

Vulnerability in Recreational Settings – the city of Porto - Portugal.

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Introduction/Resume

Between April and June 2015 a data collection process took place that aimed to contribute to the characterization of vulnerability in recreational settings in the city of Porto. These data contribute to a larger project that aims to characterize vulnerability in a number of Portuguese and Portuguese speaking cities. A total of 7 Porto nightlife areas were observed, including 4 downtown Porto sites (*Piolho* - outdoors, *Piolho* – indoors, *Galerias* – indoors, *Túnel de Ceuta* – indoors and outdoors), the *Ribeira* area, a party at a disco associated with university students at an industrial area, and a large scale annual festival for university students (*Queima das Fitas*). Data include over 53 images (*photo voice*), n=11 structured interviews, n=7 structured observation instruments and content of 1 focus group (*world café*) with participation of n=11 young adults (ages 20-28, graduate or post-graduate students, or recently graduated professionals). Data were analyzed through a content analysis procedure that identified vulnerability dimensions and recommendations offered to deal with those vulnerabilities. Ideal nights to go out varied from Thursday to Monday. The considerable growth of tourists in the city was identified as a major factor for the recent increase of nightlife offer.

Vulnerabilities in Porto Nightlife and Recommendations



Picture 1. A downtown bar's decoration theme consists solely on the image and marketing of a vodka brand.



Picture 3. At the entrance of a large annual college student festival (*Queima das Fitas*) guests are invited to leave their drinks and foods at the entrance. This image was collected at the last day of the festival where gates collapsed because of large affluence of people leaving the venue.



Picture 5. Drone overview of a large annual festival for college students. At the entrance the first offer guests have consists of a number of very low price drinking spots. Because gates weren't open soon enough, and because a large number of tickets was being sold in the black market, many people with a ticket couldn't get in. (www.facebook.com/fap)



Picture 2. A very crowded disco welcoming a party for college students is playing extremely loud music. A number of people are clearly intoxicated. People bump each other and stagger because of alcohol intoxication. Barmen are performing a number of animations while selling drinks.



Picture 4. A downtown bar explores an outdoor area. However garbage is not collected frequently enough.



Picture 6. A downtown area that concentrates a crowd outdoors is crossed by high speed traffic circulation.



Picture 7. At a very small downtown bar entrance, exit and emergency exit are very common at outdoors or indoors venues.



Picture 10. The *Ribeira* area, with large tourist affluence, next to unprotected river margins. "Buckets" of hard liquor are sold for half price on Mondays.



Picture 8. A large group of Erasmus students organizes a girl vs. boy game in the plaza. Who loses has to drink a whole bottle of beer at a time.



Picture 9. After a shot a sip of beer helps counteract the unpleasant bitterness of the hard liquor and clean the palate.