

Heroin Trends in Switzerland

Etienne Maffli, Addiction Switzerland, Lausanne

The Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI) 12th
Annual Expert Meeting, Lisbon, sept. 20-21 2012

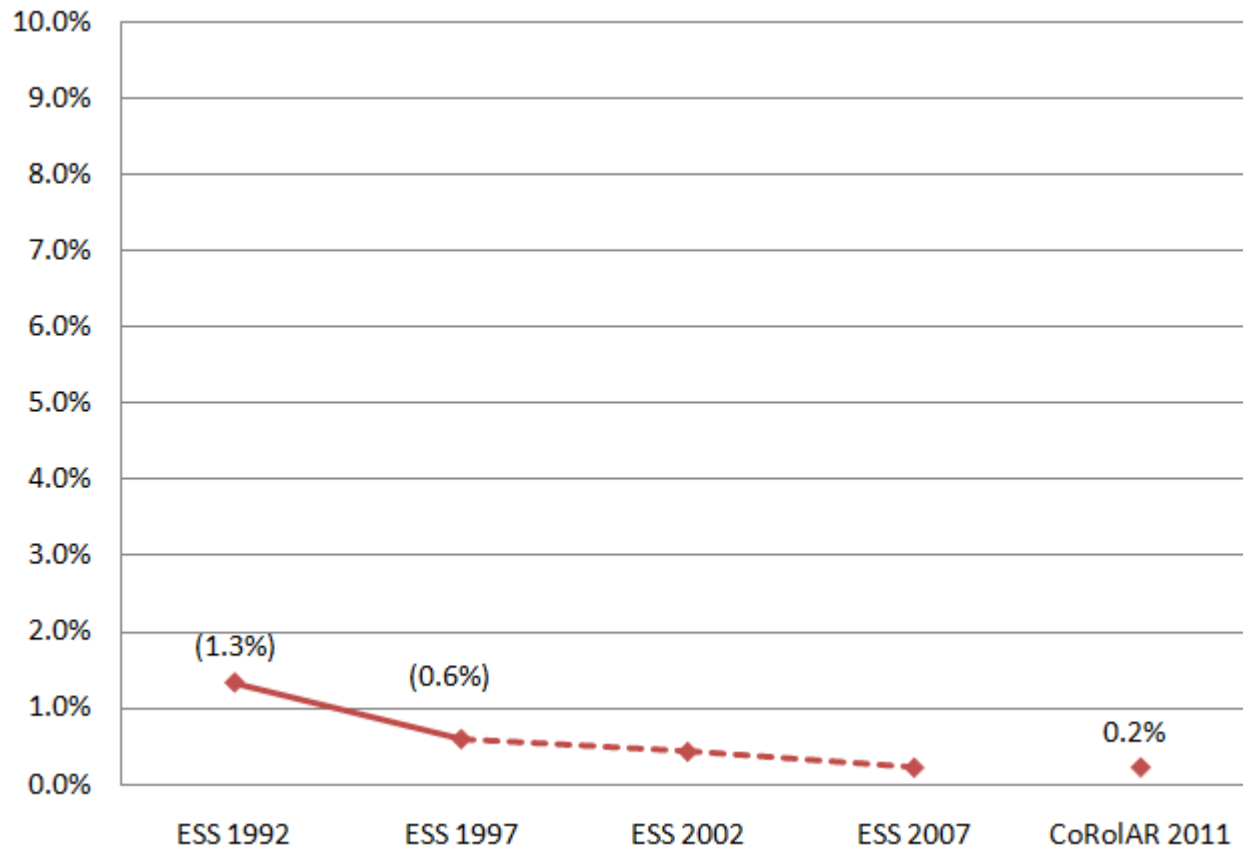
Background Switzerland

- Confederation including 26 micro states
- Highly decentralised structure in health supply
- National data collection challenging
- Data quality problems regarding participation and conformity with standards
- Data triangulation from different data sources useful for assessing trends

Data sources available for assessing heroin trends

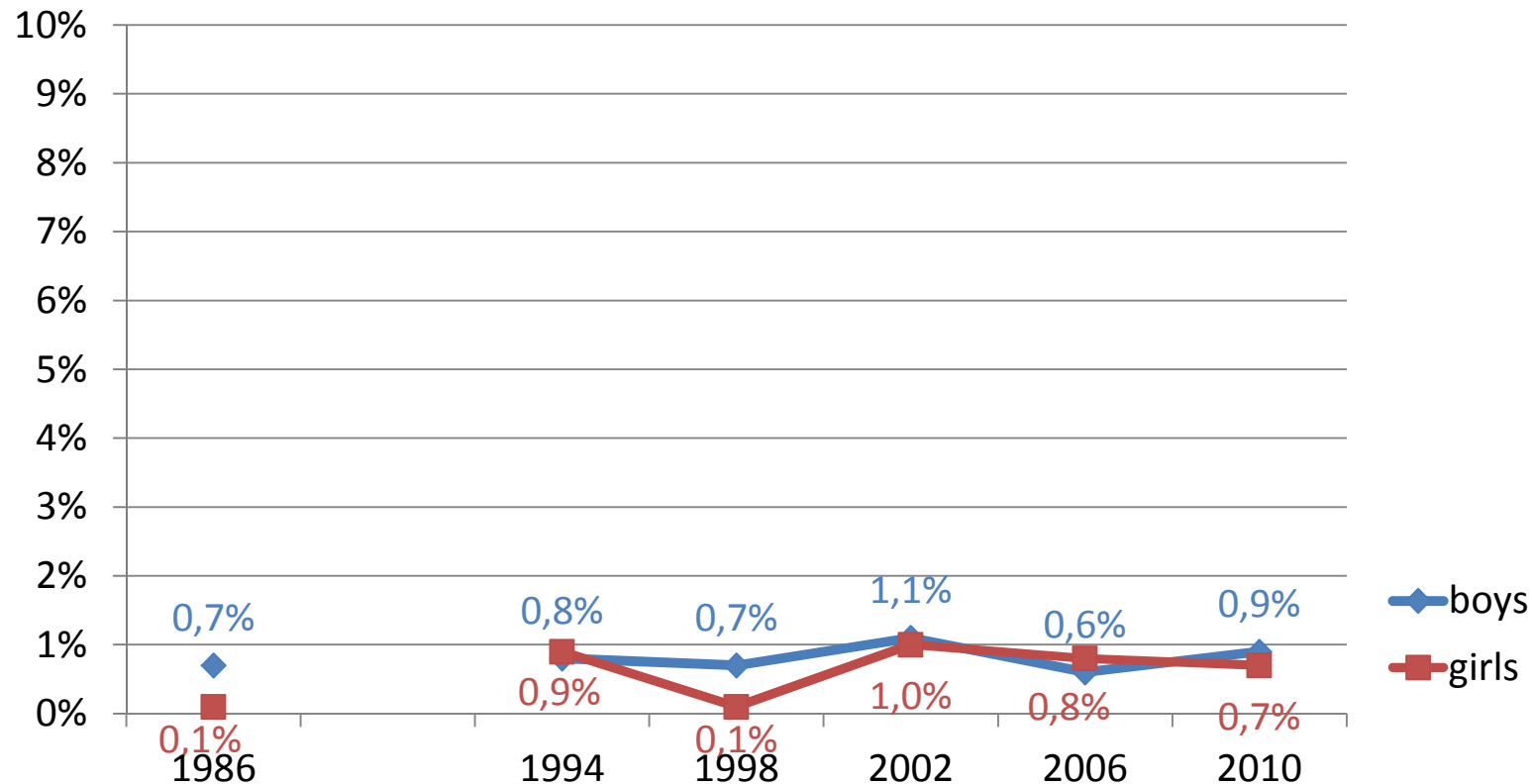
- General population surveys
- School surveys
- Mortality data
- Police data
- Treatment monitoring data

Results from general population surveys: Lifetime prevalence of heroin use among 15-24 old residents



ESS 1992-2007: n (15-24 y.) between 1410 and 1801 (non weighted); percentages based on less than 30 cases are displayed in brackets; values based on less than 10 cases are not displayed, according to the rules of the SFS0. CoRoIAR 2011: n (15-24 y.) = 3334 (non weighted)

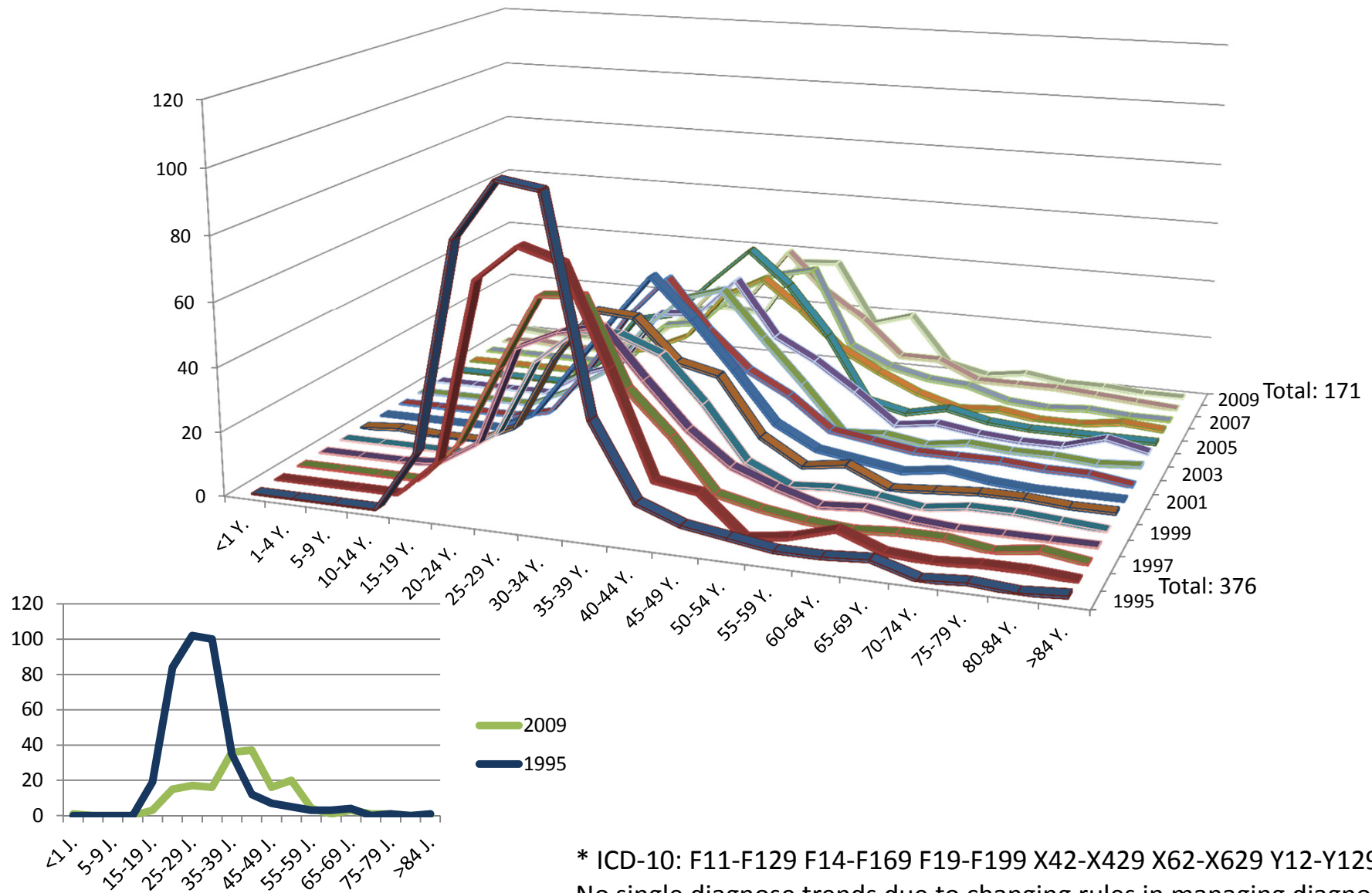
Results from the HBSC school survey:
Lifetime prevalence of opiate use* among
male and female pupils aged 15



HBSC 1986-2010: n (15 y.): boys: between 533-1591; girls: between 625-1602

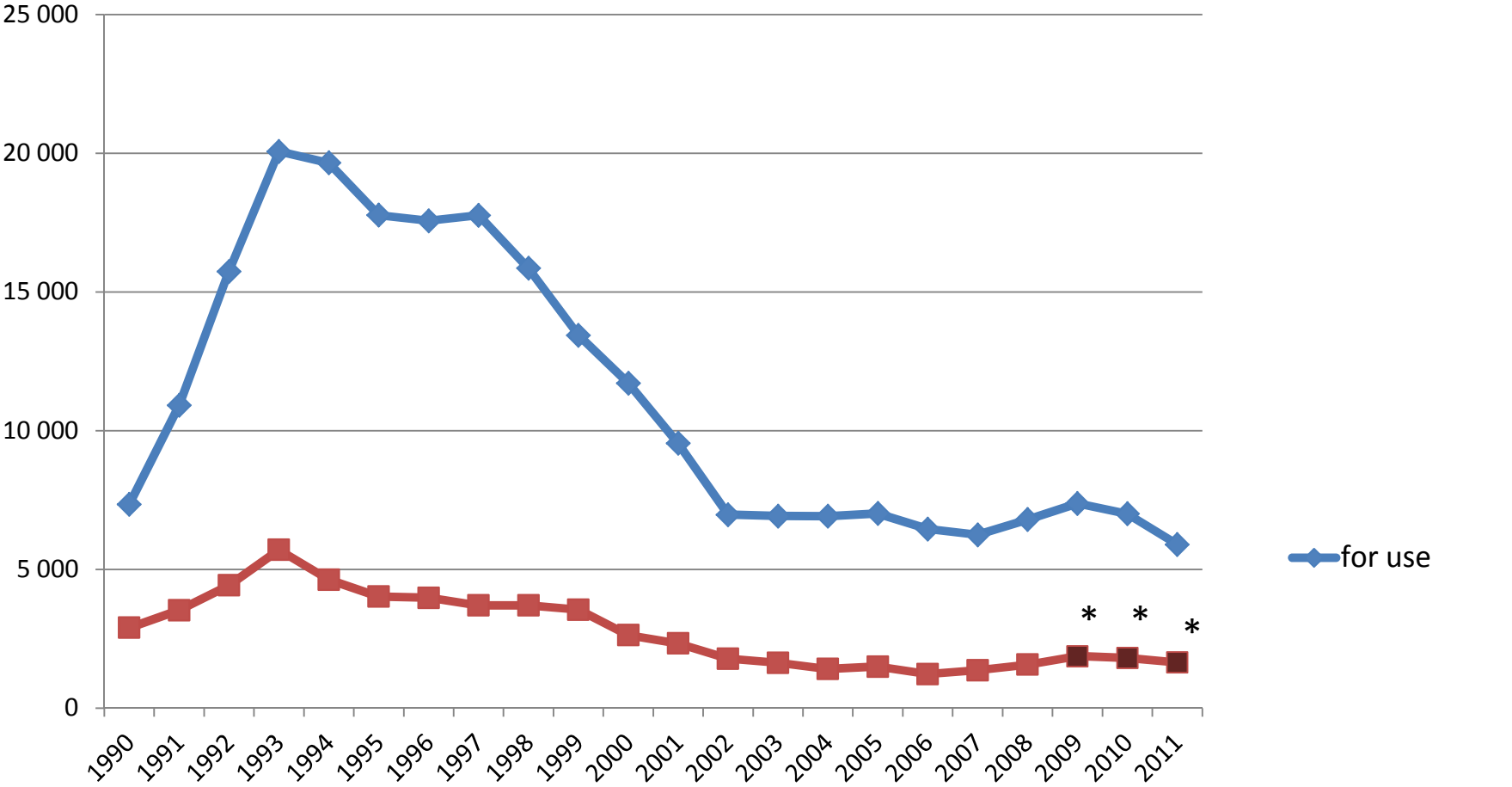
*Question: did you take at least once following substances? ...heroin, opium...

Results from mortality register: Drug-related deaths* (numbers by age 1995-2009)



* ICD-10: F11-F129 F14-F169 F19-F199 X42-X429 X62-X629 Y12-Y129
No single diagnose trends due to changing rules in managing diagnoses

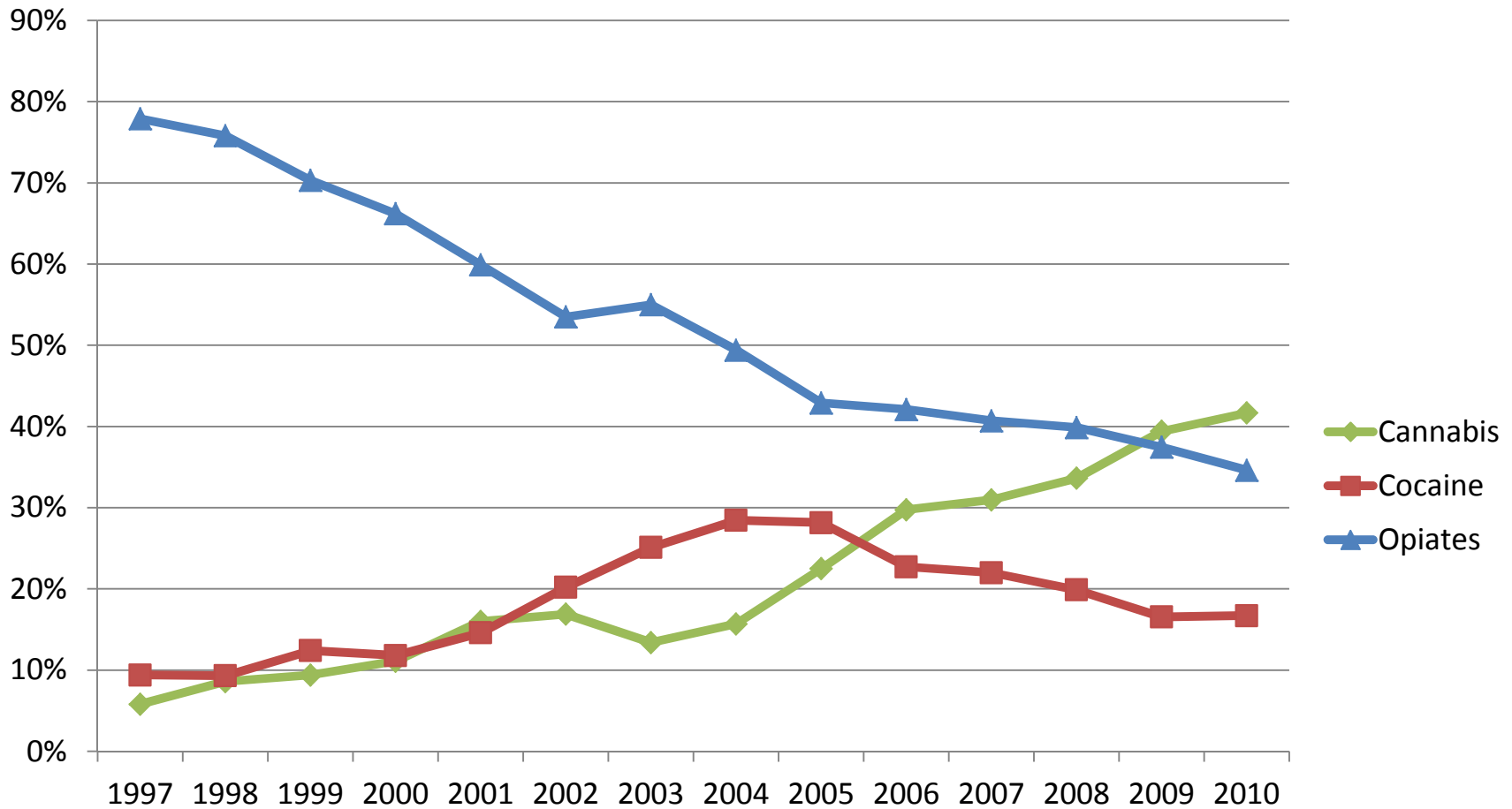
Results from police data: Heroin-related reports (numbers 1990-2011)



Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office

* Including also other opiates than heroin

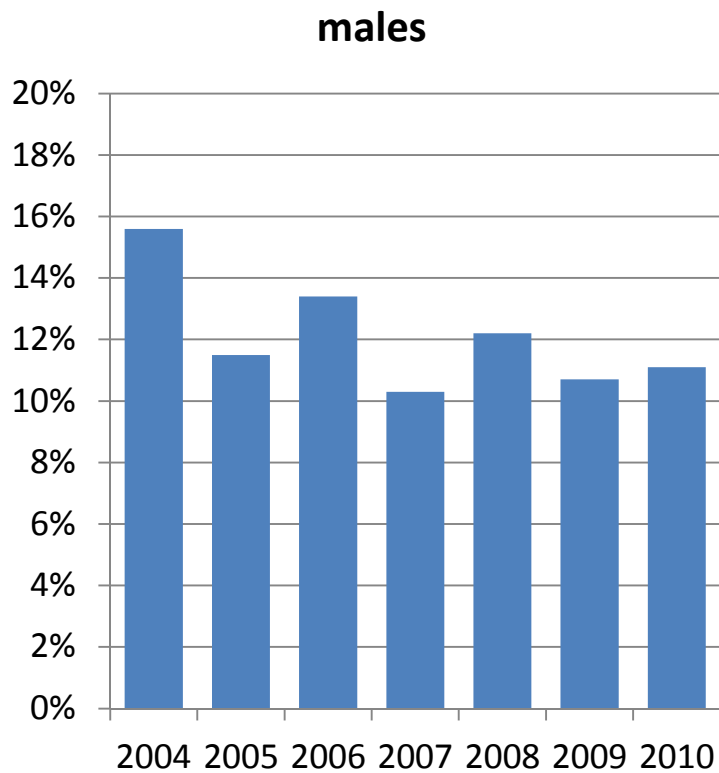
Results from treatment monitoring act-info: Share of primary drugs (1997-2010)



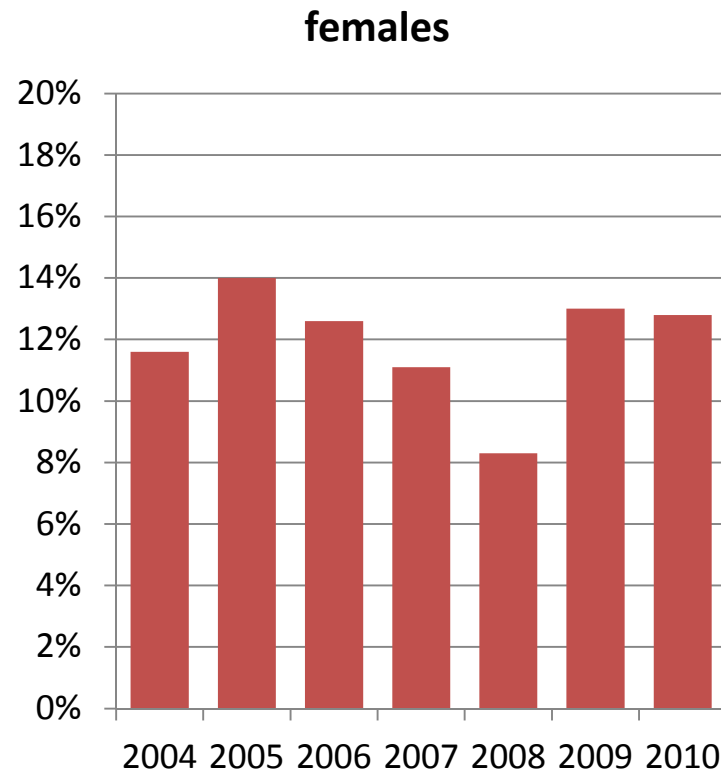
Participating facilities without heroin prescription and gp's

Other drugs considered, but not displayed (range all others drugs: 5.4%-10.9%)

Results from treatment monitoring act-*info*: Share of new clients (opiates clients 2004-2010)

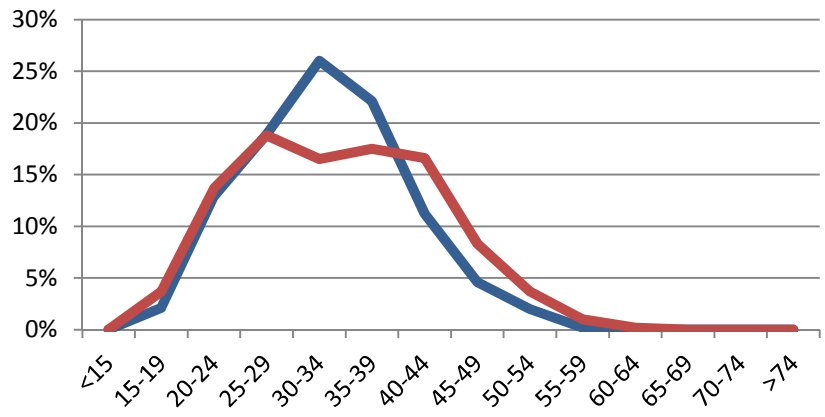
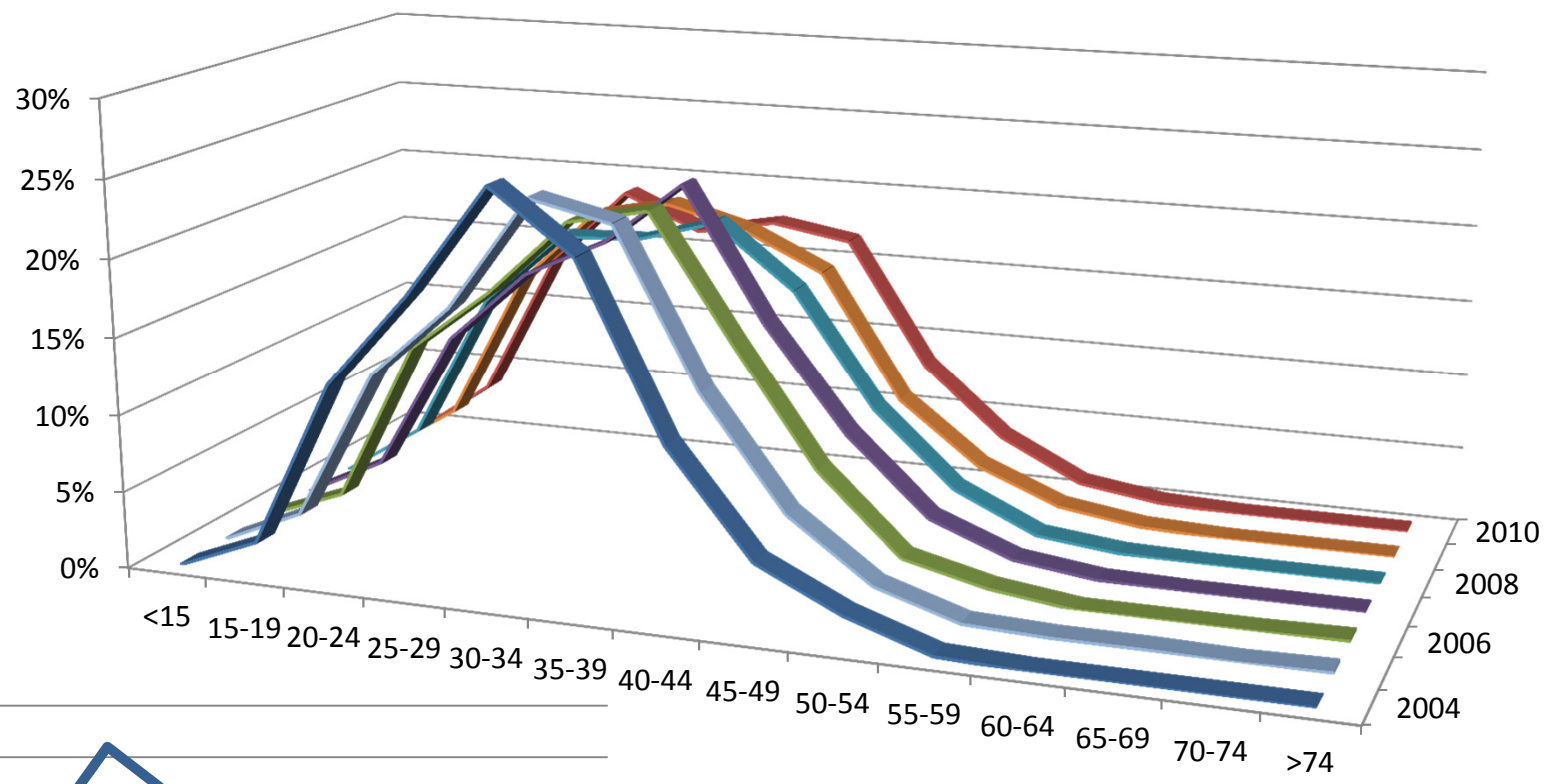


n (males): 505-712

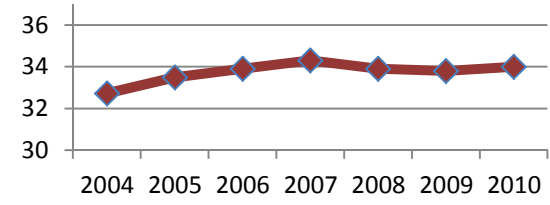


n (females): 164-234

Results from treatment monitoring act-info: Age at admission (opiates clients 2004-2010)

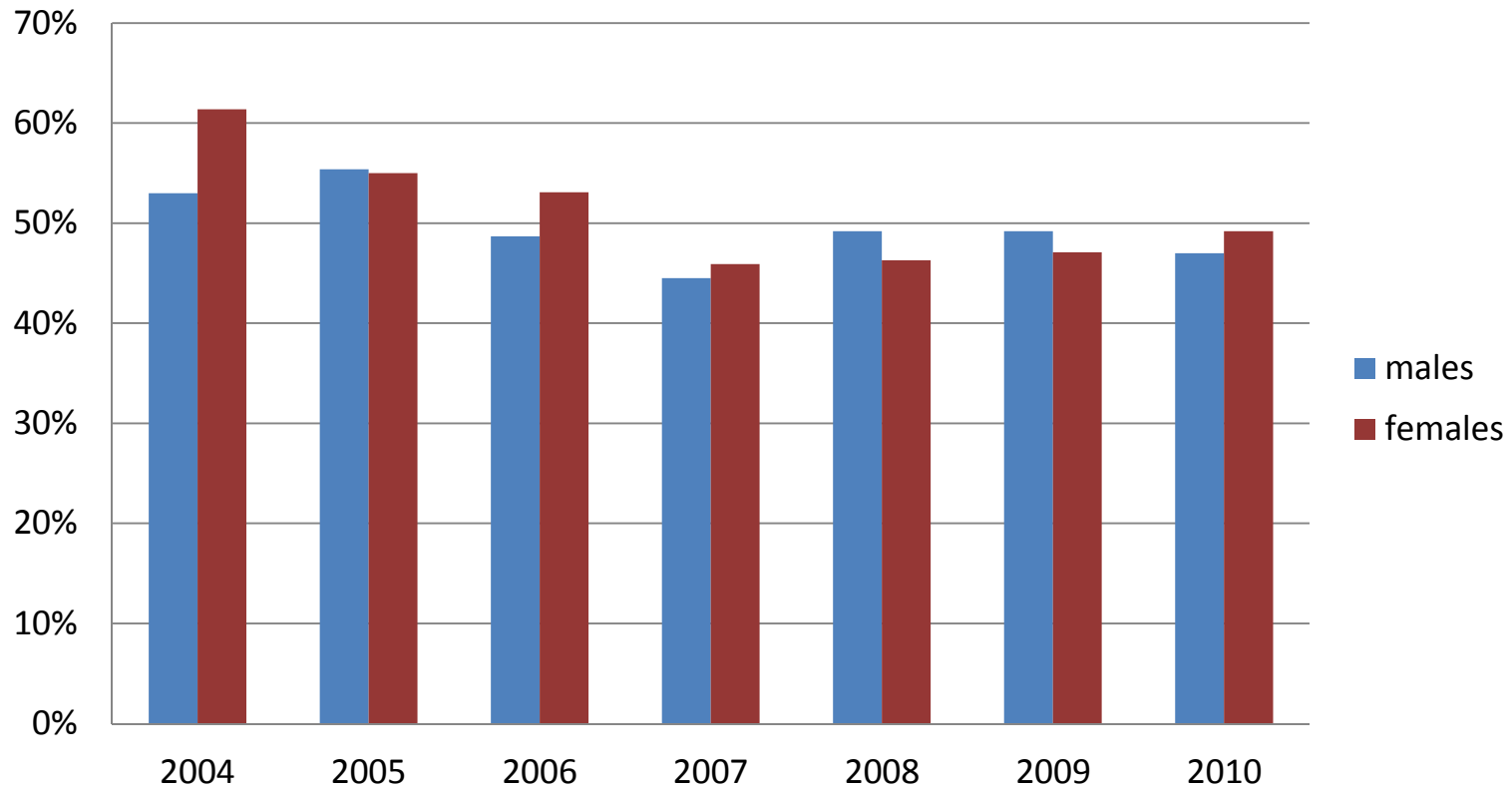


— 2004
— 2010



mean age
n ranging between 1747 and 2641

Results from treatment monitoring act-*info*: Injecting past 6 months (opiates clients 2004-2010)



Total valid n ranging between 534 and 795

Conclusions

- Comprehensive approach helps understanding the situation and prevents for premature statements
- Results suggest lowering attraction for heroin till about 2002 after a peak in the early 90s
- Since 2002, no clear trend can be identified regarding incidence (stagnation)
- Injecting still common among heroin users
- Aging cohort of users having started during the peak (around 1990) can be traced
- Estimating numbers and not only tendencies seem still challenging in the current Swiss data landscape