

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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The Difference is Research

Background

The use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and their associated harms in licensed entertainment settings and outdoor music festivals is an ongoing public health concern. This concern has been the focus of several major inquests recently, including: the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Nighttime Economy; the Coronial inquest into the death of six patrons at NSW music festivals; and the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice'

Nightlife and festival settings, and the regulatory strategies enacted within them, play a major role in the reduction or exacerbation of alcohol- and drug-related harms. Drug use among regular nightclub patrons estimated to be between 4 and 25 times higher (Miller et al., 2015; EMCDDA, 2012) than those in the general population. Coupled with higher incidence of binge drinking in these settings; there has been a renewed inquiry into how the harms associated with AOD use can be more effectively dealt with in these settings.

Introduction

This systematic review examines the effectiveness of different interventions that authorities, health boards, night-time economy advisory panels, community safety leads, patrons and other stakeholders have implemented around the world to reduce the harms of AOD use in licensed entertainment setting and outdoor music festivals. The review will focus on a multitude of frameworks, including laws, policing, urban governance and design, and drug-specific programs, and how these strategies may impact health, social, and criminal justice outcomes. Outcome variables in this review include: Education and interaction reach (i.e. patron contact and presentations with health promotion services); Police recorded instances of arrests, aggressive behaviour, violence or assault at, or around licensed premises and districts; Presentations to drug treatment facilities (counselling, detox, residential facilities); Public amenity (e.g. public/private property damage, litter, vandalism, drug dealing, and public nuisance); Incidence of sexual harassment, unsafe and unwanted sex; Venue staff compliance (e.g. (i) serving intoxicated patrons (ii) serving underage patrons; Traffic incidents; Ambulance callouts; Emergency department (ED) presentations; Hospital admissions (including psychiatric hospitalisation); Prevalence, patterns and behaviour changes related to risky AOD use (i.e. polydrug use, alcohol bingeing, and other drug dosage regulation).

Aim

The aim of this systematic review is to identify and examine the existing knowledge about the types of interventions that can be used to prevent harmful alcohol and/or drug use in licensed entertainment settings and outdoor music festivals, and their efficacy and impacts. The study will add to the existing literature by:

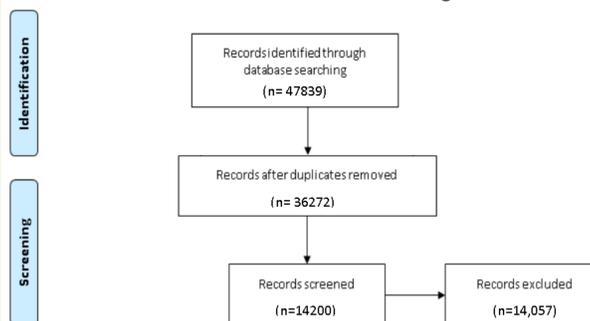
1. Reviewing studies on AOD harm reduction interventions in licensed entertainment settings and outdoor music festivals.
2. Examining for similarities in design, implementation and outcome measures (both intended and unintended) of AOD interventions
3. Identifying the limitations in study results, in order to account for quality and bias susceptibility
4. Identifying implications for policy and practice for licensed entertainment settings and outdoor music festivals
5. Identify implications for future research

Methods

- This review is systematic and follows the PRISMA protocol.
- Twelve electronic databases were searched: MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycLIT, Cochrane Library, CINAHL, Science Citation Index, Social Work Abstracts, OVID, International Bibliography of the Social Sciences, Scopus, Web of Science and Criminal Justice Abstracts.
- All studies had to be published in English between January 2010 and December 2019.
- Types of studies eligible for this review included: experimental studies (e.g., randomised control trials (RCTs)); and observational studies (e.g., case control, prospective, cohort and implementation studies).
- **The systematic review has been registered with Prospero (CRD42020140004).**

Identification and Screening

As of 23rd October 2020:
47839 references imported for screening as 47839 studies
11567 duplicates removed
14,200 studies screened against title and abstract
14,057 studies excluded
143 studies included for full text screening



Timeline and Funding

Start date:

02 March 2020

Anticipated completion date:

01 June 2021

Funding sources/sponsors:

- 1.) The Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship
- 2.) NDARC PhD Top-up Scholarship

References

- Akbar, T., Baldacchino, A., Cecil, J., Riglietta, M., Sommer, B., & Humphris, G. (2011). Poly-substance use and related harms: A systematic review of harm reduction strategies implemented in recreational settings. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 35(5), 1186-1202.
- EMCDDA. (2012). Responding to drug use and related problems in recreational settings. In: Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
- Miller, P., Droste, N., Martino, F., Palmer, D., Tindall, J., Gillham, K., & Wiggers, J. (2015). Illicit drug use and experience of harm in the night-time economy. *Journal of Substance Use*, 20(4), 274-281.

Data Synthesis Strategy

A comprehensive inventory of harm reduction strategies will be developed from the included studies. Initial tabulation will be undertaken to assess comparability of outcome measures for all studies. Included studies will be grouped and tabulated according to all variables considered likely to influence study outcomes and intervention effect.

For experimental studies, binary outcomes (e.g. traffic incidents, ambulance callouts, emergency department presentations) will be tabulated. Due to the expected heterogeneity of the study designs, a narrative synthesis of the data will be conducted that involves developing preliminary synthesis of findings and then exploring relationships between studies. This process will be aided through content analysis, tabulation, description, summarization, and groupings. Extracted data will be translated by identifying and integrating common themes across different studies.

Study name	Intervention Characteristics
Country and geographic settings	Intervention theoretical framework
Venue type	Intervention Adherence/Fidelity
Programme Duration	Study Outcomes
Substance use Addressed	Efficacy Measures
Study Participant Characteristics	Agency Delivering the intervention
Study Design and Name	Study Funder
Limitations	Other Agencies Identified
Other Outputs	

For observational studies, themes across studies that relate specifically to implementation of the intervention will be analysed by using the software package NVivo.

Implications

The study will contribute to research and policy by:

1. Reviewing studies between 2010-2019, on AOD harm reduction interventions in licensed entertainment setting and outdoor music festivals
2. Examining for similarities in design, implementation and outcomes (both intended and unintended) of AOD interventions
3. Identifying optimal measures to reduce harms in each of these high use settings