

Long-term effects of a community-based intervention: 5-year follow-up of Clubs against Drugs

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Abstract

Aims To evaluate long-term effects of a multi-component community-based club drug prevention programme. **Design** A pre- (2003) and post-intervention study (2004 and 2008) design. **Setting** High-risk licensed premises in central Stockholm, Sweden. **Participants** The intervention programme, Clubs against Drugs, included community mobilization, drug-training for doormen and other staff, policy work, increased enforcement, environmental changes and media advocacy and public relations work. **Measurement** The indicator chosen for this study was the frequency of doormen intervention towards obviously drug-intoxicated guests at licensed premises. Professional male actors (i.e. pseudopatrons) were trained to act impaired by cocaine/amphetamines while trying to enter licensed premises with doormen. An expert panel standardized the scene of drug intoxication. Each attempt was monitored by two male observers. **Findings** At the follow-up study in 2008 the doormen intervened in 65.5% of the attempts (n = 55), a significant improvement compared to 27.0% (n = 48) at the first follow-up in 2004 and to 7.5% (n = 40) at baseline in 2003. **Conclusion** The Clubs against Drugs community-based intervention programme, a systems approach to prevention, appears to increase the frequency and effectiveness of club doormen's interventions regarding obviously drug-intoxicated guests.

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