

## PARALLEL SESSION 3D

### 5 years of drug checking - time to strike a balance

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Over the past ten years the city of Zurich with its 380,000 inhabitants has evolved into one of the most significant party metropolises in Europe. Weekend for weekend approximately 100 clubs and bars with dancing floors attract close to 50,000 festive people from home and abroad. This development generated new phenomena and new problems, especially in connection with the consumption of so called Party Drugs. For this reason Streetwork Zurich launched a mobile Drug Checking project in October 2001. The Drug Checking station offers the analysis of drugs on one hand and on the other an information and counselling booth. Streetwork visits 10 parties per year in different clubs of the city with its mobile Drug Checking station, analyzes a wide range of substances and conducts counselling sessions with social workers.

Since the start of the mobile Drug Checking, Streetwork has attended more than 50 events, analysed approximately 800 pills, powders and liquids, and conducted at least 1000 counselling sessions of which 700 have been documented through a written survey questionnaire. In spring 2006 these questionnaires were evaluated scientifically for the first time. The evaluation results don't merely point out which groups of consumers use the Drug Checking service but also identify for example existing consumption trends and patterns. In summer 2006 an additional survey will be conducted to help identify the impacts/effects Drug Checking has for the consumers. First results of this expanded survey should be available in autumn 2006.