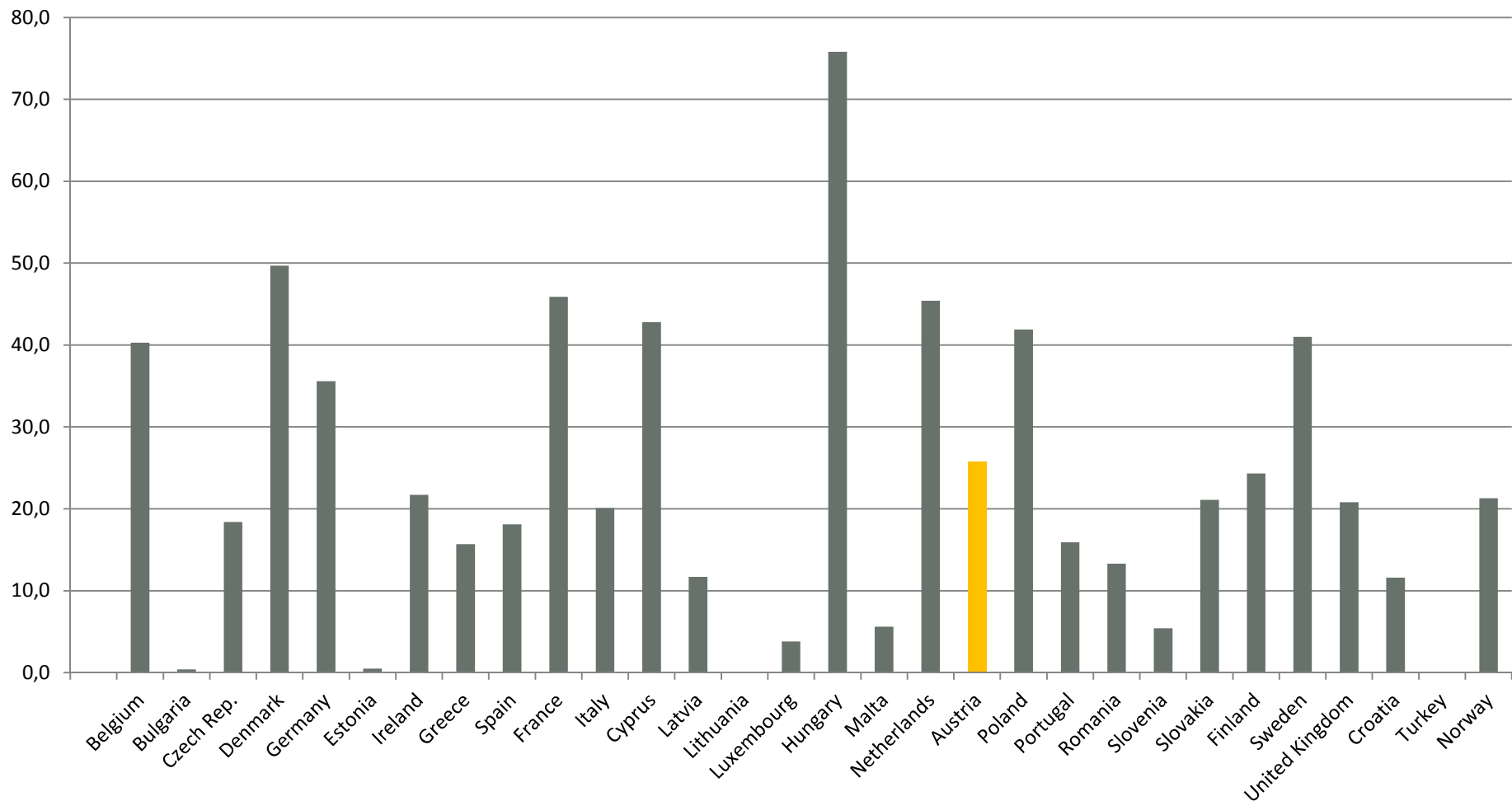


Problematic cannabis use in Austria based on TDI data

Alexander Grabenhofer–Eggerth
TDI meeting, Lisbon, Sept.20th 2012

Cannabis as primary drug

Table TDI-19. Primary drug of clients entering treatment, 2010 or most recent year available. Part (ii) All outpatient clients by country and primary drug (%)



Development of the proportion of Cannabis users in outpatient treatment in Austria



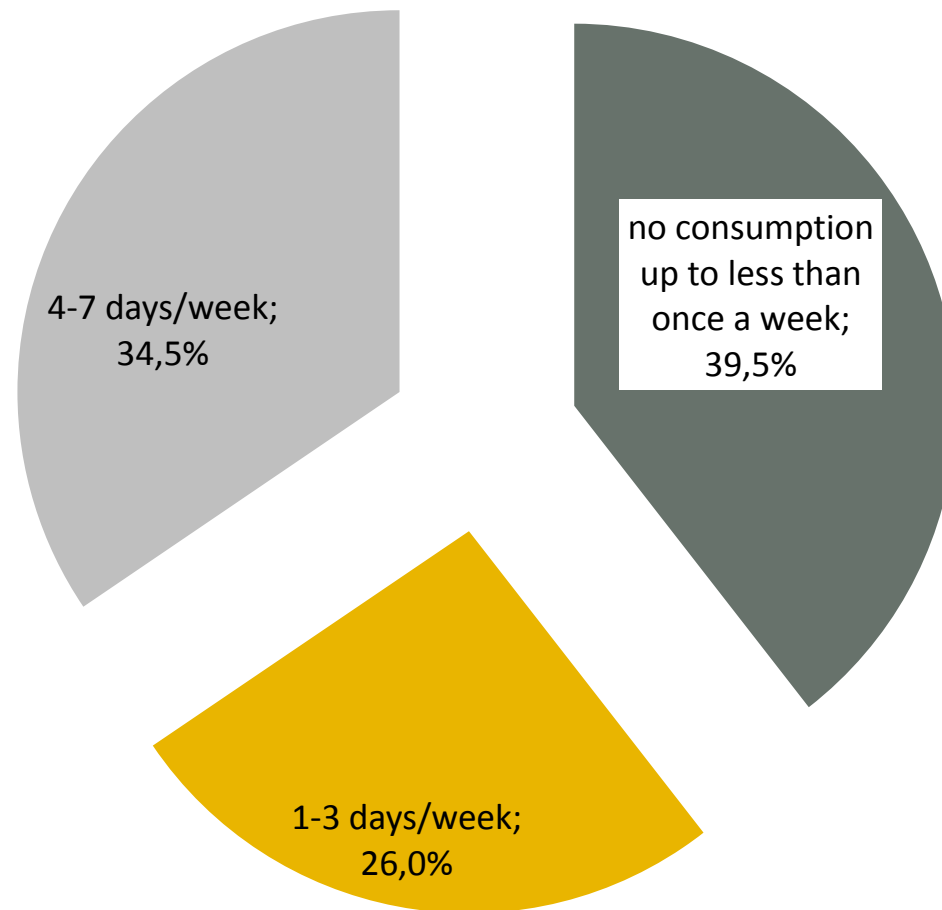
2 opposing statements among experts

“All Cannabis users in outpatient treatment do have an addiction problem”

“Cannabis users in outpatient treatment only have a legal problem”

Findings based on TDI data

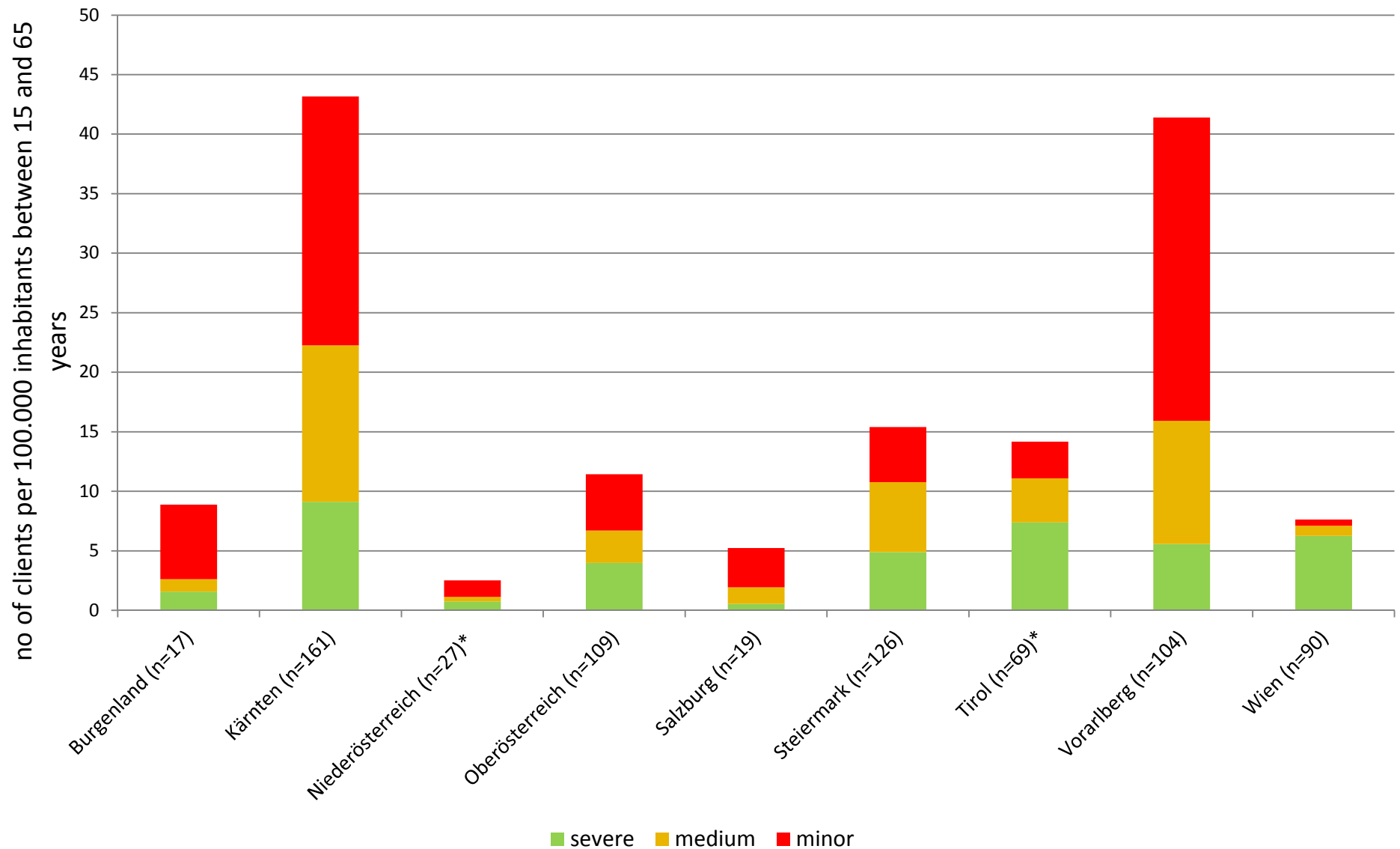
- 3 groups of clients concerning consumption during the last 30 days before entering treatment:



Between-group comparison

	minor problem (n=285)	severe problem (n=249)
male	82,8 %	83,1 %
under 25 years	67,4 %	59,4 %
25 to 34 years	23,9 %	26,9 %
35 years and older	8,8 %	13,7 %
self-motivated	7,7 %	22,9 %
obligation-motivated	50,7 %	36,1 %
legal obligation	76,4 %	47,6 %
compulsory school as highest education	50,9 %	57,8 %
final apprenticeship examination as highest education	39,6 %	25,3 %
fully employed	50,2 %	36,5 %
end of treatment as planned	61,8 %	57,6 %
drop out	27,1 %	28,8 %
duration of treatment up to 6 months	32,9 %	42,4 %
duration of treatment 7 to 12 months	25,8 %	18,8 %
duration of treatment 13 to 24 months	30,2 %	25,3 %

Regional differences in Austria



Conclusions

- » concerning frequency of consumption about 1 / 3 of clients with primary drug cannabis can be considered as addicted to cannabis
- » Obligations by health or justice authorities often „hit“ people with minor problems – discussion: treatment as early intervention
- » Regional differences concerning the proportion of cannabis users among the clients of the drug care system might be an indicator for different cannabis policies

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