



A 10-year overview of opioids abuse in Greece through the treatment demand -and other indicators

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Epidemiology

REITOX Focal Point-Greece

University Mental Health Research Institute

The Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI)

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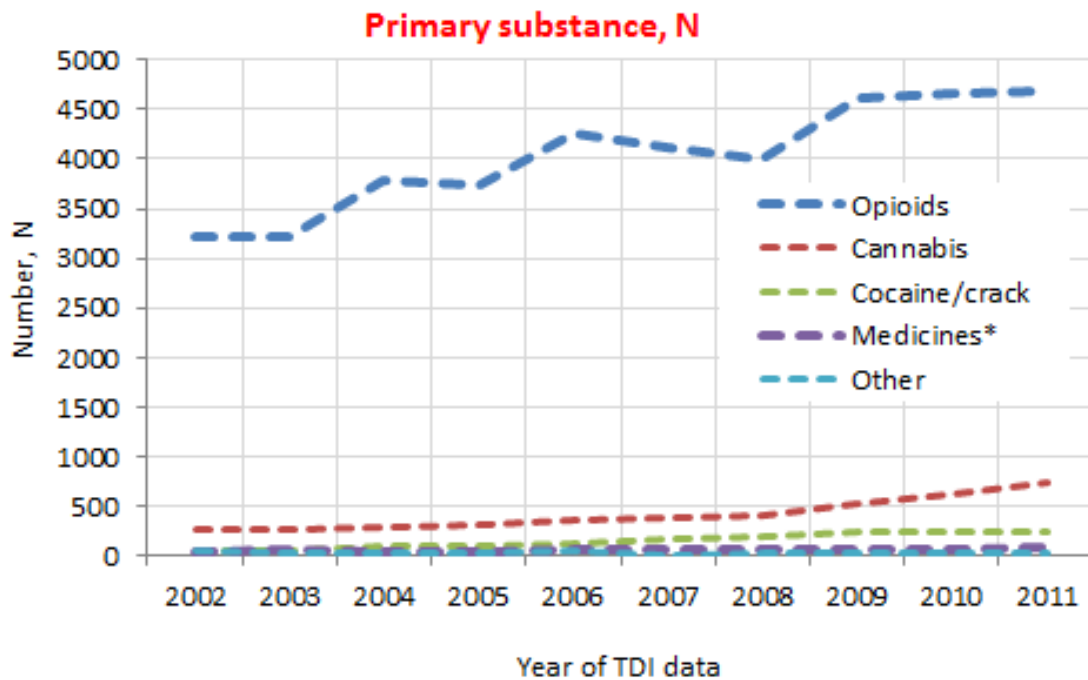
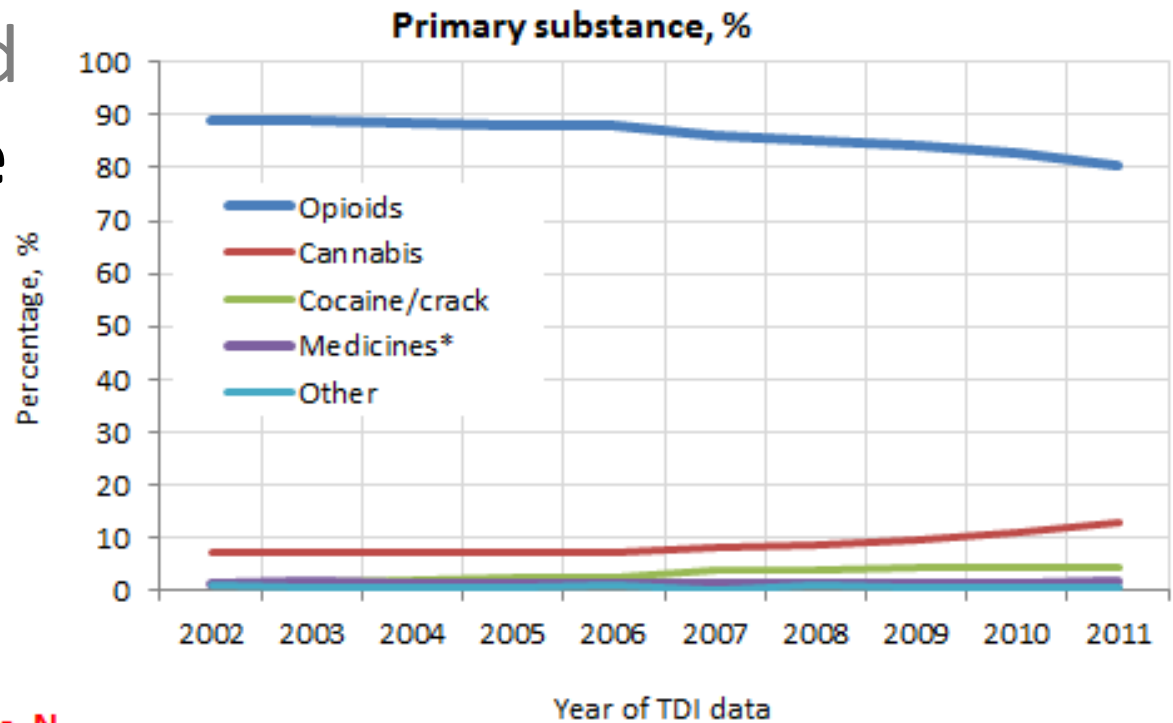
EMCDDA (OEDT)

Headline points

1. *Opioids* increase in numbers, yet decrease in proportions
2. Demands get older
3. *Previous-treatments* outnumber *first-treatments* (revolving door)
4. *Sniffing* dominates, although *injection* starts hitting back
5. *Polydrug use* increases (prescription drugs)
6. *Daily use* shows downward trend and so do *current injecting* and *sharing*
7. Social indicators get worse, but *family* plays a key role
8. Harm reduction interventions have only recently improved their *coverage*
9. Cheap and poor quality heroin increases health related risks

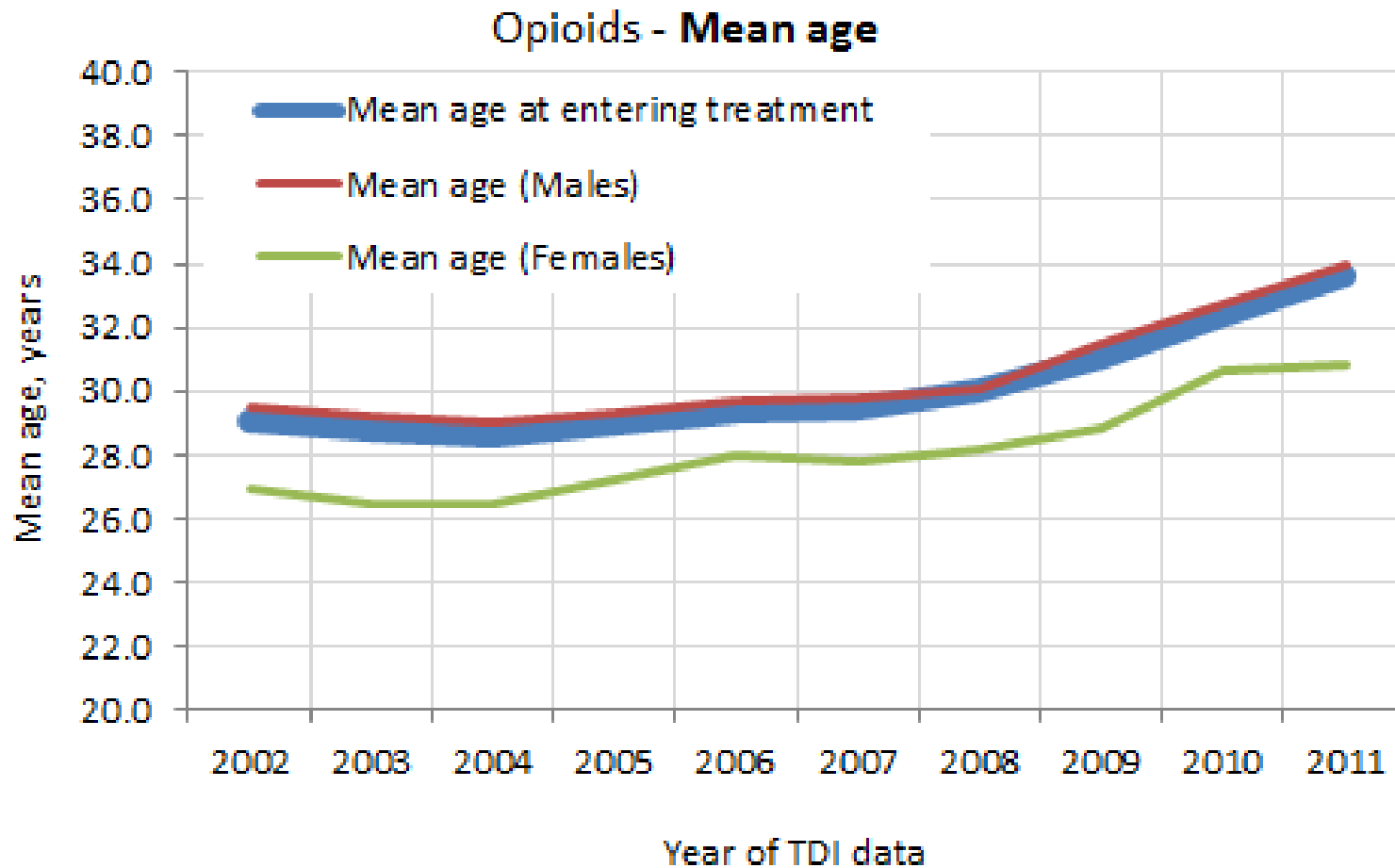
Treatment demand

Primary substance

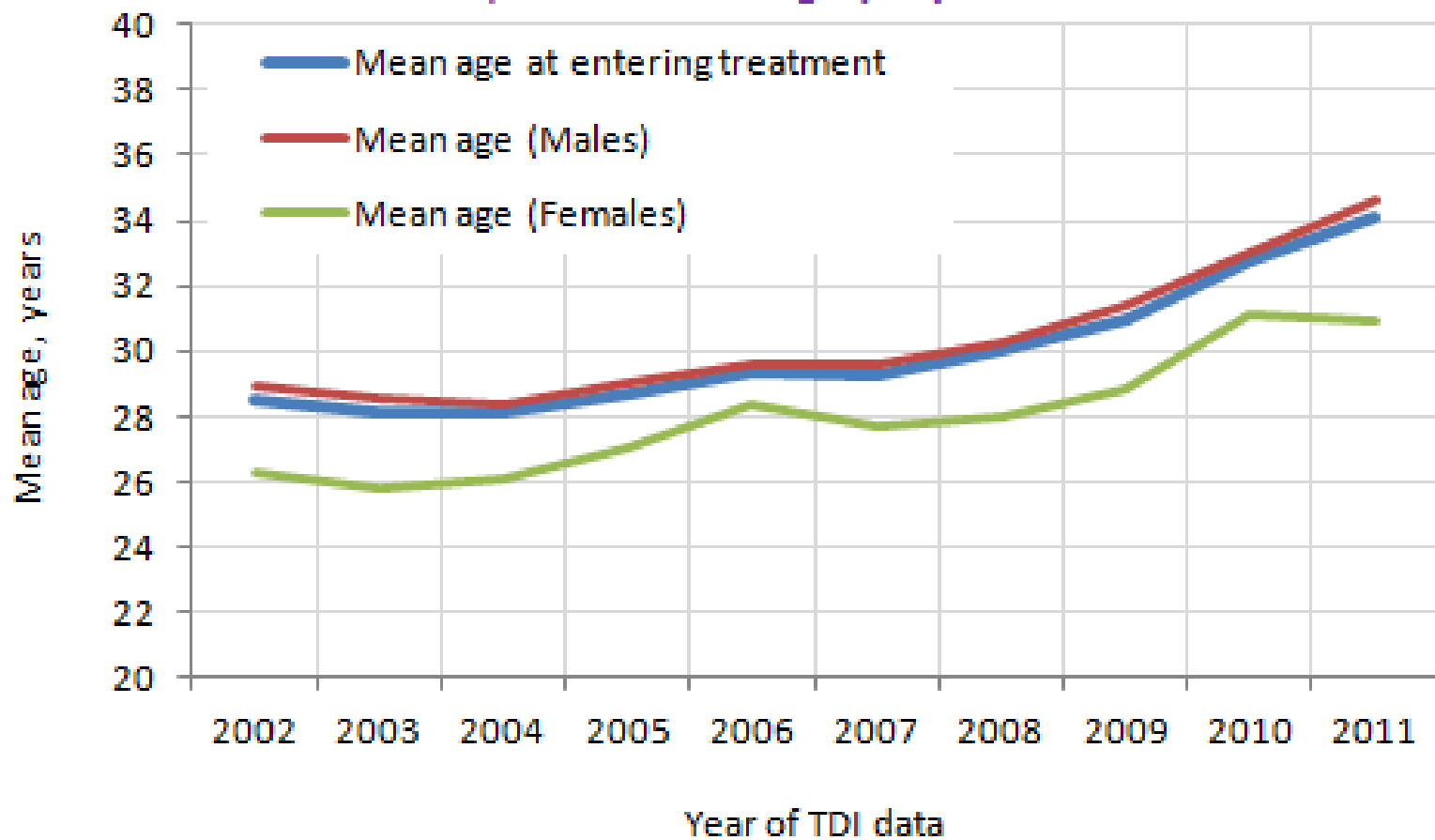


Treatment demand for opioids

Mean age

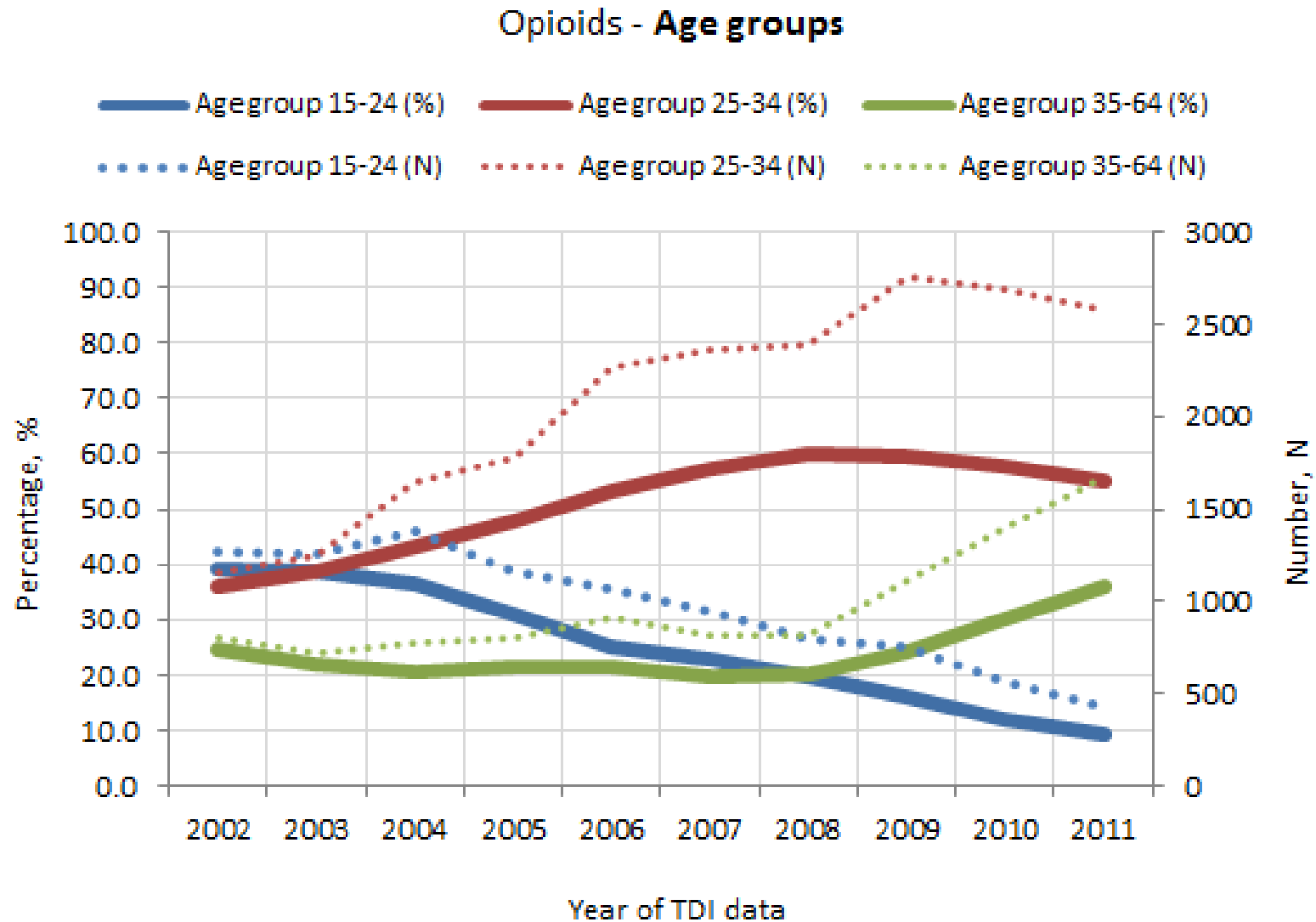


Opioids - Mean age (FTs)

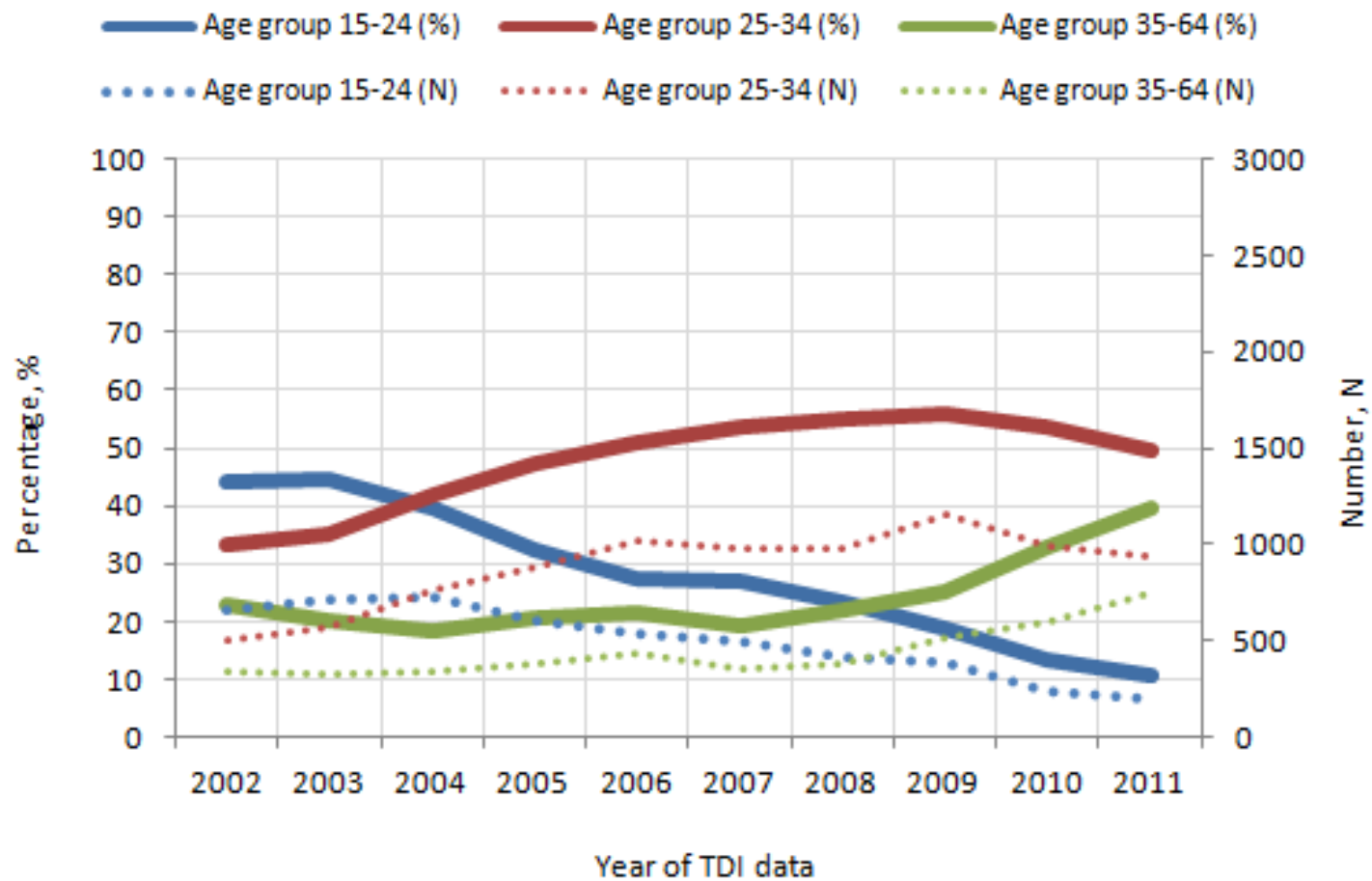


Treatment demand for opioids

Age groups

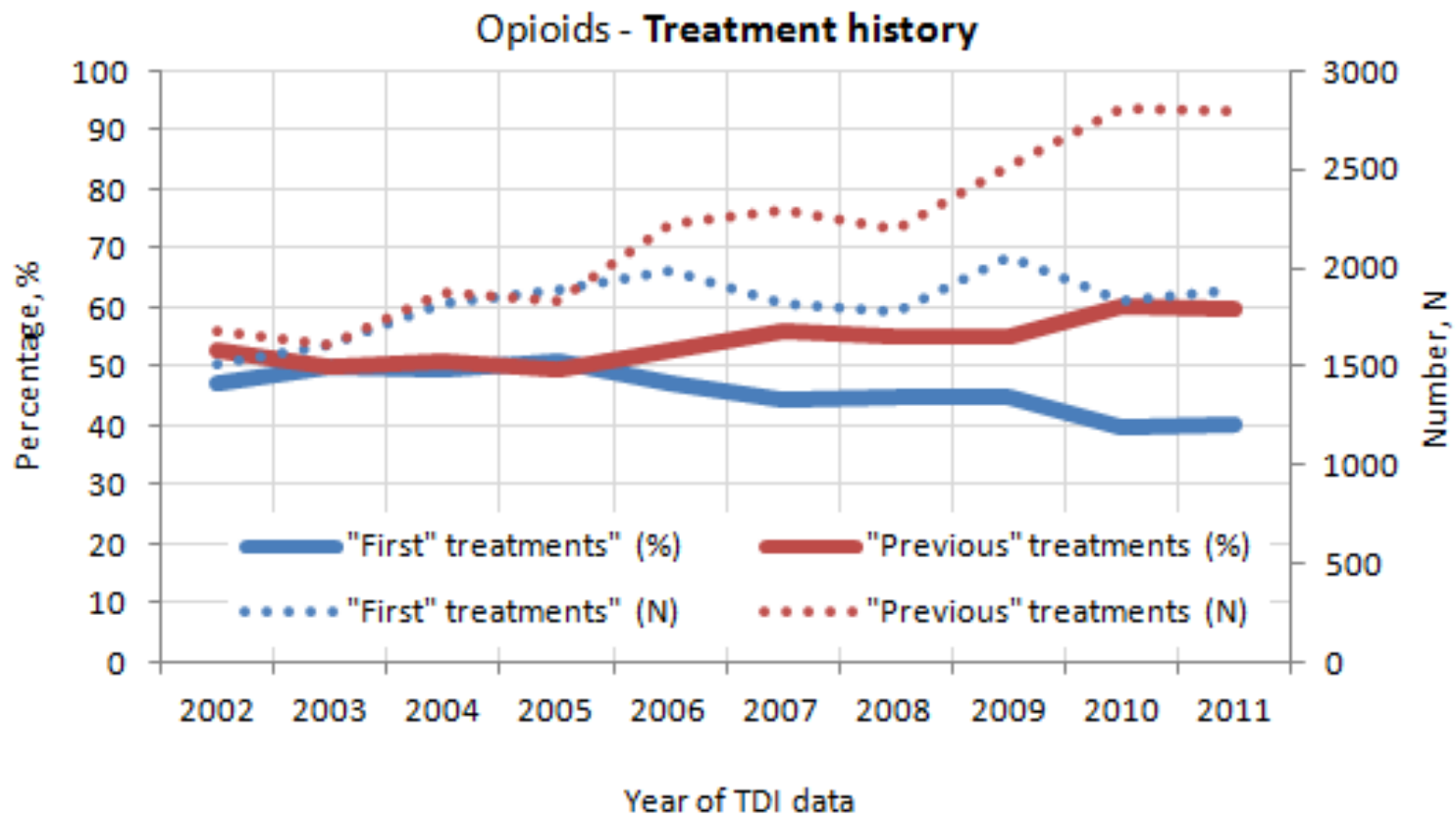


Opioids - Age groups (FTs)



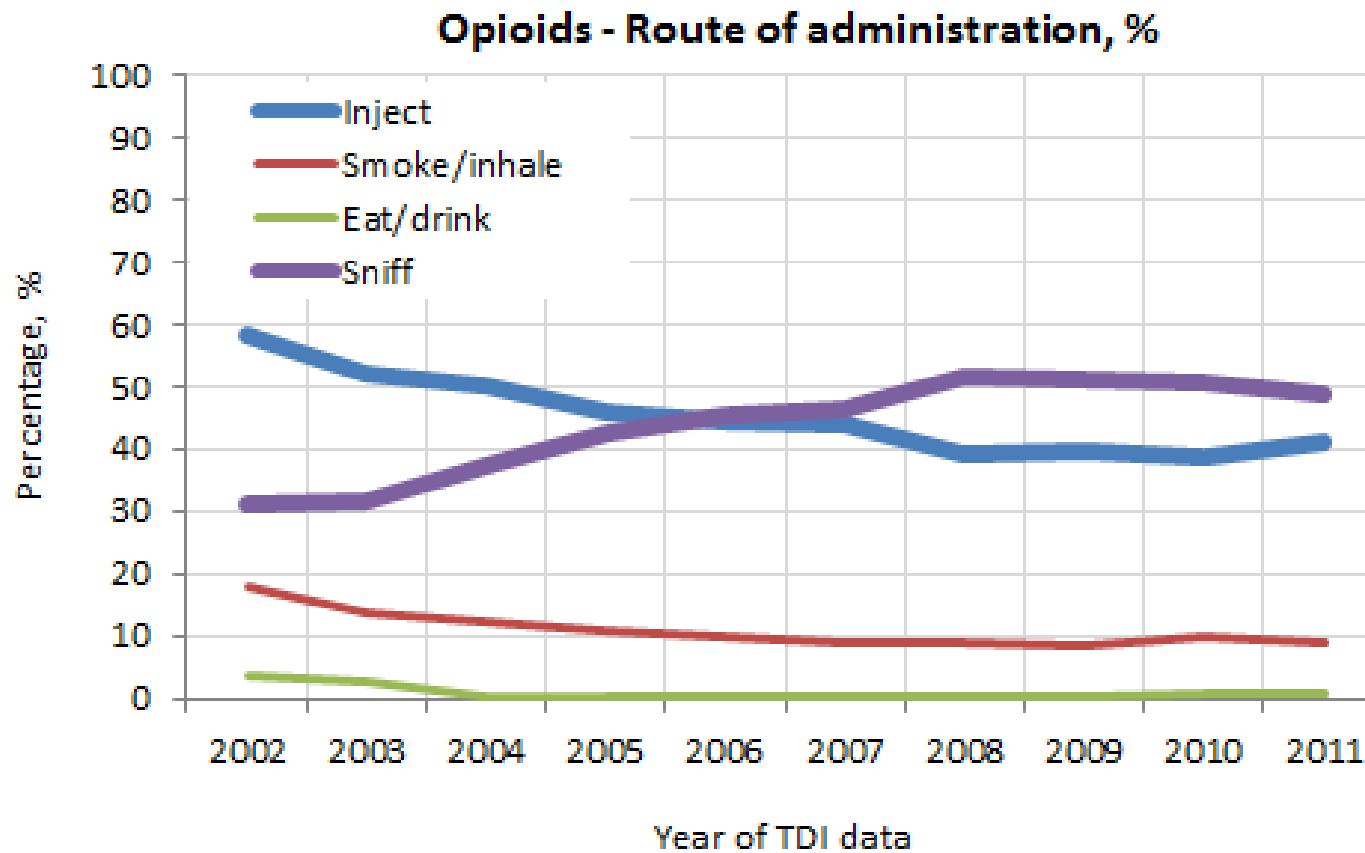
Treatment demand for opioids

Treatment history

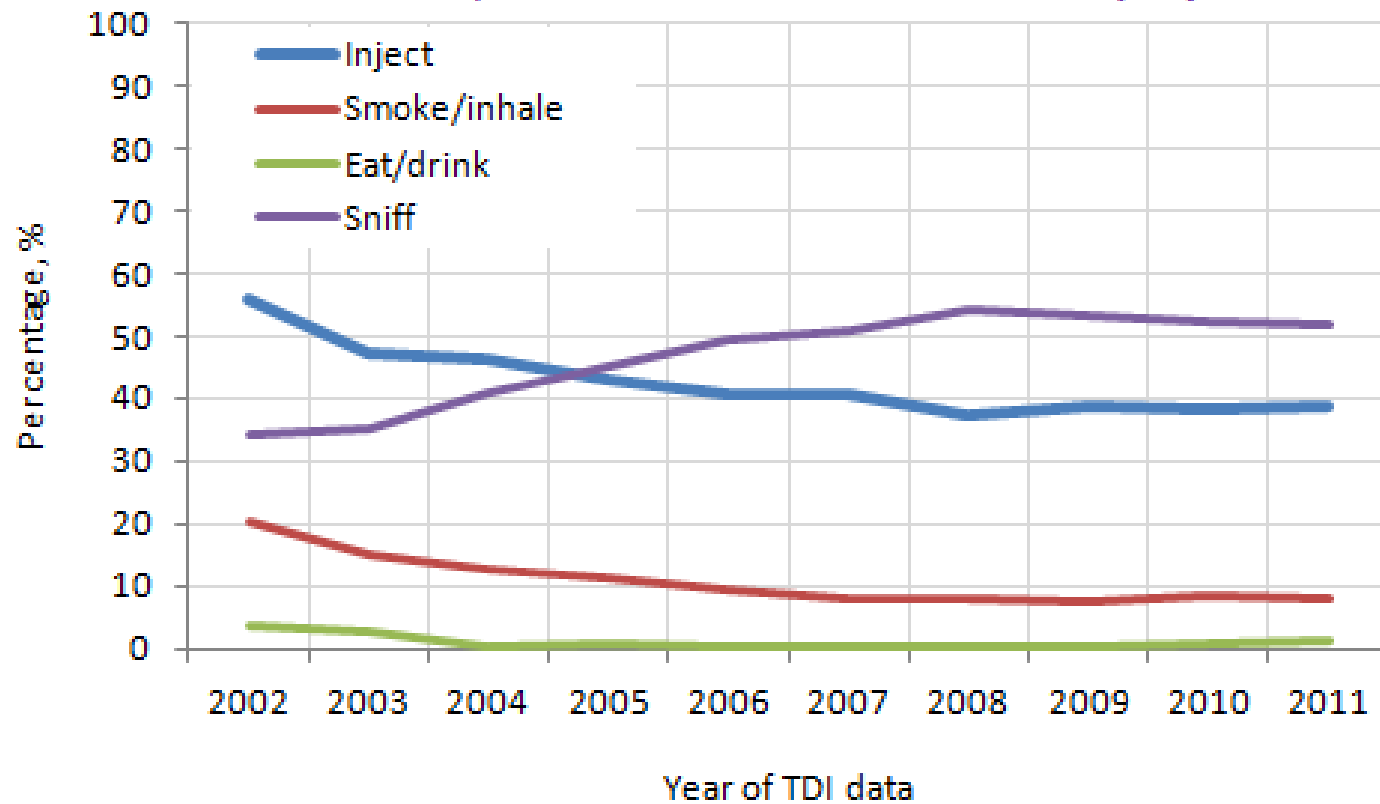


Treatment demand for opioids

Route of administration



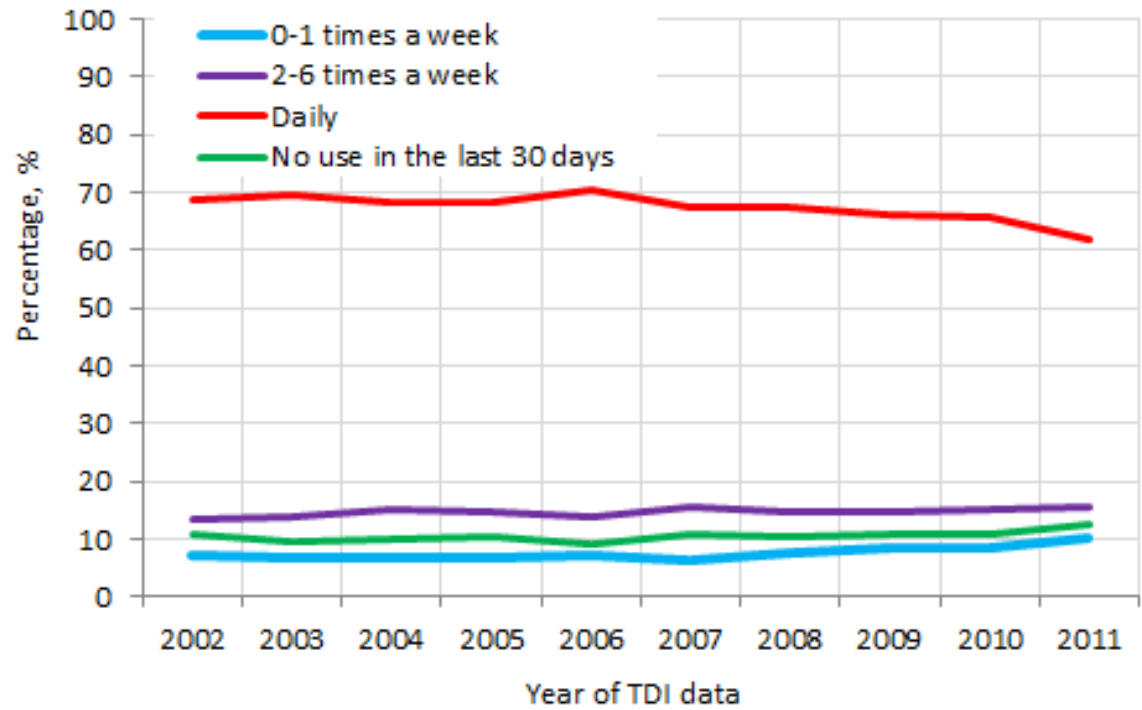
Opioids - Route of administration (FTs)



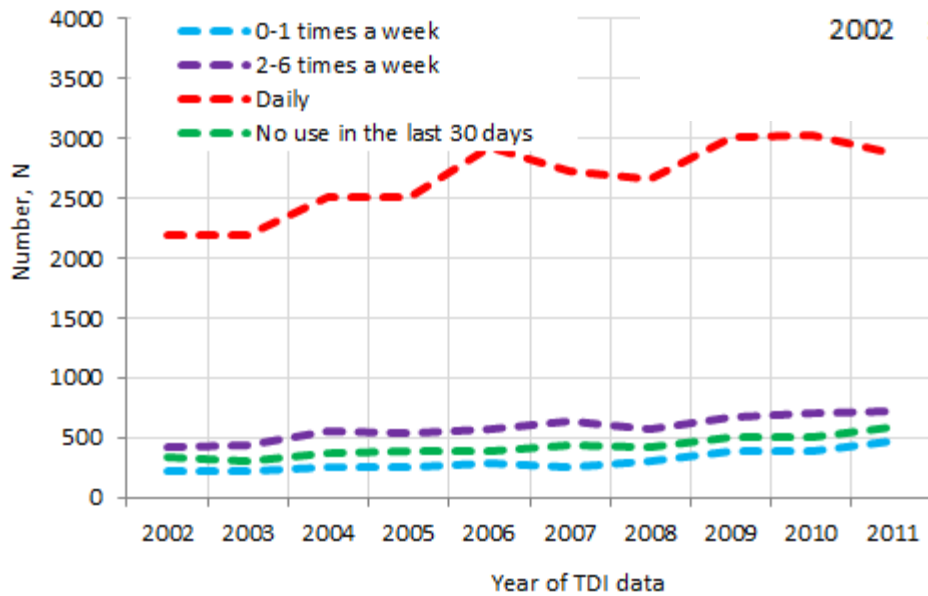
Treatment demand for opioids

Frequency of use

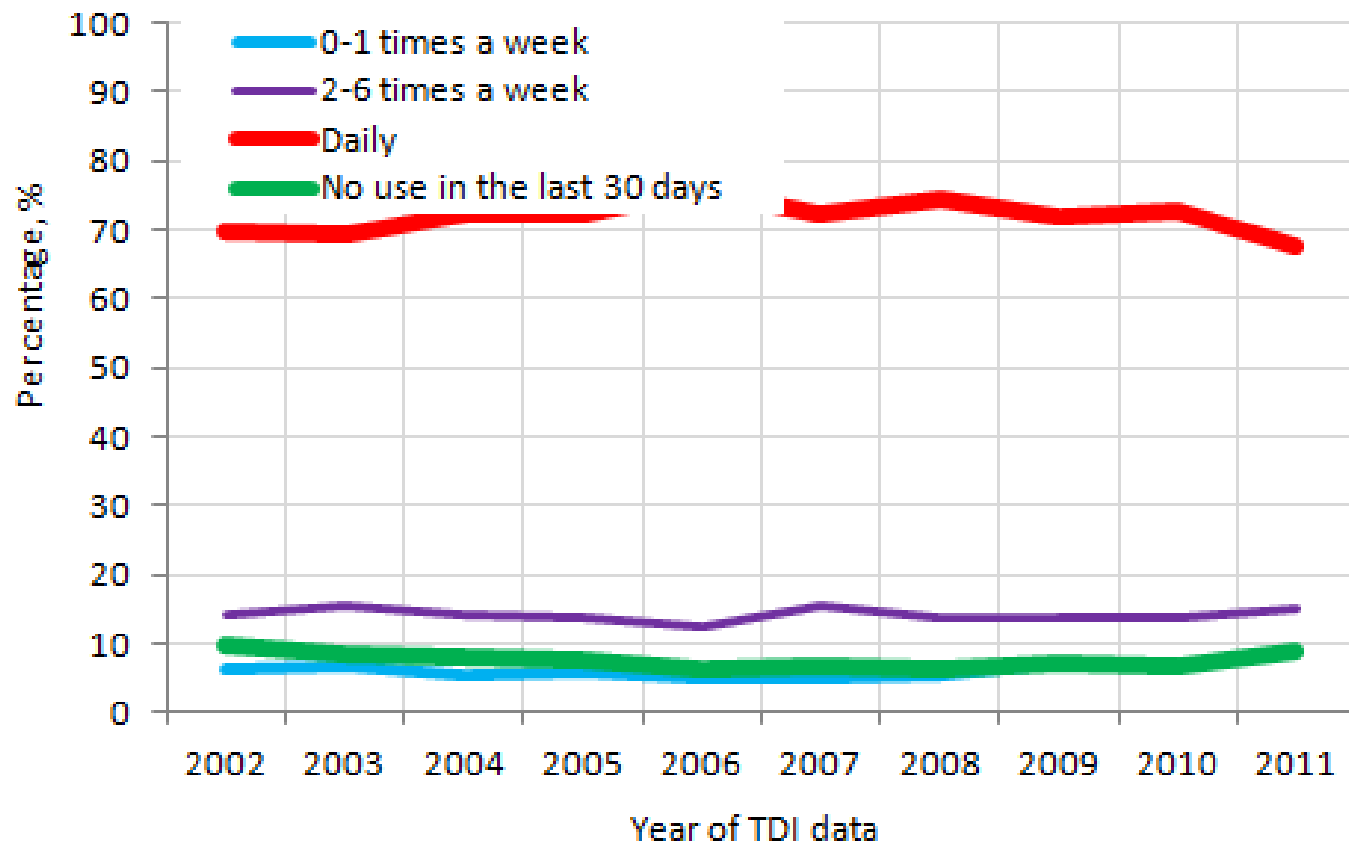
Opioids - Frequency of use in the last 30 days, %



Opioids - Frequency of use in th



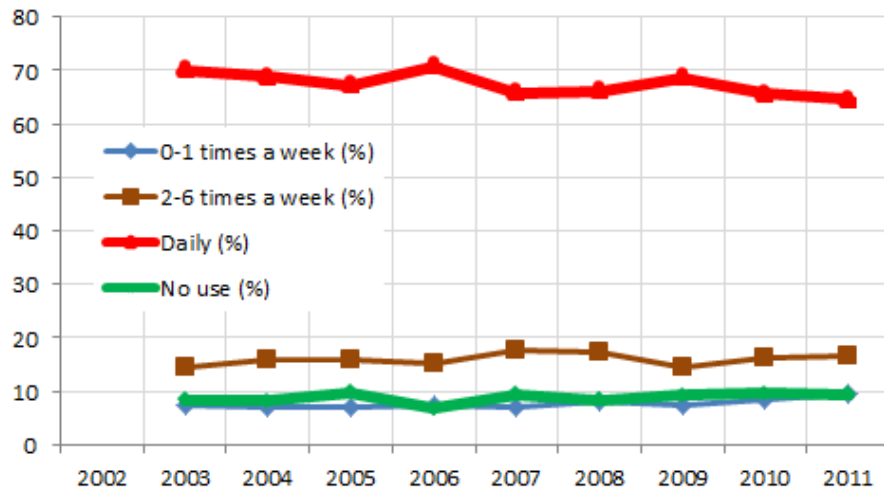
Opioids - Frequency of use in the last 30 days (FTs)



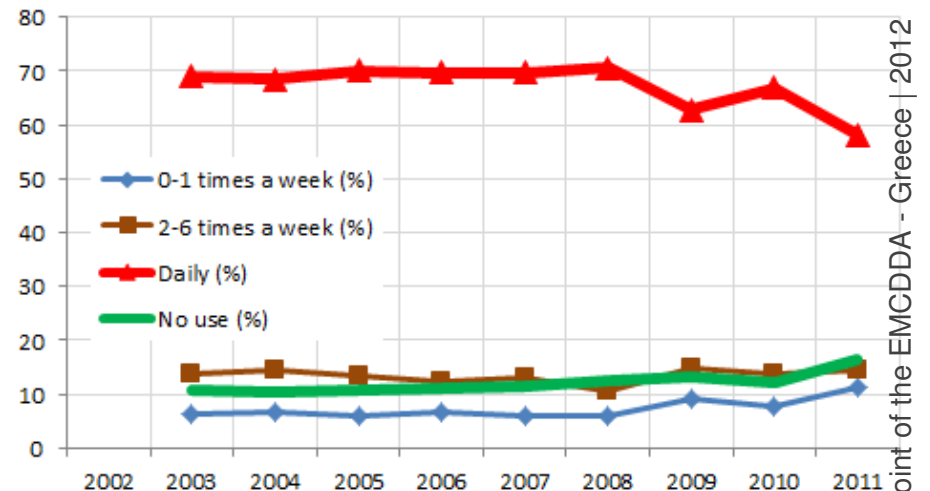
Treatment demand for opioids

Frequency of use in the last 30 days among opioid...

...sniffers



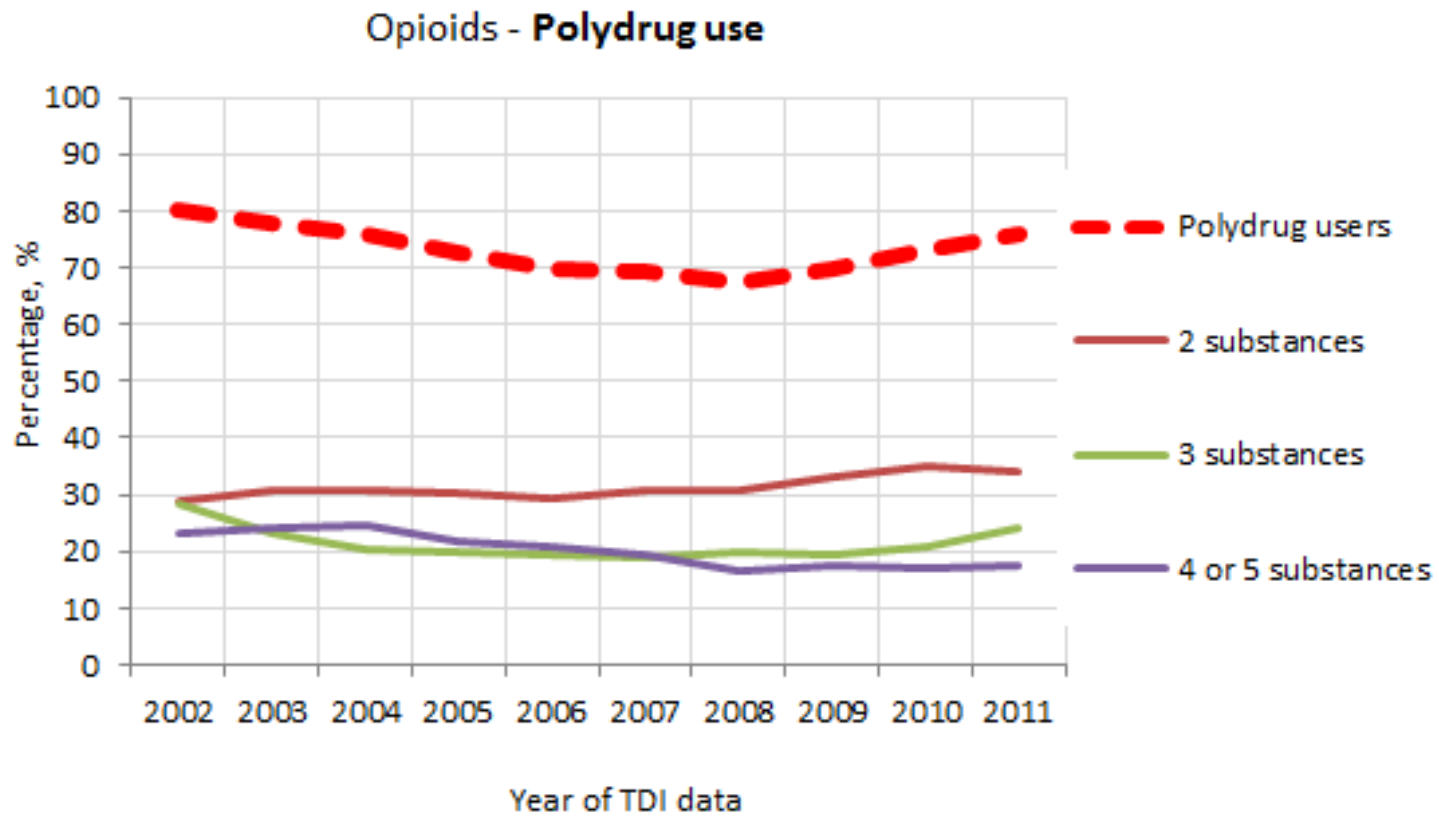
...injectors



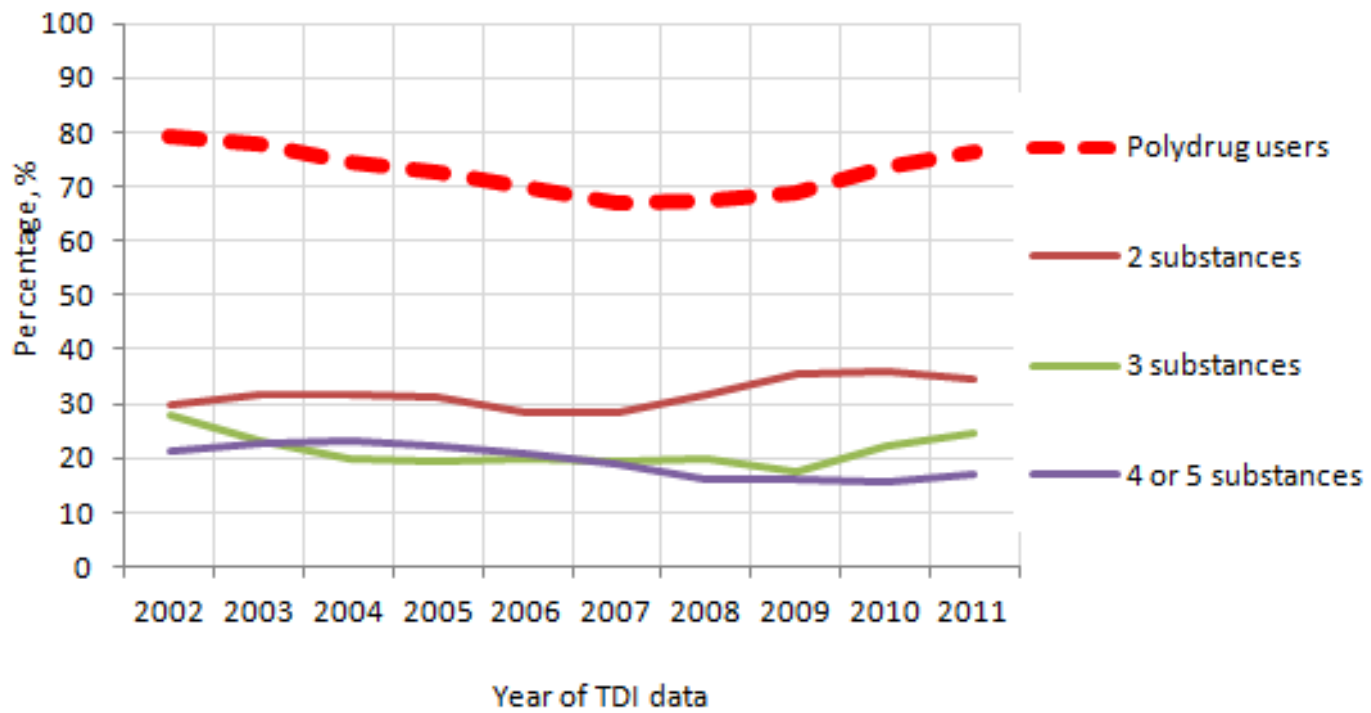
REITOX Focal Point of the EMCDDA - Greece | 2012

Treatment demand for opioids

Polydrug use

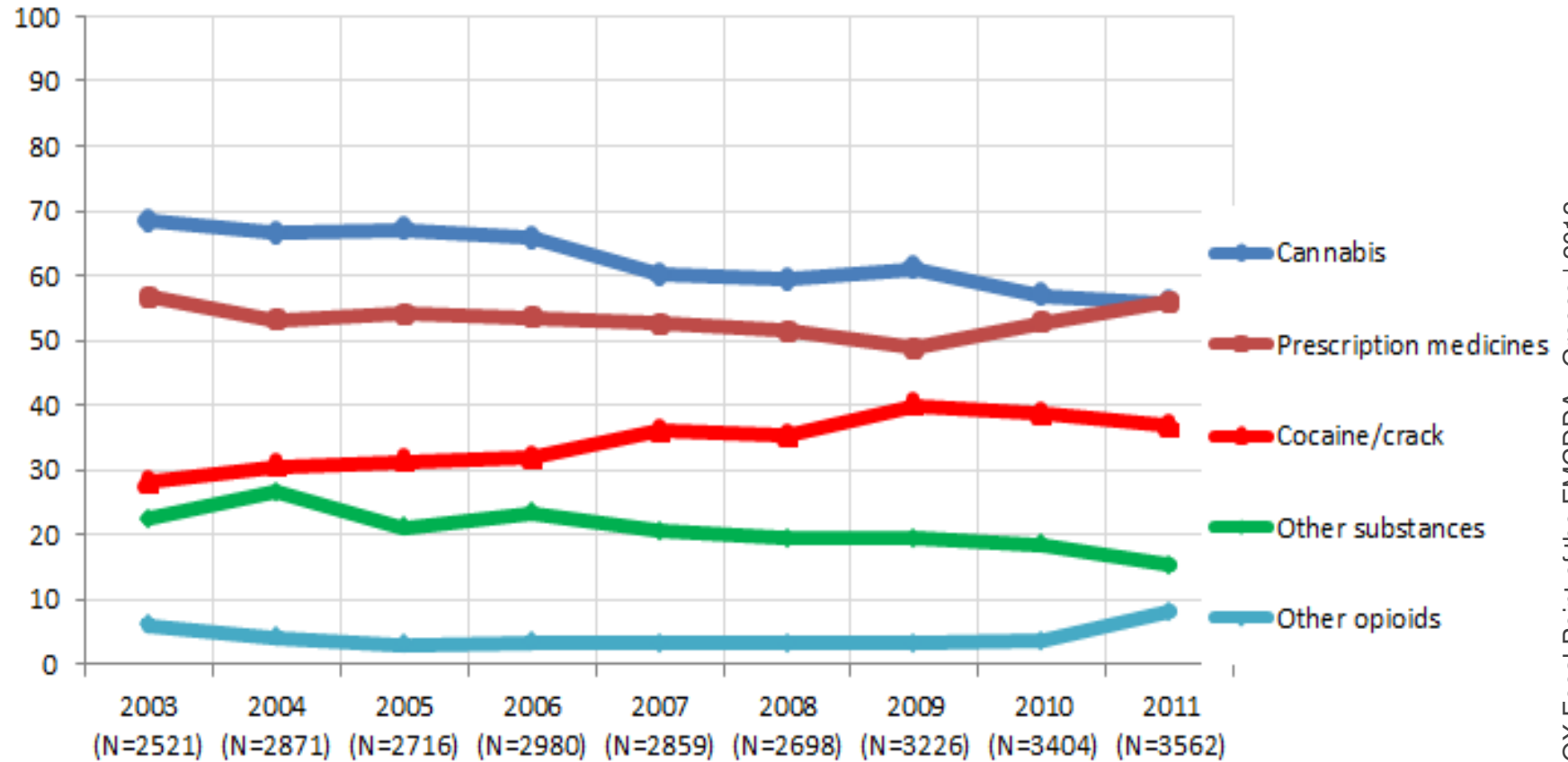


Opioids - Polydrug use (FTs)



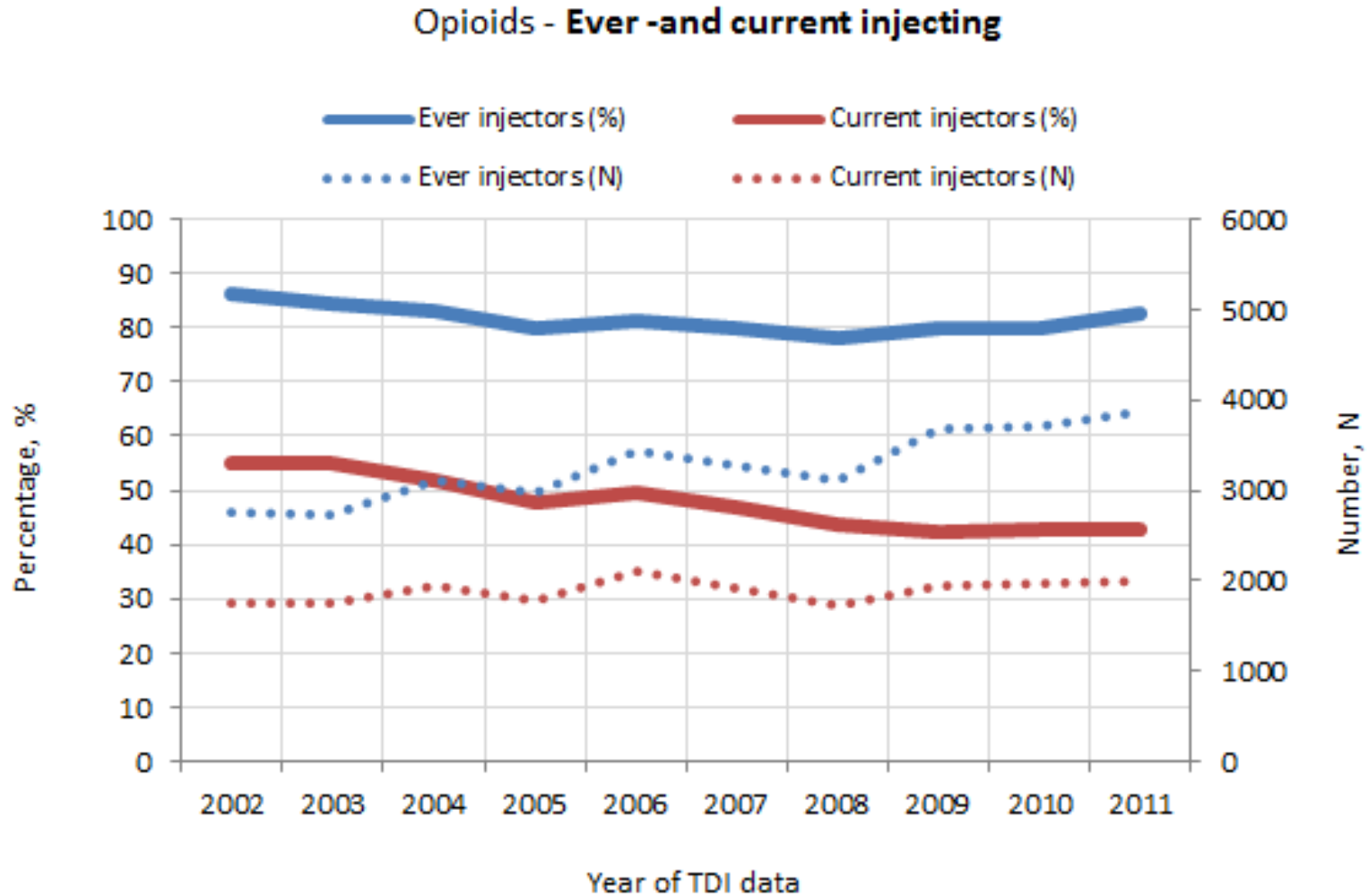
Treatment demand for opioids

Secondary substances



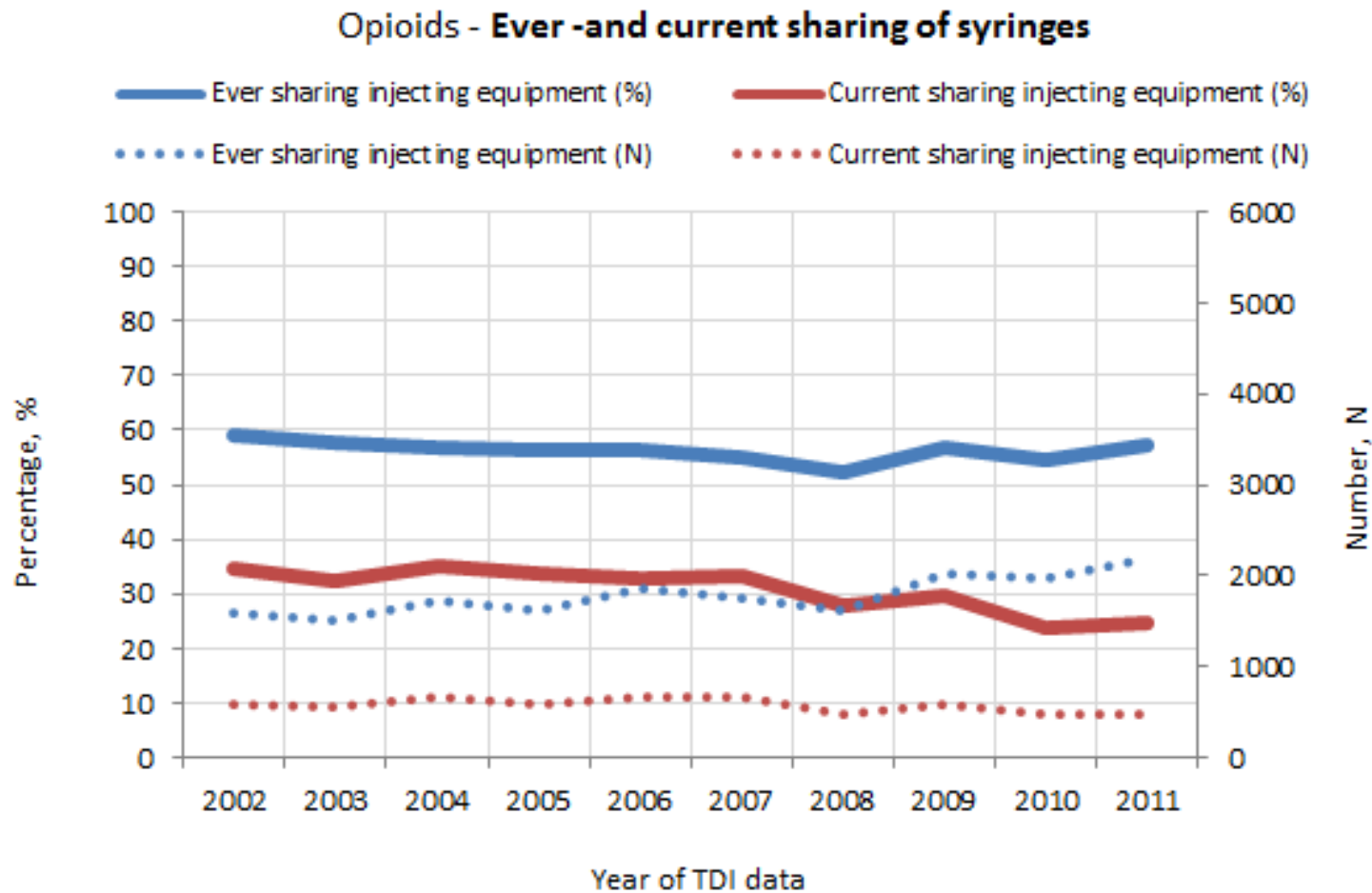
Treatment demand for opioids

Injecting



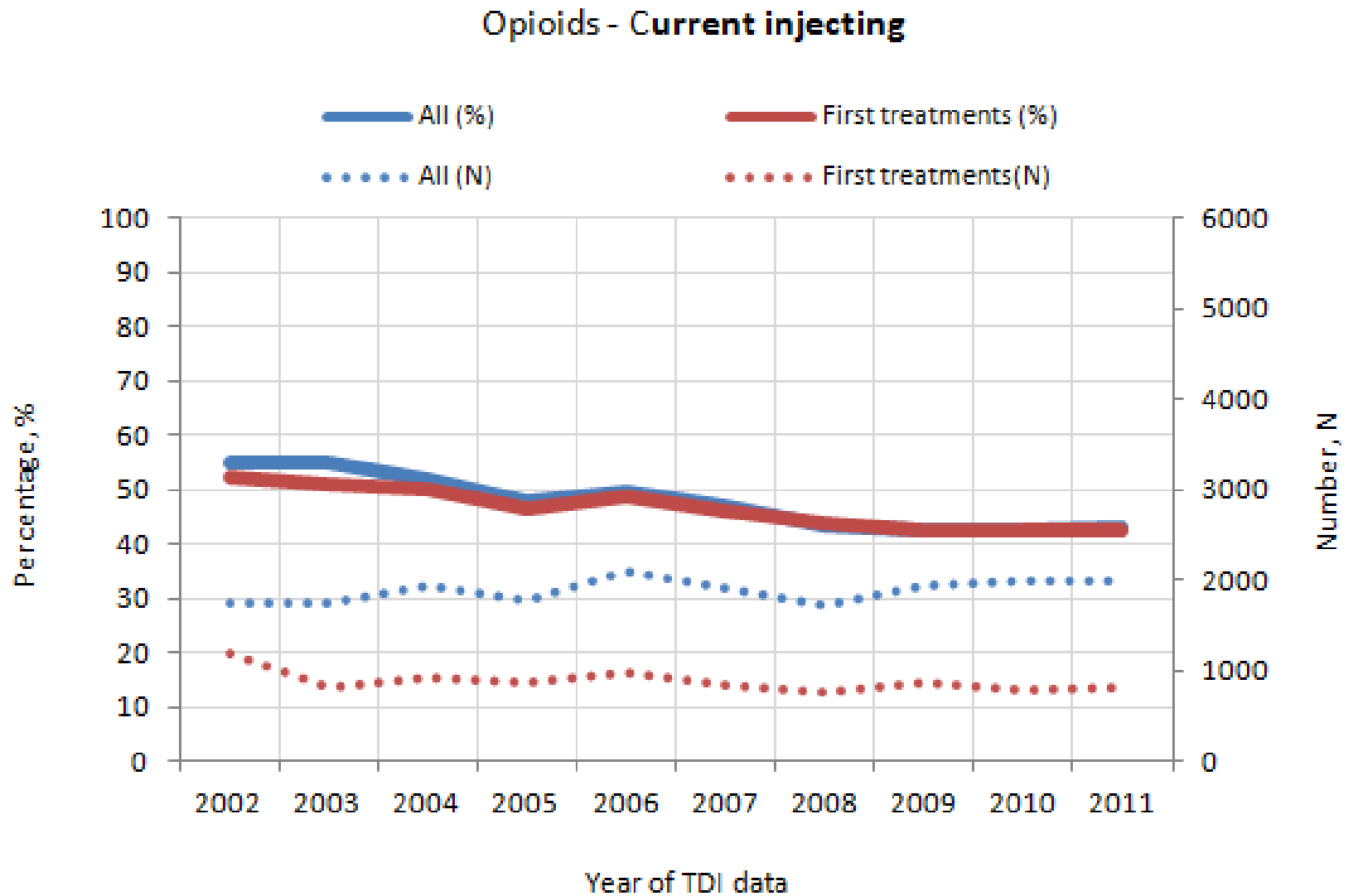
Treatment demand for opioids

Sharing syringes



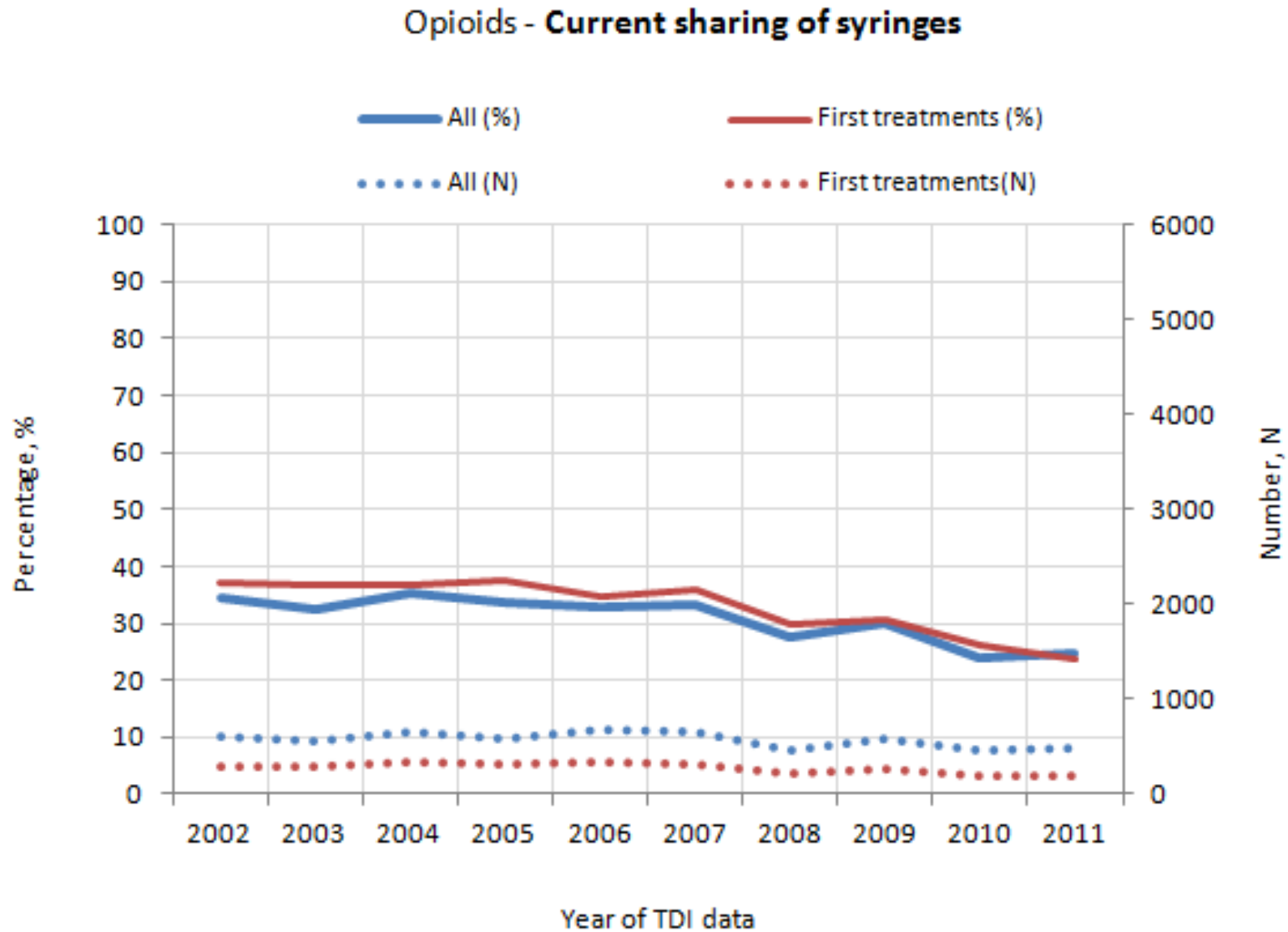
Treatment demand for opioids

Current injecting



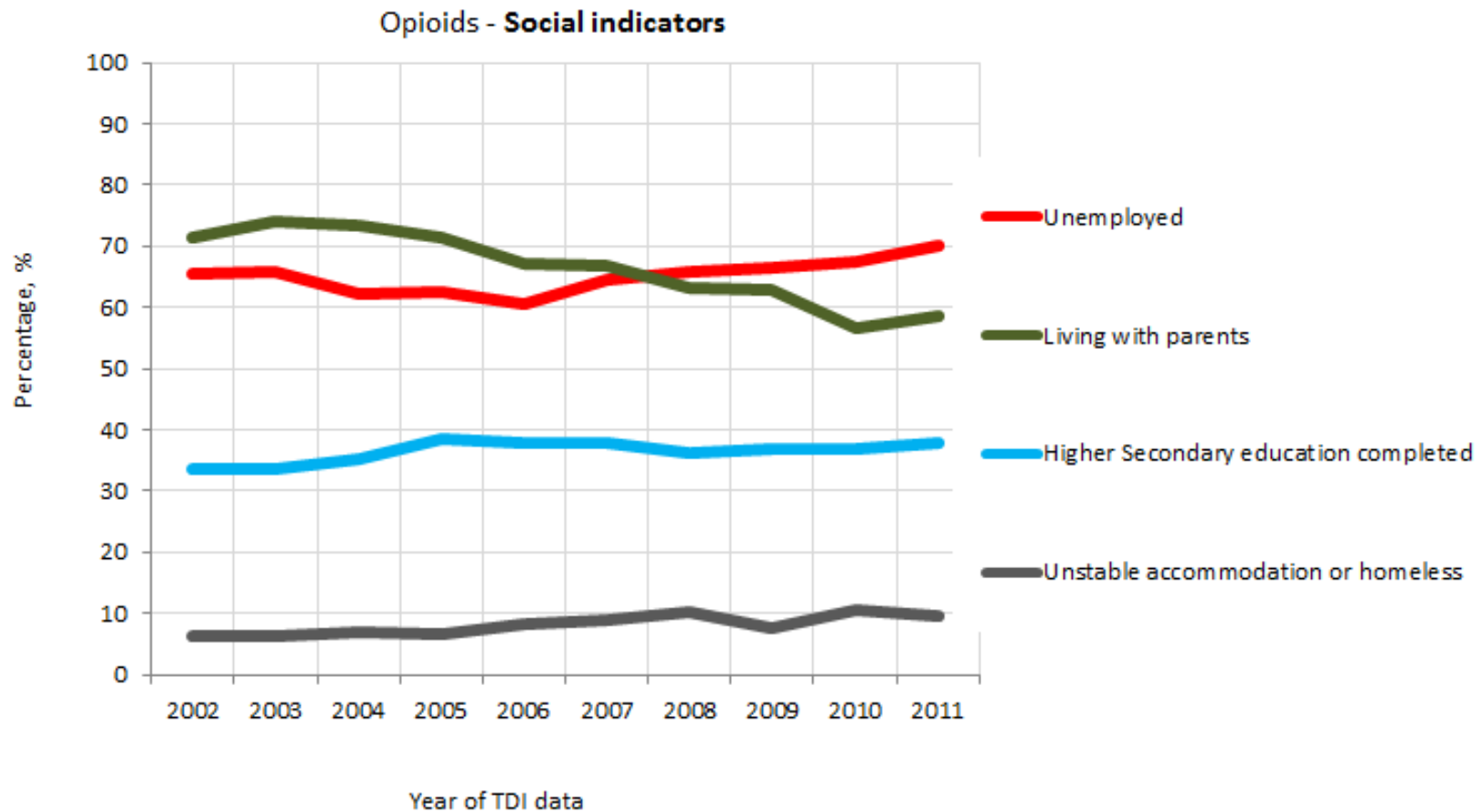
Treatment demand for opioids

Current sharing



Treatment demand for opioids

Social indicators (selection)



Markets

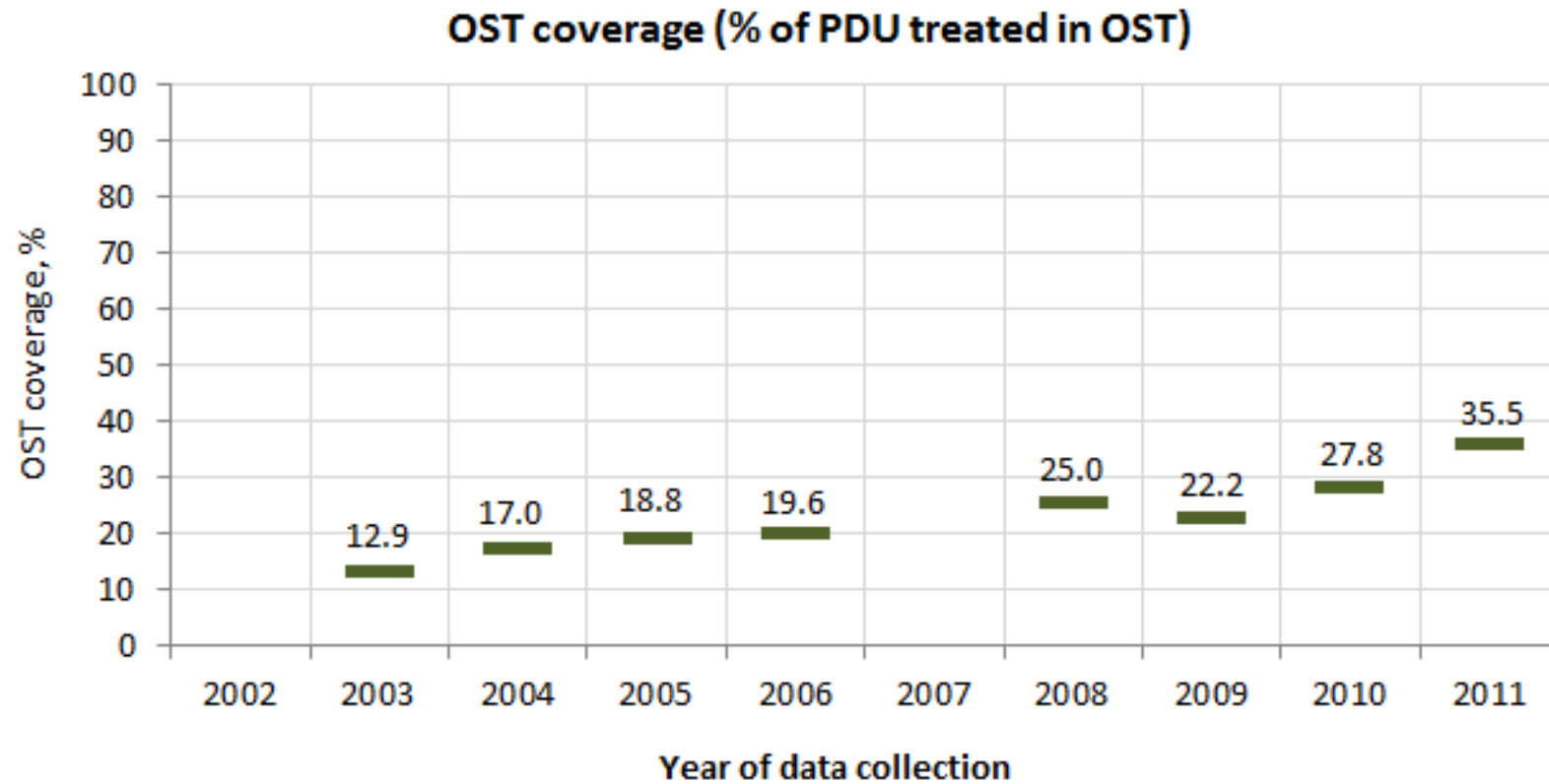
Purity and prices

- Low purity of heroin, currently determined at 10-15% (trafficking level) and 5% (user level). Frequent adulterants: *paracetamol* and *caffeine*, *benzos* (diazepam, flunitrazepam, alprazolam) *strychnine*, *barbiturates*, *cocaine*, *sulpiride*, *dextromethorphan*.
- Decreasing heroin prices: Heroin brown: from 44-75€ in 2001 to 8-20€ in 2011; heroin white: from 44-75€ in 2001 to 20-50€ in 2011

Sources: EWS; Greek General Chemical State Laboratory; Hellenic Police

Harm reduction

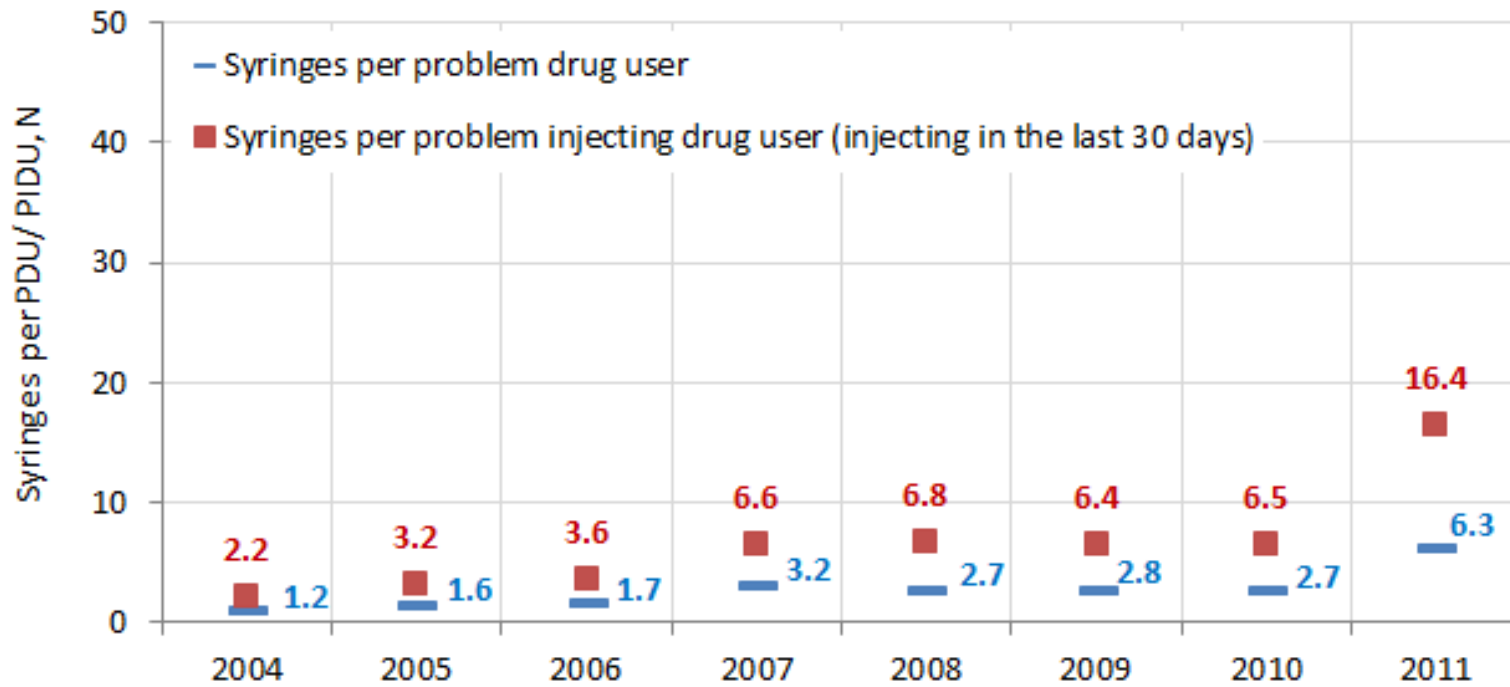
OST coverage



Notes: Data for 2002 and 2007 are not available.
Source: REITOX Focal Point of the EMCDDA - Greece.

Harm reduction

Needles & syringes programs coverage



Source: REITOX Focal Point of the EMCDDA - Greece.

Further need for ...

- Advanced analyses on existing TDI data
- Synthesis of data from different indicators
- Inclusion of multilevel indicators (e.g. police operations; syringes distributed)
- Qualitative input (focus groups with active users and street-work)
- Study of risk perceptions among active users

Acknowledgements

Manina **Terzidou**, Head, Greek REITOX Focal Point

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Ioanna **Siamou**, Greek REITOX Focal Point (NSP data)

and

the Heads and the personnel of treatment centres, and low threshold settings that provide data to the Greek Focal Point

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Supporting slides

Opioids

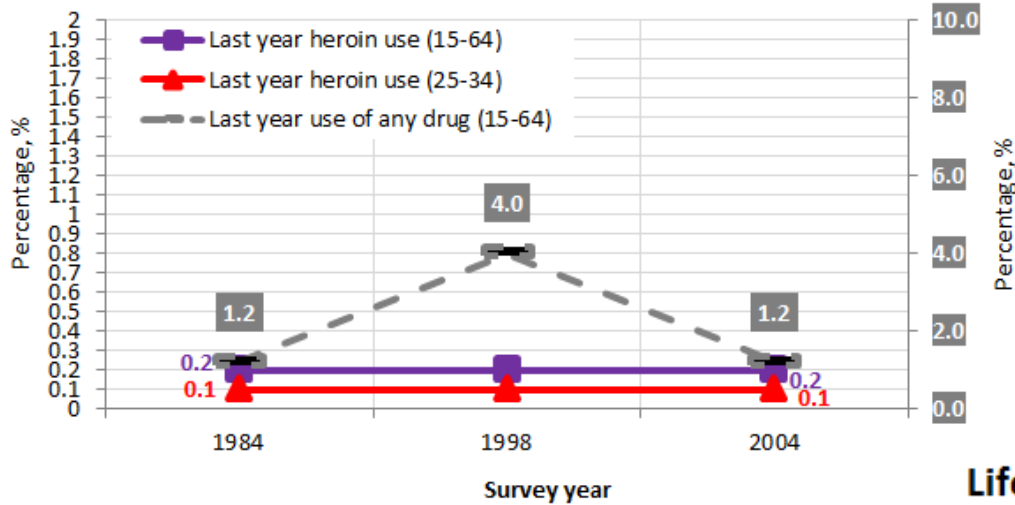
Indicators

1. General population data (1984-2004)
2. Student population / ESPAD data (1984-2011)
3. PDU estimates (capture-recapture)
4. Treatment demand data (>95% coverage)
5. Price & Purity
6. Needle & syringe programs

General population

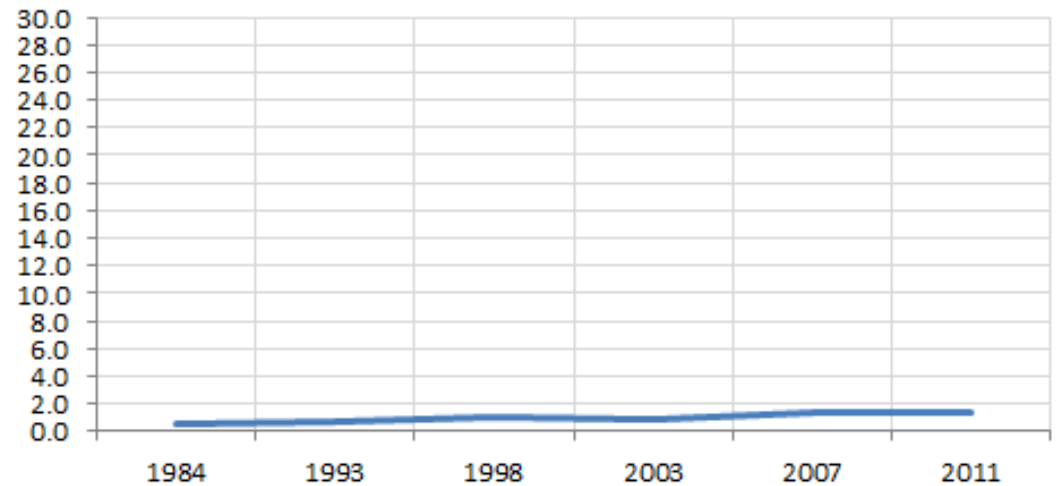
Heroin users

Heroin use in the population (lifetime)



Source: University Mental Health Research Institute.

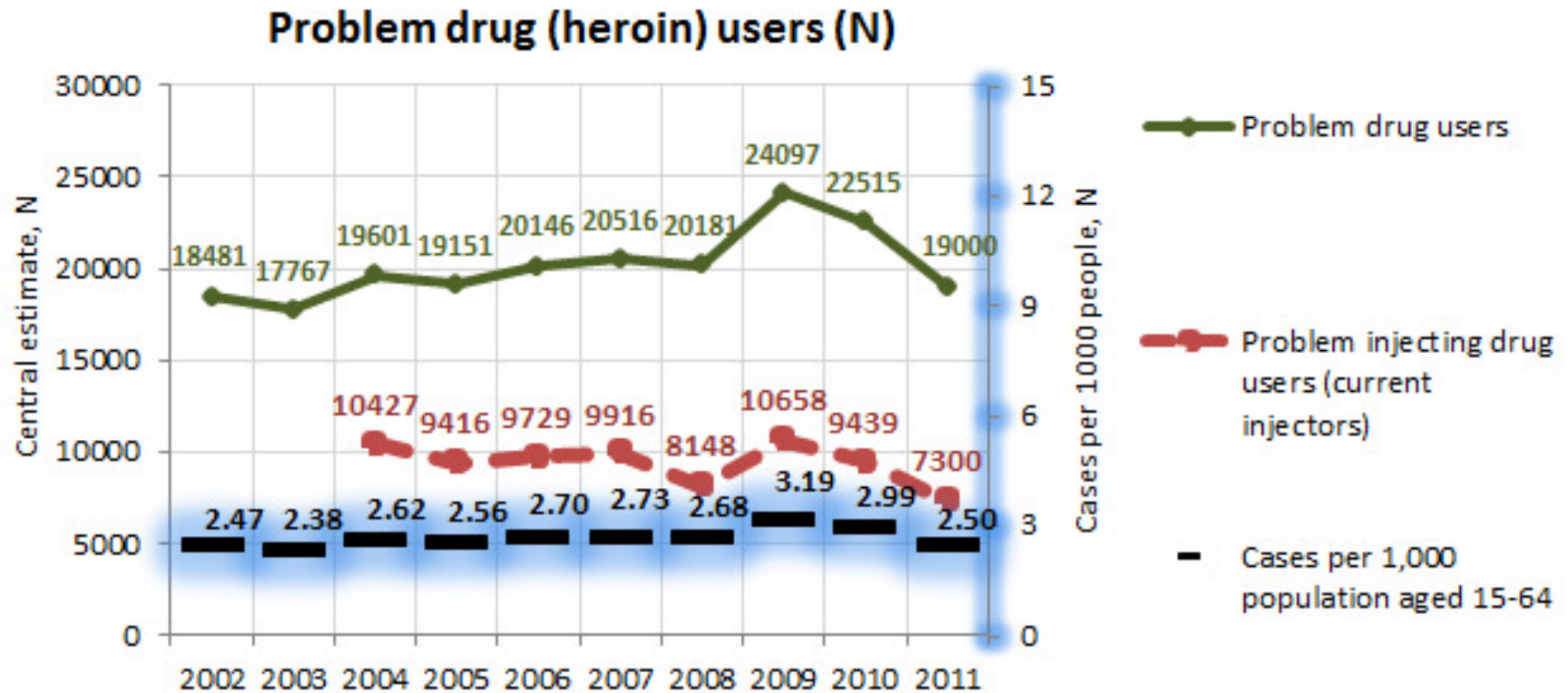
Lifetime heroin use (students 13-17 year olds)



Source: University Mental Health Research Institute.

Problem drug use indicator

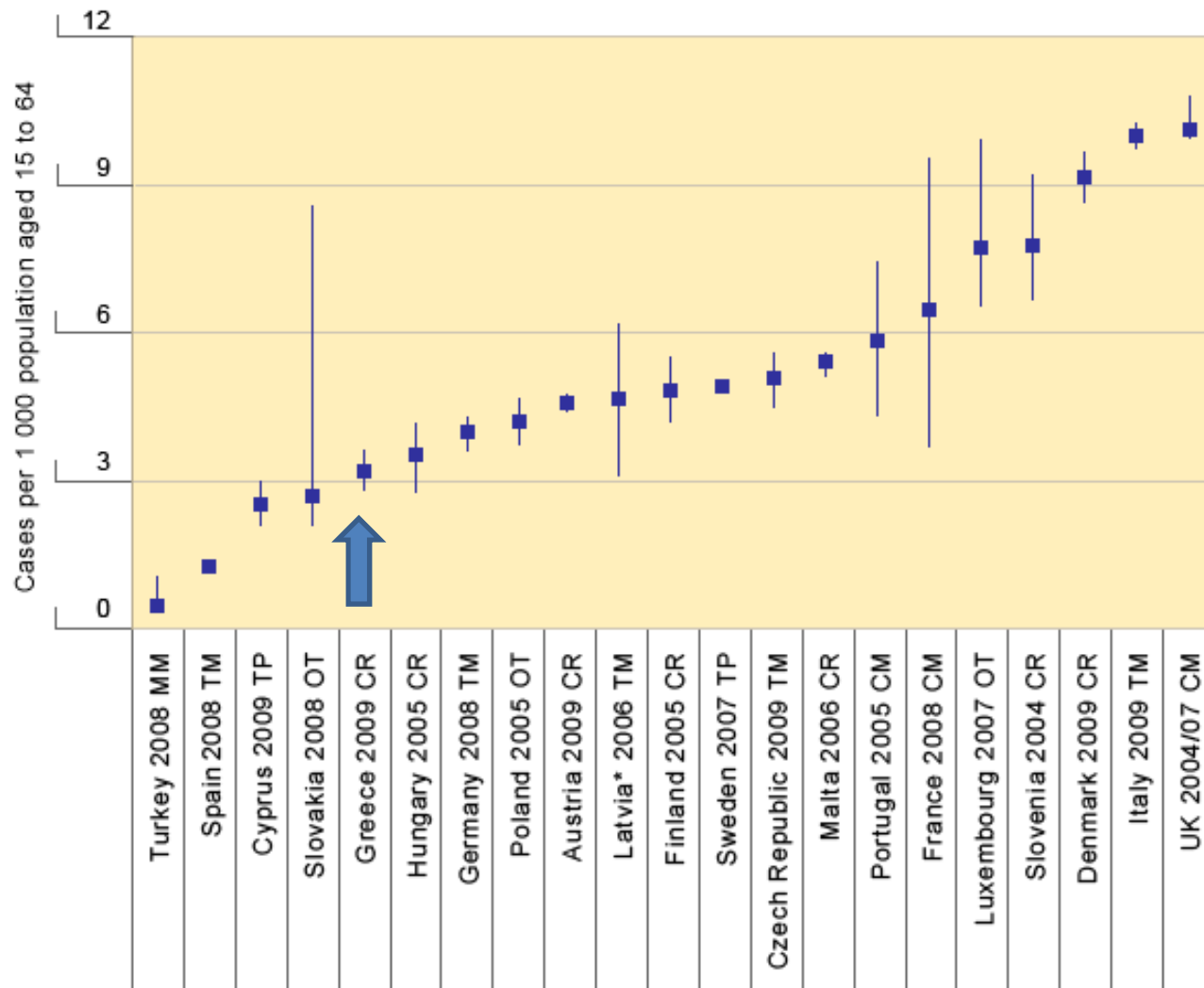
Opioid users estimates



Notes:

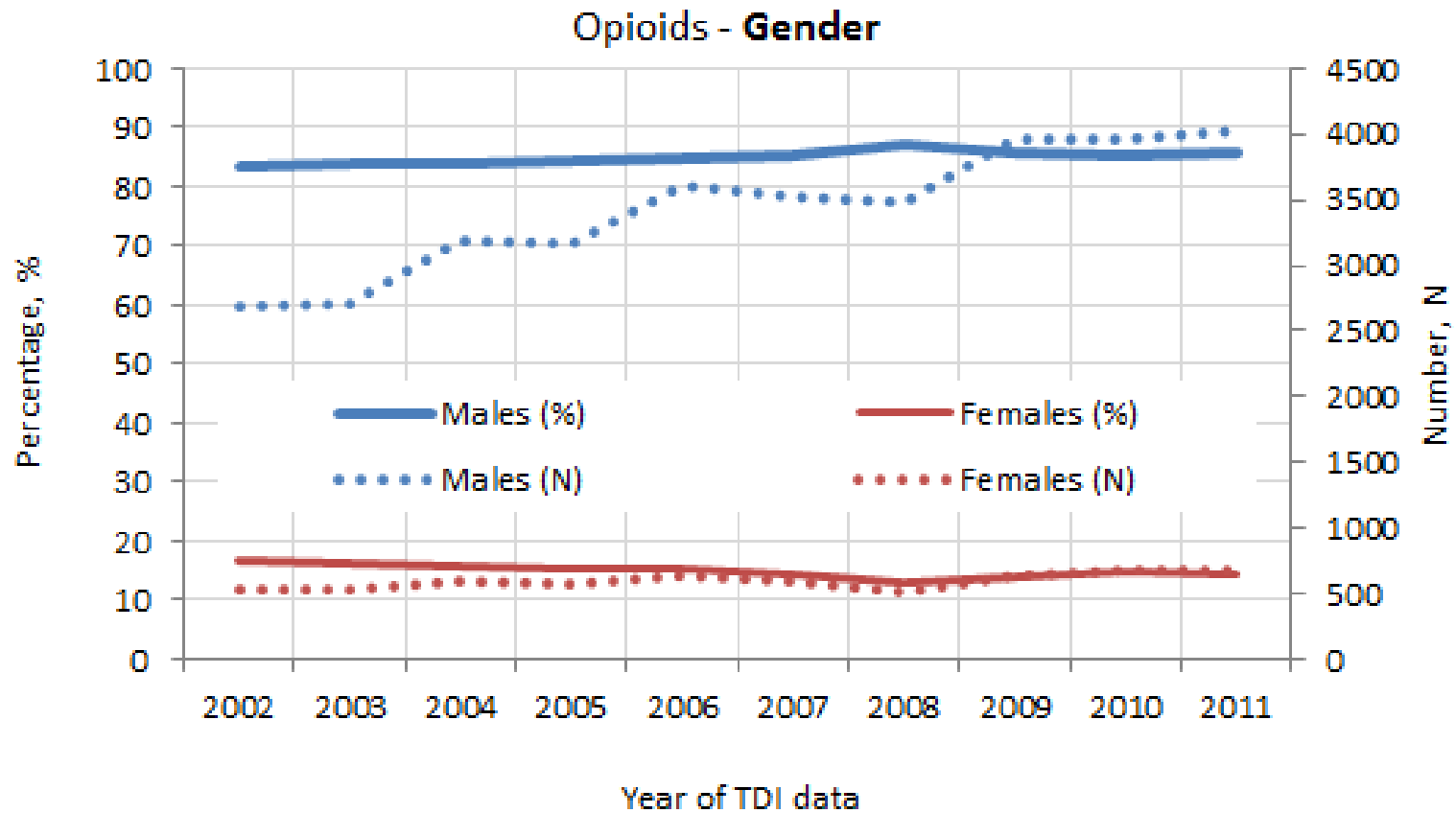
1. Estimates for 2011 are preliminary
2. PDU is defined as someone who will at some point seek treatment for heroin use;
3. PDU estimate: the estimated size of the "hidden population" of users who did not attend any therapeutic service during a year 30
4. Method: capture-recapture; 3 TDI sources

Estimates of the prevalence of problem drug use (rate per 1 000 population aged 15 to 64), studies from 2004 to 2009 - last study available (Source EMCDDA; Figure PDU-1).

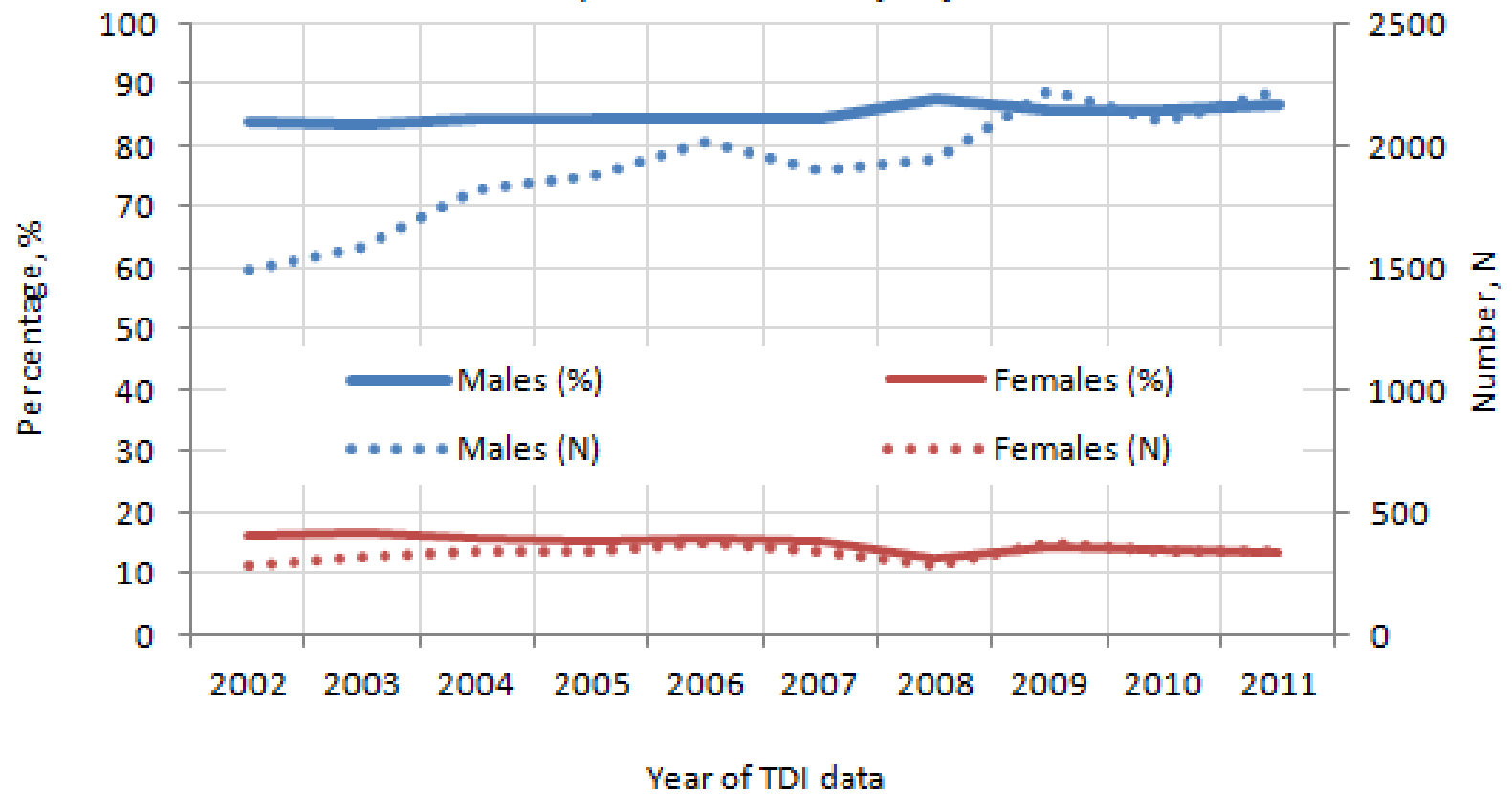


Treatment demand for opioids

Gender

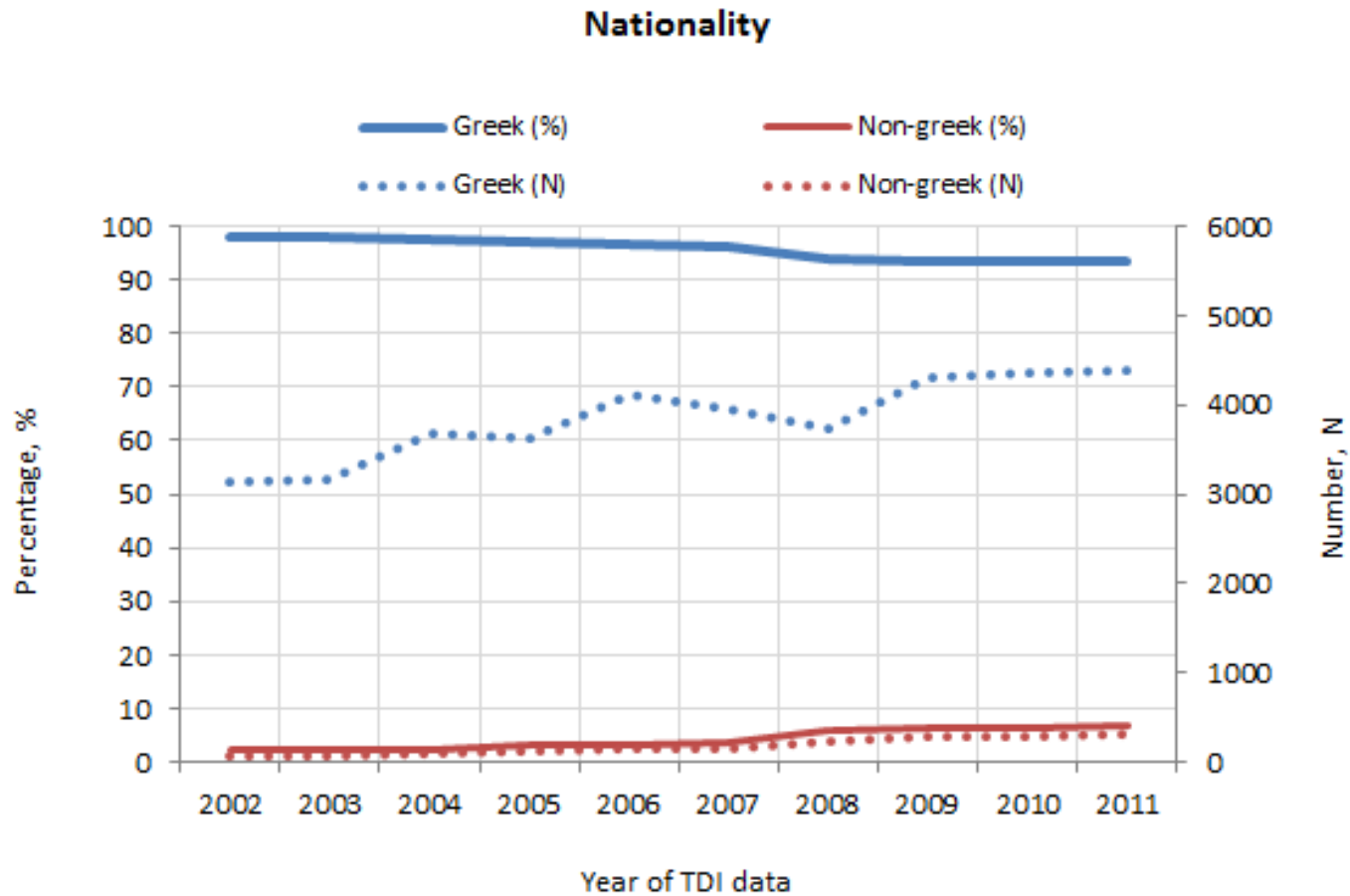


Opioids - Gender (FTs)



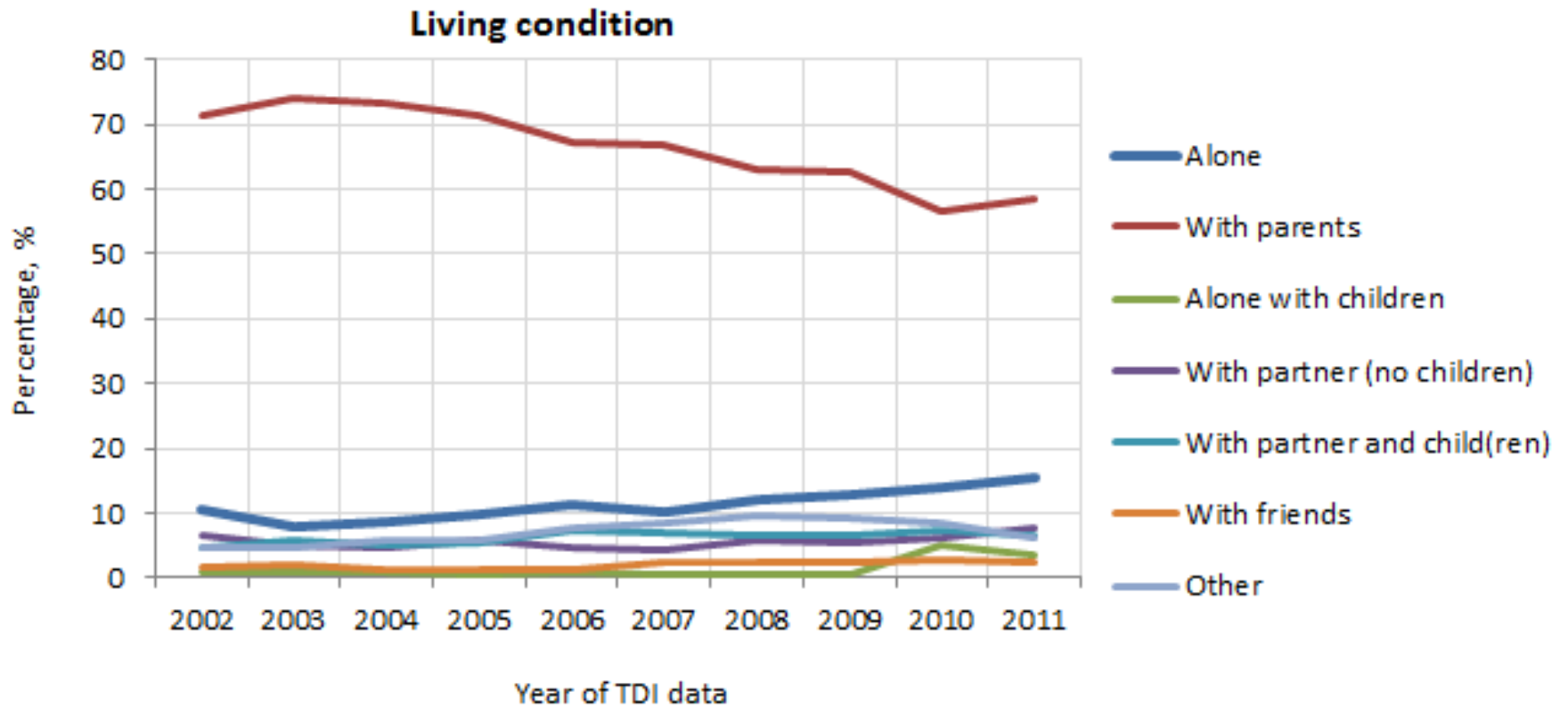
Treatment demand for opioids

Nationality



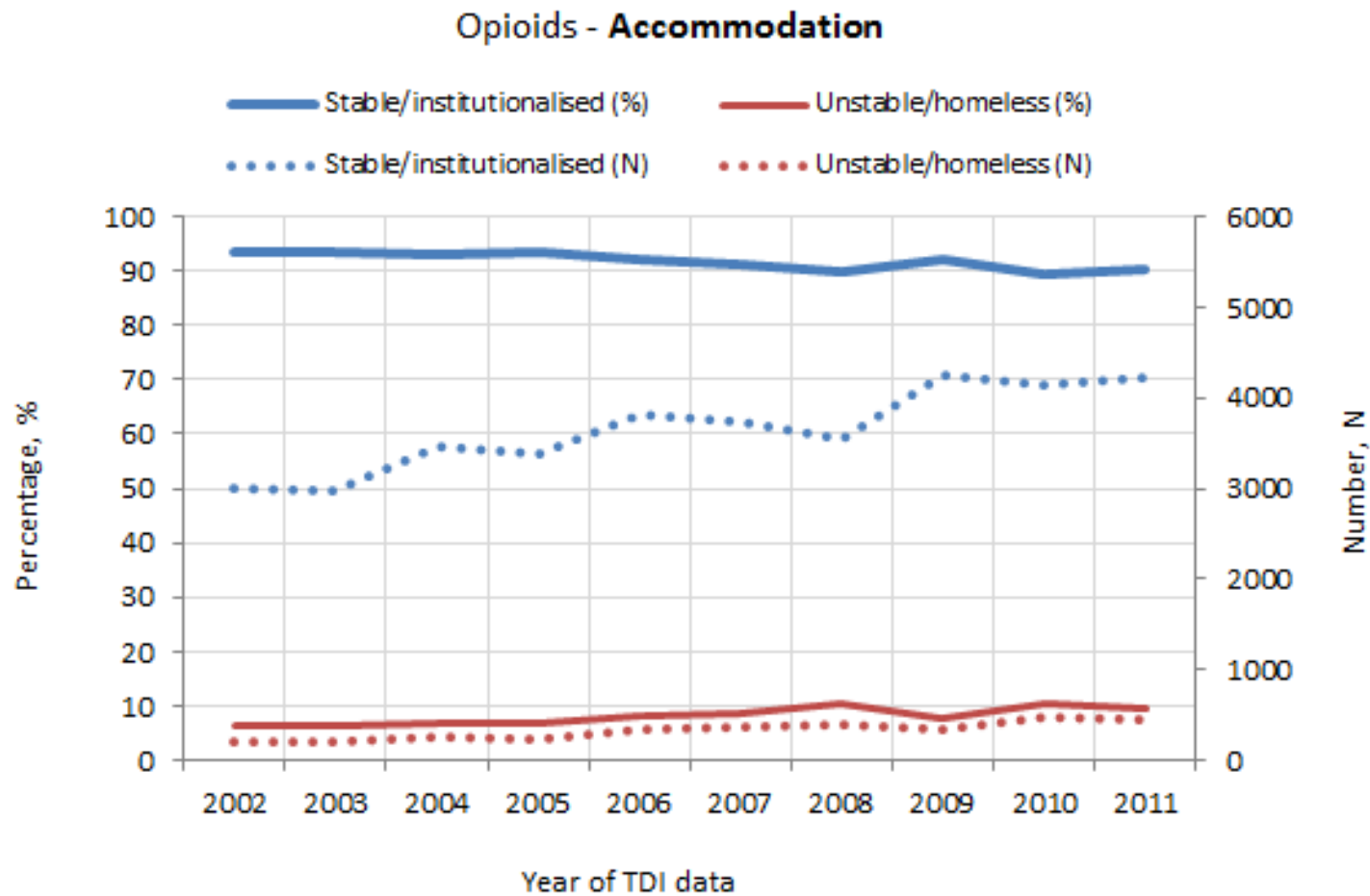
Treatment demand for opioids

Living condition



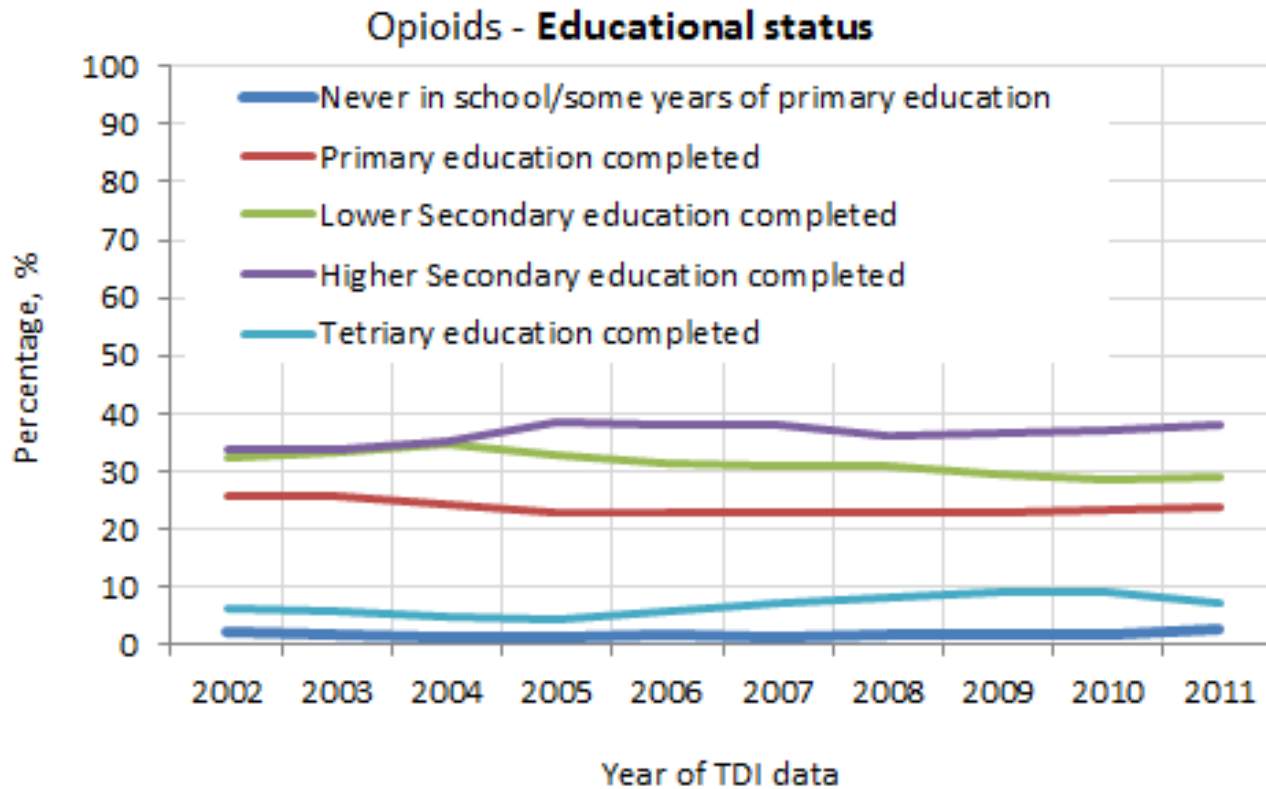
Treatment demand for opioids

Accommodation



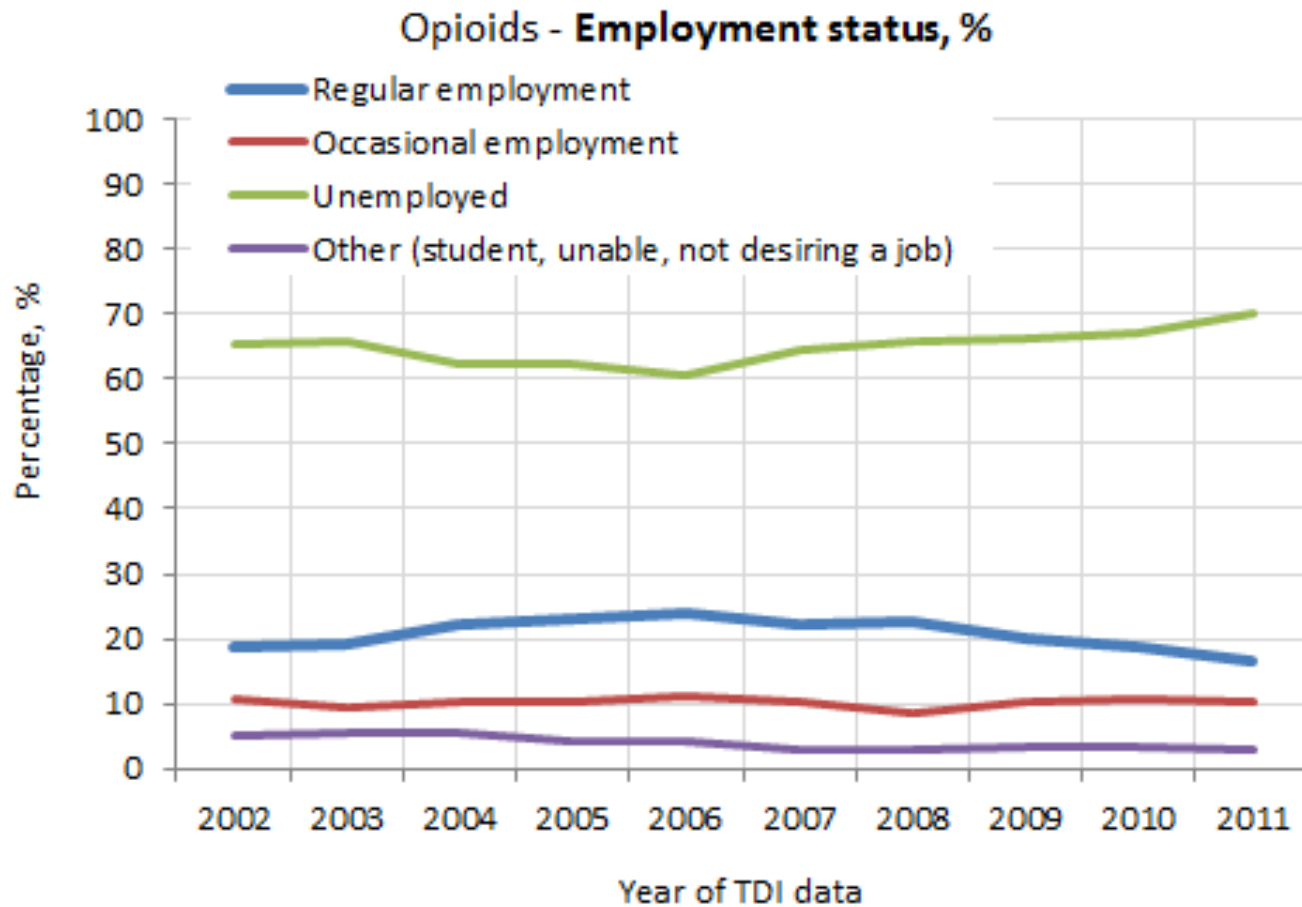
Treatment demand for opioids

Educational status



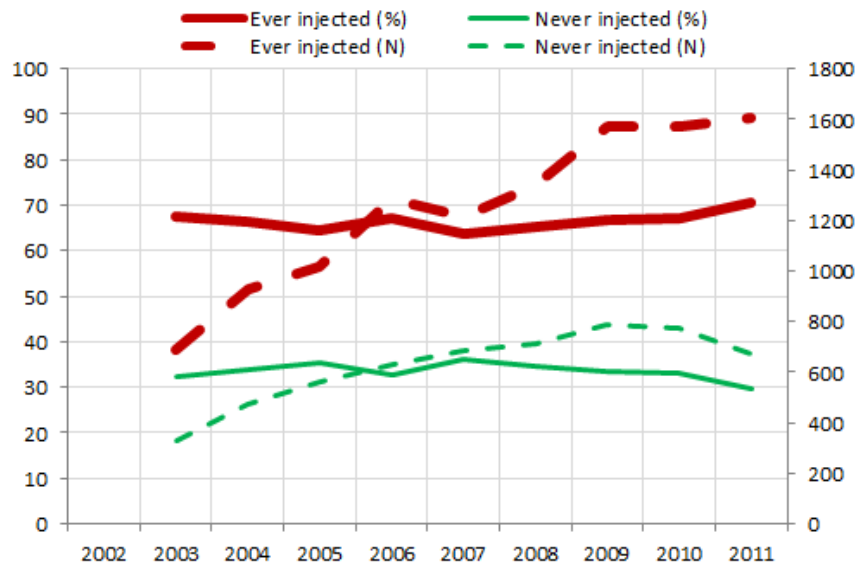
Treatment demand for opioids

Employment status

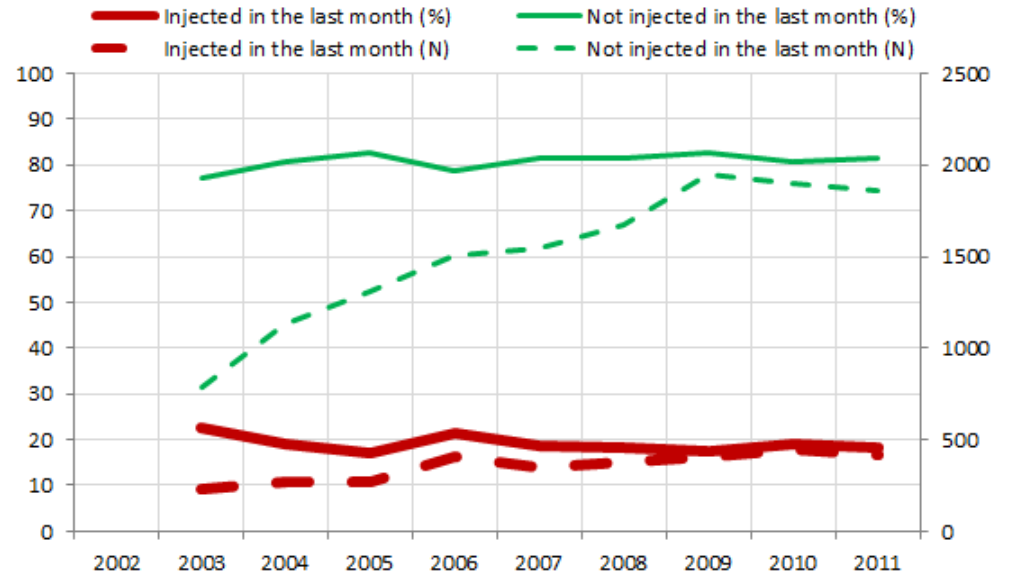


Injectors among sniffers

ever injectors

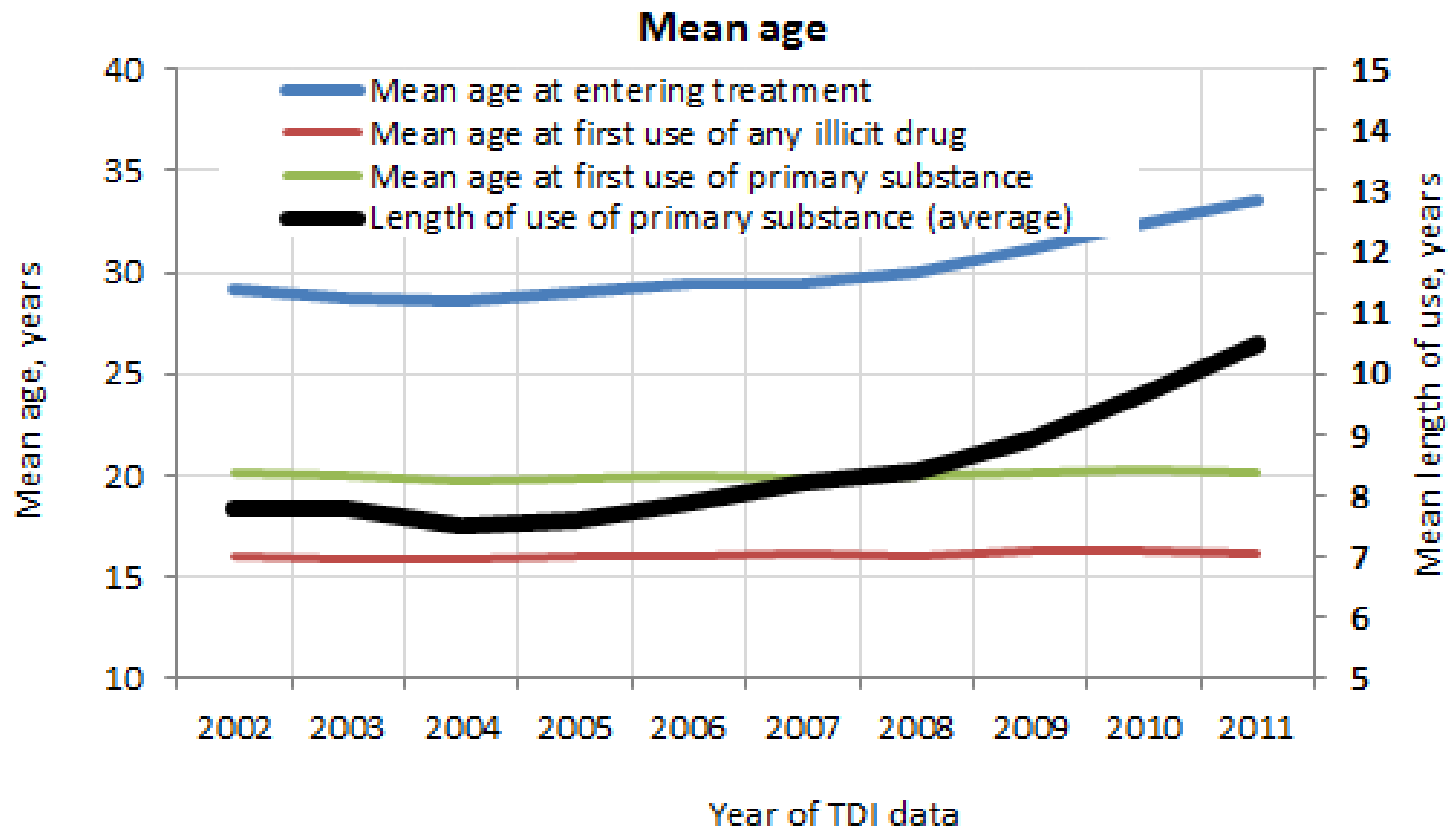


current injectors

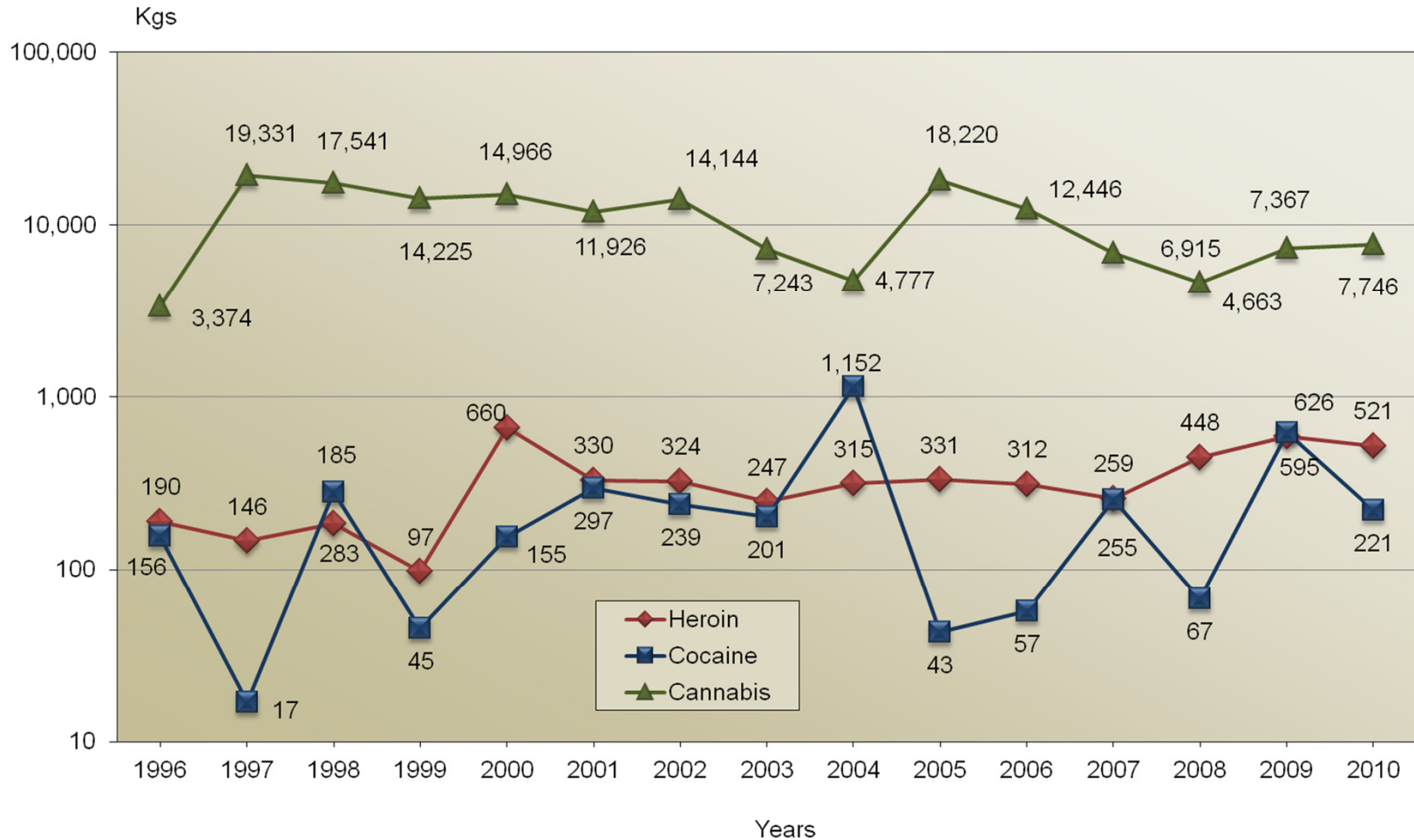


Treatment demand for opioids

Mean ages

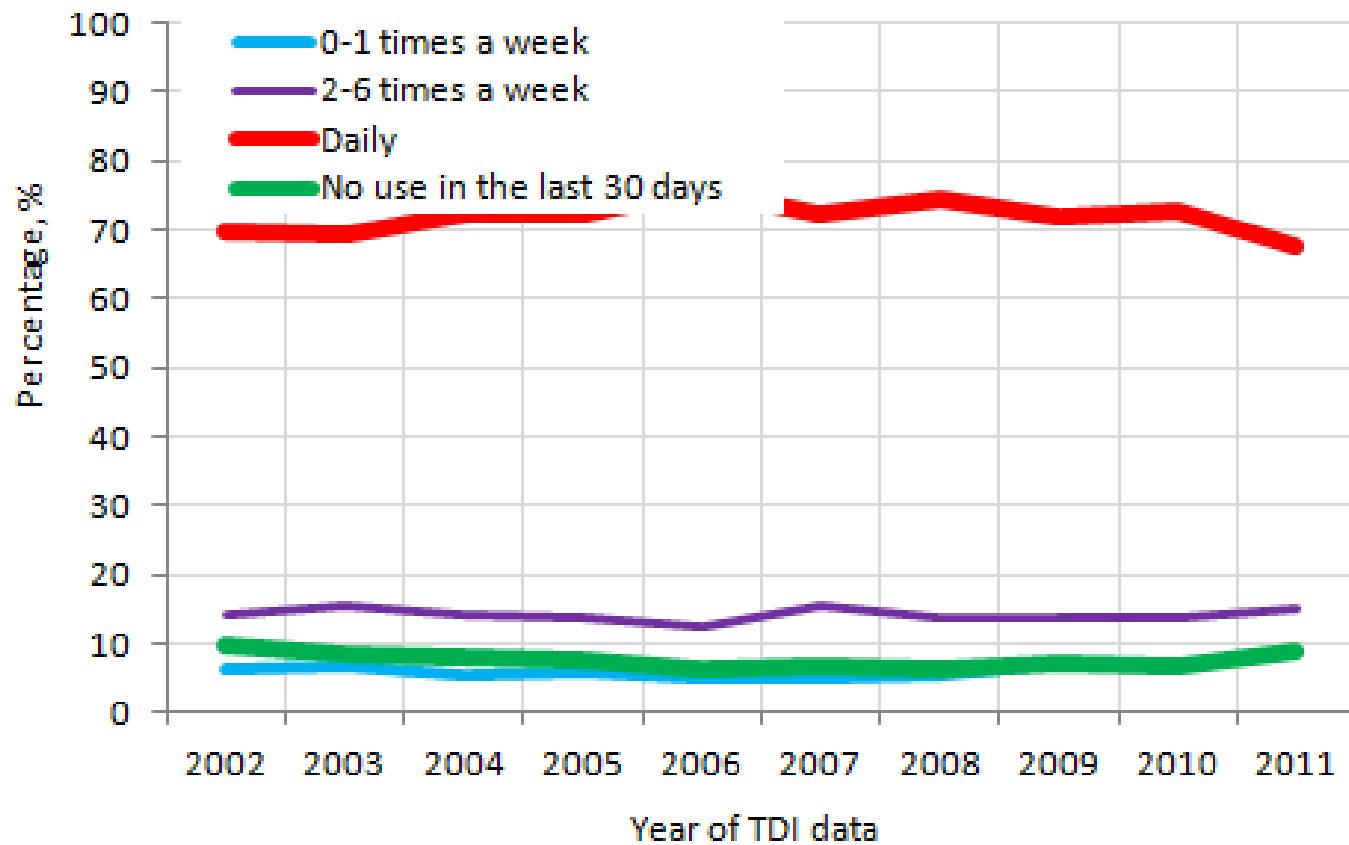


Seized quantities of heroin, cocaine and cannabis (1996-2010)



FIRST TREATMENTS

Opioids - Frequency of use in the last 30 days (FTs)



Opioids - Polydrug use (FTs)

