

The development of the recreational drug outreach educational concept 'Drug Idle'

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Abstract

Background: Recreational drug use is common, particularly in those attending nightclubs. Their knowledge about the potential toxicity of drugs and how to manage this is variable. Methods: We therefore established a multidisciplinary local network of key stakeholders interested in the prevention and management of recreational drug toxicity. Through this network we designed a unique outreach educational concept, 'Drug Idle', for recreational drug users and their friends. This was run within nightclub environments in a user-friendly, non-judgemental forum. We describe here the development of this educational concept and how it was evaluated and adapted on the basis of feedback from attendees. Results: 149 attended the three Drug Idle events as part of this study. All of those trialling the finalized concept thought all three components of the concept were useful, 96.0% that it was of appropriate duration and 98.8% that they would recommend future events to a friend. Conclusions: We believe that wider use of this outreach educational concept will help to improve the knowledge of those using recreational drugs, especially

concerning management of drug toxicity. Additionally, it will provide them with information that will enable them to make informed decisions about the risk of continuing use of recreational drugs.

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