



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Drug Report

Trends and Developments

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6 November 2019

National Drug Prevention Conference - Otočec Castle, Slovenia

European Drug Report Package 2019

EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT PACKAGE 2019

Interlinked elements allowing access to available data and analysis on the drugs problem in Europe and at national level



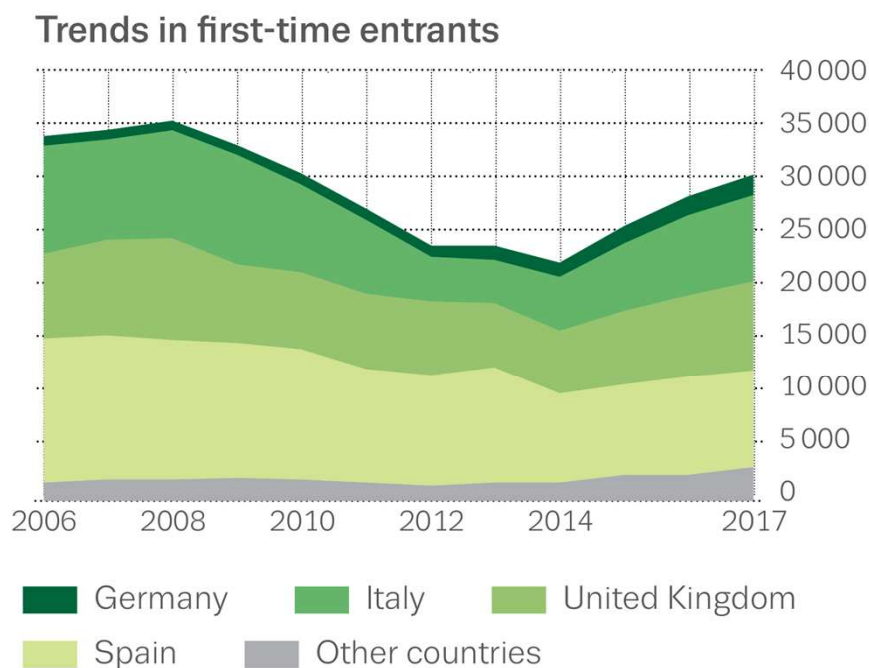
European Drug Report 2019: highlights

- **Cocaine:** record seizures and purity, growing health problems
- **Synthetic opioids:** acute poisonings and deaths a concern
- **Heroin:** increased quantity and precursors seized
- **Cannabis:** increased potency, main drug in new treatment entrants
- **Overdose deaths:** 9461 deaths, mainly linked to opioids, increasing trend continued
- **Hepatitis C:** antibody prevalence >50% in more than half of countries, need to scale up prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- **Key public health interventions:** opioid substitution treatment and needle and syringe distribution programmes – coverage remains below recommended levels in several countries



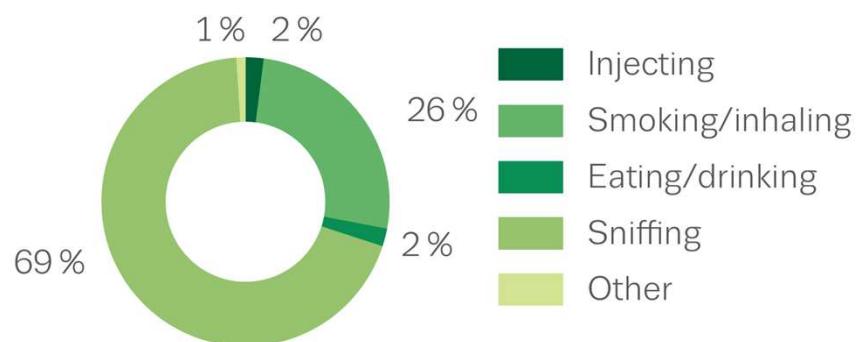
Cocaine: more evidence of harms

**33 000 new treatment clients —
increase since 2014**



**11 000 clients entered
treatment for crack cocaine use
in 2017**

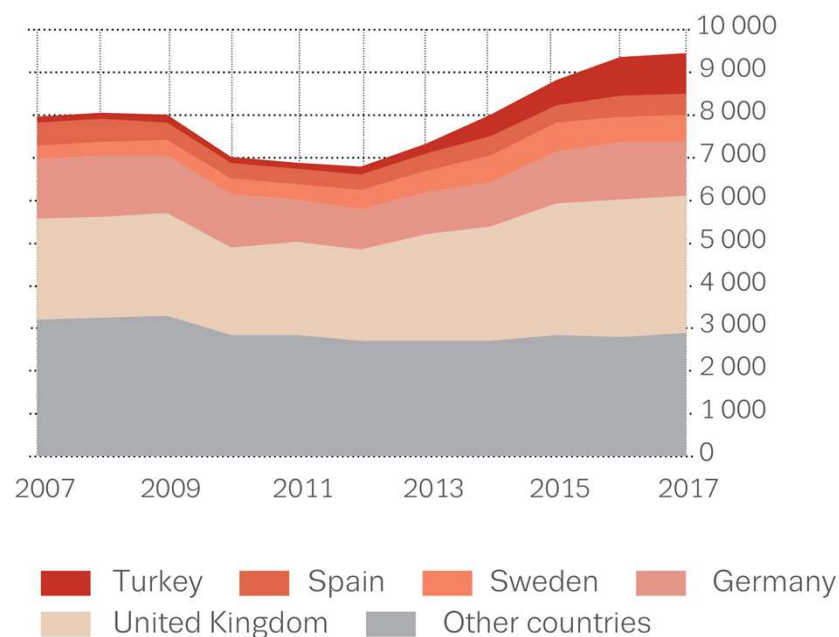
Route of administration



Fatal overdoses: opioids present in the majority of deaths

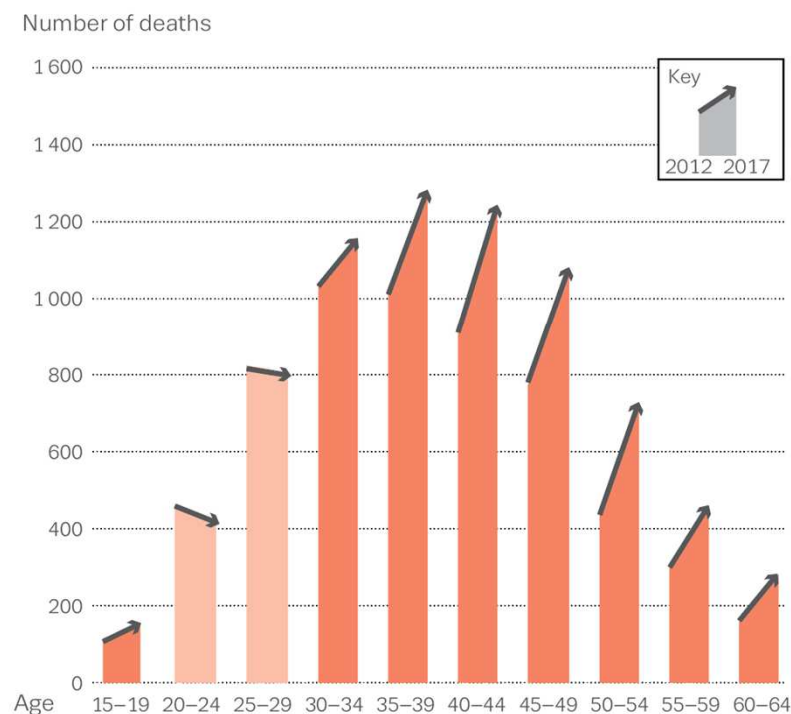
**9 461 deaths in 2017
(EU, Turkey and Norway)**

Trends in overdose deaths



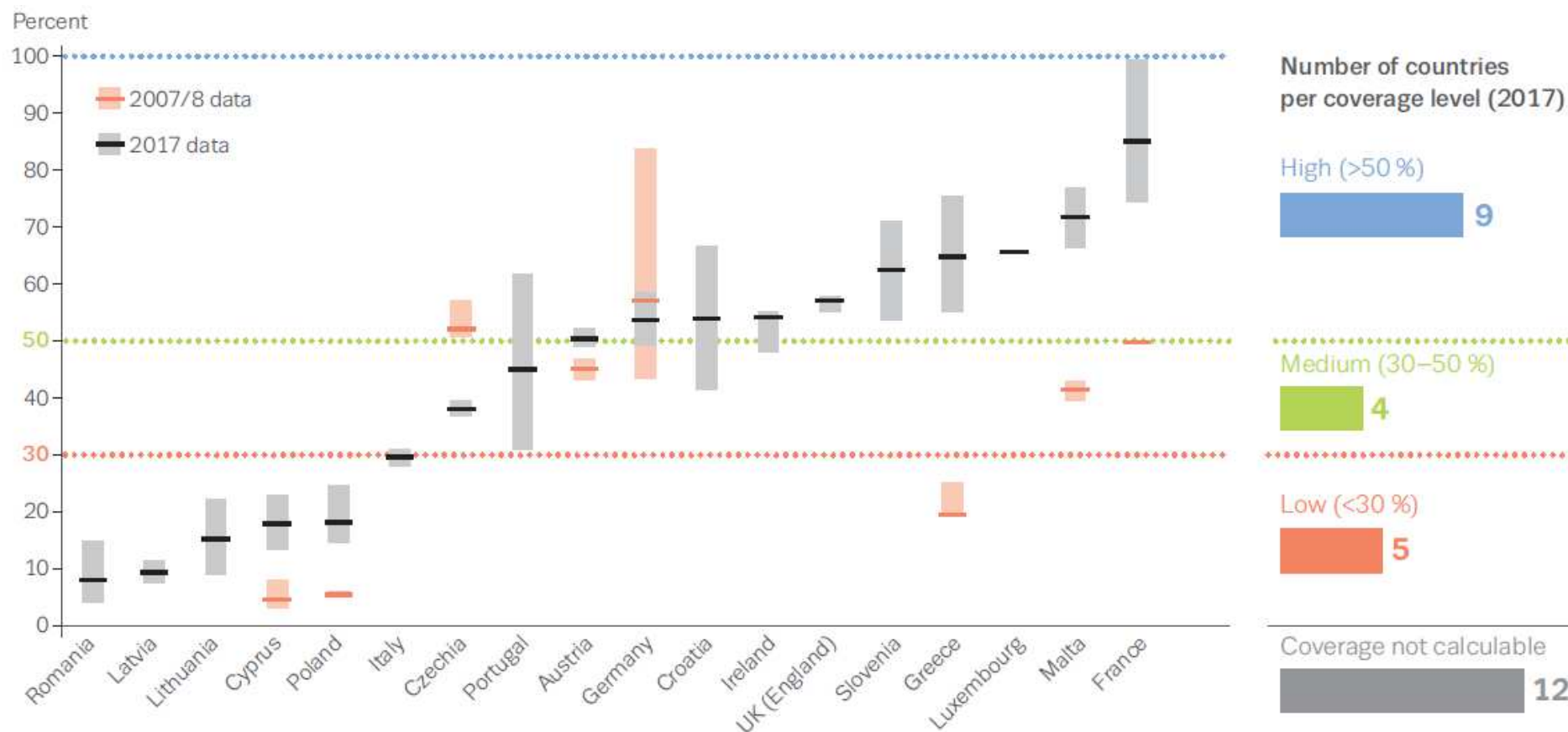
**From 2012–17 overdose deaths
increased in older groups**

Number of drug-induced deaths reported in the European Union in 2012 and 2017, or most recent year, by age band

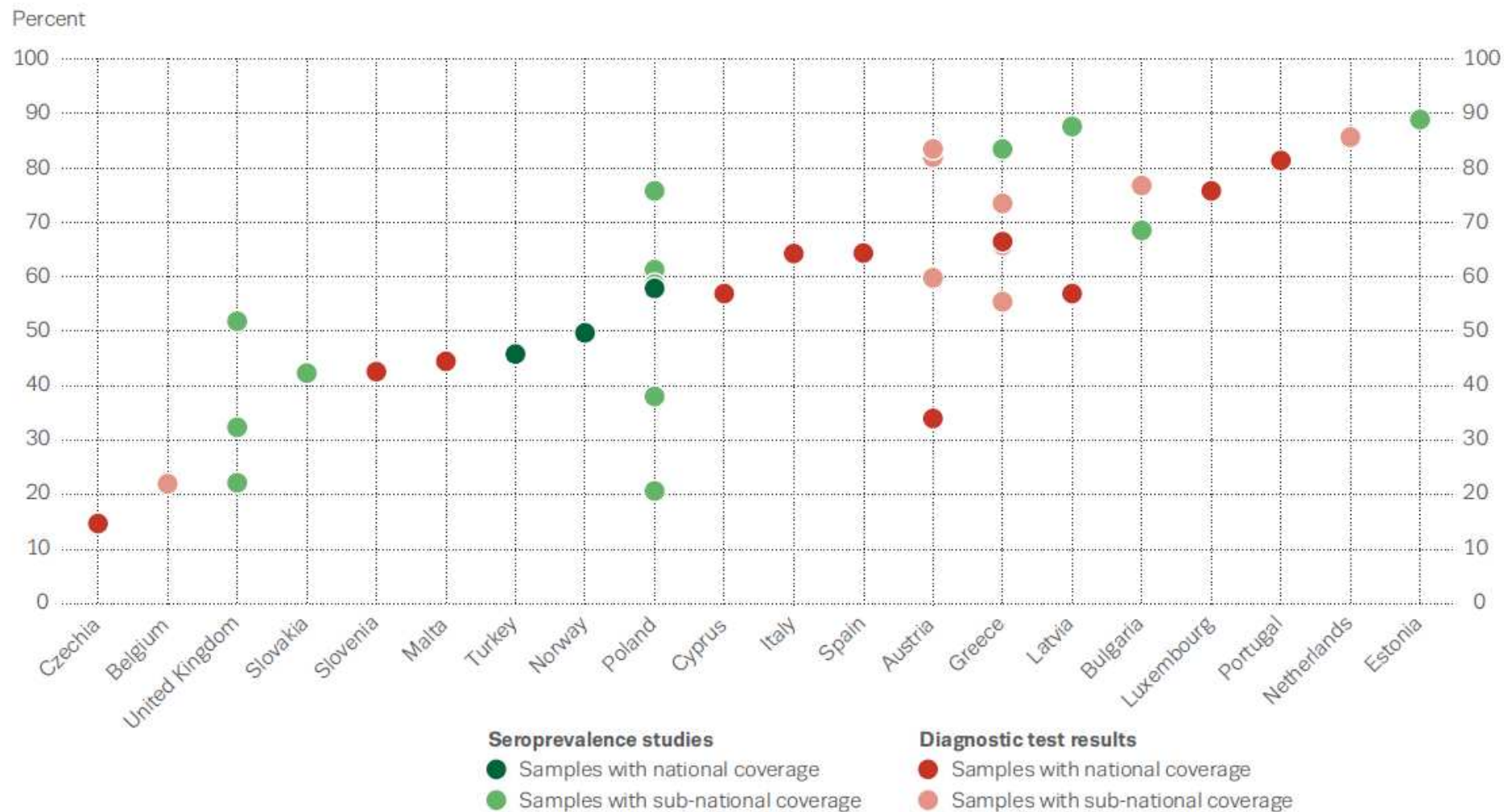


Key interventions: Opioid substitution treatment and Naloxone provision

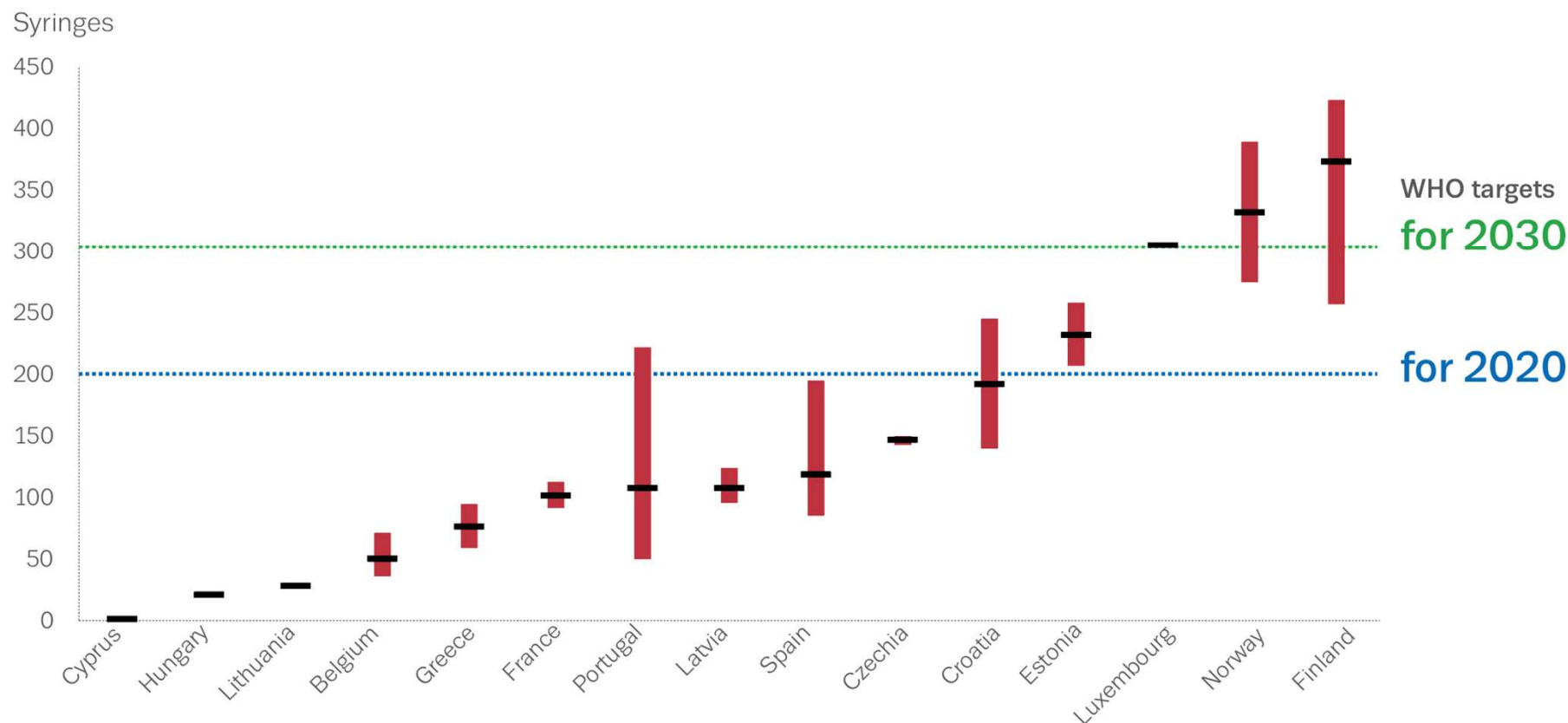
Coverage of opioid substitution treatment — 2017 or most recent year available, and compared to 2007/8



Hepatitis C antibody prevalence in people who inject drugs, 2016-17



Coverage of specialised syringe programmes: syringes provided per person who injects drugs per year



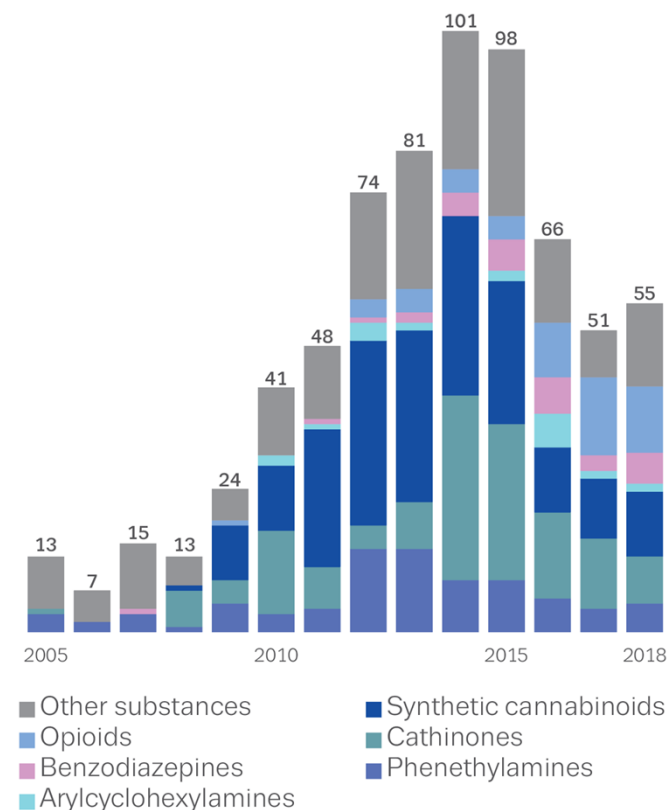
NB: Data displayed as point estimates and uncertainty intervals. Targets defined in the WHO global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016-2021.



New Psychoactive Substances (NPS): diversity of substances in a complex market

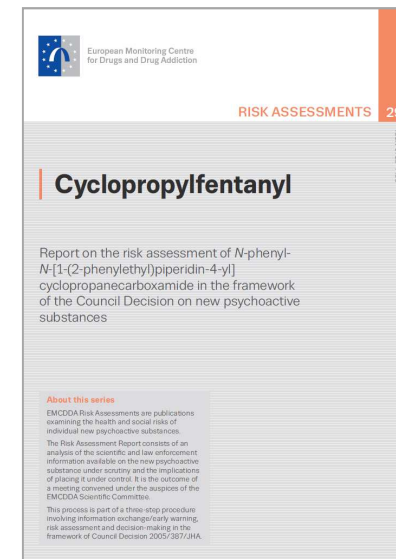
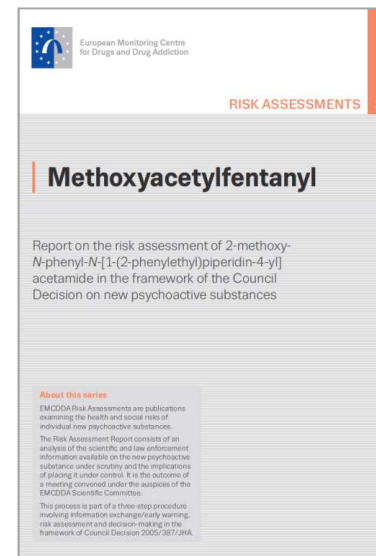
- 730 substances are monitored by the Early Warning System, 390 of these were detected in 2017
- 55 new substances were detected (2018)
- NPS seizures: cannabinoids and cathinones dominate, but opioids and benzodiazepines increase
- Synthetic opioids now playing a bigger role

Number and categories of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early Warning System for the first time, 2005-18



NPS: new synthetic opioids, a growing concern

- 49 new synthetic opioids monitored by the EWS, fentanyl derivatives are now the majority
- 6 fentanyl derivatives were detected in Europe for the first time in 2018
- Two fentanyl derivatives linked with nearly 100 deaths were risk assessed in 2018
- Synthetic opioids targeted at people with problematic drug use patterns
- Overdose cases include people who thought they were buying heroin



Synthetic drug production: Europe's growing role

- **MDMA and amphetamines produced:** increased seizures of alternative precursors
- **Hazardous waste:** complex production generates more dangerous by-products
- **Laboratories:** 21 MDMA laboratories dismantled, methamphetamine production linked to use in new countries
- **Increased purity:** MDMA tablet content at 10-year high, amphetamine and methamphetamine purity higher than a decade ago



Photo: © Dutch National Police/LFO



Photo: © Pharmaceutical Control Laboratory, Office of the Cantonal Pharmacist, Bern, Switzerland

Summary European Drug Report

- Synthetic drugs and production within Europe have grown in importance
- Changes in the type of substances are being observed – e.g. synthetic opioids pose new health threats
- Overdose deaths, mainly linked to opioids, remain a key public health problem and are still increasing.
- Opioid substitution treatment and naloxone provision are the main interventions - high coverage and low threshold /outreach services are crucial
- The hepatitis C virus is highly prevalent among people who inject drugs – new medications have enhanced our ability to combat the virus
- Barriers to testing and treatment and low syringe programme coverage remain key issues





European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

MANUALS EN

ISSN 1725-339X

European Prevention Curriculum

A handbook for decision-makers, opinion-makers
and policy-makers in science-based prevention
of substance use

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Best practice

Policy and practice
briefings

Implementation tools
(Xchange, HNT,
EDDRA, EIB)

Evidence database

Standards and
guidelines

Health and social
responses to drug problems
A EUROPEAN GUIDE



Health and social
responses to drug
problems: a European
guide

People like to go out



Best practice portal

The Best practice portal is designed to help you find practical and reliable information on what works (and what doesn't) in the areas of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social reintegration. It will help you identify tried and tested interventions quickly, allocate resources to what's effective, and improve interventions applying tools, standards and guidelines.



Get in touch with the
Best practice portal team



Briefings

Policy and practice briefings



Implementation

Xchange, HNT, EDDRA, EIB



Evidence

A database of available evidence



Standards

National and international
standards and guidelines

Policy and practice briefings

Each of these policy and practice briefings is designed as a one-stop-shop for anyone planning or delivering health and social responses to drug problems in Europe. Each briefing consists of: (1) a summary of the main issues; (2) the main response options; (3) an overview of the EU picture; (4) key implications for policy and practice and; (5) links to further resources. The briefings are part of the EMCDDA's Best practice portal.

Types or patterns of substance use



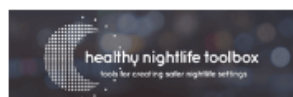
Health and social responses to drug problems: a European guide



Watch a short video about the Best practice portal (YouTube)



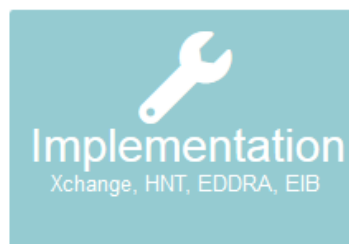
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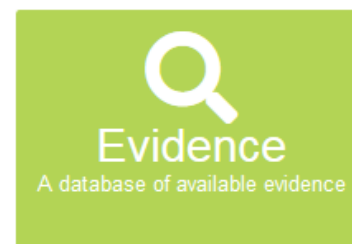
Healthy Nightlife Toolbox



Briefings
Policy and practice briefings



Implementation
Xchange, HNT, EDDRA, EIB



Evidence
A database of available evidence



Standards
National and international standards and guidelines

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Types or patterns of substance use



Cannabis use



Opioid dependence



Opioid-related deaths



Injection-related infectious diseases



Stimulant use



New psychoactive substances (NPS)



Misuse of medicines



Polydrug use

Needs of particular groups

Needs of particular groups



Older people



Women



Migrants and refugees



Vulnerable young people



Families

Responding in particular settings



Prisons



Nightlife and festivals



Workplaces



Schools and colleges



Communities



Best practice

Policy and practice briefings

[Cannabis use problems](#)[Families](#)[Injecting and infectious diseases](#)[Local communities](#)[Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#)[Misuse of medicines](#)[New psychoactive substances](#)[Nightlife and festivals](#)[Older people with problematic opioid use](#)[Opioid dependence](#)[Opioid-related deaths](#)[Polydrug use](#)[Prisons and criminal justice system](#)[Schools and colleges](#)[Stimulant use](#)[Vulnerable young people](#)[Women with drug problems](#)

Policy and practice briefings

Schools and colleges



Share



Overview

Issues, main options and European picture



Evidence

What does the available evidence say?



Implications

Implications for policy and practice

Issues

Adolescence and young adulthood are periods of risk-taking and experimentation that often includes substance use. Schools and colleges are important settings in which to reach young people, although some vulnerable groups may not be well-represented within them.



Response options

Drug use among school populations is generally low and can be part of a wider pattern of behavioural problems and risk-taking. Interventions therefore need to address the wider determinants of risky and impulsive behaviour rather than the drug use in isolation.

- Most prevention interventions in schools aim at having an impact on the whole student body and staff. Those that are supported by current evidence include: evidence based

Cannabis use problems

Families

Injecting and infectious diseases

Local communities

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Misuse of medicines

New psychoactive substances

Nightlife and festivals

Older people with problematic opioid use

Opioid dependence

Opioid-related deaths

Polydrug use

Prisons and criminal justice system

Schools and colleges

Stimulant use

Vulnerable young people

Women with drug problems

Workplaces

Implementation tools
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Evidence database

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Health and social responses to drug problems
A EUROPEAN GUIDE



Policy and practice briefings Schools and colleges



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What does the available evidence say?



Implications

Implications for policy and practice

Summary of the available evidence

Interventions in schools and colleges

Response option

Quality of evidence

Effective school-based prevention programmes can delay initiation of use. These are manual-based and develop social competences and refusal skills, healthy decision-making and coping, and correct normative misperceptions about drug use. Ideally they should be provided within the context of a school drug policy.



Substance use-related problems may be reduced by providing a protective and nurturing educational environment that is conducive to learning and establishes clear rules about substance use.



There are evidence-based programmes for primary schools, which — without explicitly addressing substances — have effects on impulse-control and, therefore, potentially on later substance use and mental health problems. They





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Thank you for your attention!

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#EDR2019

#HealthierEurope #MoreSecureEurope

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