

Link between Alcohol and Aggressiveness



Nine of ten persons involved in fights are influenced by alcohol; even in every third case of criminal assaults, rapes or holdup murders are alcohol related.

→ Alcoholized persons tend to be significantly more aggressive than sober persons
eg., *Studies Leonhard (1982) and Ganter/Taylor (1990)*

Alcohol

- Environmental stimuli are less noticed. Pre-warnings of aggressiveness (which would usually curb) will be ignored/overlooked
- Consequences of aggressive acting are less predicted, especially by younger people
- Alcohol has an anxiolytic effect; self-confidence increased
- Alcohol lowers the „cut off“ of readiness for violence



Alcohol and Drug Controls as Part of Violence Prevention

13. European Police Congress,
Special Forum VII: Safety Strategies at Mass Events
Lübeck, February 3th, 2010, Dr. Stefan Steinmeyer

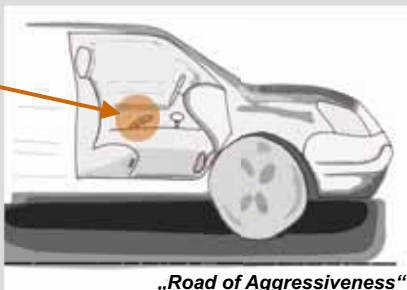
Link between Alcohol and Aggressiveness



Alcohol:

...unfixes the „social hand break“;

Disinhibition,
Loss of control



When do riots take place ?



frequently at mass events, like:

- Music festivals
- Demonstrations
- Sport (soccer) events
- Folk festivals/ festivities like carnival, „Oktoberfest“

... often with significant material damage and personal injuries

causing terms are for example:

- Opportunities, best of all with chance of non-detection
- Group dynamics, agreement in reference group
- Provocation, e.g. only by presence of police in battle dress, with helmet und baton
- Escalation
- Influence of alcohol and drugs



Link between Drugs and Aggressiveness



Sympathicus & Parasympathicus:

→ Relaxation and Regeneration

- Rest & Digest -

Some substances are able to inhibit the Parasympathicus; Sympathicus is then overbalanced.

z.B. Atropine

→ supports also aggressive behaviour



The Vegetative Nervous System



Sympathicus & Parasympathicus:

Antagonists;

Task: System to regulate the balance between activity and relaxation



Link between Alcohol, Drugs and Aggressiveness



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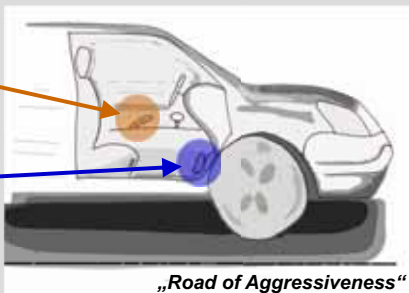
Disinhibition,
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Drugs:

... „push the gas panel“

„Uppers“ do increase aggressiveness during intoxication phase

„Downers“ do increase aggressiveness during withdrawal phase



Link between Drugs and Aggressiveness



Sympathicus & Parasympathicus:

→ Increase of Performance,
e.g. in stressful and dangerous situations

- Fight & Flight -

Substances which act like the Neurotransmitter Noradrenalin (Sympathomimetika), are **Stimulants**.

e.g. Amphetamine or Cocaine

→ supports aggressive behaviour



Examples Alcohol Restrictions → City Center

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Pub/discotheque area, Freiburg:

- Summer 2008: Restriction of alcohol consumption in the old part of Freiburg, valid in the nights from Friday to Monday („Bermuda-Triangle Regulation“)
- Reason: Preventive intervention possible; to hinder fights especially caused by drunken and aggressive youth. Police asked for a regulation
- In the first months, decrease of violence acts by 16%
- But: student went to court, and won the case in July 2009 (Mannheimer Verwaltungsgerichtshof)
- The Freiburg Alcohol restriction is against the law und ineffective; „a restriction needs a real danger, a potential danger is not sufficient. Not everybody becomes aggressive while under the influence of alcohol.
- Other cities liked to follow, like Heidelberg, Ravensburg, Düsseldorf (every third case of violent assaults does happen in D'dorf old town)



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Counteractions?

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- High presence („rule of thumb“ in soccer: > 500 officers)
- Mechanisms which decrease aggressiveness (e.g. conciliation, deescalation)
- Limited access to alcohol and drugs (e.g. increase of age, limitation of alcohol-selling tradesmen)
- Prevention campaigns
- Prohibition of alcohol and drugs (time, location)
- Controls
 - ... can be transferred from traffic:
 - All drivers know about the fact that he/she can easily be detected when alcoholized; also by use of technical measurement devices
 - significant reduction of alcohol cases
 - also significant reduction of drug cases; soon?



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Examples Alcohol Restrictions → Folk Festivals

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Alkohol in Carnival:

- Cologne Police after carnival 2009: „Significant increase of violence; less cases, but more brutal“
- Increased numbers of „Carnival-Hooligans“
- In Discussion: no bottles are allowed around carnival days in inner city of Cologne
- Close relation with transport companies and Bundespolizei necessary
- Town clerk's office Köln: „Restrictions must be monitorable; also more controls and higher penalties for innkeeper, kiosk owner etc. who sell high concentrated alcohol to younger people“



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Examples Alcohol Restrictions → Public Transport

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- Early 2009: Restriction of alcohol consumption in Munich's subway stations (like London, mid 2008). Reason: attacks, drinking bouts, and violent harassment
- Initially, sales of alcohol was included, but later excluded due to complaints
- In a survey, 83% rated the regulation as positive
- → Juli 2009: restriction also in busses, trams, and subway trains
- Since November 2009: Restriction of alcohol in „Metronom“ trains
- Reason: prevention of violence and vandalism, not only by soccer fans, but also by younger people on their way to the cities at weekends.
- 80% of passengers support the restriction.
- Controls are performed by Metronom train conductors and private security personell
- „Deutsche Bahn“ is actually checking the situation in local traffic



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Examples Alcohol Restrictions → Soccer (3)



- 24. Oktober 2009: soccer game M' Gladbach vs. Cologne: area-wide restriction of alcohol in the inner city of Gladbach and around the stadium
- between 9.00 and 15.30 no sales of alcohol (kiosks, supermarkets, public locations)
- Massive complaints by the „alcohol dealers“, but the City won the case; „the potential risk of violent acts against public safety has a higher priority than realisation of profit“
- According to the Police protocol, less violent acts have been recorded. Most people did show understanding
- Controls have been performed by 1200 officers, and workers of the town clerk's office



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Examples Alcohol Restrictions → Soccer (1)



- Police Union: „dramatical increase of violent excesses in conjunction with soccer games. Today, 30% more escalations compared to the average of the last ten years
- Approx. 150 „risky games“ per season in Germany's highest four classes; 400-600 officers on duty, up to 300.000 Euro personal costs – per game
- Union's „catalogue of demand“ re the issue „Soccer and Violence“ (May 2009): More restrictions of alcohol and bottles should be given, also on arrival and return trips
- Other countries, like Italy, like to follow



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How can Monitoring be performed?



- Summary: in different areas, alcohol and drug limits are controversially discussed „Safety contra Freedom of citizens“, and „who pays?“
- Classification is difficult: who likes just to have fun with one beer, and who is the chronic drinker who tends to be aggressive? Where is the limit to be a „safety risk“?
- Beside Prevention concepts: Alcohol- and drug tests as objective tool for control/monitoring:
- Allow mobile, quick and reliable measurements
- Example Dräger Alcotest, resp. Dräger DrugTest & Dräger DrugCheck
 - Professional technology
 - Detection of alcohol in breath (Alcotest), resp. in oral fluid (DrugTest, DrugCheck):
→ Impairment, not consumption!
 - Sample collection can be observed
 - Rental pool



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Examples Alcohol Restrictions → Soccer (2)



- According to the Safety Regulations of UEFA, it's forbidden to serve alcohol in football stadiums
- In most of the German stadiums, alcohol limits are set in force. Example Hamburg soccer team (HSV): 1,5 per mille (as guideline)
- Suspicious persons are checked by security personell

Der Kontroll- und Ordnungsdienst ist berechtigt, Personen – auch durch den Einsatz technischer Hilfsmittel – daraufhin zu untersuchen, ob sie aufgrund von Alkohol- oder Drogenkonsum oder wegen des Mitführens von Waffen oder von gefährlichen oder feuergefährlichen Sachen ein Sicherheitsrisiko darstellen. Die Untersuchung erstreckt sich auch auf mitgeführte Gegenstände.

HSV Arena Regulation, §4 (2)

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Thank you for
your attention.

