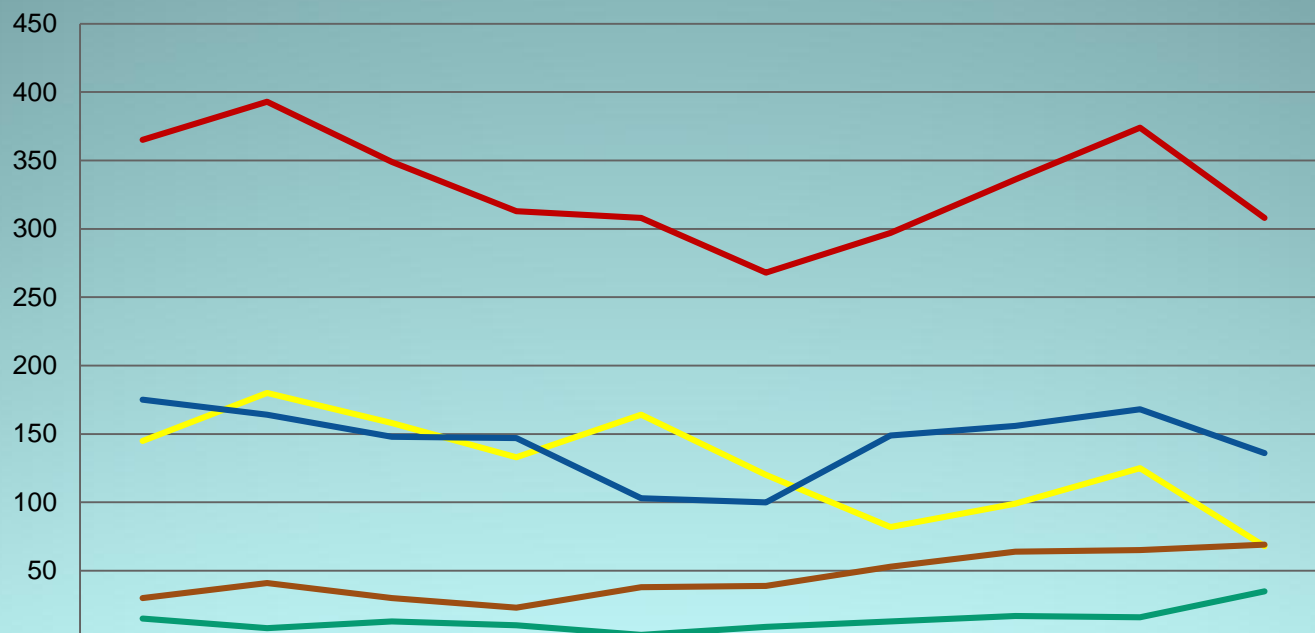


DIREZIONE CENTRALE PER I SERVIZI ANTIDROGA



DRD trends Italy

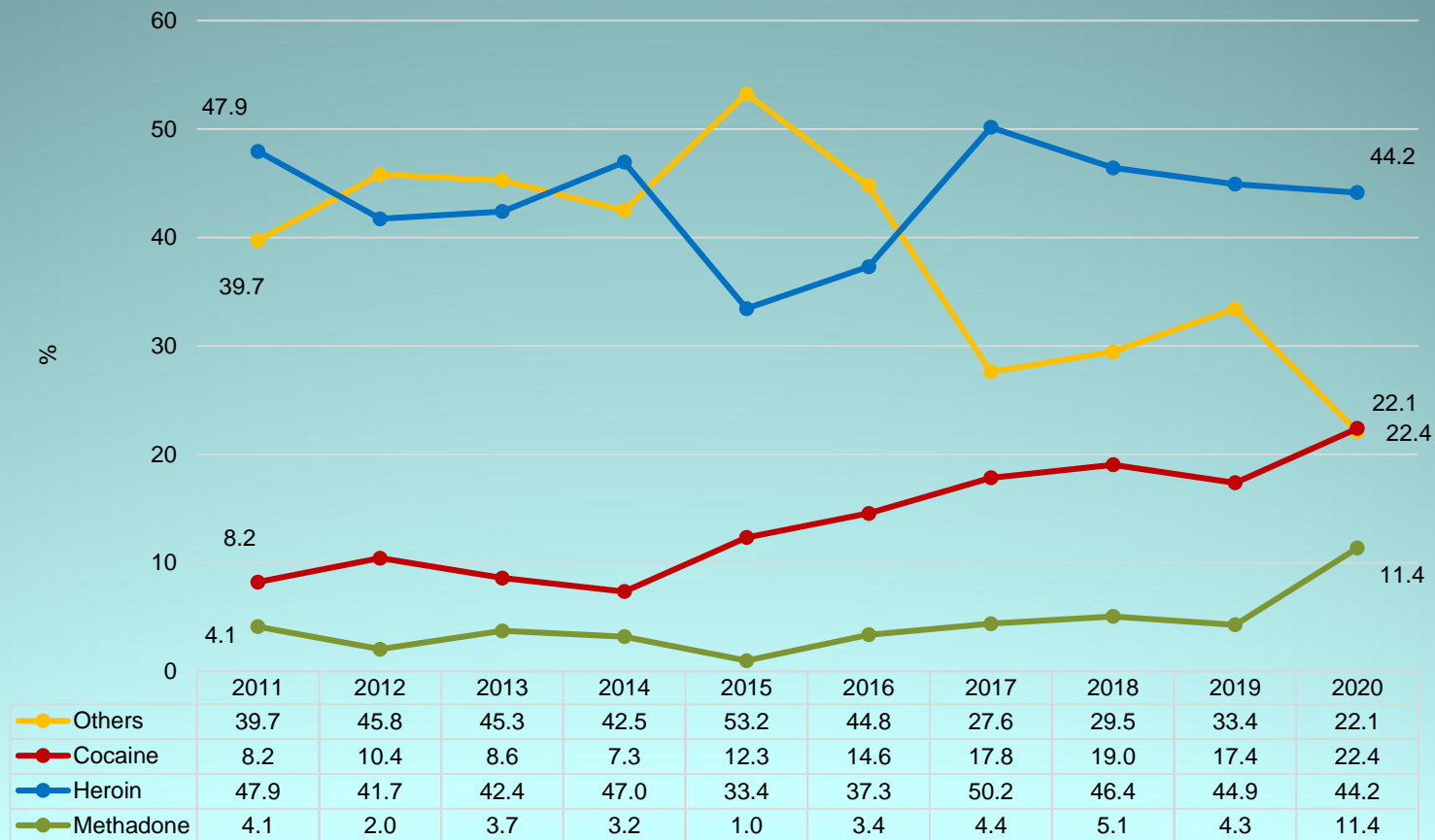


	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Others	145	180	158	133	164	120	82	99	125	68
Cocaine	30	41	30	23	38	39	53	64	65	69
Heroin	175	164	148	147	103	100	149	156	168	136
Mehtadone	15	8	13	10	3	9	13	17	16	35
Total	365	393	349	313	308	268	297	336	374	308

Others: including cases with unknown toxicology

Source: Causes of Death Statistics, Statistics Italy (IT), data delivered from the Ministry of Interior - Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Service (DCSA).

DRD trends Italy



Others: including cases with unknown toxicology

Source: Causes of Death Statistics, Statistics Italy (IT), data delivered from the Ministry of Interior - Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Service (DCSA).

Possible drivers



In 2020, after three years of continuous growth, the trend of overdose deaths was interrupted (308) and decreased by 66 units. In percentage terms, it shows a 17.65% reduction with respect to 2019, when drug-related deaths were 374.

The number of **heroin-related** deaths declined by 32 units compared to 168 of 2019.

This figure was “balanced” by the number of deaths due to **methadone overdose**, which rose from 16 in 2019 to 35 in 2020. These overdose deaths could be related to persons who were not necessarily drug addicts and who, during the pandemic, were taking methadone because they could not be supplied with their drug of choice or with other substance of abuse.

As to **cocaine**, the number of overdose deaths shows a slight increase (+5 units) compared with 2019 but the most remarkable gap is found among those deaths for which it was not possible to identify the substance causing the overdose (-55 units). In this case, the slight variation which roughly corresponds to that registered in the last two years, might indicate that in 2020 it was more difficult to identify with certainty the causes of death (the abuse of narcotic drugs or the overdose) in the absence of a clear diagnosis of overdose.

Source data



- Source: Causes of Death Statistics, Statistics Italy (IT), data delivered from the Ministry of Interior - Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Service (DCSA).

Responses



- The **Special Registry** collects the deaths directly linked to drug use (acute poisoning, overdose) and reported by the Police Forces and Prefectures to the Central Directorate for Anti-drug Services of the Ministry of the Interior.
- Since 1983 until 2020, when the overdose deaths statistical survey started in Italy, 25,063 persons died due to drug abuse.