

Article: 0212

Topic: FC05 - Free Communications 05: Emergency Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Pain and Treatment Options and Psychopathology

Alcohol in Drug Facilitated Crime in French Surveys

S. Djezzar¹, N. Richard², M. Marillier¹, M.A. Courné³, M. Devaux⁴, J.M. Gaulier⁵, J.C. Alvarez⁶, M.H. Ghysel and Addictovigilance Network and members of the Compagnie Nationale des Biologistes et Analystes Experts⁷

¹Centre of evaluation and information on pharmacodependence, GH Lariboisière-Fernand Widal, PARIS, France ; ²Division for Medicines used in Neurology Psychiatry Pain Rheumatology Pulmonology ENT and Ophtalmology plus Narcotics, National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé – ANSM), ; ³Department of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé – ANSM), Saint-Denis, France ; ⁴Toxicology Laboratory, ToxLab, Paris, France ; ⁵Unit of forensic toxicology, CHU Dupuytren, Limoges, France ; ⁶Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, CHU Raymond Poincaré, Garches, France ; ⁷Department of forensic toxicology, Institut National de Police Scientifique, Paris, France

Drug-facilitated crime (DFC) is defined as the concealed or forced administration of psychoactive substances (PAS) to victim for criminal purposes (sexual assault, robbery...). In this situation, the victim is under influence of PAS consumed unwittingly while, in cases of chemical vulnerability, PAS (mainly alcohol) are voluntarily consumed by victims, putting them in a more vulnerable and therefore dangerous position.

Objectives: to remind about the harmful effects of voluntarily alcohol and other PAS intake in chemical vulnerability studies.

Method: we report the results of French surveys on DFC carried out between 2003 and 2013. Data were collected mainly from forensic toxicological laboratories and forensic emergency units.

Results: we analyzed 646 cases files for victims of DFC. Users of non therapeutic PAS were more predominant (448 / 69%) and younger (mean age 23.7 years) than users of all kinds of PAS (198 / 31%, mean age 25.7 years). As most victims were female (88%), sexual assault was the predominant offence in 88% of cases, followed by robbery (10%). Alcohol and cannabis intake were noted in respectively 93.5% and 33% of the first group and 70% and 27% of the second one. Victims presented anterograde amnesia (60%) and vigilance disorders (17%), effects usually sought by assailants.

Conclusion: victims are often surprised to find that alcohol consumption, with or without cannabis, can have forensic consequences with serious traumatic stress. According to our study, it is important to increase awareness among the general public and to make this problem known to professionals concerned by DFC.