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Drugs in the Sex Trade

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You work and earn at least part of your income in the sex trade, where drugs like cannabis, XTC, cocaine, speed, poppers, but also alcohol, play a big role. If you use drugs, you should be informed about the various substances and their effects. This brochure is intended to give you a brief overview.

Taking off.

Different drugs affect your body and your behaviour in different ways. Most of the time you feel freer, you bend your rules a bit and have a harder time making clear what you want and what you don't want. When working in the sex trade, it is important that you know what you're doing, that you're the one who determines what's going to happen and under what conditions. Don't forget that this is your job and drug use on the job is not recommended.

Be a pro!

Don't take any unnecessary risks and don't put your health on the line. Decline if a client tries to convince you to take drugs with him. If he starts making problems, ask him if he uses drugs while on the job. Professionalism pays off when it comes to drugs. Many clients will come to value this and you will come across as more reliable, while protecting both yourself and your client.

Substances that pack a punch

Alcohol

Alcohol is a legal drug, but a drug like any other. Almost everyone drinks alcohol and this is often unproblematic. Nevertheless, alcohol is often underestimated. At least on the job, you should try to keep your alcohol consumption to a minimum. For example, you could make it a rule not to drink more than 2 beers. If you fail to keep your limit, think about why you drink more, what function alcohol has for you and whether there aren't other ways you can relax.



Legal drug; never underestimate its amount and effects.



Effects

- funny, open, relaxed, chatty
- aggressive, depressive and hostile to others
- loss of control over body and behaviour



Tips

Try to keep your alcohol consumption under control, especially while on the job. In the end, your chances are better if you can keep cool-headed.

Sleeping Pills (Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines)



Barbiturates are used in medicine as sedatives, sleeping pills and narcotics; danger of addiction when used without discretion.

The most common forms of sleeping pills are barbiturates and benzodiazepines. They can bear various brand names (Rohypnol, Valium ...) and are available in tablet form. It is hard to estimate when the pills take their full effect and how long this effect lasts.



Effects

- initially calming, soporific according to dose
- long-term use can reverse the effects (stimulative, intoxicating) and become quite dangerous (psychological changes)
- slower reaction times
- often difficulties saying what you think and what you want
- when taken with other intoxicants (especially opiates and alcohol), there is a slight risk of overdose



Tips

Taking this into account, it becomes clear: Barbiturates and benzodiazepines are bad for business! Be careful when using several substances simultaneously. One and one don't always equal two, even if you're familiar with both substances - the effects can be different and much stronger.

Cannabis (Hashish and Marijuana)



Hashish
[actually
"dried grass,
hay" in
Arabic]. Its
effects can
differ greatly.

Hashish and marijuana are among the oldest intoxicants. They are extracted from the hemp plant, which contains the effective substance THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). Hashish is the resin of the bloom, which is dried, pressed and crumbled. It is then smoked in a pipe or in cigarette form (joint). It can also be used in cakes, cookies or tea. Marijuana is a mixture of dried leaves and blooms of the hemp plant and contains about 5 times less THC than hashish. When smoked, both substances have a rapid and strong effect, which lasts for a maximum of 4 to 6 hours.

Effects

- ◆ feeling of well-being, relaxation, desire for harmony, urge to talk, laughing
- ◆ suppression of aggressive behaviour
- ◆ intensified sensory impressions (e.g. vision, hearing, sense of smell)
- ◆ loss of sense of time
- ◆ tiredness, slowing down of movements and reactions, withdrawal into oneself
- ◆ anxiety, nausea
- ◆ when consumed regularly in large amounts: dullness, change of personality

Tips

Occasional use of cannabis isn't necessarily problematic, but it's important to know that cannabis can have a range of different effects. If you become anxious, for example, try to calm yourself (food and drink can sometimes help). Here, as well: It is better not to use cannabis while on the job.

Hallucinogens (e.g. LSD, Mescaline)



When using LSD, a psychological dependency can sometimes develop. As well, you quickly need more to maintain its effects.

LSD (Lysergic Acid Diethyl Amide) is the best-known and strongest hallucinogen. It is available in the form of paper trips or small white tablets. Other than LSD, mescaline (white capsules) and psilocybin (also contained in magic mushrooms) are the most common hallucinogens. They are swallowed and usually begin to work after a few minutes. Effects can last for up to 12 hours, sometimes for as long as 24 hours.

Effects

- ◆ feeling of happiness, change in perception (e.g. you hear colours and see sounds), loss of sense of time, relaxation
- ◆ higher sex drive, danger: greater tendency for risky behaviour
- ◆ higher blood pressure and pulse, shaking, nausea, vomiting
- ◆ "bad trip" with strong fits of depression, hallucinations and anxiety

Tips

Hallucinogens are powerful drugs. You should be aware of their effects. If you should ever try them, then only with someone you trust who can keep cool-headed in an emergency. If you tend to be afraid of hallucinogens, then you should abstain from them. Using hallucinogens during or shortly before working is not recommended, as the danger of having a "bad trip" is great.

Opiates (e.g. Morphine, Heroin)



Opiates are active ingredients derived from the opium poppy; the best-known are morphine and heroin. Because of its similar effect, morphine is often used as a substitute for heroin. On the drug scene, it is swallowed or injected. When injecting, there is the danger of infection, abscesses and overdoses. The effects are stronger on the short term (flash), but also considerably shorter (approx. 3 hours). When swallowed, the effects last approx. 7 hours. Heroin (= diacetylmorphine) is the chemical compound of morphine and acetic acid and is usually available in powder form. The effects and colouring (usually brown, but up to and including white) depend on the country of origin and processing method. Heroin is usually injected or smoked.

Morphine, named after the Greek god of sleep, is subject to the Law on Anaesthetics. Heroin, named after the Greek word for "hero" (in the sense of strong, powerful), is quickly broken down to morphine in the body.



Effects

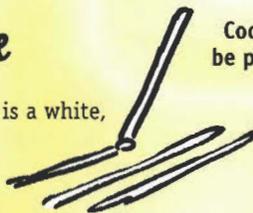
- ◆ feeling of happiness (only at the beginning)
- ◆ pain-killing
- ◆ change in perception
- ◆ decline in capability, staggering
- ◆ decline in sexual activity



Tips

Caution when using: you can get hooked quickly! When shooting: Only use unused needles, otherwise you can become easily infected with HIV, hepatitis and other illnesses! Avoid using while on the job.

Cocaine



Cocaine can also be processed into crack, which is cheaper but also more dangerous.

Cocaine is a white, crystalline powder extracted from the leaves of the coca bush. It can be snorted, smoked or injected. The effects are stronger when injected, but also shorter (1-2 hours). The effects last the longest when snorted (max. 4-5 hours). Regular use leads to a strong psychological dependence. Crack or free-base is made by adding chemicals. It is smoked, is cheaper and much stronger than pure cocaine, but it is effective for a much shorter period of time (max. 1 hour). As well, the risk of addiction is greater than with pure cocaine.



Effects

- ◆ extreme feeling of happiness (flash): "I'm the greatest!"
- ◆ rise in capabilities
- ◆ intensified socialization
- ◆ rise in sexual activity
- ◆ when used regularly: hallucinations, anxiety, heart and circulation problems, decline in sexual activity, strong withdrawal symptoms. When snorted: ruined mucous membrane of the nose



Tips

Don't use too frequently - you can become addicted quickly! When working in the sex trade, caution is advised: As cocaine causes you to lose your inhibitions and because it is used during anal sex, clients often offer it. Don't take up their offers!

Poppers



Poppers (amyl- and butyl nitrate) are available as a liquid in small bottles. The active ingredient was originally used to treat certain heart conditions. The vapours of this substance are snorted. The effects begin after only a few seconds and last for about 3-4 minutes. Poppers are often used in the gay scene to intensify certain experiences (e.g. to have less inhibitions during sex, to relax or to intensify orgasm). As poppers lead to relaxation of the muscles, it is often used during anal sex (to relax the sphincter).

"Snuff", frequently used in the gay scene, which can have very strong side effects.



Effects

- ◆ sudden feeling of well-being, short and intense flash
- ◆ relaxation of the muscles
- ◆ sudden loss of strength, weightlessness, dizziness
- ◆ strong beating of the heart
- ◆ headaches, sometimes nausea and unconsciousness
- ◆ when used often and excessively: disturbed vision, severe anaemia



Tips

Frequent use of poppers can be damaging to your health. If you use poppers during sex, then only with someone you trust, who will not take advantage of the situation.

Speed



Speed is also known as amphetamines or metamphetamines. It is a white, crystalline powder which is snorted. It is often used as a party drug in the house and techno scenes. Speed has a stimulating effect. As with XTC, you don't get tired all night and dance, overheat and don't notice that you're putting too heavy a strain on your body.

Also known as "wakamins", this preparation, whose chemical properties are similar to those of adrenaline, has a strongly stimulating effect on the central nervous system.



Effects

- ◆ stimulating
- ◆ irritability, nervousness, restlessness
- ◆ cardiac rhythm problems, rheumatic pains
- ◆ afterwards: depression, physical frailty



Tips

Speed eats at your body and mind. You can only sleep with great difficulty and sleep is exactly what your body needs after using speed. Don't use it while on the job - you'll be quickly irritated (speedy).

XTC (Ecstasy)



At present, the irrefutable "in" drug with the potential of becoming acceptable in almost all social casses

XTC is one of the so-called designer drugs. It is produced in laboratories and is popular above all in the house and techno scenes. Normally the substance MDMA (methyldioxymetamphenamine) is contained in XTC, but sometimes also the substances MDA (methyldioxyamphetamine) and MDEA (methylene dioxyethylamphetamine). XTC is usually sold in tablets of various shape and size. The concentration of the active ingredient varies considerably.



Effects

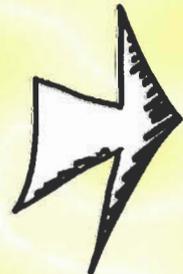
- ◆ feeling of well-being, carefreeness, harmony
- ◆ heightened alertness, restlessness
- ◆ increase in blood pressure, racing of the heart
- ◆ decline in hearing and vision
- ◆ loss of appetite
- ◆ after using: exhaustion, excessive need of sleep, depression



Tips

XTC is quite popular at the moment, but you have to be careful because not everything that is sold as XTC is actually XTC. Always try a small amount at first, in order to see if the pill agrees with you. You should also be careful when dancing: Your body can overheat (through the combination of dancing, sweating and insufficient amounts of liquids consumed) and this can be life-threatening. Here, as well: Don't use XTC while on the job or with a client. XTC has a disinhibiting effect and could cause you to compromise your limits - it is exactly these limits that you need to make clear to your client.

And last
but not
least ...



Ten Tips

1. Drugs always influence your behaviour. While on the job, drugs could cause you to take unnecessary risks. If you want to use drugs during sex, then only with someone you can trust.
2. Avoid clients who try to convince you to take drugs with them or who want to pay you with drugs. It is better to keep cool-headed – in the end, many clients will come to respect your professionalism.
3. Think about why you take drugs and what effect they have on you. It is important that you control the drugs and not the other way around.
4. Don't use several drugs at the same time. The effects can change so much that it could be dangerous for you.
5. Use drugs only with friends you can trust. If something happens, they can help you. Don't be afraid to call a doctor or ambulance in an emergency.
6. Use drugs cautiously and enjoy the effects, otherwise you risk overdosing. Try only small amounts of the substance at first.
7. Before using, always think about the ways in which you can come down or dilute the effects of the drug, if needed. This results in less stress and a softer coming-down.
8. If you notice that you have lost control over your drug use, talk with friends and don't hesitate to seek professional help. You're not the only one and there are many places where you can get help.
9. Don't take drugs across borders: Drug possession and smuggling are still heavily penalized and there are border controls even within Europe.
10. Always see to it that you have enough condoms and lubricant with you (special condoms for anal sex, water-soluble lubricant). Always stick to the rules of safe sex on the job and in your private life.

