

Abstract

Background: Recreational use of dance drugs is situated mainly on the premises of dance clubs and bars. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all these areas were suddenly closed. Quantitative foreign studies show changes in patterns of use among recreational users of dance drugs, but in the Czech Republic, this subpopulation of users is not sufficiently described and monitored.

Aim: The main aim of the research was to describe patterns of substance use among young adult recreational users of dance drugs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The second objective was to find out whether dance drug users would return to the original patterns of use they had before the Covid-19 pandemic after the measures were revoked.

Research file: The research file was obtained by the snowball method and consisted of 3 women and 6 men aged 21-30 years.

Methods: A qualitative form of research was used for the diploma thesis with the help of semi-structured interviews and the DAST questionnaire. The research was longitudinal, the interviews took place in three waves. The first research wave in November 2020, the second in June 2021, and the third in November 2021. The data analysis was performed by open and axial coding.

Results: The results showed the impact of epidemic measures during the pandemic, especially on the frequency of substance use, and although there has been a shift in use to the home environment, this environment cannot fully replace dance clubs and bars. Furthermore, it was shown that after the easing of epidemic measures, respondents are gradually returning to the use of addictive substances.

Conclusion: Based on the obtained information, patterns of drug use in recreational dance drug users during the pandemic and after the subsequent relaxation of epidemic measures were described. The obtained results and the theoretical basis can be an inspiration for the implementation of further professional studies focused on this diverse target group.

Key words: pandemic, Covid-19, recreational use, dance drugs, patterns of drug use, qualitative research