

Illicit drug use in the Flemish nightlife scene between 2003 and 2009

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Abstract

Aims: Given the importance of party people as innovators and early adaptors in the diffusion of substance use, and given the lack of longitudinal scope in studies of the nightlife scene, we explored changes in illicit drug use among young people participating in the nightlife scene in Flanders.
Methods: A survey among party people selected at dance events, rock festivals and clubs was held in the summer of 2003 and repeated in 2005, 2007 and 2009. In total, 2,812 respondents filled in a questionnaire on the use of cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, amphetamines, GHB and ketamine.
Results: The results of the multiple logistic regression analyses show that in the group of frequent pub visitors, the predicting probability of cannabis use increased over time, while the gap in drug use between dance music lovers and non-lovers of dance music narrowed. For cocaine use during the last year, an increase was found related to the housing situation (alone or with parents) of respondents. While the odds of using ecstasy decreased over the years, the odds of using GHB increased.
Conclusion: We can conclude that monitoring emerging trends, which can be quickly observed in the nightlife scene, provides meaningful information for anticipating possible trends.

Web link

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22398749>

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