

Title: Violent Deaths associated with Consumption of Psychoactive Substances in Mexico City

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Objective: To estimate the association between violent deaths and the consumption of psychoactive substances reported in toxicological tests of people who died in Mexico City during the period 2009-2012. Method: The necropsy reports between 2009 and 2012 of the Institute of Forensic Sciences in Mexico City were collected in order to make a census that included the registry of the cause of death's diagnosis and results of the toxicological tests of deceased people. The variable of interest was the cause of death of the deceased. Explanatory variables, such as the use of psychoactive substances prior to death, characteristics of the deceased and characteristics of the medical care, were included. A multivariate logistic regression model was used to determine factors associated with violent deaths. Results: The prevalence of deaths associated with the consumption of psychoactive substances declined significantly from 23.39% in 2009 to 13.50% in 2012. Of the deceased people, 28.21% consumed some psychoactive substance prior to death. People who used psychoactive substances were more likely to have a violent death (OR_A = 1.40, 95% CI: 1.01-1.94%), where homicides were the main cause (27.84%) and alcohol was the most-frequently-consumed substance (30.98%, 95% CI: 28.51-33.56%). Conclusions: The social, cultural, and economic changes occurred in the last decades in Mexico have favored the consumption of psychoactive substances that have triggered violent deaths, such as accidents, homicides, and suicides. It is necessary to continue documenting patterns of consumption of differentiated substances for men and women that allow it to strengthen public policies on prevention.

Biography

Dr. Eduardo Bustos is a Junior Researcher at the Institute for Care and Prevention Addictions in Mexico City. Dr. Bustos earned his General Physician Degree at Autonomous University of Hidalgo State and his Master of Science in Health Systems at the National Institute of Public Health, Mexico. He participated in the Public Health Leadership and Implementation Academy Program of Emory University. His research interests include the social determinants of health, health policy and management, health economics, and global health. He has published papers in reputed journals.

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