

## The sexual behaviour and sexual health needs of young British casual workers in an international nightlife resort



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## Meet the British casual worker

- Young people, usually aged **16-35**.
- Take part in temporary casual work in international nightlife resorts over the summer season (May-September), usually for **3-6 months**.
- Often from the periphery of their home labour markets, with a lack of commitment or permanence to any position in the UK. E.g. Unskilled workers, students.
- Usually find work in **bars and nightclubs**.
- Often paid 'cash in hand'. Basic wages are generally low, enough to cover accommodation, eating and party lifestyle.
- Workers receive **discounts** from restaurants, bars and nightclubs. Therefore living costs are cheap and hedonistic lifestyle is encouraged.
- Often live in 'workers accommodation', apartment blocks where large group of casual workers can socialise.

## The location: San Antonio, Ibiza

- Ibiza is a busy nightlife resort notorious for its **dance music** scene that runs from April- October.
- Frequented by famous international DJs who host nightly **clubbing events**.
- Wide variety of '**dance**' **drugs** such as ecstasy, cocaine and amphetamines.



## The problem

- **Lack of research about casual workers in nightlife resorts:**
  - ❖ Recent research mainly tourist based.
  - ❖ Blurred definition of casual workers and tourists
- **Casual workers behave like tourists.**
  - ❖ Time spent abroad is usually viewed as an 'extended holiday'.
  - ❖ Risky and excessive behaviour is normalised (e.g. substance use, casual sex).



## The problem

- **Socialisation and Networking:**
  - ❖ Increased interaction with tourists, locals and other casual workers on a daily basis.
  - ❖ Increased instances for risky behaviour. E.g. meeting new potential sexual partners, using new substances.
- **Lack of health initiatives to protect casual workers:**
  - ❖ Heavily tourist based.
  - ❖ Only offer short term solutions.
  - ❖ Lack of trust in foreign health services?

## Health Services



- San Antonio Health Centre**
- Built in 2010 to cope with the influx of tourists to the resort.
  - Used by local residents.
  - No specific sexual health service available.



- 24-7 Ibiza**
- Voluntary Christian organisation.
  - Give out information and advice to tourists.
  - No treatments available.

## Method

### Short Quantitative Questionnaire

- Targeted British casual workers aged 16-35 (n=182)
- Workers approached opportunistically in bars, on the street and at the beach in the daytime.
- Self administered questionnaire with envelope system.

## Method

### Questionnaire followed the themes below:

- The reasons and motivations behind coming to Ibiza, and the type of work that the participant is involved in.
- Participants' substance use in the UK, and subsequent use during their stay in Ibiza.
- Participants' sexual activity in Ibiza, and their previous patterns of sexual activity in the UK.
- The sexual health of the participants, and access to healthcare in Ibiza and intentions to receive treatment back in the UK.

### Findings: Sex

- In total, **85.1%** of participants had sex during their stay in Ibiza.
- Of those who had sex in Ibiza:
  - **72.5%** had sex with multiple partners.
  - **49.0%** had unprotected sex.
  - **43.0%** had unprotected sex with more than one sexual partner.
- Casual workers had significantly more sexual partners in Ibiza than at home; a mean of **0.82** per fortnight in Ibiza compared with **0.14** in the UK ( $p < 0.001$ ).

### Findings: substance use...

- 74.9%** regularly used more than one substance type in Ibiza (not including alcohol or tobacco). Reported levels of drug use were higher in Ibiza than in the UK.

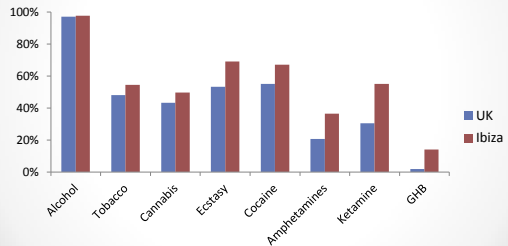
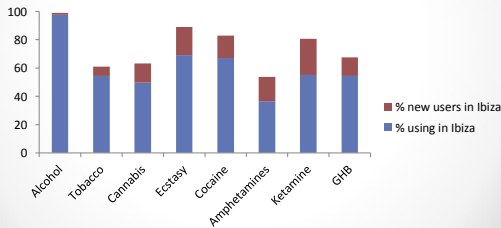


Figure: Percentage of participants using substances in Ibiza and the UK

### Findings: substance use

#### Recruitment and Relapse

- Chart shows the number of new users in Ibiza (those who had never used before or had not used in the previous 12 months).



### Findings: sex and substance use

Indicators for risky sexual behaviour were the length of stay of a casual worker and **levels of drunkenness**.

Frequency of drunkenness per week	Had Sex %	Had Multiple Partners %	Had Unprotected Sex %
Once or less	75.9	31.0	20.7
2-4 times	83.6	54.1	37.7
5 or more times	93.8	82.5	54.3
Total (n=182)	85.1	72.5	43.0
X <sup>2</sup> (P)	7.201 (<0.05)	28.143 (<0.001)	10/836 (<0.05)

## Findings: sex and substance use

- The vast majority (80.8%) of those who had unprotected sex were **under the influence of alcohol** at the time.
- Just over half of those who had unprotected sex (50.7%) were **under the influence of drugs** at the time.
- There was no association between having had sex and the use of illicit drugs; however, using **tobacco** was significantly associated with having more sexual partners ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Findings: healthcare

- Only 32.6% of participants had received any **health information** regarding drugs, alcohol or sexual health.
- Around a third (28.7%) had visited a **doctor or hospital** in Ibiza.

### Sexual Health

- Of those who had sex, **67.6%** will receive a sexual health check up on return to the UK.
- Only **9.6%** of participants received a sexual health check up in Ibiza.

## Summary

**High levels of risky sexual behaviour:**- sex with multiple partners, unprotected sex.

**High levels of substance use compared with previous UK use:**- including poly-drug use, recruitment and relapse into drug use in Ibiza.

**Frequency of drunkenness is an indicator to risky sexual behaviour:**- high levels of those who had unprotected sex under influence of alcohol.

**Lack of healthcare information, advice and treatment accessed:**- in particular sexual health check ups.

## Questions we need to ask

Are casual workers contributing to the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STDs) being brought back to the UK?

Why aren't casual workers accessing healthcare in Ibiza?

If STDs are lying dormant in casual workers until they are treated at in the UK, what are the long term health effects?

What are the health effects of excessive substance use over prolonged periods of time?



## What can be done?

- **Casual workers need to be recognised as temporary residents:**
  - ❖ Different healthcare needs to tourists.
  - ❖ Longer term risks.
- **Sexual health initiatives need to be introduced:**
  - ❖ Tailor made for British casual workers.
  - ❖ Treatments available at a low cost, or free.
  - ❖ Literature aimed at casual workers, linking sexual health with substance use.

## Any questions?

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