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Police officers' perspectives on alcohol and drug related offences in Slovenia

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NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Alcohol:

- Restrictions on the Use of Alcohol Act (2003),
- Health and Safety at Work Act (2011) and
- Road Traffic Rules Act (2011).

serving alcohol beverages to drunk persons and to persons under 18 years old → forbidden by law

National Institute of Public Health, 2017:

- More than fifty percent of minors between 12 and 15 years old can easily buy alcohol beverages at gas stations, supermarkets and bars.



NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Illicit drugs:

- Production of and Trade in Illicit Drugs Act (2000),
- Act on the Prevention of the Use of Illicit Drugs and on the Treatment of Illicit Drug Users (1999) and
- Criminal code (2008).

Focus: smoking marijuana in public spaces

The possession of any drug for personal use in small quantities → misdemeanor (fine: 42-210€ or up to 5 days of jail).



PREVENTION

- National Programme on Illicit Drugs 2014-20 (basic principles)
- Prevention activities in schools → the National Institute of Public Health, local health centers and non-governmental organizations
- Prevention work in recreational → non-governmental organization DrogArt
- Project on reducing the excessive drinking of Slovene adults → SOPA

Table 1: Factor analysis

<i>Security threat in the police precinct – Alcohol and drugs</i>	F.L.*	M	S.D.**	Median	Mode
(M = 3.27; S.D. = 0.78; α = 0.84; KMO = 0.79; var. = 60.51%) ^a					
Drinking in public spaces.	0.80	3.16	1.09	3.00	3
Serving alcohol beverages to minors.	0.80	3.05	0.98	3.00	3
Serving alcohol beverages to drunk persons.	0.79	3.56	0.95	4.00	4
Alcoholism.	0.73	3.25	0.94	4.00	3
Smoking marijuana in public spaces.	0.76	3.11	1.03	3.00	3

- The biggest problem → serving alcohol beverages to drunk persons
- Followed by → alcoholism
- Alcohol → bigger security problem than smoking marijuana
- Exception → serving alcohol beverages to minors

Principal component factoring; rotation Varimax.

* F.L. – Factor loading.

** S.D. – Standard deviation.

^a Scale: from 1 – No problem at all to 5 – Very big problem.

Table 2: Discriminant analysis

Variable	Small police station n = 157		Medium police station n = 113		Large police station n = 244		Wilks' Lambda	F
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.		
Security threat in the police precinct – Alcohol and drugs	3.13	0.73	3.08	0.79	3.46	0.77	0.95	14.40***
Drinking in public spaces.	2.83	1.02	2.78	1.00	3.55	1.04	0.89	33.28***
Serving alcohol beverages to minors.	2.94	0.93	2.82	1.00	3.23	0.98	0.97	8.38***
Serving alcohol beverages to drunk persons.	3.55	0.92	3.48	0.99	3.61	0.96	1.00	0.77
Alcoholism.	3.56	0.93	3.42	0.92	3.54	0.94	1.00	0.77
Smoking marijuana in public spaces.	2.79	0.94	2.92	1.05	3.41	0.99	0.92	0.92***
Wilks' Lambda	0.83****							

* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

- Statistically significant differences → 3 out of 5 variables
- Police officers from large police stations vs. police officers from medium and small police stations

DISCUSSION

Why the differences? Why police officers from large police stations?

- More often faces with security threats linked with alcohol and drugs,
- higher number of inhabitants, students, tourists and workers,
- more vibrant nightlife and higher number of social gatherings.

CONCLUSION

- Police officers' perspective → alcohol is a big problem
- Research from 2017 among Slovenian citizens → alcohol was one of the biggest problems
- Alcohol → still the biggest problem in our local communities (deeply rooted in our culture)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Drugs cost you more than just money.