



# **POLICING DRUG RELATED PUBLIC SPACES**

**Harm reduction**

**2nd European Conference 2014 May 7-9**

**Basel, Switzerland**

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# WHAT I WANT TO INTRODUCE....

- Typology on drug markets
- Open drug scenes – characteristics and related threats
- How to manage demand oriented drug market structures
- Consequences for a common health and public security policy
- Summary
- Sources



# Typology on Drug Markets

- Cultivation/Production
- Trafficking
- Depot building and market segmentation
- Supply of local or individual markets
- Demand

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# Demand oriented supply structures

- Open drug scenes
- Local drug related public gatherings
- Exclusive purchase opportunities
- Group specific supply circles
- Closed supply circles

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# OPEN DRUG SCENES - CHARACTERISTICS

- Scene members use the location to build up and establish social contacts
- Petty drug trafficking and drug consumption at this concrete locations is recognizable and visible to the public
- Publicly visible drug consumption and dealing is tolerated by officials
- Increasing crime in the surrounding
- Increasing trends towards both, dilapidation at the specific drug location and social deprivation of the scene members

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# OPEN DRUG SCENES – THREATS

- Local and regional pull on dealer and consumers,
- Access on straight availability to drugs
- Starting point of acquisitive crime or violence.
- Minor or less detection risk of being caught for dealers
- seriously detrimental consequences for neighbourhood and neighbouring business areas
- loss of attractiveness in terms of economic, cultural and tourism aspects
- Overall:
  - Negative effects on the subjective sense of public security and resulting from that a dramatic loss of trust in public decisions (less acceptance for harm reduction measures)

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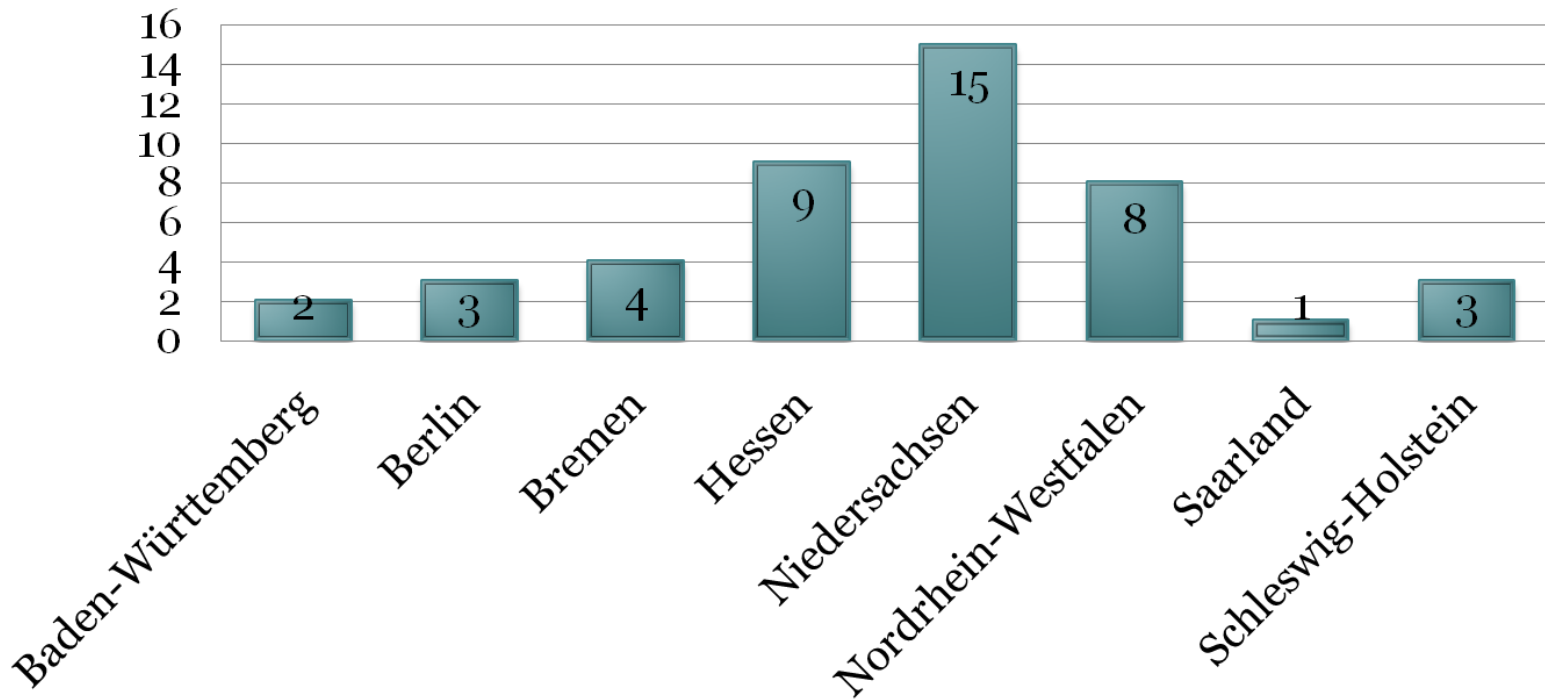
## LOCAL DRUG RELATED PUBLIC GATHERINGS

- Dealers and consumers as well as other troublesome groups (e.g. homeless people, alcoholics) take use of the location as a permanent social meeting point
- These mostly permanent places are public
- The purchase of drugs is easily feasible for everyone
- Drug consumption is not tolerated as well as dealing even of small portions



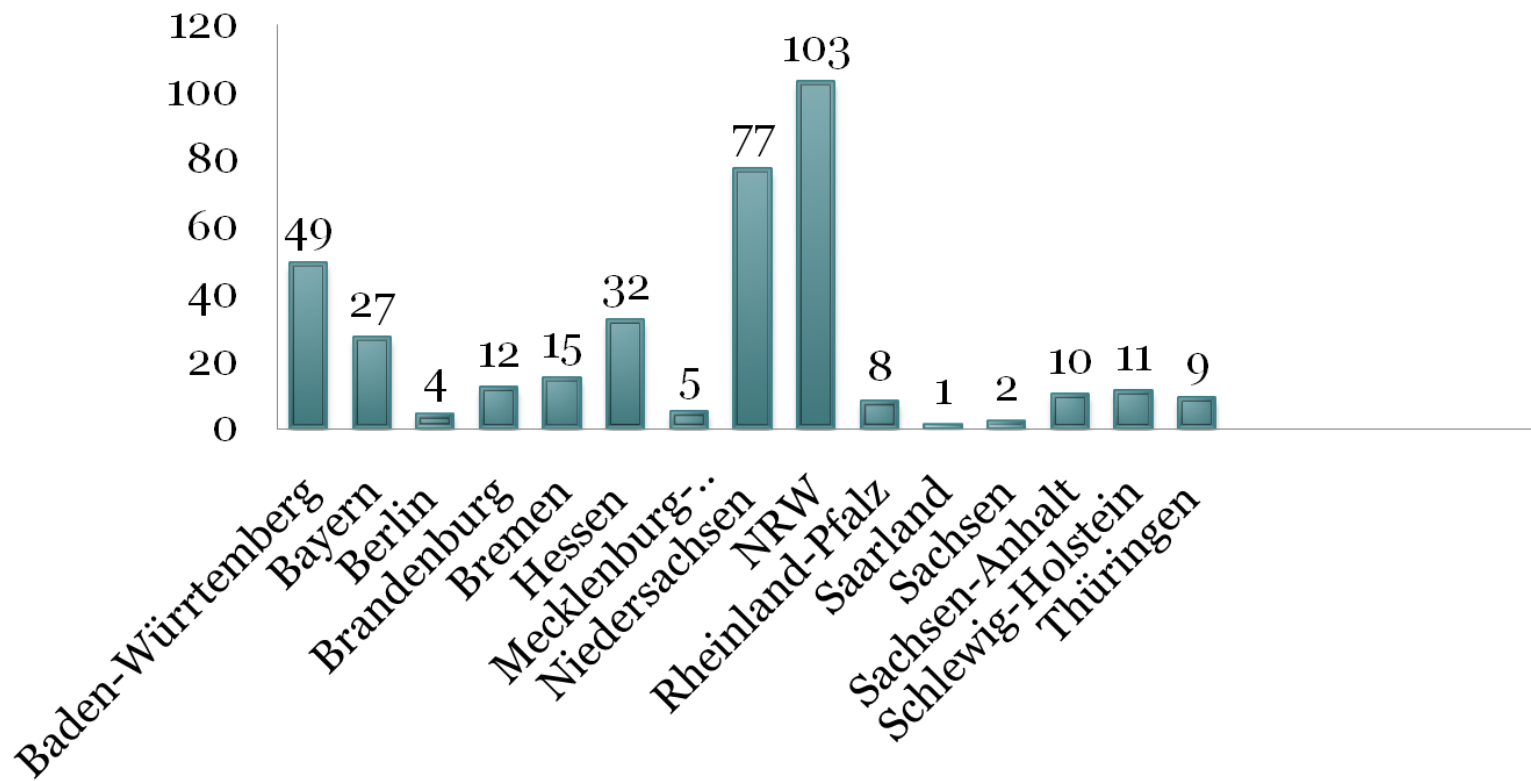
# OPEN DRUG SCENES REPORTED BY THE LÄNDER POLICE FORCES (2007 /2008)

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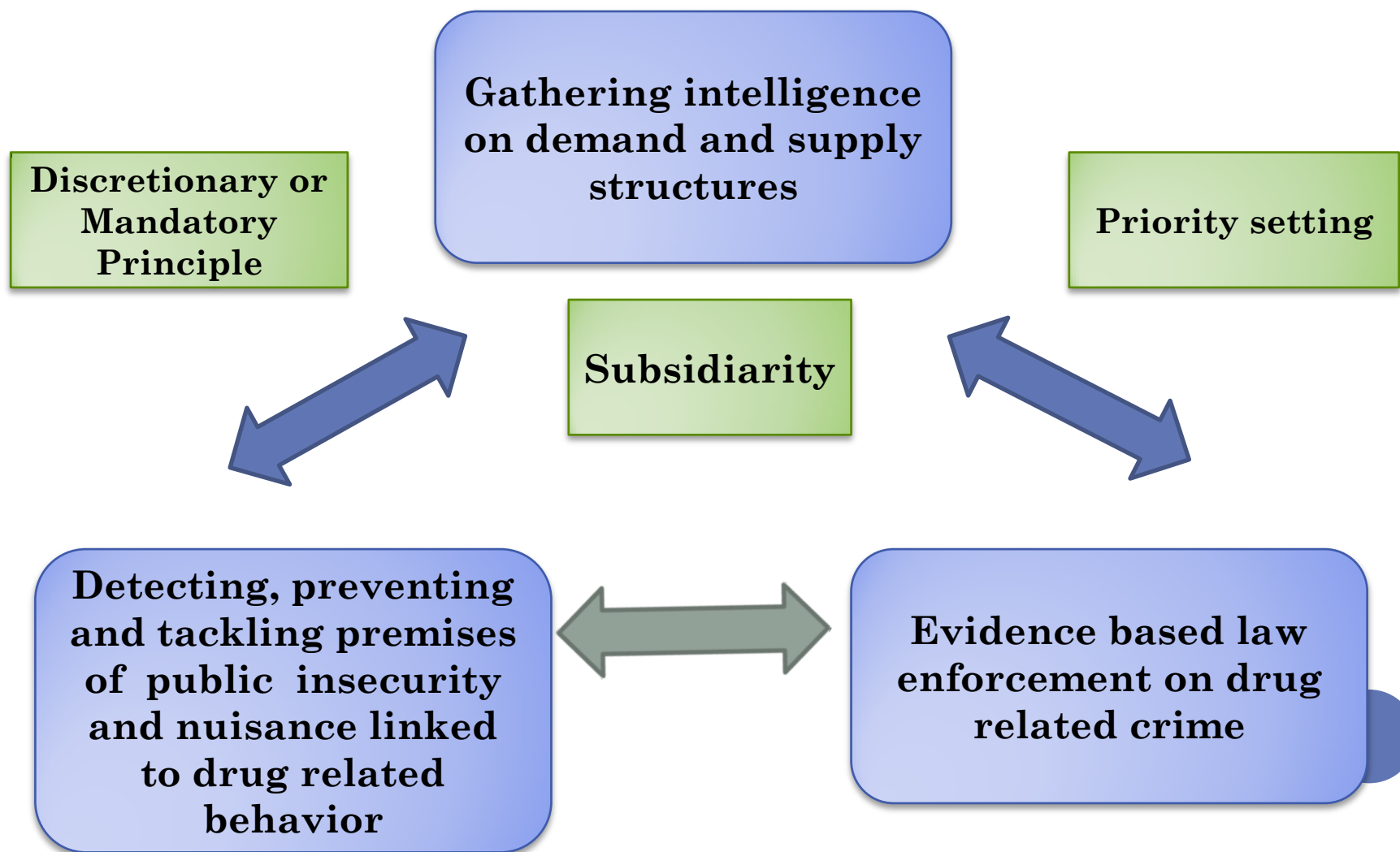




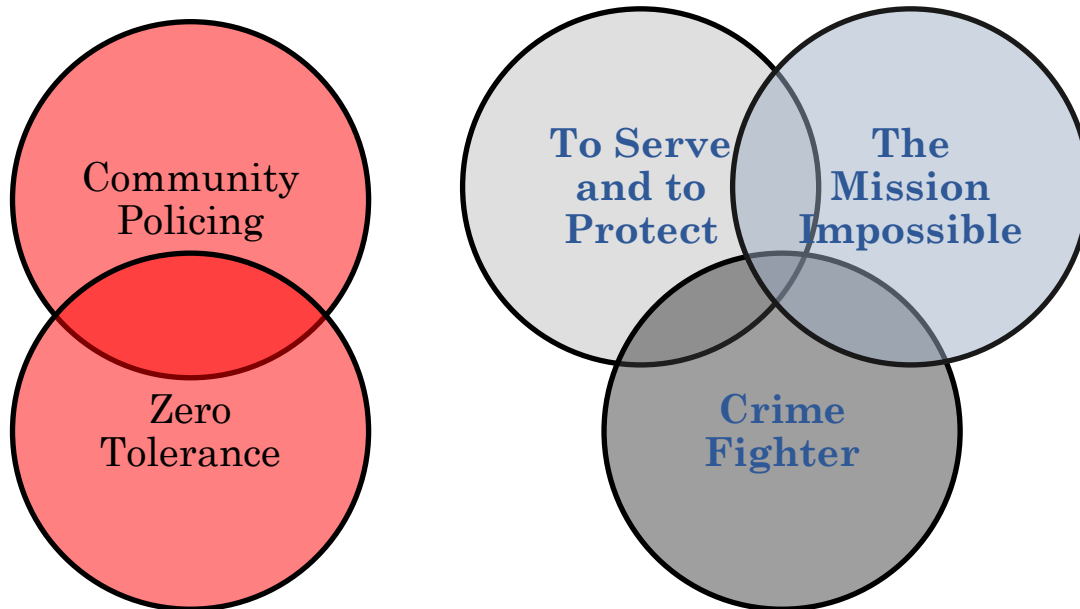
# DRUG RELATED PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN GERMANY REPORTED BY THE LÄNDER POLICE FORCES (2007 /2008)



# POLICING DEMAND ORIENTED DRUG MARKET STRUCTURES



# Policing Strategies and Attitudes



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# CONSEQUENCES FOR A COMMON HEALTH AND PUBLIC SECURITY POLICY

- The drug problem is still a global threat; However, the vast majority of current drug related issues are caused locally and seek for local responses.
- Demand and supply reduction issues are two sides of the same coin and should not be focussed isolated
- Mutual exchange of information between both, treatment and harm reduction institutions and policing authorities is precondition for successful cooperation
- Intervention measures of all participating authorities, institutions and organisations should redirect to a common strategic objective –comprehensive harm reduction

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# Summary

The finding of the German Police University introduces a typology of drug demand related supply structures. Characteristics of open drug scenes and the related threats require specific policing strategies considering more than solely law enforcement. The historic role and the current functioning and objectives of the police forces may have an important impact on carrying out public harm reduction measures particularly the establishment of consumption rooms. A common health and public security strategy is necessary to enter into appropriate solutions for comprehensive harm reduction. All participating authorities and institutions should be redirected by mutual success.

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## Sources

*R. Kasecker (2010):* Kriminalstrategische Aspekte der Rauschgiftkriminalität; Studienbrief der Deutschen Hochschule der Polizei, Fachgebiet Grundlagen der Kriminalstrategie, Münster.

*European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2013):* Drug squads: units specialised in drug law enforcement in Europe, EMCDDA Papers, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

Typology on drug markets

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**Thank you for your attention –  
I appreciate your remarks and questions**



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