

Overdose deaths following prison release in Norway

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Inmates with opioid dependence – a particularly vulnerable group

- High rates of overdose deaths post release
 - Loss of tolerance
 - High risk of overdose first 4 weeks
 - Polydrug increases risk
 - Inmates from «drug» units at highest risk post release

Kilde: Merall et al, Addiction (2010)

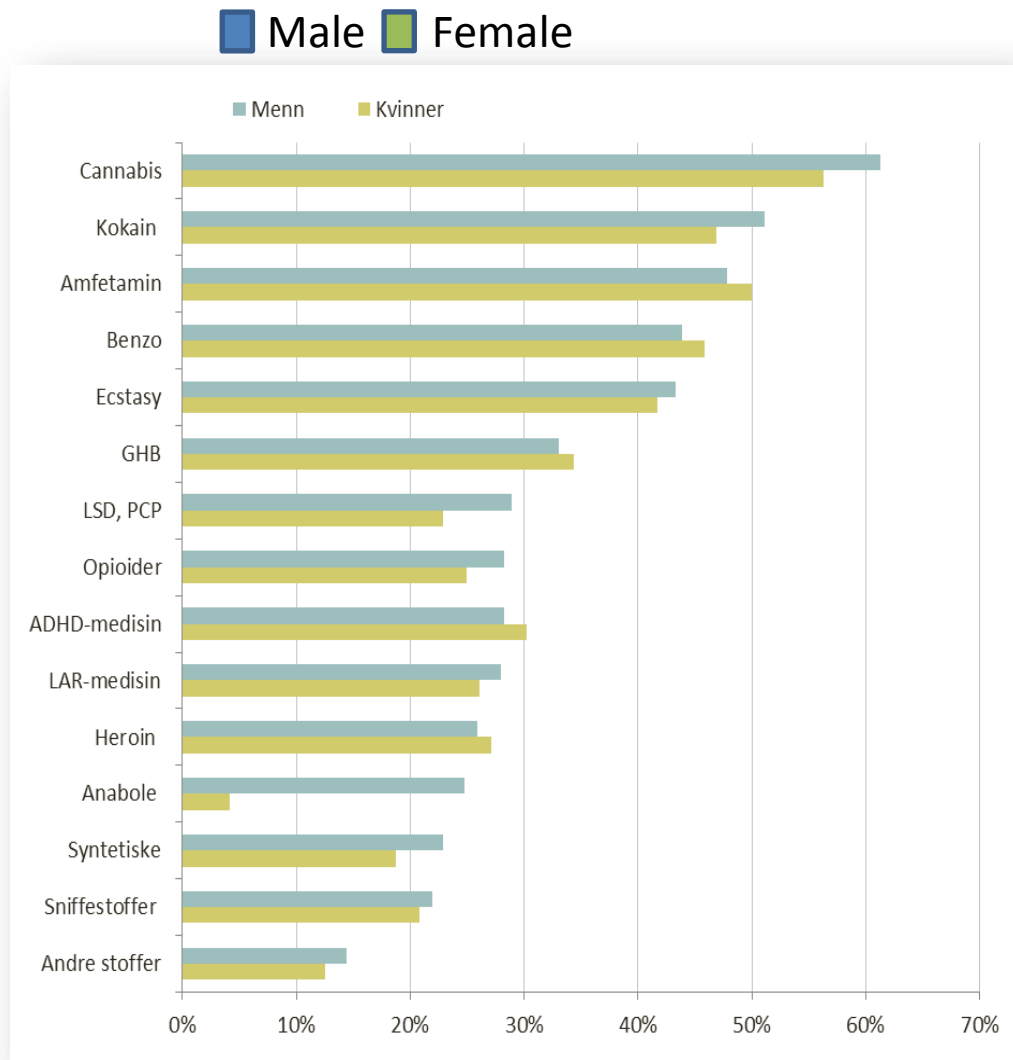


What characterizes inmates?

Norway

- ✓ Project aim; visit all prisons and invite all inmates to participate
 - Data collection during 2013-14
 - Included 57 out of 63 prison-units nationally
- 1499 included inmates, including 96 women
 - Mean age 34.5 yrs
 - 2/3 born in Norway
 - 2/3 living alone/single
 - 56% with previous convictions/inmate experience

Inmates: Lifetime prevalence of drug use by gender. (%)

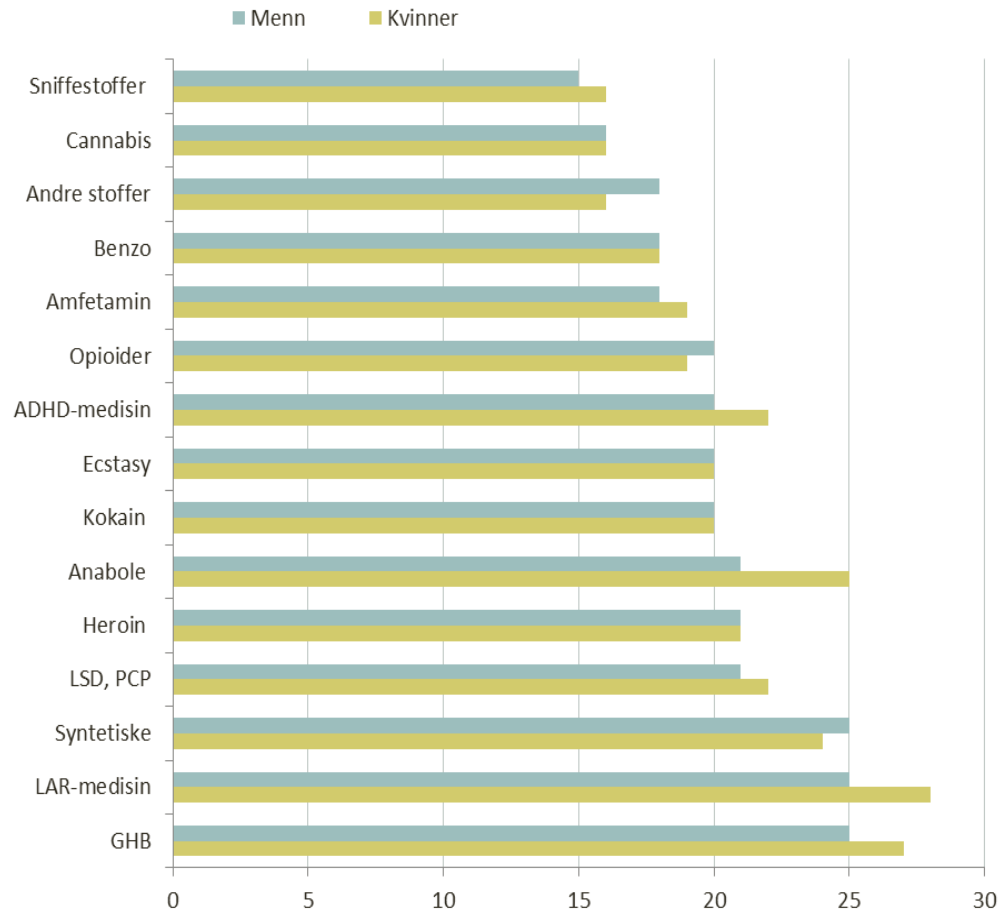


65%; lifetime experience with drug use

Similar for both genders

90% of those with drug use experience had experience with 2 or more drugs, and 45% experience with 10 or more drugs

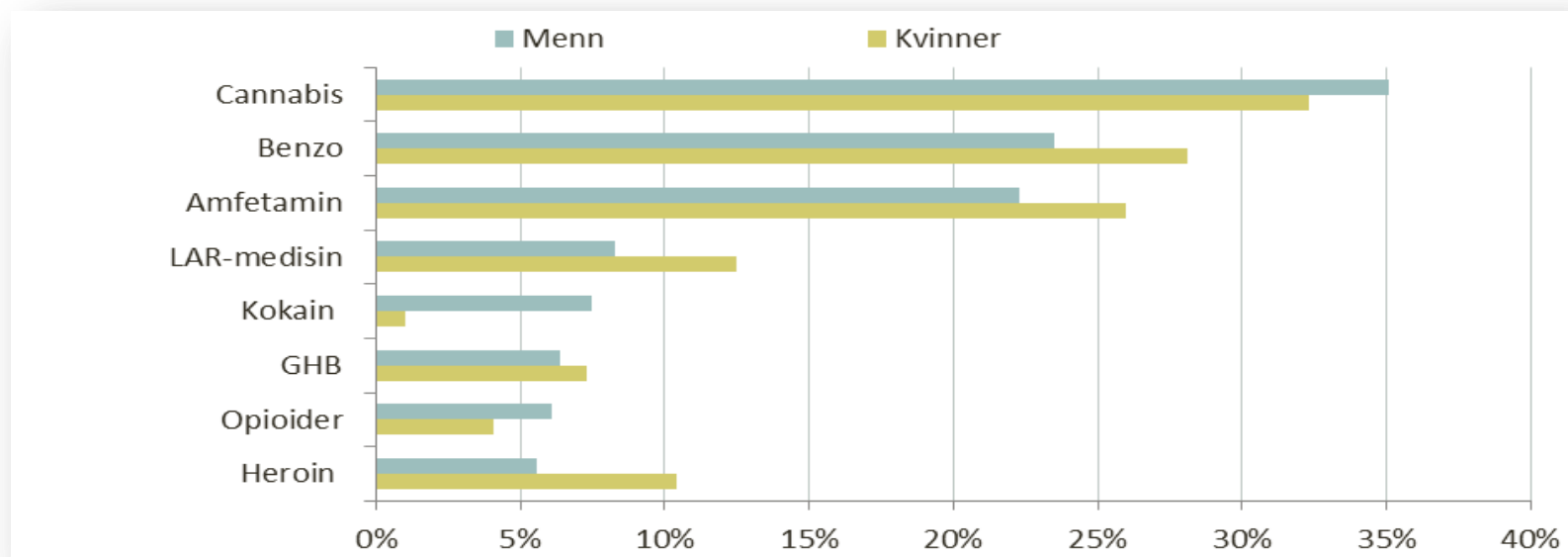
Mean age at first use, by gender, %



Lowest age at first use for cannabis and inhalants (16 yrs).

Mean age for first use of amphetamines -18 yrs, and for heroin 21 years

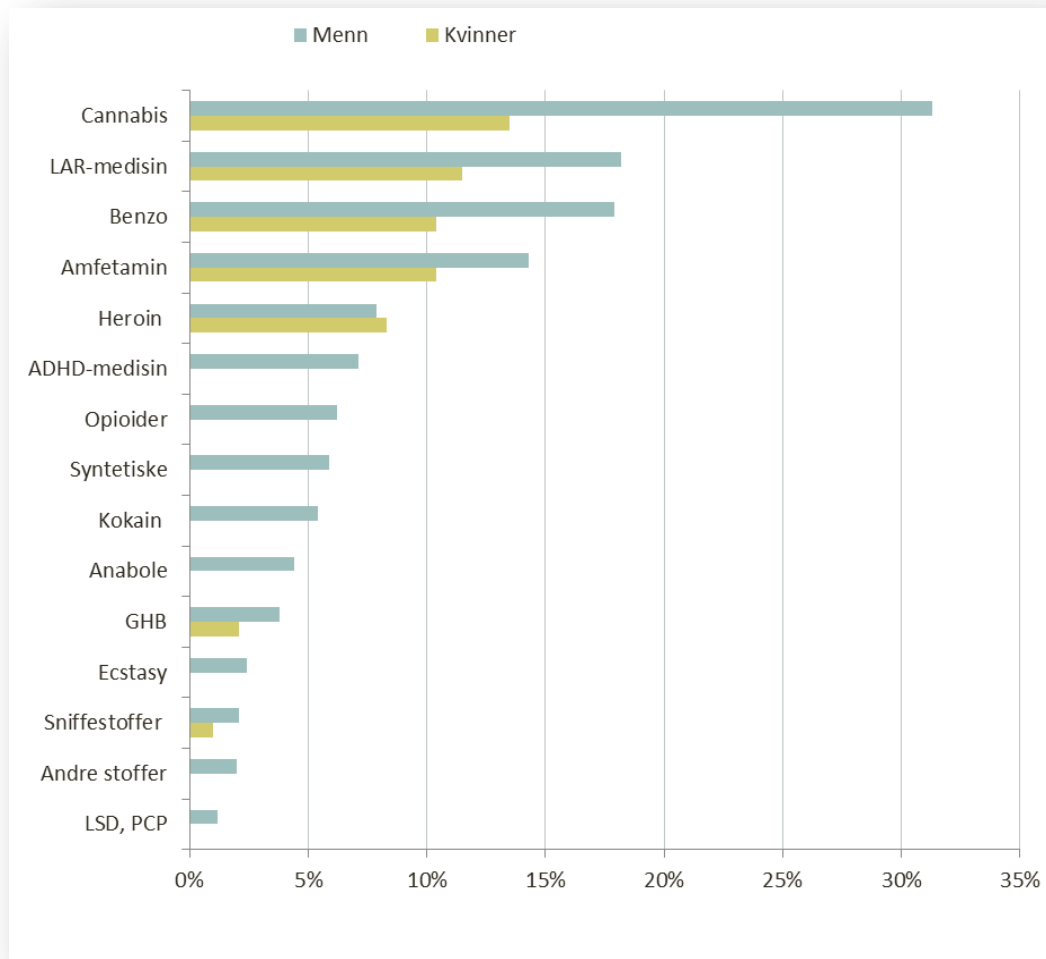
Daily use of drugs six months prior to prison, by gender (%)



Around 50% had used one or more drugs daily six months prior to imprisonment

Among those with daily drug use prior to imprisonment; 80% had prior convictions and 53% had experience with injecting drugs

Experience with drug use during imprisonment, by gender (%)



A total of 35% had experience with drug use during current or previous imprisonment

Inmates with drug use experience during imprisonment; a highly selected group:

- 86% previously convicted
- 87 % had used drugs daily 6 months prior to imprisonment

Summary:

A high prevalence of drug use problems among inmates

- 65 % with drug use experience
 - Most had experience with multiple drugs
- Around 50% had daily use of drugs six months prior to imprisonment
 - Between 10-15% had used opioids daily
- Around 50% had been intoxicated during crime that caused imprisonment
- Around 50% had a drug-related conviction
- 35% had experience with drug use while in prison



Norwegian prison release project

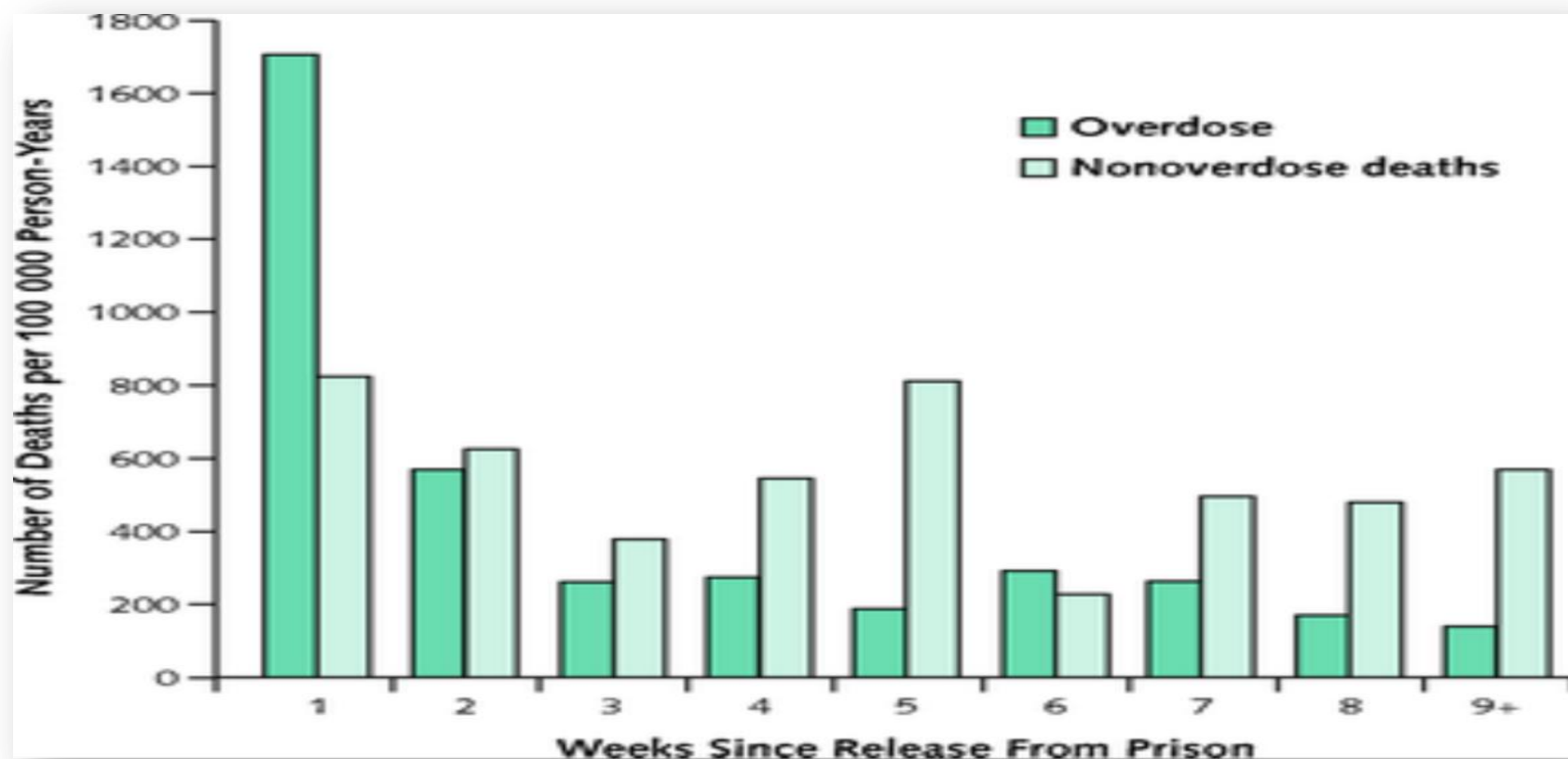
✓ Prison database

- Including dates of release
- Data from 2000-2014
- More than 150.000 releases
- More than 90.000 persons

➤ Linkage with GMR data, with all cause mortality

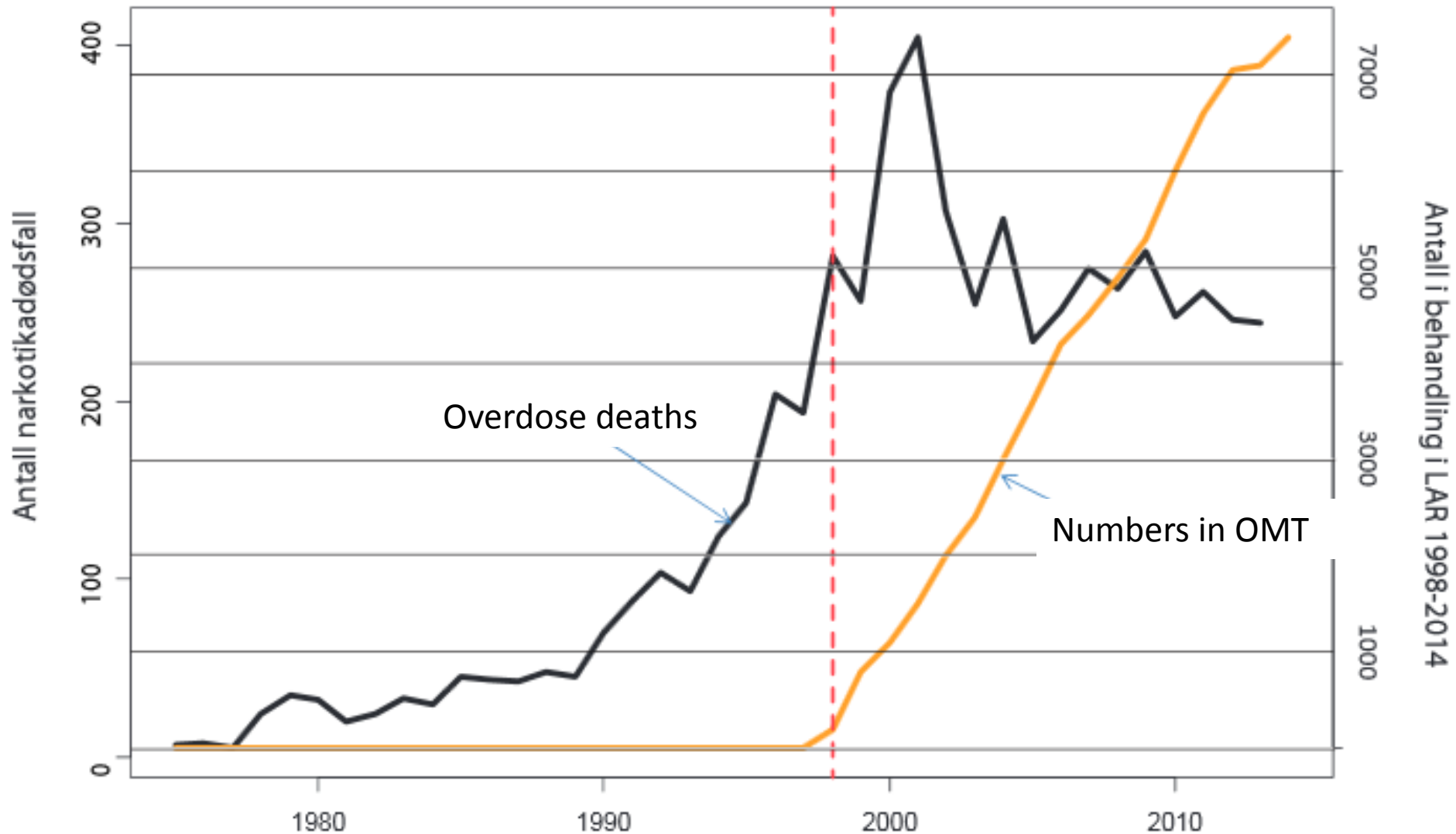
Mortality rate: weeks following release

Previous research since 1990s

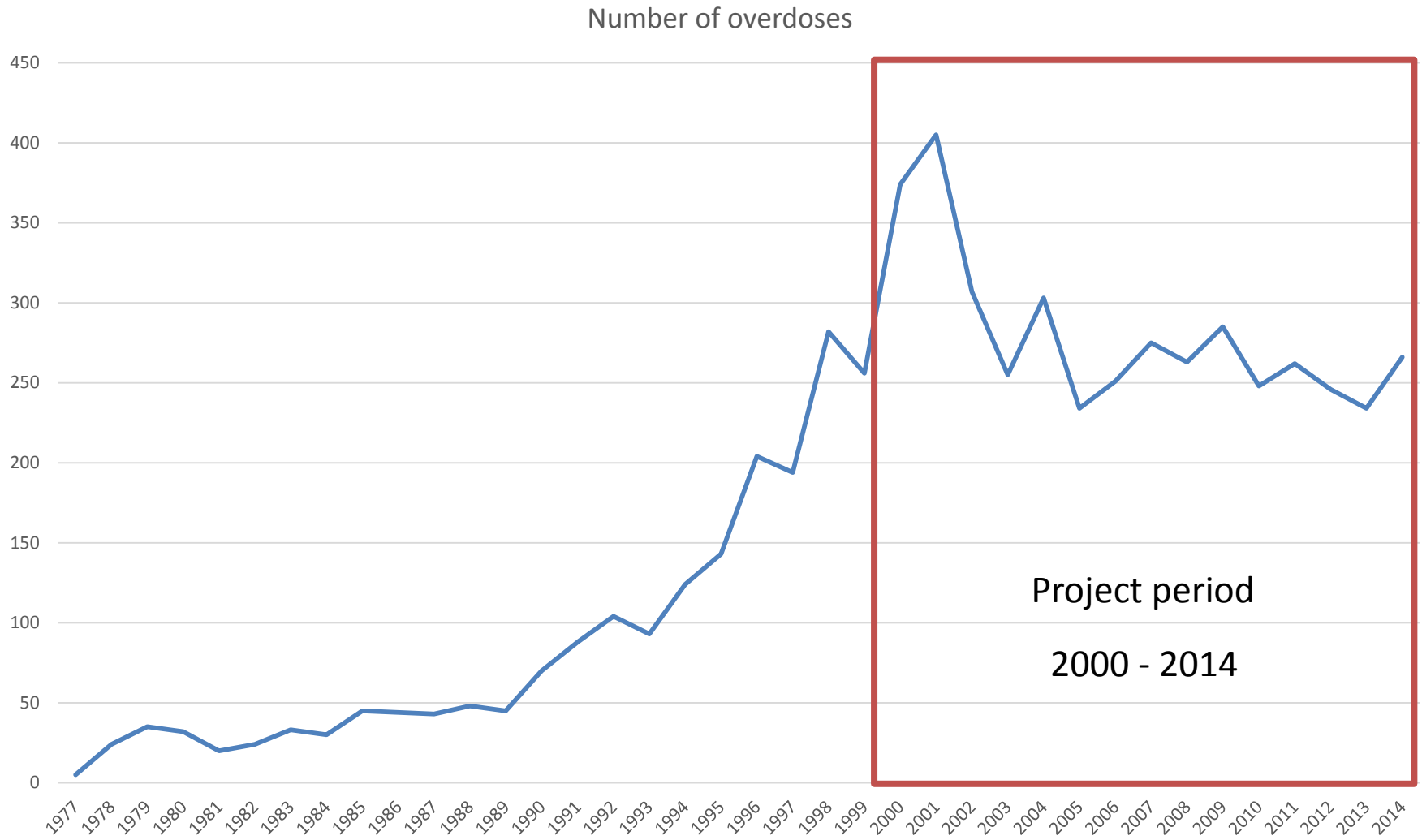


Ingrid A. Binswanger, MD, MPH; Patrick J. Blatchford, PhD; Shane R. Mueller, MSW; and Marc F. Stern, MD: Mortality After Prison Release: Opioid Overdose and Other Causes of Death, Risk Factors, and Time Trends From 1999 to 2009. *Ann Intern Med.* 2013;159(9):592-600. doi:10.7326/0003-4819-159-9-201311050-00005

Overdose deaths and OMT; Norway



Timing of data collection



Conclusions

- ✓ Inmates in Norwegian prisons are a group with high prevalence of drug problems
- ✓ Many who are imprisoned, have used drugs regularly prior to imprisonment; and many of these also use drugs while in prison
- ✓ We observe an immediate high risk of overdose death following release, with gradual decrease in risk over the first month
- **We recommend high treatment (OMT) availability both inside and outside of prisons**
- **We recommend well planned prison releases; including planned treatment and health care transfers/ follow up; starting on day 0**