck iT!*

- institution for recreational drug users since 1997
- low threshold approach / secondary prevention
- only professionals no volunteers
- scientific approach
- financed by the City of Vienna and the Federal Ministry of Health & Women

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Offers

- information and counselling online and via telephone (starting in October also face to face counselling in our new information centre)
- information via www.CheckYourDrugs.at
- information, counselling and hplc-analysis of substances on-site (~ 12 parties / year)

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Further offers

- preparation of informational material
- trainings / workshops
- reports / concepts
- Research (e.g. Ketamine as a partydrug / types of consumption)

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Types of consumption - The study

- secondary analysis of data from 1998 and from 2001 to 2003
- questionnaire data collected in the *ChEck iT!* area at rave parties (1000-8000 visitors)
- patterns of consumption regarding alcohol, nicotine, cannabis, ecstasy, speed, cocaine, lsd, mushrooms, soporifics and heroin.
- detect possible trends concerning consumption

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The sample

- N= 838
- m=66,3%; f=32,6%
- age: Md=18years (over-all)
m=19y; f=18y

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Place of residence

	n	%
Wien	246	29,4
Stmk	57	6,8
NÖ	181	21,6
OÖ	203	24,2
B	37	4,4
T	46	5,5
S	28	3,3
K	11	1,3
Ausland	20	2,4
k.A.	9	1,1
Gesamt	838	100

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Prevalences in the party-setting

30-day-prevalences

	Winstock et al. 2001 (collected 2000, N=1151) dance music publication U.K. meanage: 24y	Tossmann et al. 2001 (collected 1998, N=1412) technoscene Germany meanage: 20y	ChEckIT! (collected 98 and 01 to 03, N=838) raveparties Austria meanage: 18y	Korf et al. 1999 (collected 1998, N=456) clubbers/ravers Amsterdam meanage: 26y
Cannabis	73%	48%	62%	52%
Ecstasy	86%	20%	42%	41%
Speed	40%	21%	34%	13%
Cocaine	46%	10%	18%	24%

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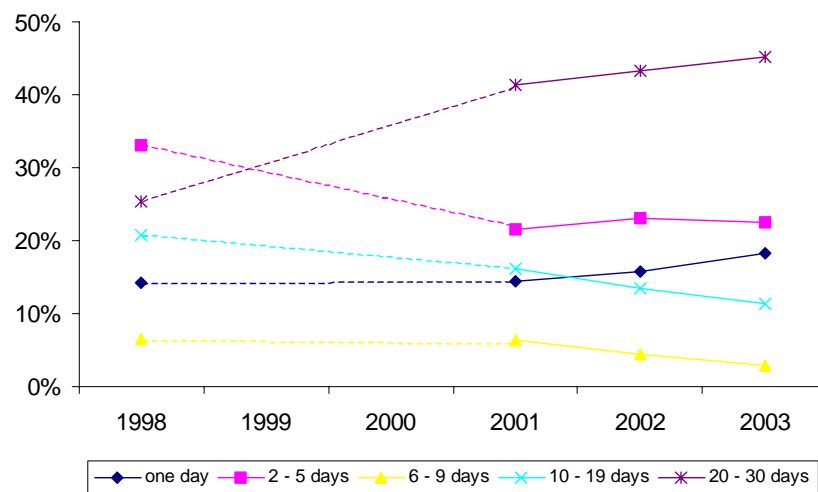
Frequency of consumption year-on-year

- only for ecstasy ($\chi^2=8,0$; $df=3$; $p=,047$) and cannabis ($\chi^2=8,2$; $df=3$; $p=,043$) a statistically significant change was detectable
- ecstasy: 1998 consumption at 2 days a month, 2003 at one day/month
- cannabis: 1998 consumption at 6 days a month, 2003 at 15 days/month

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frequency of consumption of cannabis-users
(n=513)



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Types of consumption - cluster analysis

- frequencies of consumption in the last 30 days of alcohol, cannabis, ecstasy, speed, cocaine, lsd, mushrooms, soporifics and heroin
- persons with missing values at at least one substance were excluded, remaining sample n=827
- Ward's minimum variance linkage

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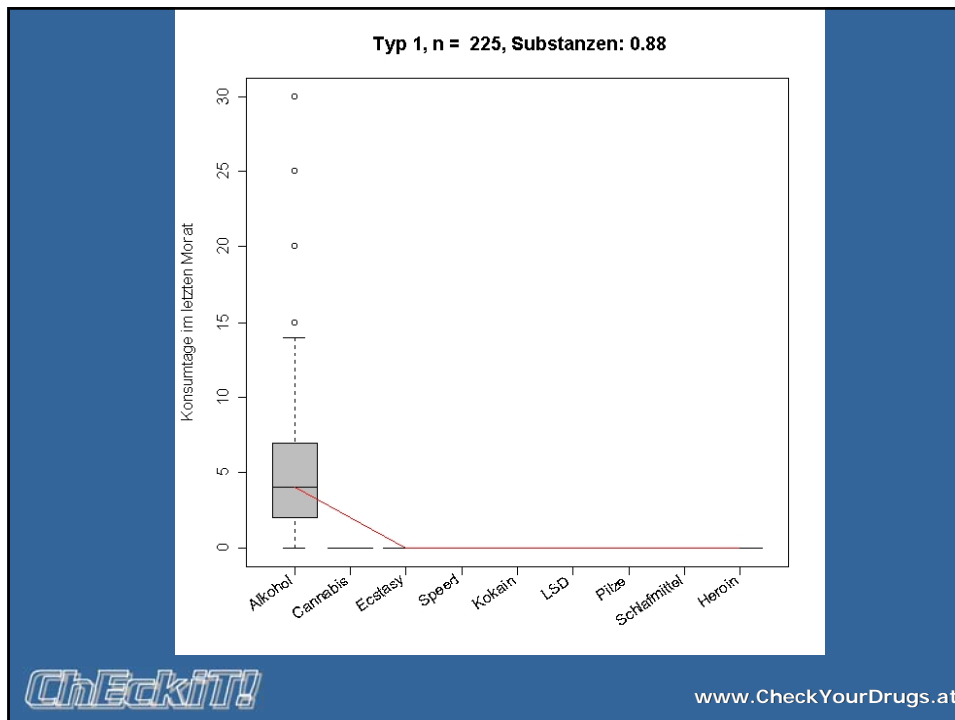
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Type 1: „Non-user of illegal substances“

- second largest group, 225 persons
- highest percentage of women 42,9%
- mean-age Md=18 years
- 21,6% testers
- visit rave parties scarcest

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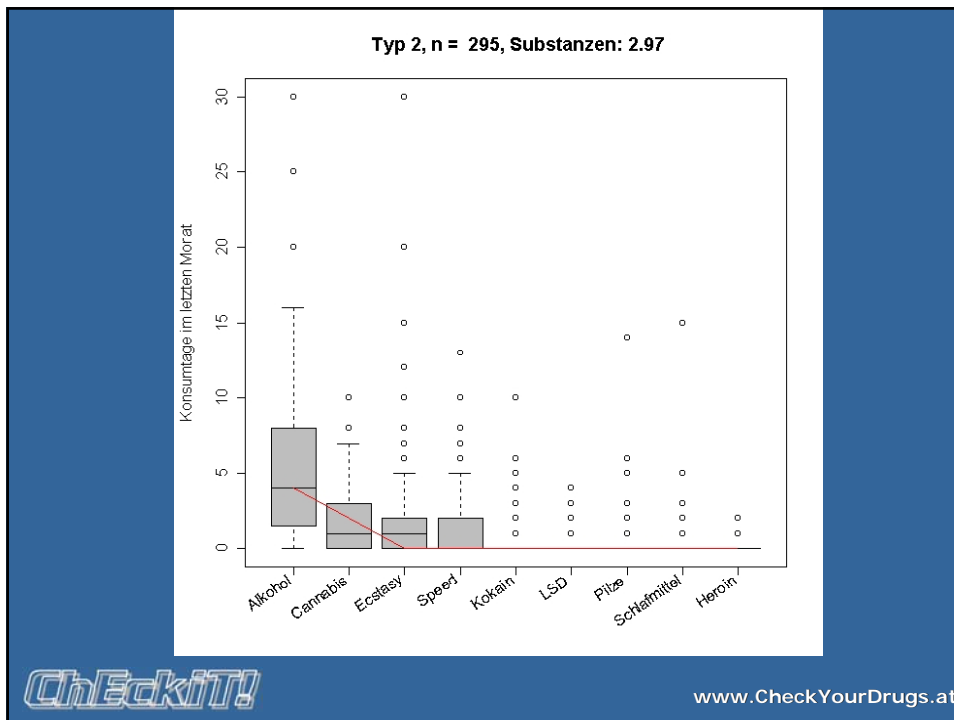


Type 2: „Occasional users“

- largest group, 295 persons
- second-highest percentage of women 35,4%
- mean-age Md=18 years
- 56,1% testers
- visit rave parties second scarcest

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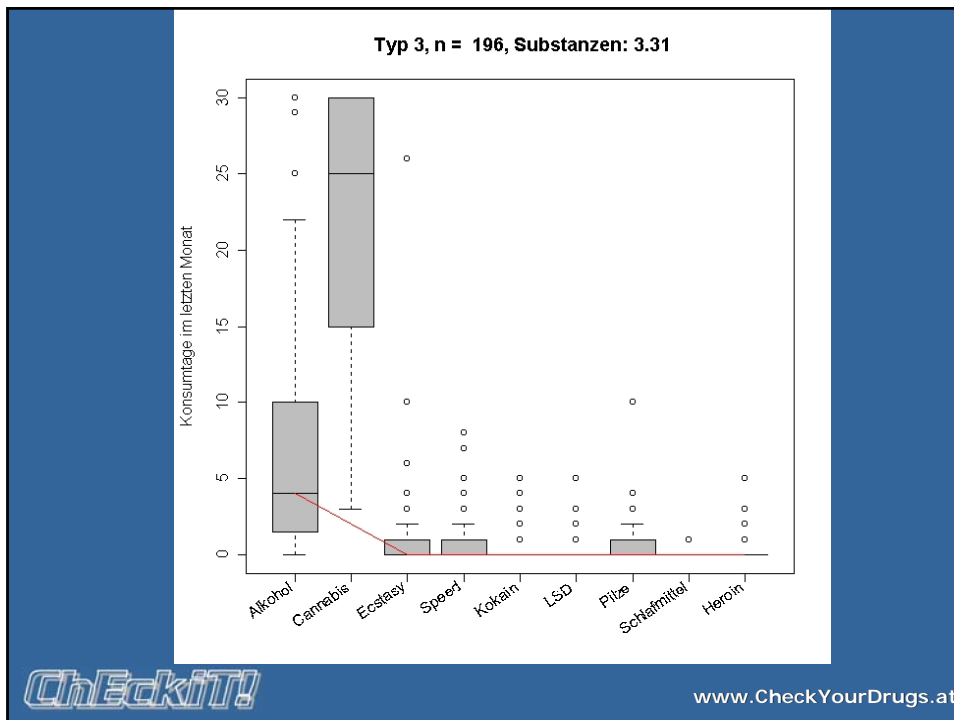


Type 3: „Cannabis users with occasional use of other recreational drugs“

- third-largest group, 196 persons
- lowest percentage of women 20,2%
- mean-age Md= 19 years
- 47% testers
- visit rave parties scarcer than group 2 and 4

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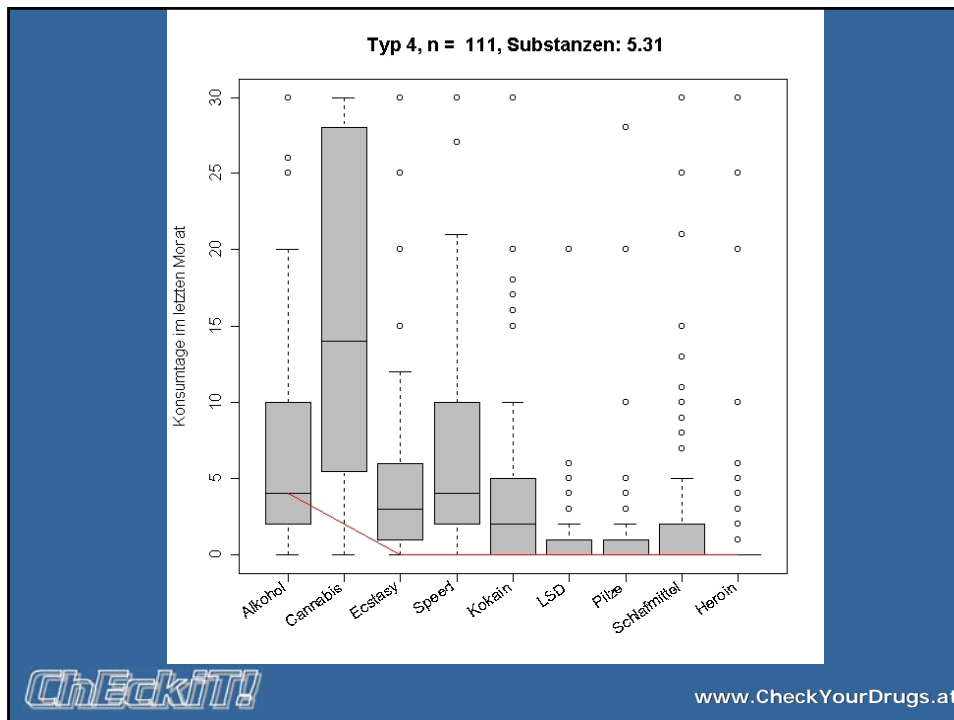


Type 4: „High risk group“

- smallest group 111 persons
- second-lowest percentage of women 29,1%
- mean-age Md= 18,5 years
- 67,6% testers
- visit rave parties most often

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Conclusions

- Concerning their consumption recreational drug users within the party scene are an inhomogeneous group.
- it makes not too much sense only to speak of "ecstasy users"
- The „high-risk group“ and the „cannabis users with occasional use of other recreational drugs“ show problematic patterns of consumption, the latter group seems to be steadily growing.

Conclusions II

- Both groups might need further offers than on-site interventions. Cannabis is sometimes a forgotten club drug.
- 70 % of the high-risk group and 85% of the other groups are not reached by „traditional“ drug care facilities.
- In order to develop specific prevention measures further research on the types of consumption might be useful.

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Collaboration

Sophie Lachout
Martin Keller-Ressel
Rainer Schmid
ChEck iT! – Team

Many thanks!

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More details

- http://www.checkyourdrugs.at/data/libraries/allgemein/Check-it%20Studie_500KB.pdf
- Eggerth A., Keller-Ressel M., Lachout S. & Schmid R. (2005). Konsumtypen bei Freizeitdrogenkonsumenten in Österreich. *Sucht*, 51 (2), 88-96
- Eggerth A., Keller-Ressel M., Lachout S. & Schmid R. (2005). Daten zum Konsumverhalten von Freizeitdrogen-KonsumentInnen. Eine Sekundäranalyse der Fragebogenstudien 1998 und 2001 bis 2003. Wien: VWS

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Further research

- Baumgartner, E. (2006). Ketamin als Partydroge – zum Risiko konsumbedingter sozialpathologischer Veränderungen und spezifischer Konfliktmuster sowie deren Relevanz für sekundärpräventive Einrichtungen. Vienna: Diploma thesis

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