

"What's new on HIV in Belgium in 2016 ?"

Chemsex

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in a sexual context – MSM Community



BREACH SYMPOSIUM

Axel Vanderperre – CONSEIL POSITIF /POSITIEVE RAAD - 25 Nov 2016



Chemsex – community point of view

1. INTRODUCTION
2. NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES AND HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH Chem-Sex
3. MSM Chem-Sex NEEDS in BELGIUM
4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION



- Cocaine, snorted as a powder, injected, smoked in glass pipe or administered rectally
- GHB/GBL
- Ecstasy, MDMA snorted as a powder, injected, smoked in glass pipe or administered rectally + parachute
- Mephedrone (Cathinones), slam, snorted
- Crystal, snorted as a powder, injected, smoked in glass pipe or administered rectally
- Ketamine, injection, sniff

2. NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES AND HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMSEX (1)

Sexual pleasure but with a **range of physical, mental, social and relational harms.**

- **Overdosing** was an issue of significant concern for a large number of men, particularly in relation to dosing of GHB/GBL.
- **Victim of sexual assault** was reported by some men under the influence of drugs
- **Paranoia, anxiety, or aggression** problems were reported by some men.

2. NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES AND HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMSEX (2)

Debate Chemsex Pinkscreens organised by ExAEQUO + F2F discussions

- **Chemsex occupied a large amount of time for many men**, both in terms of actual engagement and recovery.
- **Lost opportunities** for social connection, career progression or relationship development, which believed was a consequence of their drug use.
- Participants expressed concern about the impact of chemsex on the gay scene with concern expressed that **geo-spatial dating apps may further normalise (“banalisation”) it within the community.**



2. NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES AND HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMSEX (2)

• geo-spatial networking apps *may further normalise CHEM_SEX within the community.*



C'EST LA SEMAINE EUROPÉENNE DU DÉPISTAGE DU VIH ET DES HÉPATITES. CLIQUEZ ICI POUR TROUVER UN LIEU DE DÉPISTAGE PRÈS DE CHEZ VOUS.

MORE



European Test Finder



Pour trouver un centre de dépistage du VIH, de l'hépatite ou des infections sexuellement transmissibles en Europe.

Utilisez notre base de données européenne pour localiser votre centre de dépistage le plus proche.

Tout d'abord sélectionnez votre pays sur la liste déroulante. Puis, indiquez votre position ou sélectionnez un département/région ou une ville sur la deuxième liste déroulante.

De | En | Es | Fr | It | Pt | Ru

Grindr 08:57
aidsmap.com

De | En | Es | Fr | It | Pt | Ru

Sélectionnez votre pays

Sélectionnez une ville/un département ou une région

Ou précisez votre localité (ou votre code postal) si elle n'apparaît pas dans la liste ci-dessus

Type de test

- ☐ VIH
- ☐ Hépatite C
- ☐ IST (y compris hépatite B)

Affichez les résultats

- ☒ Sous forme de liste
- ☐ Sur une carte

Grindr 09:00
aidsmap.com

Planning familial Nivelles

Nivelles, Walloon Brabant

237.3 miles from 1000 | [Show on map](#)

[Show on map](#)

[+32 \(0\)67 21 72 20](#)

[planningnivelles@gmail.com](#)

Main address

Bd des Archers 62, 1400 Nivelles

Contraception; HIV, hepatitis testing; STI testing; counselling; information; referrals.

[Report an error with this listing](#)

Planning

3. MSM Chem-Sex **NEEDS** in BELGIUM

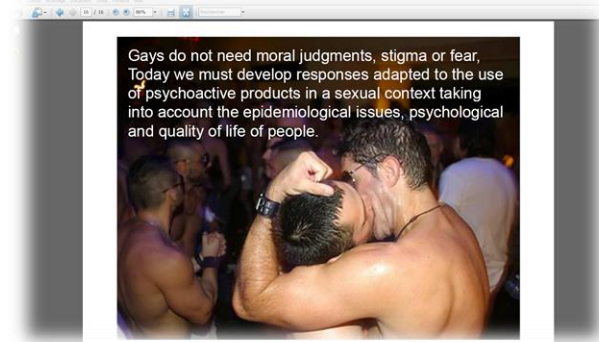
Debate Chemsex organised by ExAEQUO (Pinkscreens festival 2016) + F2F discussions

In terms of information and harm reduction

- MSM valued clear, honest and nonjudgmental information about how to use drugs and have chemsex safely.
- Easier access to Information on the effects and risks specific to the substances
- Harm reduction information & education : eg.
 - « Learning to inject (slam) and easier access to injection kits »
 - « Internet/dating sites: information and discussion centre... »
 - « Brochure specific to M2M »
 - « Specific place where to find info :
Maison Arc en Ciel , Regenbooghuis) »

In terms of health care

- Decrease discrimination and moral judgments
 - « Lack of being listened by health care professionals»
- Increase knowledge and referral to Medical staff to offer guidance
 - « There is no adapted health care structure for chemsex to the MSM audience ».
 - « The gay associations are not educated/formed to handle drug addiction»
 - « Need of bridges between the different disciplines »





4. RECOMMENDATIONS (1)



1. We recommend the production and dissemination of a range of resources that provide **drug harm reduction information**. (eg. Brochure)
2. We recommend **ensuring access for men to gay- friendly drug and sexual health services** that are competent to address the psychosocial aspects of their health and any harms arising from chemsex (inc. Physical, Mental, Sexual Health)



4. RECOMMENDATIONS (2)



3. We recommend **co-ordinated work with managers of commercial sex-on-premises venues** to facilitate development of clear harm reduction policies and procedures. (eg. La Démence festivities) and also counseling by health care professionals in 1to1 chemsex.
4. We recommend **co-ordinated engagement (local, national and international) with associations and commercial companies and gay media**, including those which provide geo-spatial networking apps and websites, to explore opportunities for health promotion and harm reduction as part of a corporate responsibility to their users.

Conseil Positif



Positieve Raad



BREACH symp. - Axel Vanderperre