

PARALLEL SESSION 1D

Antenna: Monitoring the trends among clubbers

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This presentation will provide an overview of the drug monitoring system used by the Jellinek Centre in Amsterdam. The author will discuss how researchers stay on top of market trends through panel interviews, observation, surveys, utilising Unity peer-educators, the pill-testing service, etc. It will examine how the low-threshold approach adopted by the Dutch Government has meant that clubbing and the drugs market have remained 'cleaner' and 'safer' for consumers.

In the mid-1990's, the Monitoring System at the Jellinek Centre identified that alcohol and other drug use amongst young people attending clubs and dance parties in Amsterdam was increasing. The most prevalent drugs being used were alcohol, tobacco and cannabis, followed by ecstasy, cocaine and amphetamine (Korf, et al., 1995 & 1998 & 2003). In 1998 there was a significant shift from pills to powder. Over the last years the popularity of alcohol increased. There was also evidence of poly drug use, particularly in relation to the social use of alcohol at these events. Information collected via the ecstasy 'pill-testing service' provided further insight into the quality of the drug market. This presentation will provide important insights into the development, implementation and impact of drug monitoring systems.