

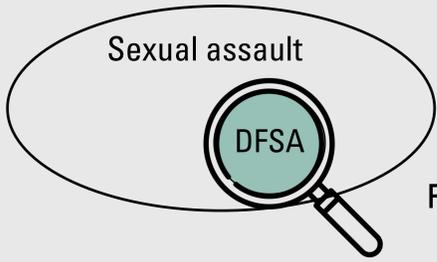
ALCOHOL AND DRUG-FACILITATED SEXUAL ASSAULT: THE PARADOX OF PERCEIVED SAFETY IN A HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE

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Background



Drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) are divided into two categories :

- Opportunistic = chemical vulnerability
- Proactive = chemical submission

Rape drug ? Media : GHB
Scientific literature : Alcohol
→ Alcohol = substance carrying the highest risk in relation to sexual assault



The perception of the danger of substances is not always objective.

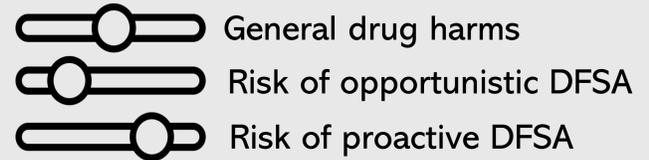
Methods



Online questionnaire

AUDIT-C, Nightlife habits, Consumption frequency, Attitudes toward alcohol and sexual consent (Ward et al., 2012), etc.

Perception of dangerousness



7 substances : Alcohol, Benzodiazepines, Cannabis, GHB, Ketamine, Opioids and Ecstasy

N = 322	
Gender (M/F/X)	90/231/1
Age (Mean/Median)	29.7/25.0
AUDIT-C (Median)	5



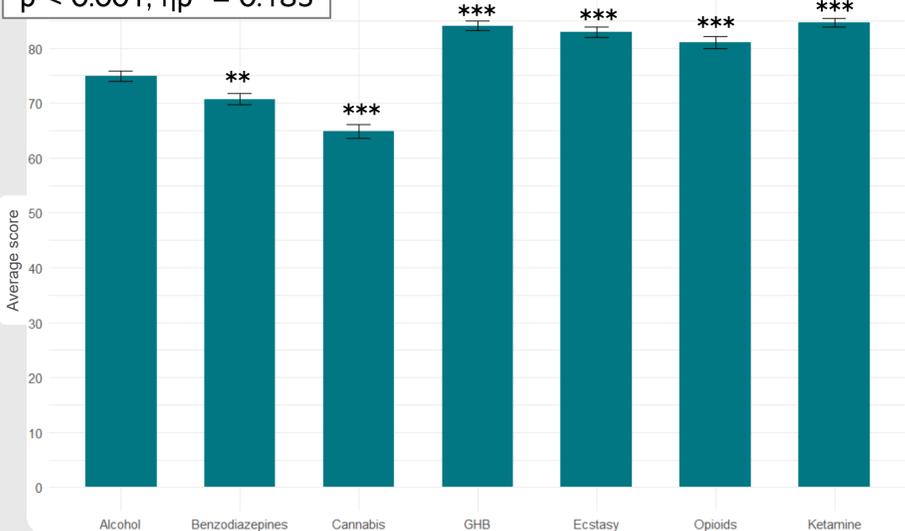
Aim

The aim of this study is to investigate the perception of different substances in relation to DFSAs. We expect alcohol to be perceived as less dangerous than it actually is, while GHB may be overestimated, with consumption habits further shaping these perceptions.

Results

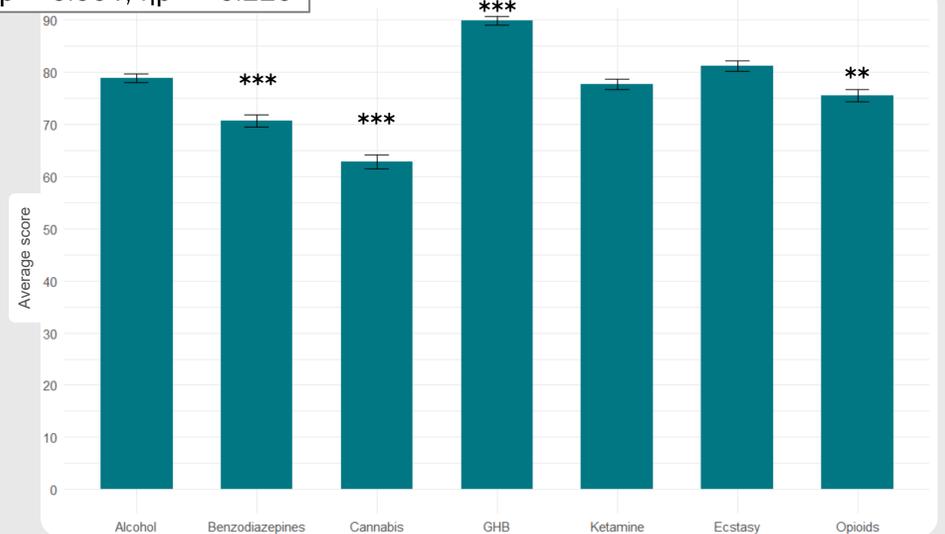
$F(4.94, 321) = 72.1$;
 $p < 0.001$; $\eta^2 = 0.183$

General drug harms



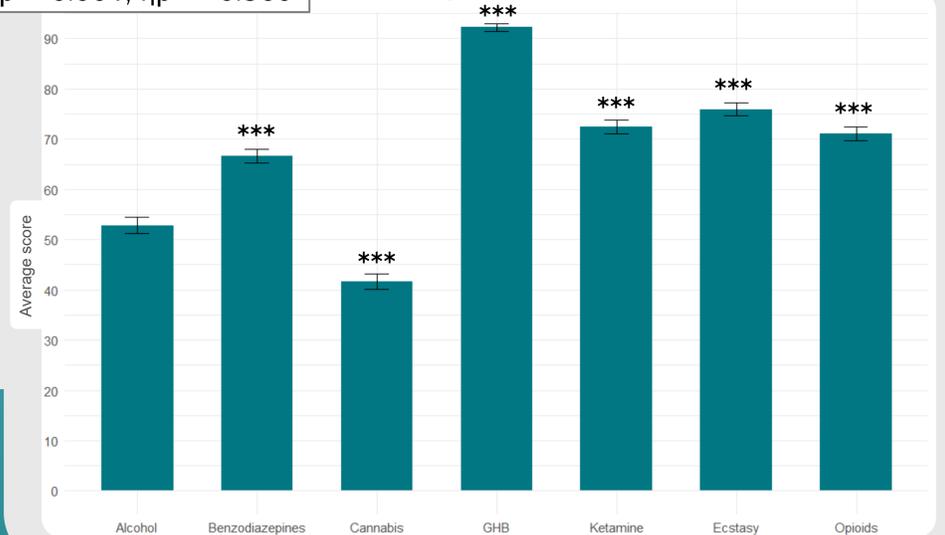
$F(5.19, 321) = 90.5$;
 $p < 0.001$; $\eta^2 = 0.220$

Risk of opportunistic DFSA



$F(4.72, 321) = 181$;
 $p < 0.001$; $\eta^2 = 0.360$

Risk of proactive DFSA



	General	Opportunistic	Proactive
AUDIT-C	-0.197***	-0.137*	-0.077
Freq. of consumption	-0.269***	-0.167**	-0.045
Freq. of going out	-0.191***	-0.183***	-0.031
Blackout	0.047	0.006	0.015
Ward	-0.113*	-0.191***	-0.104

Note. Post-hoc (Holm) tests were restricted to comparison with alcohol. Same things with correlations. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Discussion

Alcohol is generally seen as less risky than most illicit substances, except cannabis, which holds a “hybrid” status. For the risks of opportunistic DFSA, it is perceived more dangerous than benzodiazepines, opioids, and cannabis, but less than GHB. For the risks of proactive DFSA, it is perceived as low risk, likely because it is easily detectable by the victim. Alcohol consumption and nightlife habits tend to reduce perceived risk, though blackout experiences show no correlation, and these associations disappear in proactive contexts.

References

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