

Drug Use at Free Parties: Field Survey 2012



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BACKGROUND: Standard quantitative research analysing drug use at dance events (e.g. the “Dance and Drugs” survey) does not provide specific information about drug use at free parties. **AIMS:** The goal of this paper is to create a comprehensive survey of drug use at free parties supported by the results of a questionnaire survey. **DESIGN AND MEASUREMENTS:** The questionnaire was distributed directly at free parties in order to collect data, which were subsequently analysed using standard mathematical statistical techniques. **PARTICIPANTS:** The sample consists of 127 non-randomly selected (available) respondents

recruited at four free parties in the period from April to August 2012. **RESULTS:** Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana had been used by at least 70% of the respondents during the past year. Other substances included hallucinogens (63%), stimulants, ecstasy, GHB, and synthetic piperazine (59%), poppers (~12%), and opiates (~9%). **CONCLUSIONS:** The prevalence rates identified by our survey are in many cases higher than those yielded by the “Dance and Drugs 2007” survey. For example, major differences were found for the annual prevalence of LSD (53% vs. 21%) and magic mushrooms (48% vs. 20%).

KEY WORDS: DRUG USE – EPIDEMIOLOGY – FREE PARTY – FREETEKNO – PREVALENCE – YOUNG ADULTS

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