

A systematic review of interventions to reduce harms associated with alcohol and other drug use in licensed entertainment settings and outdoor music festivals

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Introduction and Aims: The use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and their associated harms in licensed entertainment settings (LES) and outdoor music festivals (OMF) is an ongoing public health concern. This presentation outlines a systematic review on interventions, including laws, policing, urban governance and design, and drug-specific programs to reduce AOD-related harms in LES and OMF; and how these strategies may impact health, social, and criminal justice outcomes.

Design and Methods: Twelve electronic databases were searched, including MEDLINE, EMBASE and OVID. Studies were published in English between January 2010 and December 2021. Types of studies eligible for this review included experimental studies and observational studies.

Key Findings: Of 48,303 studies screened, 102 met the inclusion criteria. 85 focused on alcohol interventions, 7 focused on illicit drug interventions, and 7 on AOD interventions. 100 studies took place in LES, 11 in OMF, and 1 in both these settings. 8 types of singular policy/intervention types were identified, including: laws and regulations (n=40), medical services (n=7), policing strategies (n=8), venues and staff (n=6), drug checking/pill testing (n=3), public transport (n=5), community intervention (n=2), and chill space (n=5), with an additional 26 studies addressing multi-component interventions/policies. The presentation will go into further detail about these outcomes and outline the synthesised findings of the review.

Discussions and Conclusions: The study will contribute to research and policy by: (1) reviewing studies on AOD harm reduction interventions in LES and OMF; (2) examining for similarities in design, implementation, and outcome measures (both intended and unintended) of AOD interventions; and (3) identifying implications for policy and practice in these settings.

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