

Five year trends in use of hallucinogens and other adjunct drugs among UK dance drug users

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Abstract

Aims: To describe and assess trends in the use of hallucinogens and other adjunct drugs over a 5-year period. **Design:** Repeated-measures cross-sectional survey. **Setting and Participants:** Annual magazine-based survey targeting people who use drugs in dance contexts. **Measurements:** Lifetime use prevalence (ever used); age of first use; current use prevalence (any use within the last month), and extent of use within the last month (number of days used) for LSD, psilocybin, ketamine, GHB and nitrates. **Findings:** Prevalence increases for psilocybin, ketamine, GHB and nitrates use have been detected, with a sharp recent rise in current psilocybin use in 2002-2003 contrasting with more gradual and comprehensive evidence of increased ketamine use throughout the period 1999-2003. The declining prevalence of LSD use in general population surveys is replicated in this sentinel population study. **Conclusions:** The rise in prevalence of hallucinogen and other adjunct drugs identified among dance drug users may be mirrored by wider prevalence increases among young people with a consequent need to study these trends carefully and to develop effective interventions, where required.

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