

## 2 Abstract

On January 1, 2017, a new bill to allow alcohol and drug testing in perpetrators of violence will come into force. The bill provides a legal basis for the deployment of alcohol and drug testing in violent offenders. The results of these tests can be taken into account in the conviction and sentencing stage of the criminal justice process.

A comprehensive literature review shows that a number of important questions about substance use and violence are still unanswered. It involves questions like: Is there a dose-response relationship between alcohol/drug use and aggression? What are the characteristics of the subgroup of people who react aggressively under the influence? Does aggression depend on the duration since last use and for how long will this relation continue to exist? Does combined use of alcohol and/or drugs lead to an increased risk of aggression? What is the prevalence of alcohol and drug-induced aggression committed by arrested suspects in the Netherlands? Which experimental behavioral measurements are good predictors of alcohol and drug-related violence in everyday life?

This report provides an important impetus for research proposals that address the questions above. This report describes the basic design conditions that future studies on the association between alcohol, drugs and violence should adhere to. This report also defines key outcome measures and how these can be optimized.

The current research proposals provide three important outcomes to society and politicians: 1) the scientific determination of concentration-effect relations between drug use (alcohol, cocaine and amphetamine) and aggression, 2) the extent and degree of violence and substance abuse by arrested suspects in the Netherlands after the legal introduction of alcohol and drug tests for violent offenders, and 3) data to evaluate implementation of the new bill.