

## **PARALLEL SESSION 1D**

### **Nightlife intelligence**

#### **Life at night: studying trends, patterns and social regulations of alcohol and drug use in The Hague's nightlife**

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The city of The Hague conducts an active multi-sectoral policy to prevent, reduce and manage problems arising from the use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD). As part of this strategy, in 2001 the city decided to extensively study AOD use among young people – an important focus being the AOD use among young (15-34 years old) nightlife participants. In 2002 and 2003 Panissia Psycho-Medical center and the Municipal Health Service conducted a multi-qualitative and quantitative-method field study of the city's nightlife environment, while in 2004 a panel of study was conducted of “key informants” (both providers and consumers) from various corners within The Hague's nightlife. The studies generated the following results:

- Alcohol remains extremely popular among study respondents, with 88% LMP in 2003. Cannabis comes second with 37% LMP, while 17% used ecstasy and 10% cocaine in the last month;
- Price increases of alcohol in bars and nightclubs has resulted in home consumption before and after going out, in particular of the more expensive alcoholic beverages;
- Respondents often choose to ingest combinations of both alcohol and other drugs;
- The use of AOD is increasingly becoming an accepted and integral part of young people's nightlife, associated with their preferential musical styles and 'scenes', while relatively few young people worry about their own or their friends AOD consumption.

These results have lead to the decision to further monitor and explore the trends in AOD use on the city's nightlife, focusing on, among others:

- The extent, nature and meaning of AOD use within various nightlife environments in The Hague, and it's development over time;
- Social opportunities and risks associated with (combined) use of AOD in nightlife settings;
- Factors contributing to self-regulation (or, conversely, escalation) of AOD use among nightlife participants.

These research questions will be studied, again using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including ethnographic mapping, participant observation, a panel study of key informants, a quantitative survey and focus groups. In addition, results of drug samples, turned in at the local drugs testing site will be included in the analyses.

Combining these different research methodologies and triangulation of their findings will result in a robust database, providing an as complete as possible understanding of AOD use among nightlife participants in The Hague over time, which, in our view, is an essential condition for evidence-based public health policy.

# Life at Night: Studying Trends, Patterns and Social Regulation of Alcohol and Drug Use in The Hague's Nightlife

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## Acknowledgements



Gemeente Den Haag



## Introduction



- The city of The Hague conducts an active multi-sectoral policy to prevent, reduce and manage problems arising from the use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD)
- As part of this strategy, in 2001 the city decided to extensively study AOD use among young people
- An important focus is AOD use among young nightlife participants
- “Uit (je Dak)” in Den Haag, uitgaande jongeren en genotmiddelengebruik. (van Gelder et al., 2003, 2004; Burger et al., 2005)

## Methods 2002/4



- 2002, 2003      Multi-method (qualitative and quantitative) field study of the city’s nightlife environment,
- 2004              Panel study only
  
- Methodology based on the Amsterdam Antenna studies (Korf, Nabben, Benschop)

## Results 2002/4



2003 Survey (N=600) (van Gelder et al., 2004)

### Demographics:

- Gender:      Women      47%  
                   Men         53%
- Age:         < 20         38%  
                   20-24       31%  
                   25-29       14%  
                   ≥ 30         13%
  - Ethnicity: 80% white Dutch;  
                   19% various immigrant communities
  - 52% participated in nightlife in the last week

## Methods 2002/4

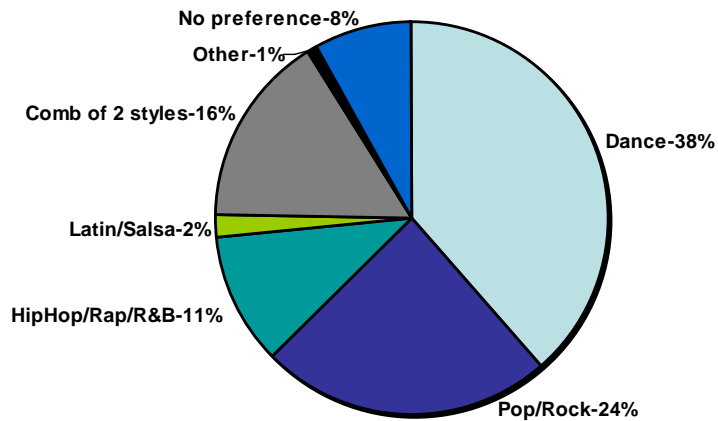


Methods	Period			Comments
	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Ethnographic Mapping</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		Geographic Inventory of Nightlife Locations
<b>Field research</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		Observations in Natural Nightlife Environments
<b>Panel Study</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	Semi-structured interviews with "key informants" from various corners of The Hague's nightlife
<b>Survey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		2002/3: Convenience Sample; 18 item instrument
<b>Internet Research</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		Monitoring and targeted research of (local) party sites
<b>Test Results &amp; Prev. Indicators</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		Local DIMS data

## Results 2002/4



### Musical Preference



## Results 2002/4



### •Prevalence of AOD use:

	LMP	LTP
Alcohol	88%	93%
Cannabis	37%	57%
Ecstasy	17%	35%
Cocaine	10%	23%

•38% never used cannabis, ecstasy or cocaine

## Results 2002/4



Combination drug use, past month, 2003.

<b>Combination</b>	<b>LMP (%)</b>
alcohol and cannabis	34%
alcohol and XTC	17%
cannabis and XTC	14%
alcohol and cocaine	10%
alcohol, XTC and cocaine	8%
cannabis and cocaine	8%
cocaine and XTC	8%
cannabis, cocaine and XTC	6%

## Results 2002/4



- Price increases of alcohol in bars and nightclubs has resulted in home consumption before and after going out
- Respondents often choose to ingest combinations of alcohol and other drugs
- Variations in drug taking patterns associated with age, ethnicity, preference for certain musical styles and participation in various 'scenes'

## Results 2002/4



- AOD use increasingly an accepted and integral part of young people's nightlife experience
- Relatively few young people worry about their own or their friends' AOD consumption
- Indications of informal social controls regulating AOD use among party drug users

## Plans 2006/9



- City of The Hague decided to further monitor and explore trends in AOD use in the city's nightlife, focusing on, among others:
  - Extent, nature and meaning of AOD use within various nightlife environments in The Hague, and its development over time
  - Social opportunities and risks associated with (combined) use of AOD in nightlife settings
  - Factors contributing to self-regulation (or, conversely, escalation) of AOD use among nightlife participants

## Methods 2006/9



- Multi-method (qualitative and quantitative) field study:
  - Revised sampling methodology
  - Revised and extended interview instruments for panel study and survey

Methods	Period				Comments
	2002	2003	2004	2006 2009	
<b>Ethnographic Mapping</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	Geographic Inventory of Nightlife Locations; <i>2006/9: GIS</i>
<b>Field research</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	Observations in Natural Nightlife Environments <i>2006/9 NVivo</i>
<b>Panel Study</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	“Key informants” from The Hague’s nightlife; <i>2006: Updated, focused instrument</i>
<b>Survey</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	2002/3: Convenience Sample; 18 item instrument <i>2006/9: WEB-based; RDS; extended instrument</i>
<b>Focus Groups</b>				<b>X</b>	<i>Informal social controls; Social acceptance; Risk and Protective Factors</i>
<b>Internet Research</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	Monitoring and targeted research of (local) party sites
<b>Test Results &amp; Prev. Indicators</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	Local DIMS data

## Methods 2006/9: Revised Survey Sampling Methodology

- From convenience (time-location) sampling to Respondent-driven sampling (RDS)

*RDS combines "snowball sampling" with a mathematical model that weights the sample to compensate for the fact that the sample was collected in a non-random way.*

([www.respondentdrivensampling.org](http://www.respondentdrivensampling.org))

- **From *sample* estimates to *population* estimates**

## Methods 2006/9: Revised Interview Instruments

- Panel study: Technical revisions: dealing with the different perspectives of providers vs. participants of nightlife
  - Nightlife providers: Location perspective
  - Nightlife participants: perspectives on
    - (i) intimate 'clubbing' network
    - (ii) wider scene
- Survey: 'Full' interview  
*Web administered (WEB-RDS)*

## Foci of 2006/9 study



- Collection of epidemiological, social and contextual data
- In 2006/9 the study will be zooming in on:
  - Social opportunities and risks of AOD use in the context of nightlife
  - Informal social controls regulating AOD use among party drug users

## Determinants of a Healthy Nightlife Environment



### *Control, can we have some?*

(Mersey Drug Journal, 1989)

- Formal and informal controls
  - Formal:
    - AOD legislation, licensing laws, building safety, OSHA, drug testing, (Municipal) "Safe House" regulations/guidelines, Db levels, chill out, free water
    - Healthy Settings Approach (WHO 1997; Bellis et al., 2002)
    - Risk and protective factors; Risk environment (Rhodes, 2002)

## Determinants of a Healthy Nightlife Environment



### Informal:

- Normalization of recreational drug use among young people (Parker, Aldridge & Measham, 1998; Duff, 2005)



*“Statistically, clinically and socio-culturally, drug use is normal behaviour”*

(Nicholson, Duncan & White, 2002)

- Self regulation and subcultural or peer group socialization into drug use
- Importance of drug, set and setting (Zinberg, 1984); interaction of rituals & rules, life structure, and drug availability (Grund, 1993)
- *“Think 4 yourself, care about others.”* Peer interventions, such as **Unity, Spica or Techno Plus.**



**Spica**



**TECHNO PLUS**

## Conclusions 1: Study Focus 2006/9

**“Prevent, reduce and manage  
problems arising from the use  
of alcohol and other drugs”**



## **Conclusions 2: Study Focus 2006/9**

- knowledge to strategies that:
  - Maximize social opportunities and minimize social risks of nightlife participation
  - Promote a healthy nightlife environment
  - Empower drug users to exercise control over their use of AOD
  - Help prevent/decrease problematic AOD use patterns
  - Inform community based (peer) interventions and innovative public health policies

## **Conclusions 3: Methodology**

- Combination of innovative sampling (RDS) and (web based) survey techniques with revised instruments that focus on the parameters of drug use self-regulation
- Triangulation of the findings of these different research methodologies will result in a robust database, providing a multi angle understanding of AOD use among nightlife participants in the Hague over time
- This, in our view, is an essential condition for evidence-based public health policy.

## Contact

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