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A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE HARMS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE IN LICENSED ENTERTAINMENT SETTINGS AND OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVALS

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INTRO

The use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and their associated harms in licensed entertainment settings (LES) and outdoor music festivals (OMF) is an ongoing public health concern.

The aim of this systematic review is to examine the effectiveness of interventions to reduce AOD-related harms in LES and OMF, and how these strategies may impact health, criminal justice, and behavioural outcomes. These interventions include laws and regulations, policing strategies, urban governance and design, and drug-specific programs.

METHODS

- Twelve electronic databases were searched, including MEDLINE, EMBASE and OVID.
- Studies were published in English between January 2010 and December 2019.
- Included experimental studies and observational studies.

RESULTS

- N=89 studies have been included in this review from 41,700 studies screened.
- Studies evaluate the impact of AOD interventions on **health** outcomes like hospitalizations, ambulance attendances, road traffic accidents, death; **criminal justice** outcomes like assault, public order offences, driving offences, sexual assault, general crimes; or **behavioural** outcomes like riskier AOD consumption practices, and public transport use.
- 67 studies evaluated **alcohol** interventions, 9 evaluated **illicit drug** interventions and 13 on **both alcohol and illicit drugs**.
- 74 studies took place in **LES**, 14 in **OMF** and 1 in **both** these settings.
- Studies predominantly took place in Australia=33, USA=18, UK=17, Canada=5, Sweden=4
- The most prevalent studies were around **alcohol** harm reduction strategies in **Australian nightlife settings**, most commonly the effects of **laws and regulations** (e.g., trading hour restrictions, smoking bans, and alcohol licensing policies), and their impact on **criminal justice** outcomes.

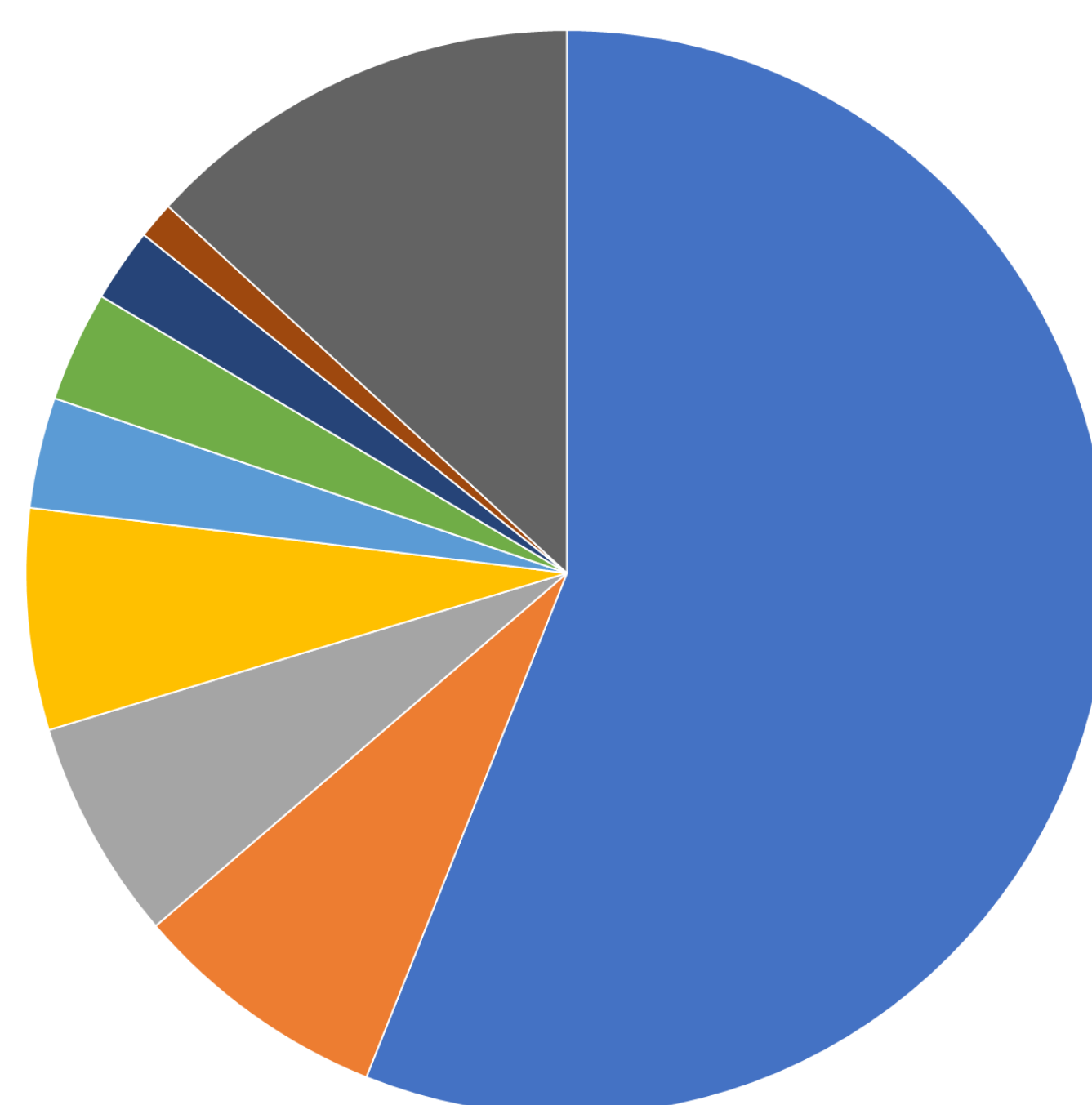


Figure 1: Intervention Types

- Laws and Regulations (n=51)
- Medical Services (n=7)
- Policing Strategies (n=6)
- Venues and Staff (n=6)
- Drug Checking/Pill Testing (n=3)
- Public Transport (n=3)
- Community Intervention (n=2)
- Chill Space (n=1)
- Multi-component (n=12)

DISCUSSION

This study contributes to research and policy by:

1. Reviewing studies on AOD harm reduction interventions in LES and OMF.
2. Establishing an evidence base around program/ intervention design, implementation, and AOD-related outcomes.
3. Identifying implications for policy and practice in these settings.