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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION
November 28 - 30, 2012
San José, Costa Rica**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.52
CICAD/doc.1988/12
27 November 2012
Original: English**

**AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS AND
OTHER SYNTHETIC DRUGS
DR ROUMEN SEDEFOV**



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Forth Plenary Session:
**Amphetamine-type stimulants and
other synthetic drugs**

Dr Roumen Sedefov – CICAD, 52nd Regular Session,
November 28 - 30, 2012 San José, Costa Rica

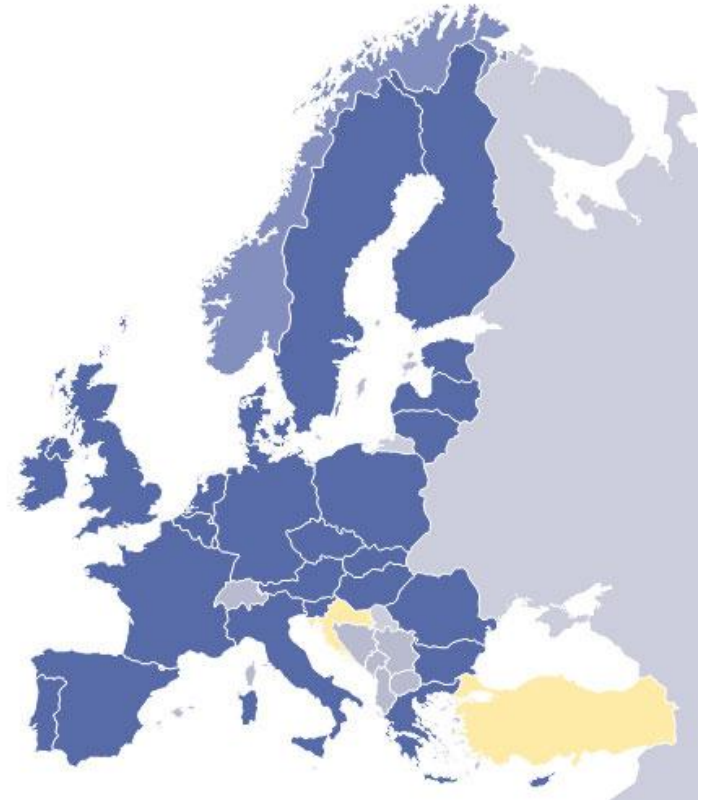
Setting the scene

- EMCDDA – the EU drugs information agency
- Can we learn anything from ecstasy?
- Amphetamine-type stimulants
- Cocaine & cannabis
- New psychoactive substances



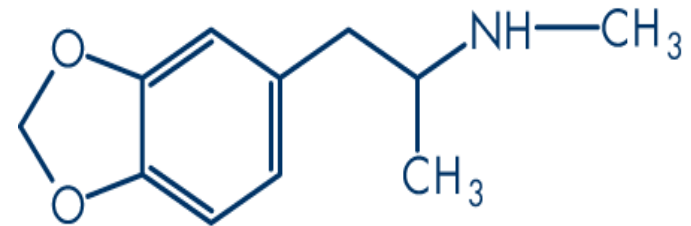
EMCDDA: The EU drug information agency

27 EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey and Norway



MDMA is 100 years old in December this year

- 1912, 'Methylsafrylamin' was first synthesized at Merck
- First 'illicit' MDMA detected in Chicago in 1970 (analysed in 1972)
- Recreational use begins in earnest in the early 1980s
- Entrepreneurs in Texas produce and distribute MDMA using the brand name 'Sassyfras'
- Ordered by calling a free-phone number and paying by credit card
- Also sold at bars (and subject to tax)



Holland, 2001

Can we learn anything from ecstasy?

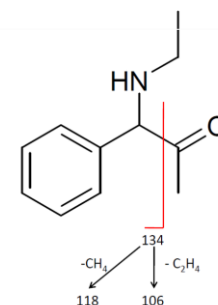
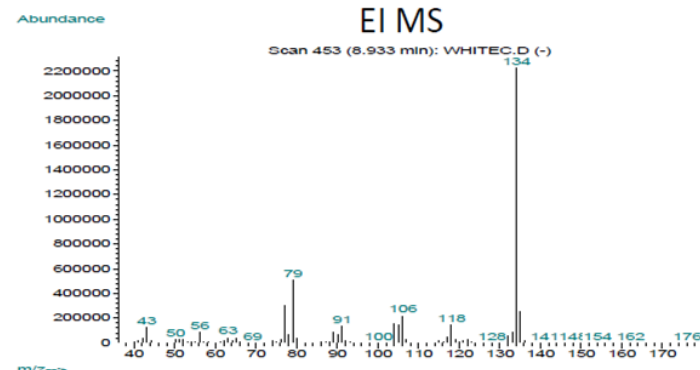
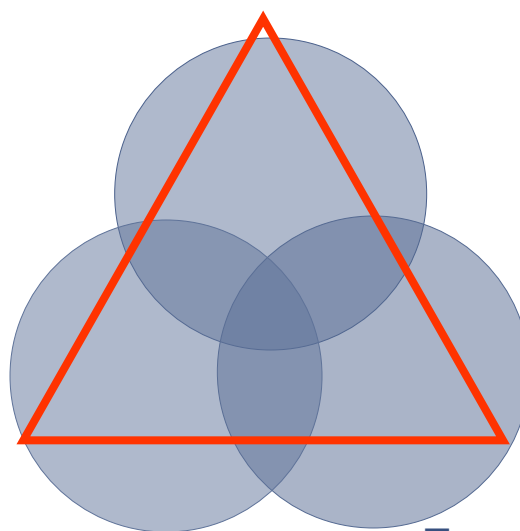
- Emergence ecstasy in Europe
 - experimentation early 1980s
 - mid-1980s trend began to be observable
 - 1988 Second summer of love
 - widespread knowledge among young people
 - 1988 forensic science report (UK)... 'passing fad'
 - not until 1990s do we see policy awareness
- Lessons
 - Information available...forensic science and qualitative data, but information not collated or understood at the time
 - No Early warning system (EWS)
 - = Policy gap



EWS: Triangulation of information from different sources



Internet, media, users



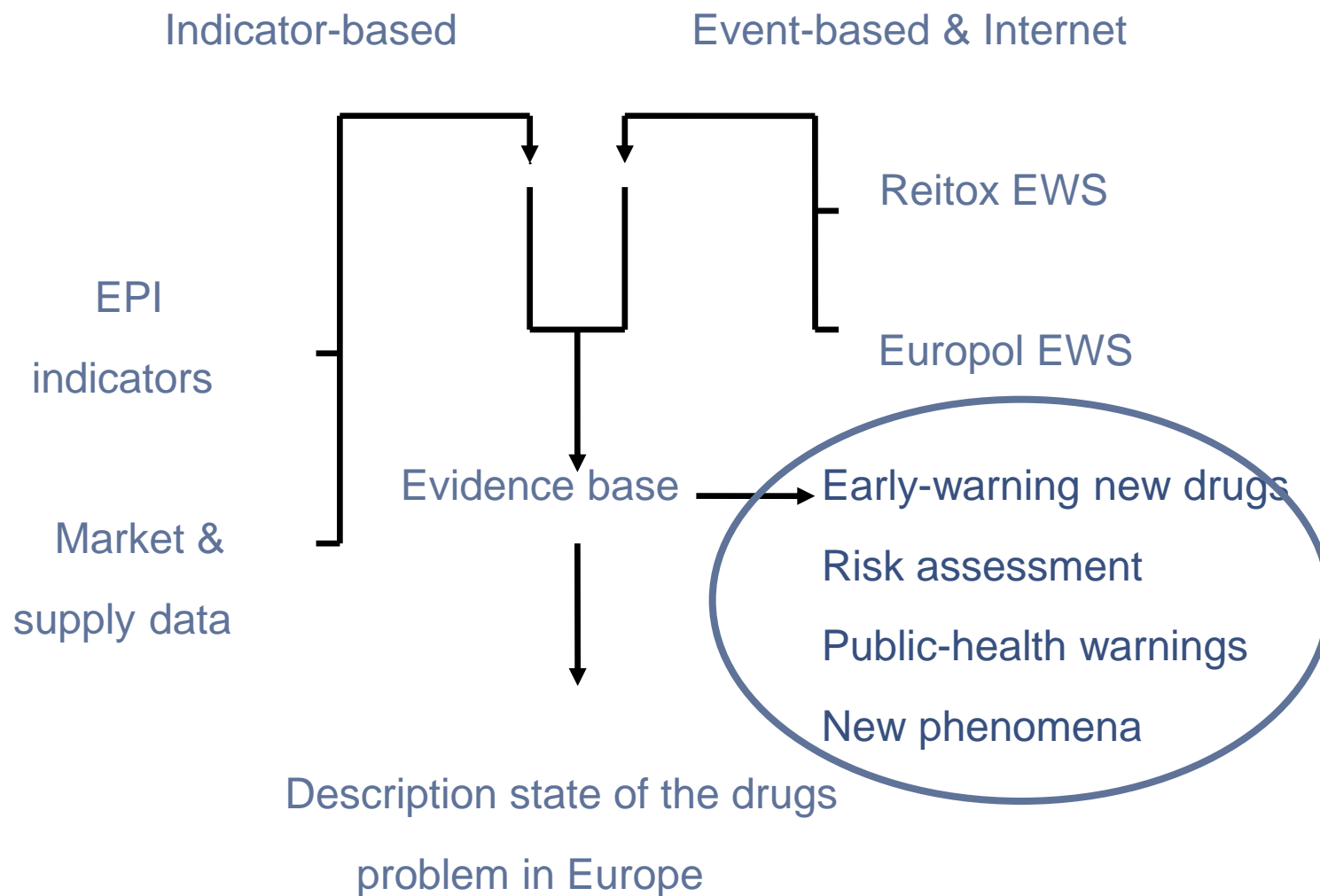
Research,
test purchase,
wastewater
analysis,
QSAR modelling

Forensic data/toxicology,
law enforcement,
surveys, health & care

Trendspotters group



Early-warning system (EWS): sources and outputs



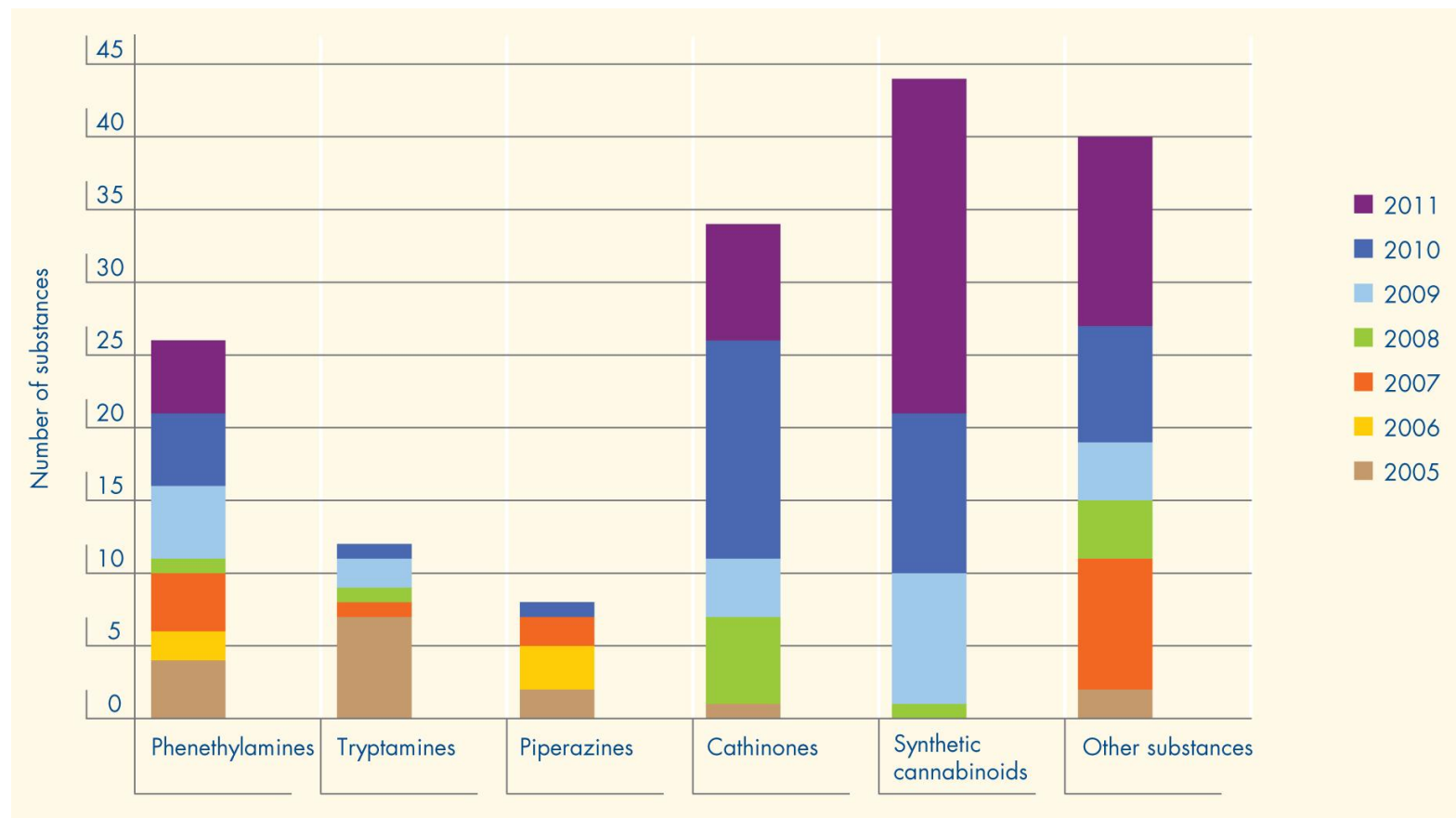
Adapted from R. Kaiser et al.,
2005

EWS: Detecting new drugs

New drugs >

New substances reported to the European early warning system — 1 a week

Synthetic cathinones and cannabinoids most common



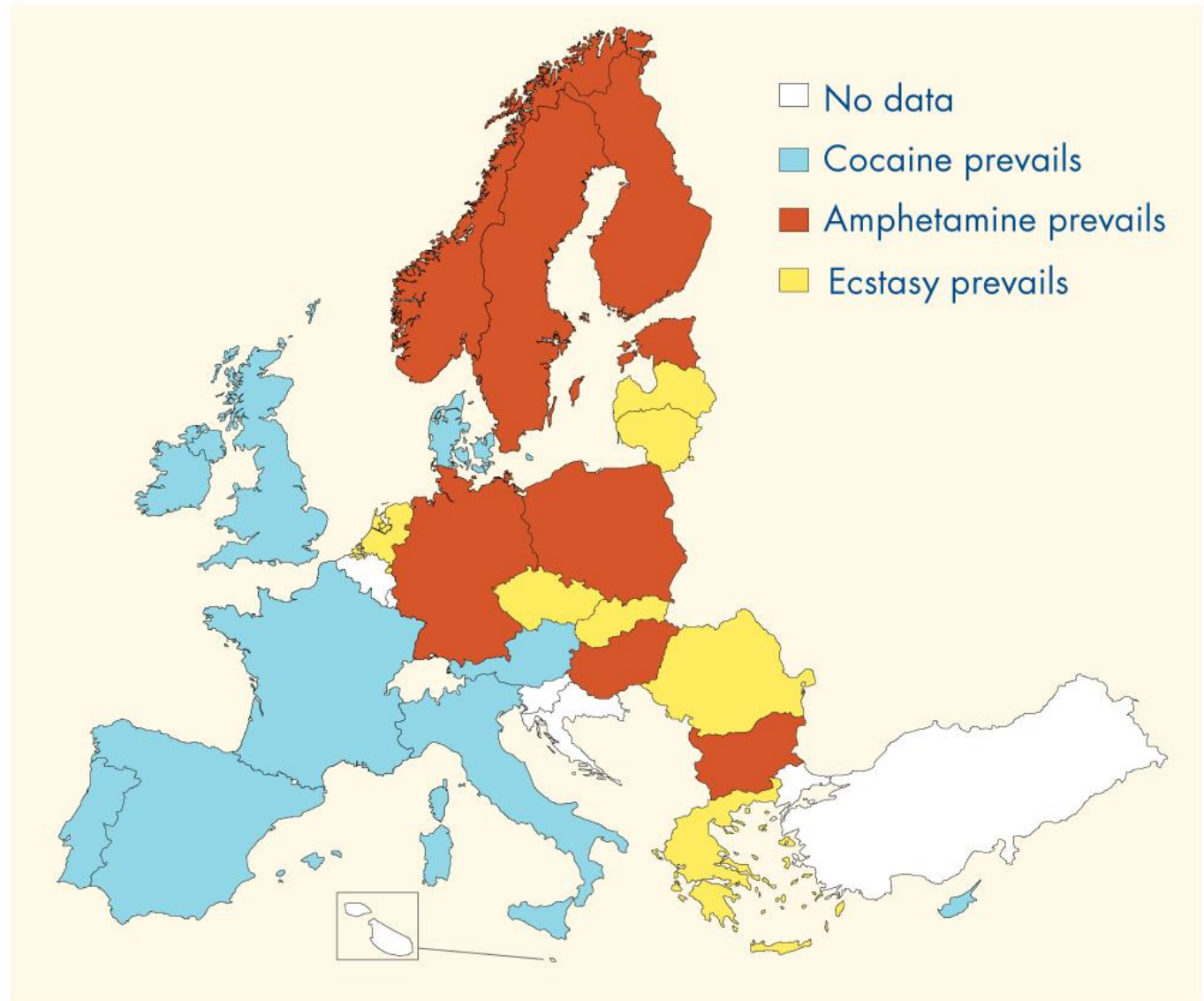
Stimulants



Stimulant of choice: amphetamines, ecstasy or cocaine?

Stimulants >

Last-year prevalence
among young adults
(aged 15–34)



Ecstasy and amphetamines

Stimulants >



Ecstasy

1.5 million young adults have used ecstasy in the last year

Amphetamines

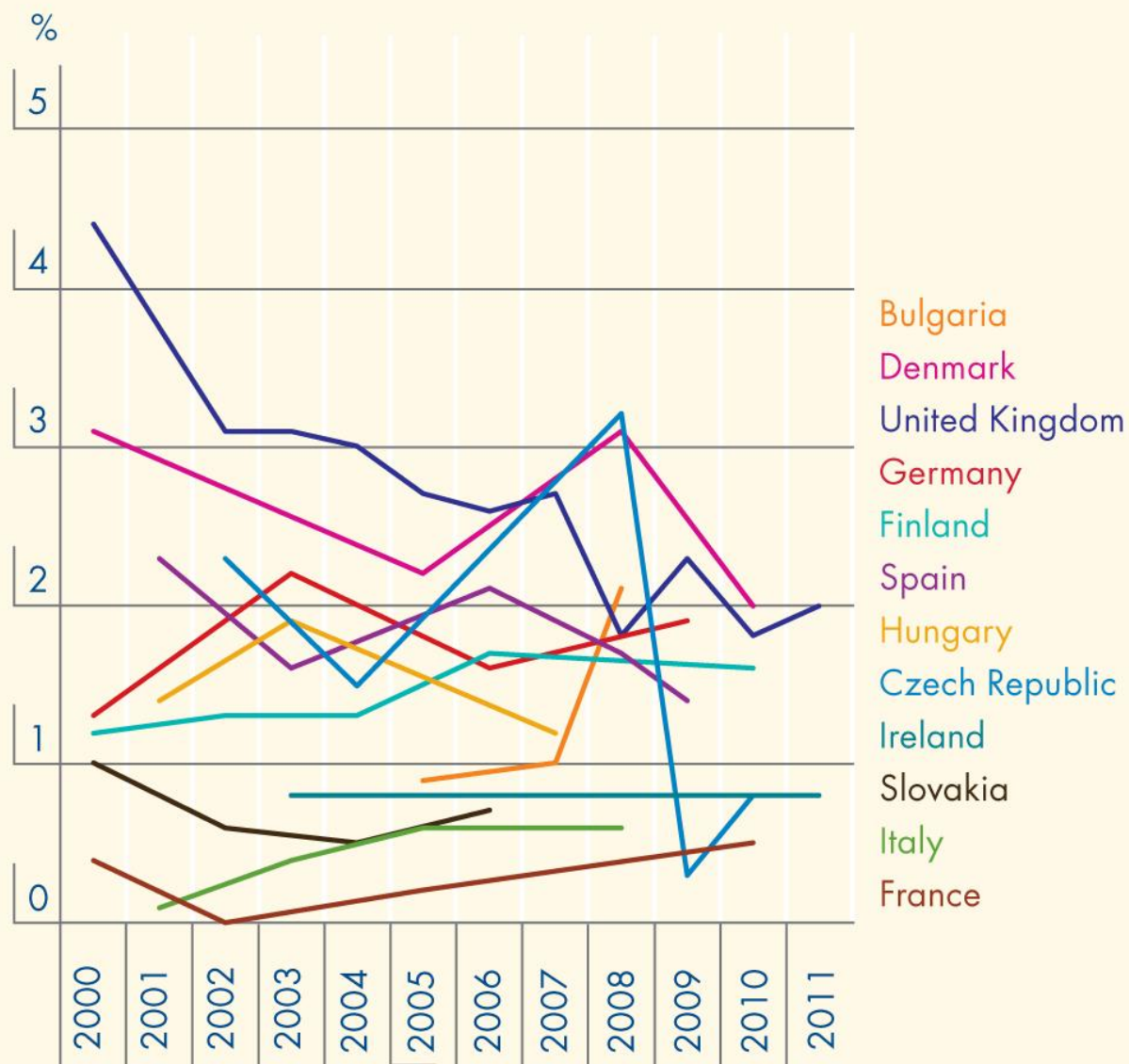
1.5 million young adults have used amphetamines in the last year



Trends in last-year amphetamines use among young adults

Stimulants >

Countries with
at least three
surveys



(Meth-)Amphetamines

Stimulants >

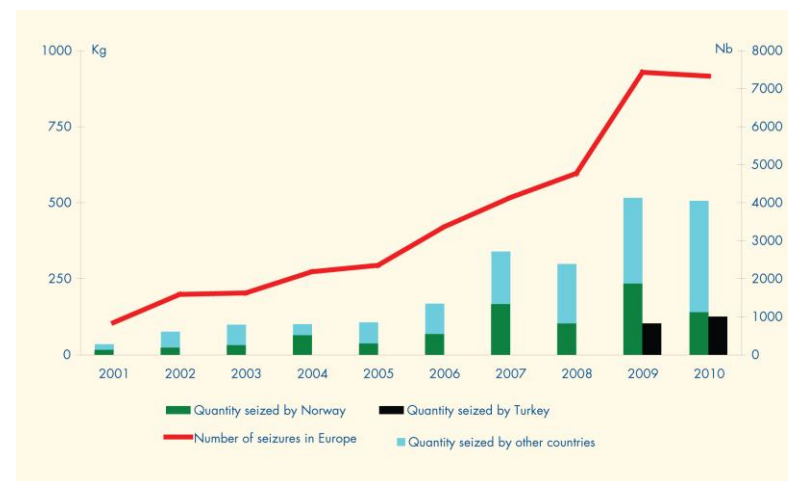


Prevalence mostly stable

Increase in methamphetamine seizures (still low)

Northern Europe — methamphetamine replacing amphetamine on some markets

Some overdose deaths — methamphetamine



Trends in last-year cocaine use among young adults

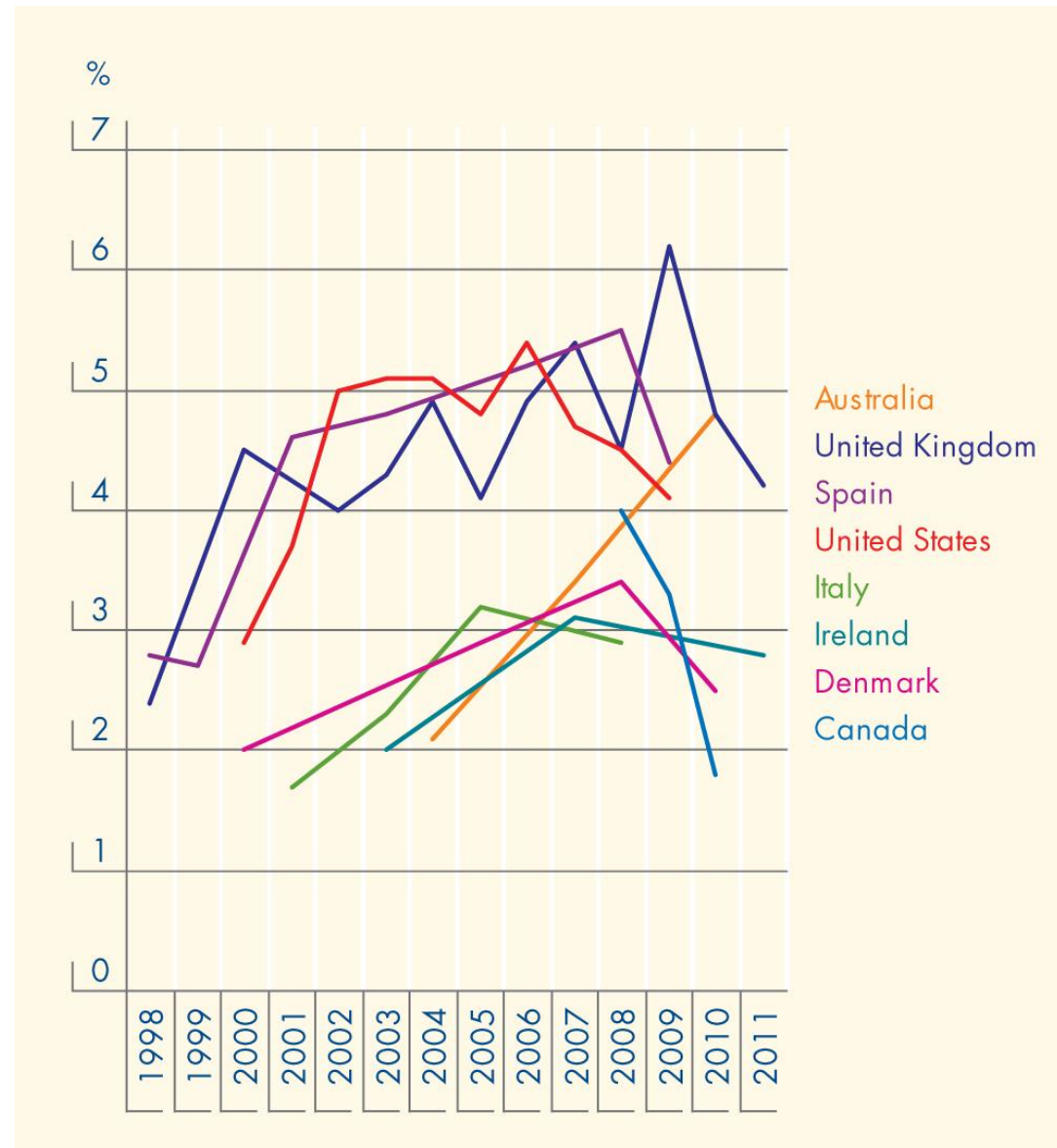
Stimulants >



15.5 million (15–64) have ever used cocaine (4.6 %)

4 million in the last year (1.2 %)

3 million young adults (15–34) used in the last year (2.1 %)



Cocaine seizures drop

Stimulants >

Number of seizures dropped in 2010 after 20-year increase: 100 000 (2008) to 88 000 (2010)

Quantities seized decreased since 2006
61 tonnes (2010)



Trafficking expanding eastwards?

Stimulants: a less discriminating market

Stimulants >

White powders, crystals and pills

Amphetamines, ecstasy, cathinones or cocaine?

Competing and interchangeable products

Availability, price and quality key

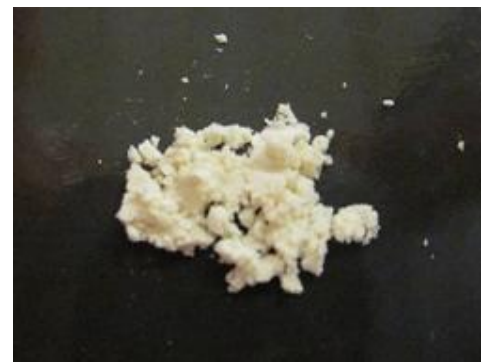
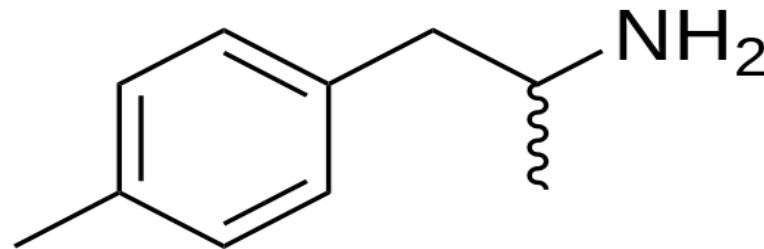
Increase in high purity ecstasy —
MDMA rebound?



Precursors and 'designer precursors' issues?: 4-methylamphetamine

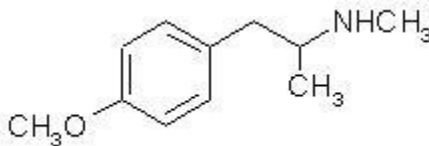
Synthetic phenethylamine stimulant

- Ring-methylated derivative of amphetamine
- Notified to EMCDDA in December 2009
- Usually sold as 'speed' (amphetamine): amphetamine users at risk
- Seizures range from 0.02 g to 147 kg
- Trafficking between European countries
- Detected in 17 countries in Europe
- New drug by accident or design?
- 21 deaths linked to the drug reported in a short period of time



Precursor or control issues?: PMMA

- Related PMA, MA MDMA



- **Not controlled under international law**
- **1998:** appears in EU, often with PMA and sold as 'ecstasy'
- **2002:** controlled across the EU (EMCDDA Risk assessment 2001)
- **2010/11:** found in tablets/powders sold as 'ecstasy' and 'speed', also found in 'legal highs'. **MDPBP** was also present in some cases, role of organised crime?
- **2012:** MDMA/PMMA 'powder' in Ireland. Two suspected fatalities
- **30+ deaths** in EU linked to the drug (2010–)



Cannabis



Cannabis — Europe's most used illicit drug

Cannabis >

80.5 million Europeans
have ever used cannabis
(23.7 %)

16 million 15–34 year olds
have used it in the last year (12.4 %)

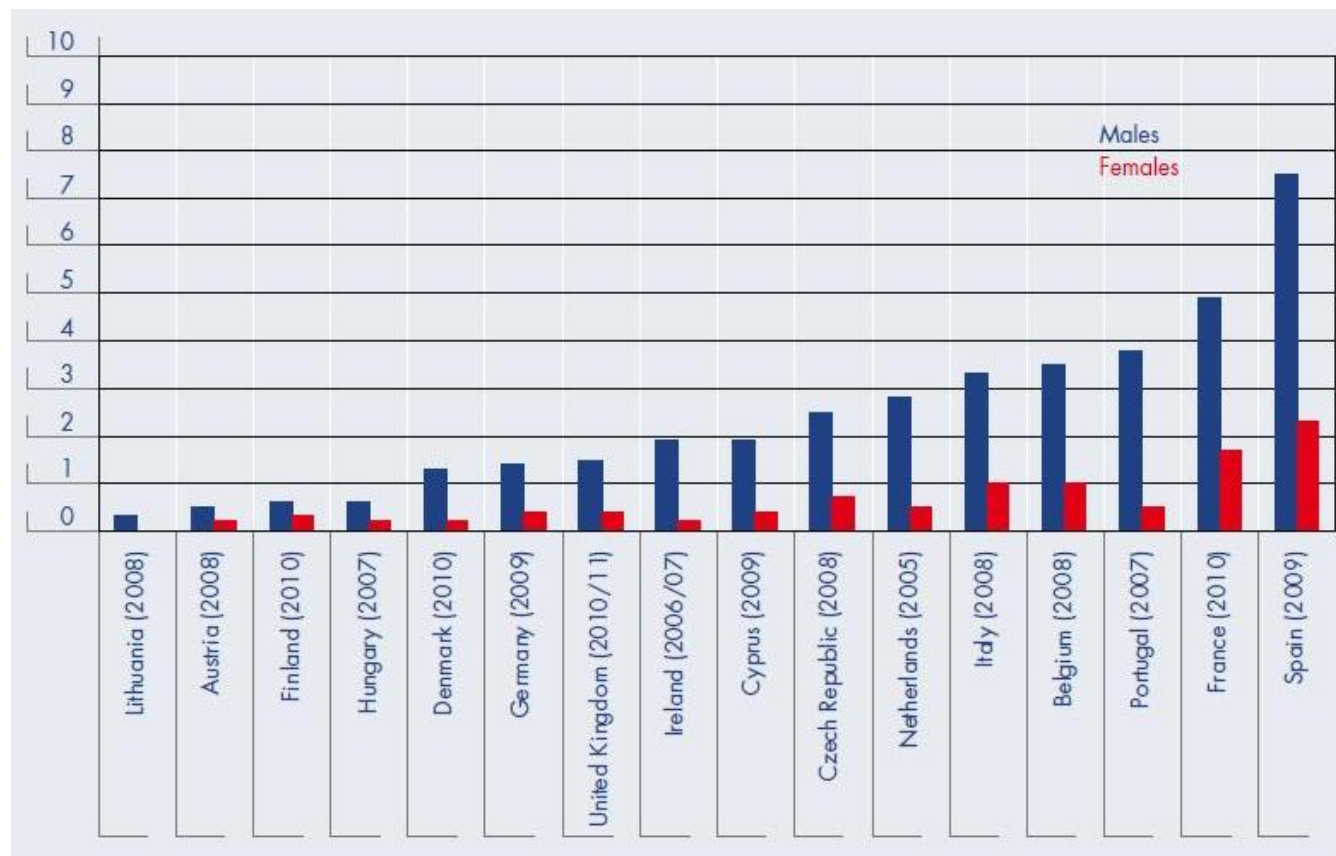


- Increased EU production
- Number of seizures — herbal cannabis now overtakes resin

Daily cannabis use

Cannabis >

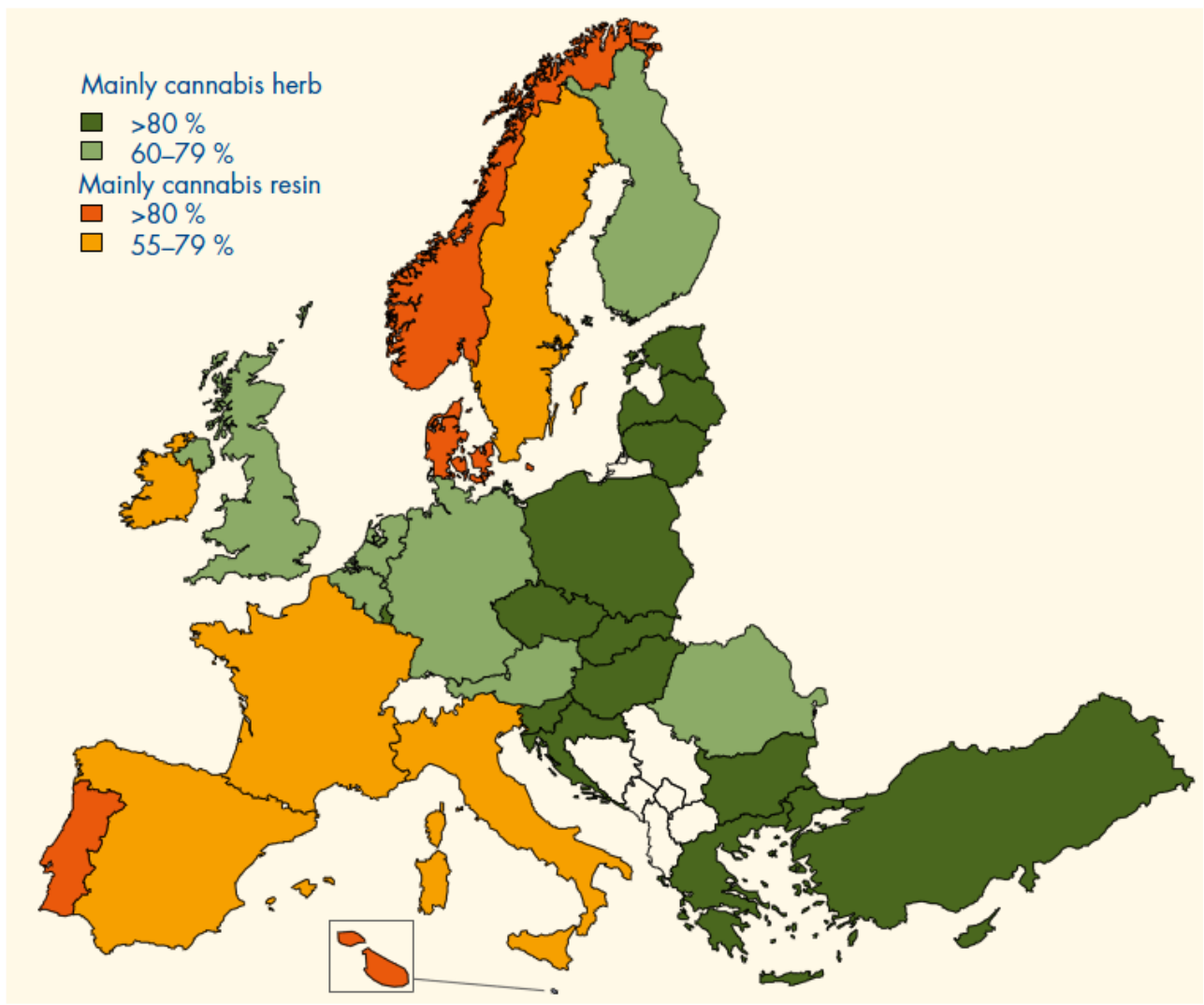
Prevalence of last-month daily cannabis use among 15- to 34-year-olds



Around
3 million or
1 % of
adults

Estimated market shares of cannabis products consumed in Europe, 2008–09

Cannabis >

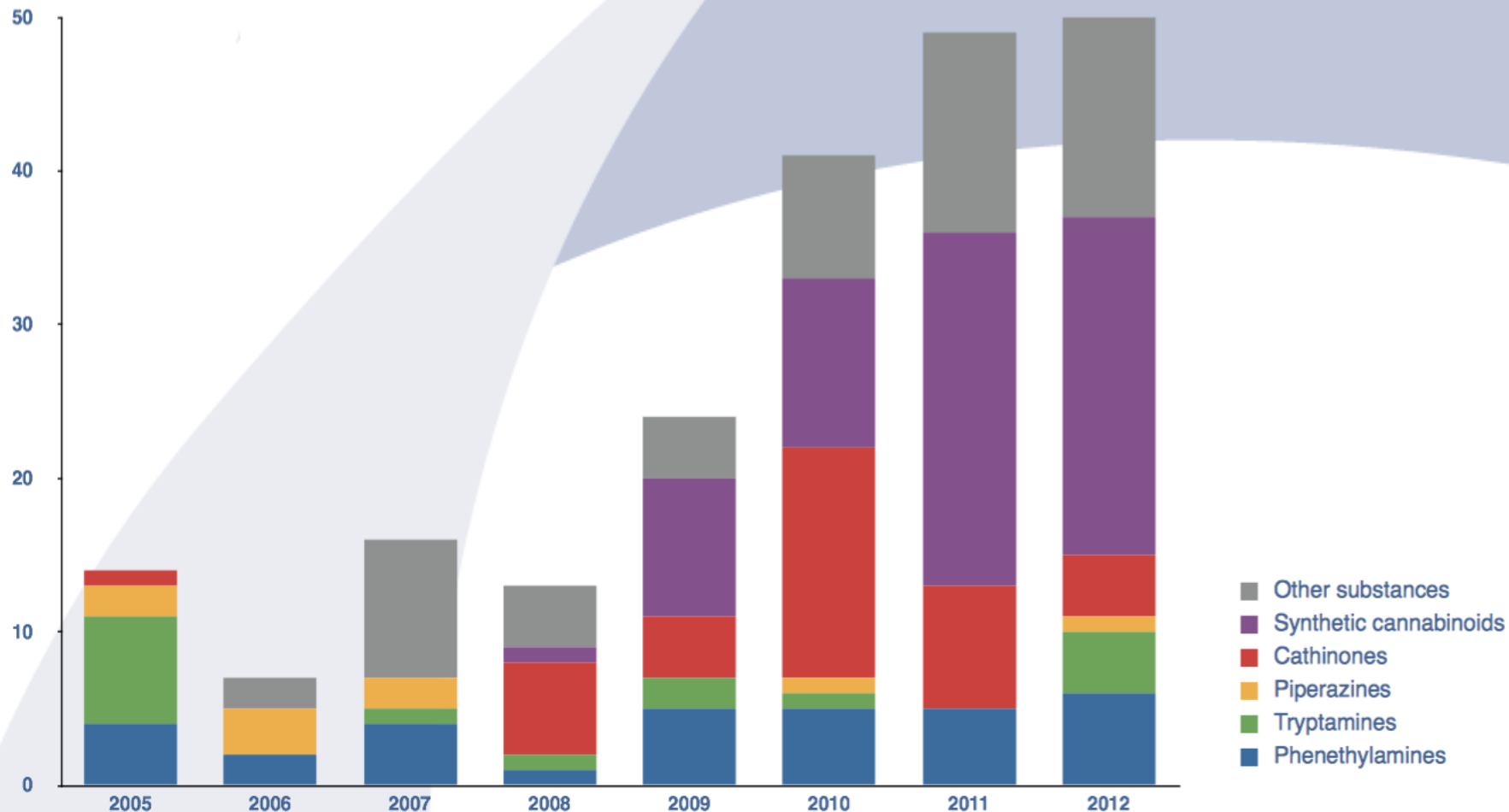


New drugs and 'legal highs'



Number of new drugs notified 2005–2012

Over 50 new drugs in 2012 so far...



Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists

- Naphthoylindoles (JWH-018)
 - Phenylacetylindoles (JWH-250)
 - Cyclohexylphenols (CP47,497)
 - Tricyclic terpenoid (HU-210)
 - Benzoylindoles (RCS-4)
 - Naphthoylpyrroles (JWH-307)
 - Naphthoylnaphthalenes (CRA-13)
 - Adamantylindoles (JWH-018 adamantoyl derivative)
 - Allosteric modulators (Org27569)
 - Quinones (HU-331)
 - Cyclopropylindoles (UR-144)
 - Benzoxazinones (URB754)
-
- Chemically diverse, grouped by mode of action
 - 66 monitored by the EWS
 - First notification: 2008



Analysis of 'legal high' products in Poland

Research article

Received: 29 February 2012

Revised: 22 March 2012

Accepted: 22 March 2012

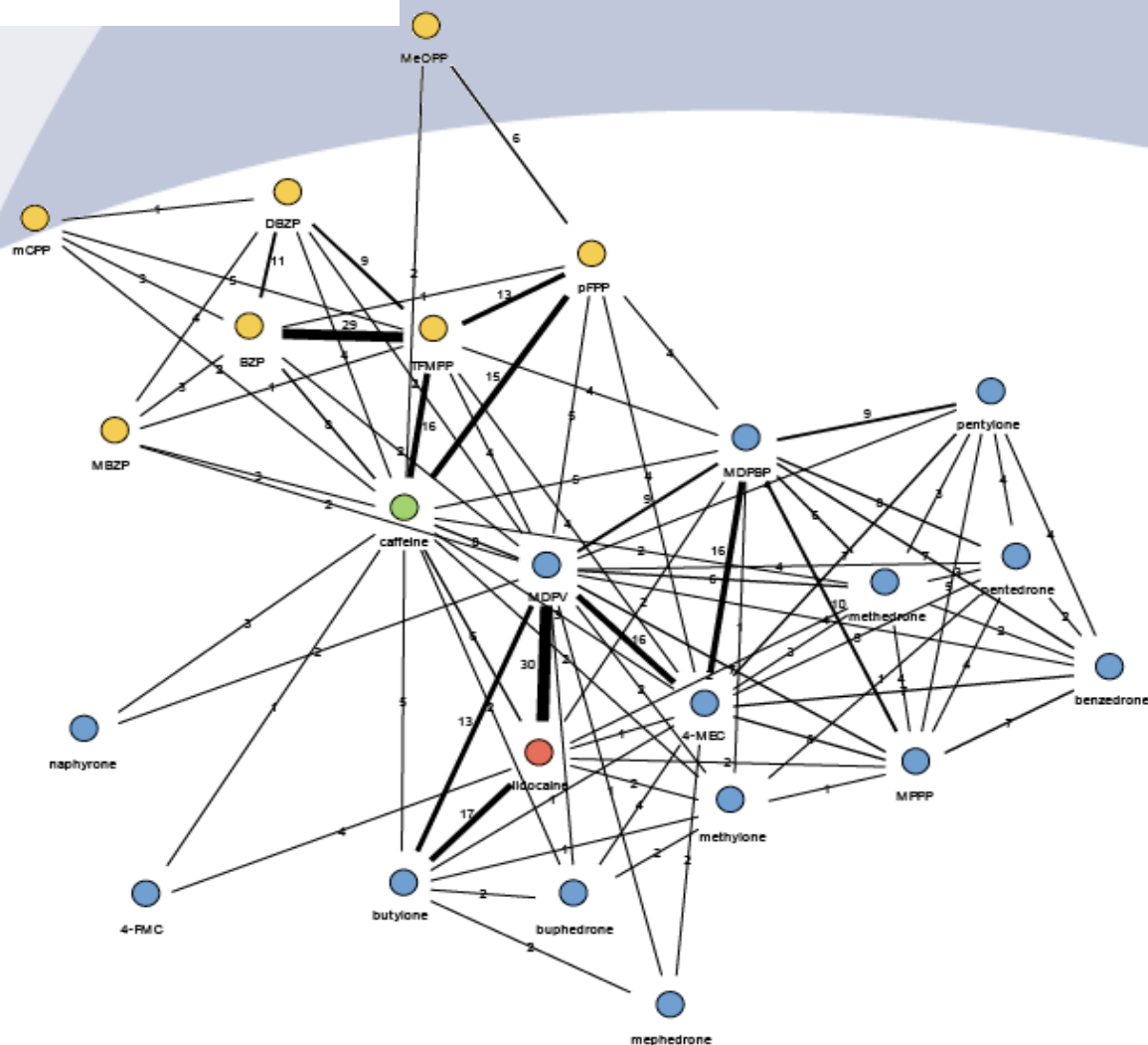
Published online in Wiley Online Library

(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/dta.1365

Prevalence and co-existence of active components of 'legal highs'

Dariusz Zuba* and Bogumiła Byrska

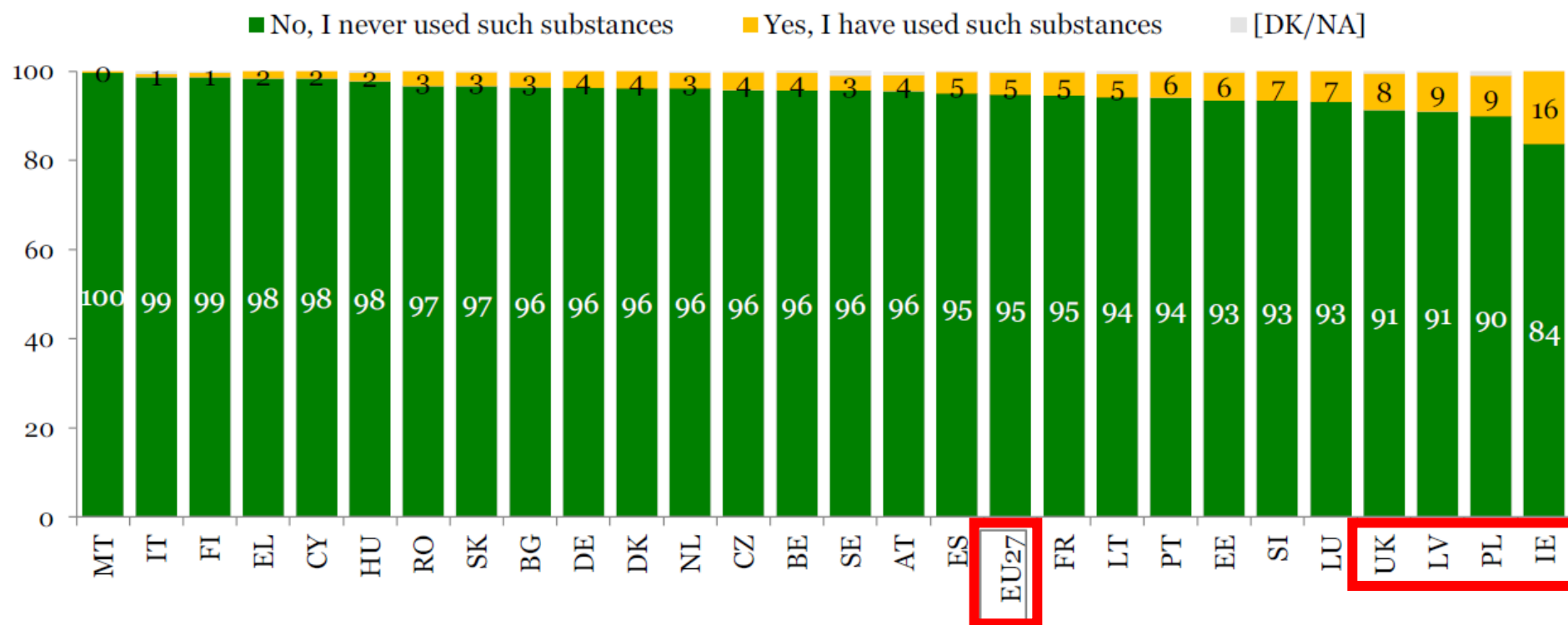
Drug Testing
and Analysis



Eurobarometer (2011), European Commission - life time use

Age: 15–24, N > 12000, coverage: 27 MS, July 2011

7% bought them on the Internet, however, 64% used the Internet as source of information



Q5. In certain countries some new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs are being sold as legal substances in the form of - for example - powders, tablets/pills or herbs. Have you ever used such substances?

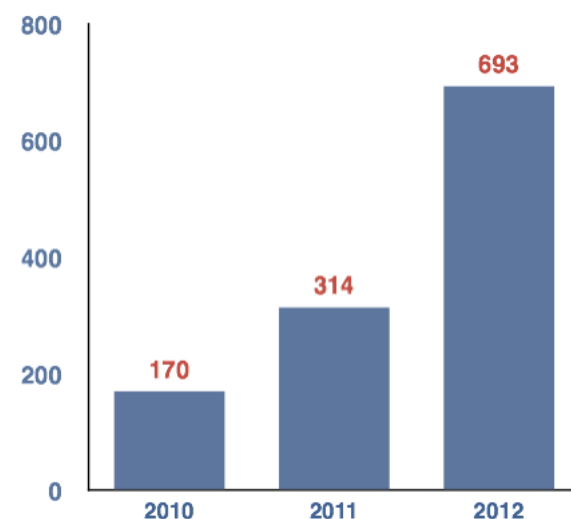
Base: all respondents, % by country

Internet snapshot: number of online shops

693 shops selling to EU consumers in 2012, up from 170 in 2010

But also...

- Test purchases found 19 % contained controlled drugs
- Some sold as 'dietary supplements' aimed at lifestyle users (e.g. phenibut)
- 'Spamdexing': drugs and retailers are artificially ranked in the top results of search engines
- Websites providing health/prevention ranked lower: users less likely to come into contact with unbiased information



5-IT (5-(2-aminopropyl)indole)

- Notified to EMCDDA in June 2012
- Stimulant type drug
- Sometimes sold as 'benzofury' which has contained different drugs in the past. Users may think they are taking a different drug
- 18 deaths linked to the drug



Diffusion of new drugs globally

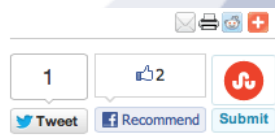
New drug in city keeps party-goers on a high

Ajay Singh, TNN Nov 22, 2012, 03.10PM IST

Tags: Synthetic marijuana | Party-goers | new drug | Drug Peddlers

JAIPUR: A new synthetic drug is intoxicating the youths of the city and unfortunately the law can do very little about it. Synthetic marijuana has recently been reported to be circulating among the party-goer circles of the city. It comes in neatly packed zip lock pouches marked as essence or perfume. The very innocuous-looking packaging is making it hard for law-enforcers to put it under check.

Drug peddlers are supplying these packets (2gm each) between Rs 800 and Rs 1000 to their regular customers, the majority of whom are between 22 to 30 years of age and its demand is increasing manifold.



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Recreational use of benzydamine as a hallucinogen among street youth in Brazil

Uso recreacional de benzidamina como alucinógeno entre adolescentes em situação de rua no Brasil

Eméríta Sátiro Opaleye,¹ Ana Regina Noto,² Zila van der Meer Sanchez,¹
Yone Gonçalves de Moura,¹ José Carlos Fernandes Galduróz,²
Elisaldo Araújo Carlini²

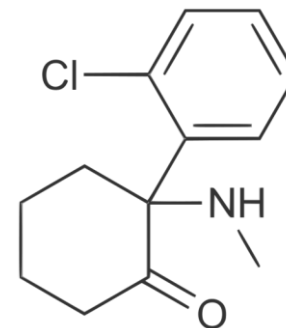


'Spice' smoking mixtures that contain synthetic cannabinoids on sale in Vanuatu

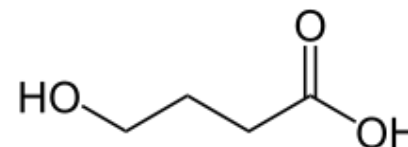
Tracking the older-new drugs

New drugs >

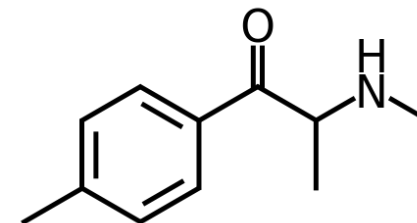
Ketamine — increased use and problems in some countries



GHB — treatment needs identified for some users



Mephedrone — appears to have crossed over to illicit market

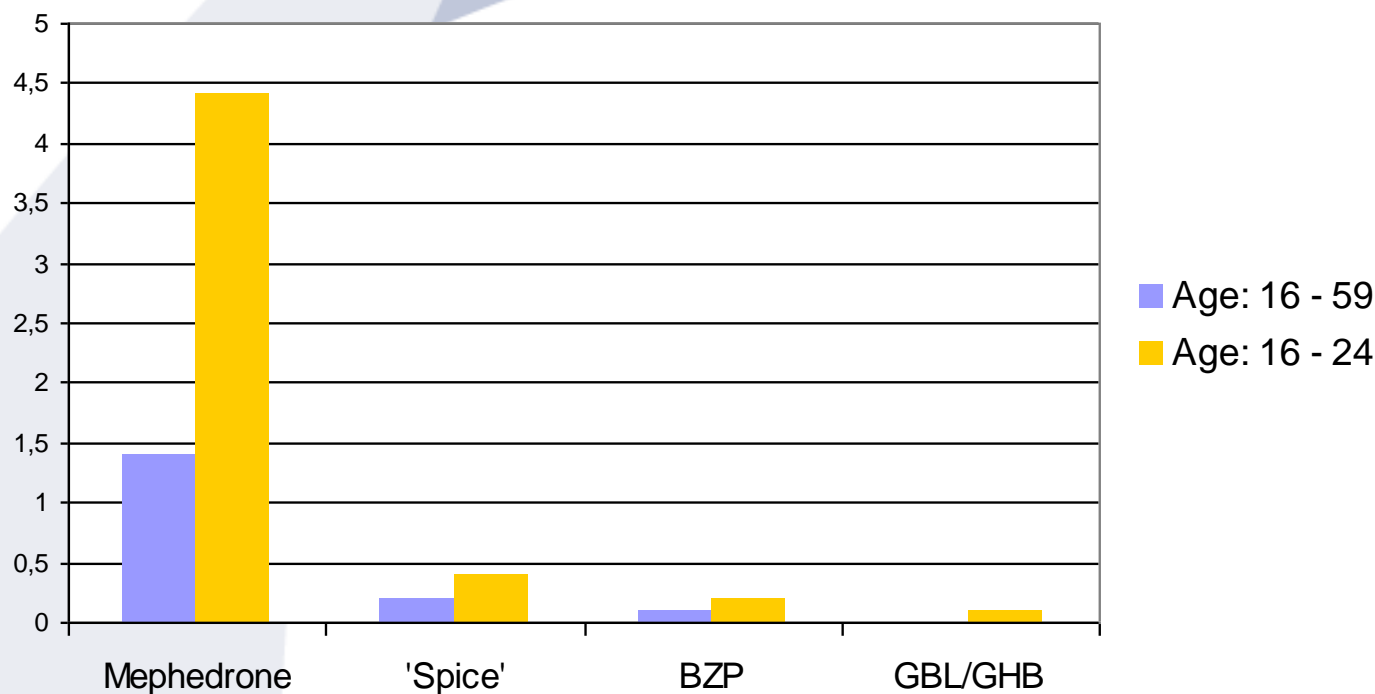


Here to stay? Last year use of mephedrone in the UK

British Crime Survey 2010/11, age: 16-59, N > 27000, last-year mephedrone use

Age 16-24: 4,4% – comparable to powder cocaine (the second most used)

Age 16-59: 1,4% – comparable to ecstasy (the third most used drug)



Injecting use of cathinones

A. Péterfi, Hungarian Institute for Forensic Sciences



HIFS
Budapest



- heroin
- amphetamine
- mephedrone
- MDPV
- 4-MEC
- other

National legal responses to new psychoactive substances

New drugs >

1. New NPS laws:

Catch-all or listing/group definitions

2. Modifying drug laws:

Risk assessment mechanisms, introducing group definitions (generic/analogue), temporary controls

3. Using existing non-drug (other) laws:

Consumer safety, medicinal products, health protection laws

Countries have moved from one to another, and/or combined these approaches

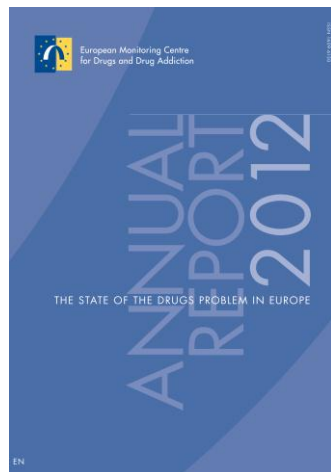
Conclusion: complex issues



- Paradigm shift?
 - Globalisation and rapid diffusion
 - Technology driven – Internet – organic synthesis
 - A blurring between drugs, lifestyle products, medicines
 - Innovation & interplay in production and marketing
- Difficult policy agenda
 - Regulation
 - Rapid development legal responses
- Forensic science and toxicological data increasingly important
- All happening very quickly!

EMCDDA: Annual report package 2012

Publications

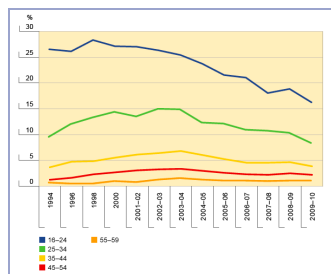


Annual report



Selected issues

- Prisons and drugs in Europe
- Pregnancy, childcare and the family



Statistical bulletin



Drugnet Europe



Country overviews

Other publications

- Summary of the 2011 ESPAD report
- Trendspotter summary: fentanyl report
- Prevalence of daily cannabis use
- EMCDDA-Europol Joint report: 4-methylamphetamine
- Update on HIV outbreaks in Greece and Romania

emcdda.europa.eu/events/2012/annual-report