Poisonings due to Substance Abuse Reported to the Poisons Information Centre Erfurt

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Objective: Development of drug abuse

- Evaluation of poisoning cases in four eastern German federal states caused by substance abuse from 2000 - 2009 (ethanol excluded)
Number of poisoning cases

- Total number of cases
- Abuse of single drug
- Abuse of several drugs

♂ : ♀ ~ 3 : 1
Trends of abused drugs

- Amphetamines
- Cocaine
- Cannabis
- Heroin
Trends of abused drugs

- Brugmansia and Datura species
- Liquid Ecstasy (GHB/GBL)
Severity of poisoning cases

Relative frequencies of symptom severity in poisonings due to drugs of abuse and all exposures

- **Drugs of abuse**
- **All exposures**

* Significant differences (p < 0.05)

Symptom severity to PSS
Severity of poisoning cases

Poisoning cases of abuse with severe symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHB / GBL</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphetamines</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other chemicals</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not classified</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other opioids</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brugmansia/Datura sp.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cases of death

- Caused by single drug abuse of:
  - Amphetamine derivatives: 4
  - Sniffing (Propane/Butane): 3
  - Sniffing (Chloroform): 1
  - Cocaine: 1
  - Argyreia nervosa (?): 1

- Caused by multiple drug abuse of:
  - Amphetamine derivatives and Cocaine: 2
**Conclusions**

- Toxicovigilance of poisoning cases caused by drug abuse are helpful for:
  - detection of consumption tendencies,
  - risk assessment of new drugs, and
  - recognition of hazardous consumption patterns.
Many thanks for your attention

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