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PSYCHIATRIC COMORBIDITY AND PTSD IN ADDICTED PROSTITUTES

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In the city of Rotterdam prostitution used to take place not only in sexclubs but also in and around a designated prostitution street-zone in the harbor area outside the city center. The group of sexworkers at this street-zone consisted primarily of severely addicted women. For a long period of time the harm reduction approach had been the major intervention for this socially marginalized group of women. From January 2003 to December 2004 184 of them could be interviewed and diagnosed according to DSM IV. Nearly all of them were addicted to heroin and cocaine and most of them also were dependent on alcohol and benzodiazepines. Psychiatric comorbidity was almost 100 %. Co-morbid conditions existed of cluster B and C personality disorders, psychotic disorders (26 %), affective disorders (31 %), acute PTSD (9 %) and adult-ADHD (8%). In 2006 the government had closed the prostitution street-zone and many of the women could be placed in therapeutic and protected homes. Now, 2 years later, we reinvestigate these women with respect to their actual social situation, their quality of life, psychiatric comorbidity and persisting (acute and chronic) PTSD. During the interviews we use the WHO Quality of life questionnaire and the KIP (clinical interview for PTSD). It is an ongoing study and the (preliminary) results will be presented during the symposium.