

Review of: "Measuring the harms of psychotropic substance use and poly-use in the nightlife scene: a pilot application of poly-drug use indicators on Italian data collected within the ALAMA study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This interesting study aimed to explore some possible indicators of poly-drug use analysing the data of ALAMA study. The study concerns of an important emergin public health issue that still is understudied due to lacks of tools to describe the phenomenon. The results are interesting, however the manuscript represents some points to be addressed, before pubblication. A list of the major issues is reported:

Introduction:

- the first four paragraphs seem to refer to all published data that however are not mentioned. To this concern, all those “well-known issues” should be circumstantiated by proper literature. Please, add all the missing references, e.g. the WHO definitions, references to the cited surveys and the issue of polydrug consumption (Di Trana A. The challenging issue of polydrug consumption: new trends of a deep-seated public health threat. *Acta Biomed.* 2022 Oct 26;93(5):e2022311. doi: 10.23750/abm.v93i5.13708.

Method section:

- the section should be expanded in order to give sufficient information on the performed statistics. To this concern, I suggest adding a dedicated paragraph in which all the variables and the statics tests are explained.
- All the method descriptions, such as how the single indicators are calculated should be reported in this section, instead of reporting them in the subsequent sections that should be dedicated to the results and the discussion.

Table 2: All the reported abbreviations should be explicated in a footnote. Furthermore, it should be more consistent to refers to “psilocin/psilocybin” instead of mushrooms.

Other:

- The official term is “New Psychoactive Substance”, provided by the UNODC. Please correct all along the manuscript.
- Once an abbreviation is defined for the first time, it has to be used instead of the extended name. Please, control all along the manuscript.
- A wider overview on the literature on the topic should provided. Please, revise the cited literature expanding the

considered sources.