

## Abstract

**Background:** Music is an essential part of human life. Substance use is often associated with music artists, but research has shown that the risk extends to their listeners. Studies show that the genres at risk include rock, pop, techno and rap. Listeners, especially during adolescence, may be influenced by this music and as a result be prone to various types of risky behaviour.

**Aim:** The aim of the study was to determine the prevalence of substance use among listeners of different music genres, i.e. how substance use differs among listeners of different genres and to what extent they use substances. A further aim was to determine the CAGE screening questionnaire scores designed to assess the riskiness of drinking. Further, the research focused on the prevalence of lifetime dance drug use and subsequently in the nightclub setting.

**Methods:** An online questionnaire inspired by the European Model Questionnaire was used for data collection, which contains a set of questions assessing the prevalence of substance use at lifetime, 12-month and 30-day intervals. Descriptive statistical methods were used for data analysis.

**Results:** In the sample of people with a preference for one of the twelve music genres, the highest number of people were fans of pop and rock, and the lowest number of people were fans of R&B. Alcohol was the most commonly used substance, followed by tobacco in the form of cigarettes, tobacco in the form of electronic cigarettes and marijuana. The genres with the highest prevalence of listeners using HHC in the last 30 days were pop and electronic music. Listeners of rock and heavy metal used kratom in the last 30 days. Respondents were most likely to have a CAGE score of 0, with fans of the pop, rock, heavy metal, rap and electronic music genres having scores of 3 or more, which represents a high likelihood of alcohol dependence. The genre with the highest prevalence of legal and illegal substance use among its listeners was pop. In terms of club drugs, poppers, ecstasy and cocaine were the most commonly used. Electronic music and techno were the genres with the greatest range of club drug use. Poppers, ecstasy and cocaine were also the only club drugs used by respondents in the club.

**Discussions and conclusion:** The research is an insight into the sample of people who indicated a preference for one of twelve music genres. Despite the limitations of the work, the results of this work add to the existing knowledge in the area of substance use among listeners of different music genres by adding new addictive substances, specifically HHC and kratom, and other addictive substances used as club drugs (mephedrone, GHB and poppers). They may also provide a basis for further research in this area.

## Key words

Music, Substance-Related Disorders, Club Drugs, Prevalence