

Queer Sex and Drugs (ChemSex)

Presentation title: Queer Sex and Drugs (ChemSex)

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Abstract (250-300 words):

Sexualised substance use describes the use of certain chemical, psychoactive substances to reduce inhibitions and enhance (heighten) one's own sexual sensations. Depending on the effect, the substances are referred to as "uppers" (activating intoxication) or "downers" (relaxing intoxication). Various advocates intend to use them, which is often unproblematic and plays an important role in the gay coming-out process or in finding one's sexual identity. A problematic use leads to maladhareance, which in case of PLWH causes compromised immune system and in rise of viral load the risks of transmission. However, the extent of risks and problems is limited and often difficult to assess from different perspectives. "Recreational" substance use in nightlife cannot always be clearly distinguished from this. Queer people use psychoactive substances comparatively frequently and are therefore disproportionately affected by health problems that may be related to substance use.

Biography (150-200 words):

Jacques Kohl is a psychologist has been the head Checkpoint BLN since 2018.

Checkpoint BLN is a clinic for sexual health issues for queer people in Berlin. It combines psychosocial services with medical services. Checkpoint BLN offers anonymous HIV/STI tests, PrEP, PEP, HIV/STI treatment, vaccinations against Mpox, hepatitis A/B and HPV, among others. In addition, patients can have counselling sessions on sexual health issues in general and on sexualised substance (chemsex) use in particular.

Jacques Kohl has previously advised people with HIV, sex workers and men* affected by sexualised violence in various professional contexts.

