

WE CARE A LOT

HERE
AT PUKKELPOP
I CAN LOVE
WHOEVER I WANT
I CAN BE
WHATEVER
I WANT
TO BE

BE YOU

LOVE,
YOU

#PKP19

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INTRODUCTION

- Pukkelpop started in 1985 as a small, local event and has grown into a four-day music festival with 66.000 visitors per day
- Festivals are about enjoying music together, singing together, dancing together, partying together
- Whenever we bring people together, there is an element of risk
- It is the responsibility of festival management to identify, reduce and deal with these potential risks

1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL RISKS



Size, duration, line-up,
camping, ...

Social and cultural norms (alcohol-
and drug consumption, sexual
interactivity, ...)

Age, gender, race, class,
sexuality, ...

THE CONTEXT OF MUSIC FESTIVALS

- **Increased drug and alcohol consumption** (Fileborn et al., 2020)
- **Alcohol and drug intoxication is strongly associated with:**
 - **Increased risk of sexual violence (perpetration and victimisation)** (Abbey et al., 2001)
 - **Reduced likelihood of reporting sexual violence** (Fisher et al., 2003; Grobb & Turner, 2012; Weiss, 2010)
 - **Self-blame**
 - **Believe that others will view them as responsible**

PREVALENCE

A large crowd of people is gathered inside a tent at a music festival. The tent's structure is visible, with a high, arched ceiling and white fabric walls. In the background, a bass guitar is visible, suggesting a live performance. The lighting is warm and ambient, typical of a festival setting.

- YouGov survey (UK, 2018): 43% of female visitors experienced unwanted sexual behavior at a music festival
 - Only 7% reported it to festival staff
 - Only 2% reported it to police
- Bows et al. (2022): 34% of women and 6% of men experienced sexual harassment at a festival in the previous 5 years

PREVALENCE

- Only a top of the iceberg: universally under-reported
 - Reasons in non-reporting are varied and complex
- Major gaps in knowledge about the prevalence, nature, experiences and responses to sexual violence
- Previous research described a range of behaviors experienced at festivals and nightlife settings including verbal and physical sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, ... (Brooks, 2011; Gunby et al., 2020, Hill et al., 2020)
 - Conclusion: sexual violence at festivals is not distinct from the sexual violence women experience at other times in other spaces

2. REDUCE POTENTIAL RISKS

HARM
REDUCTION

INCREASING
THE
WILLINGNESS
TO SEEK HELP/
REPORT

OFFER THE
RIGHT CARE

TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

- Mix of health and safety measures
 - Preventive
 - Repressive
- Health perspective takes precedence
- Multidisciplinary group of stakeholders
- Data collection

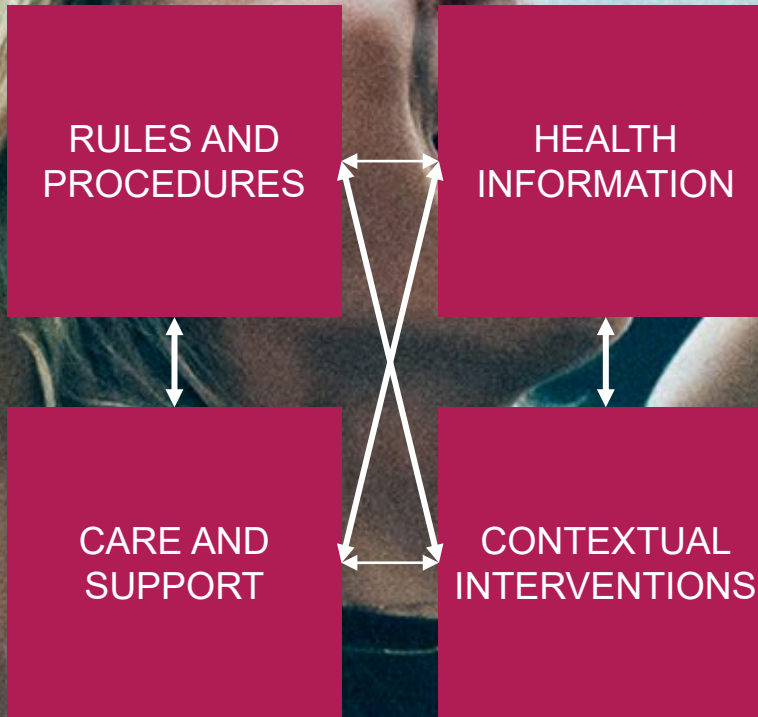
STAKEHOLDERS



WE CARE A LOT

No alcohol under the age of 16, No drunk driving, zero-tolerance policy towards any form of sexual harassment

Provision of confidential welfare and medical services



Health and awareness messages, early warnings, trained staff and volunteers, peer support and mobile teams (Safe 'n Sound), drug analysis by civil protection, urine analysis, ...

Security and police checks, visibility of security in high risk areas, illuminate dark spaces, camera surveillance, provision of free condoms, water, healthy food, ear protection, public transport, chill-out zones, ...

3. DEAL WITH RISKS

- Increasing the willingness to report/ seek help → reducing barriers
 - Awareness messages (app, social media, screens, toilets, showers, ...)
 - Awareness bystanders
 - Trained staff and volunteers
 - Peer support
 - Confidential welfare and medical services in order to minimise retraumatising or victim-blaming
 - Hotline (24/7)
- Data, monitoring and evaluation

Victim/ witness/ staff

HOTLINE

Security

Police

Medical services

Psychological support

VICTIM CENTRED APPROACH

- Emotional and physical support as a key need
 - Avoiding secondary victimisation, victim-blaming and psychiatric problems
 - Crisis support should be available at the festival grounds
- A criminal justice approach, such as reporting to police, is not always desired by victims
 - Strictly adhering to it could be a barrier to reporting

A close-up photograph of a young couple kissing. The woman on the left has long, dark braids and is wearing a dark top. The man on the right has short, light-colored hair, wears glasses, a white t-shirt, and a black watch. He has a festival wristband on his left wrist that says "PKP" and "CAMPING Relax". The background is a blurred outdoor festival setting with other people and structures.

QUESTIONS?
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THANK YOU!