Poly drug use and mental health among drug users who ask for treatment (POLYMEH)

Funding country: Belgium
Project starting year: 2009
Project ending year: 2011

Area(s) of research:
- Prevalence, incidence and patterns of drug use
- Prevention responses
- Treatment responses
- Consequences of drug use
- Methodology issues

Objectives:
The research objectives are threefold:
- First, we want to map the prevalence of poly drug use and the characteristics of poly drug users in outpatient and inpatient substance abuse treatment in Belgium;
- Second, we will explore the extent and type of psychiatric disorders among persons following substance abuse treatment in Belgium and the prevalence and type of DSM Axis I and II-disorders in this population;
- Third, we will compare the characteristics and psychiatric profile of poly drug users with that of persons who only use one substance.

Scientific discipline(s) involved:
- Psychology
- Sociology

Initial identified needs:
In Europe as well as in the United States, poly drug use has become the rule rather than the exception. In a society in which a diversity of psychoactive substances is available, it is easy for drug users to experiment with various combinations or to look for other substances that replace their primary drug of choice. Several researchers have demonstrated an increase in poly drug use over the past years.

Performed by:
- University of Ghent, Faculty of Psychology and pedagogy
- Collaborative Antwerp Psychiatric Research Institute (CAPRI)
- Universiteit Gent, Vakgroep Orthopedagogiek
- Université Libre de Bruxelles, Groupe d’étude sur l’Ethnicité, le Racisme, les Migrations et l’Exclusion (GERME)
- University of Oslo, Institute of Psychiatry - Norwegian Centre for Addiction Research (SERAF)

Funded by:
- Belgian Science Policy Office

Summary references:

Website:

Published reference(s):