Substitution treatment coverage calculation in Norway ++

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Themes

- Standard coverage calculation – the Norwegian experience
- Influential factors and pitfalls
- Usefulness of OST coverage calculations

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Standard coverage calculations

- n = the number of clients in OST
- N = the number of opiate users (OST clients + other HROU)

- Coverage = n/N

- Main question: How de we find data?

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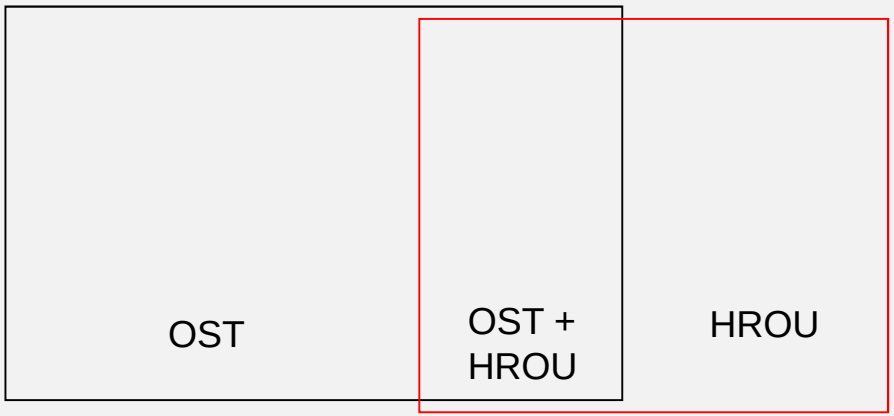
OST clients misuse opioids

- What do we do about persons in OST who are HROU of opioids other than the prescribed substitution opioid or generally misuse the prescribed substitution opioid



- Should we adjust n (in OST) to the ‘successful’ OST clients?

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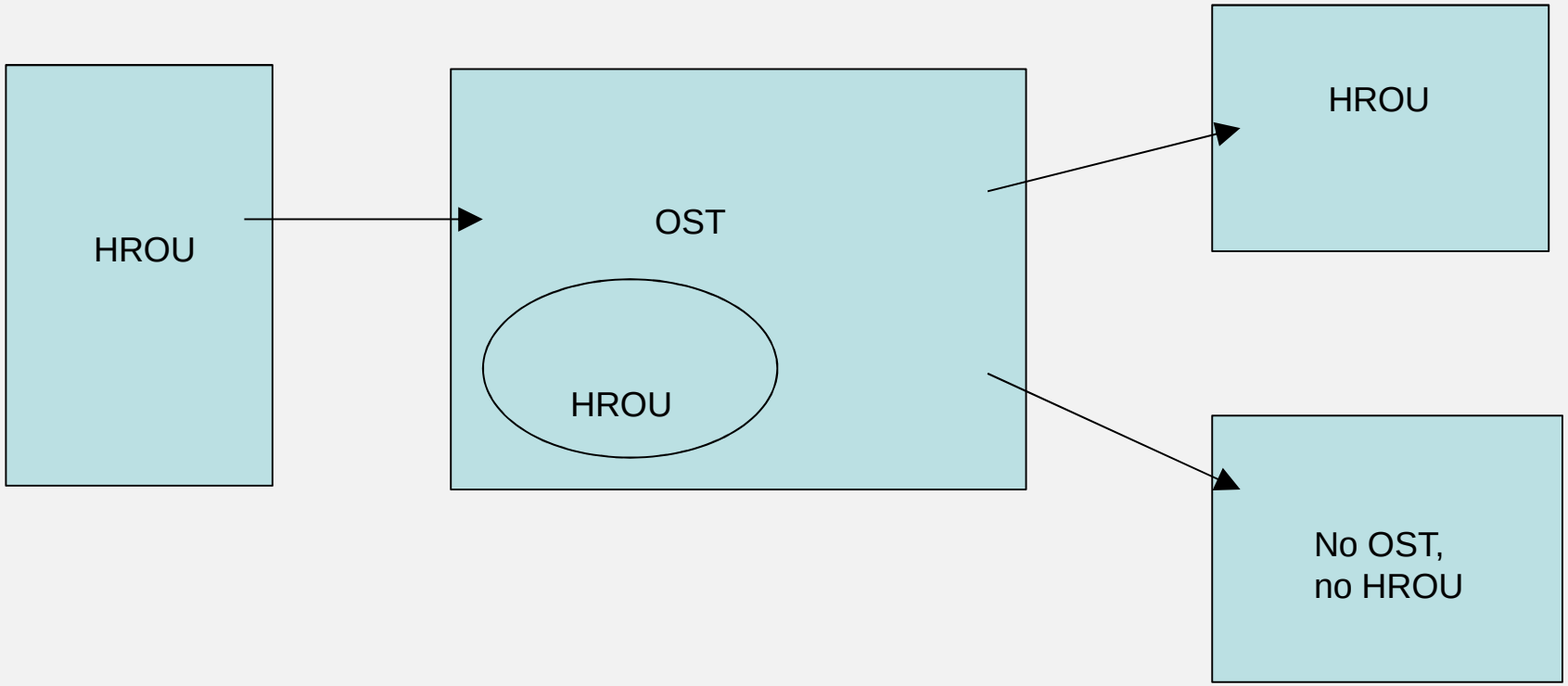
Changes during a time period



What about those who enter OST or leave OST during the year? Count them as OST and/or HROU?

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Examples of estimates of OST coverage in Norway - 1

Coverage opioid users

1. The number in OST all year (persons in OST at the beginning of the year + those who enter); n_ost = 7450
2. The number of HROU by mortality multiplier, risk of death 3 per 100 person years and a probability of 0.7 to die of a drug related opioid death; n_HROU = 9143
3. Withdraw double counting: During a week 9 percent in OST had used heroin. Assume the same percent for other opioids. For heroin users the probability of use in a single week is 2/3 – assume this also for other opioids; n_double = 1234
4. Coverage of OST = n_ost/ (n_ost + n_HROU – n_double) = 0,49

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Examples of estimates of OST coverage in Norway - 2

Coverage heroin users

1. The number in OST all year (persons in OST at the beginning of the year + those who enter); n_ost = 7450
2. The number of HRHU by mortality multiplier, risk of death 3 per 100 person years and a probability of 0.7 to die of a drug related heroin death; n_HROU = 3635
3. Withdraw double counting: During a week 9 percent in OST had used heroin. For heroin users the probability of use in a single week is 2/3; n_double = 1006
4. Coverage of OST = n_ost/ (n_ost + n_HRHU – n_double) = 0,74

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Examples of estimates of OST coverage in Norway - 3

Coverage opioid users, survey at the street-level

1. The number in OST in survey); n_ost = 409
2. The number of HROU in survey; n_HROU = 1013
3. Withdraw double counting:; n_double = 225
4. Coverage of OST = n_ost/ (n_ost + n_HROU – n_double) = 0,34

NB! Underreporting of (integrated) OST-patients who do not show up at street level

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Technical pitfalls

- Mix period data and data on a given date
  - One year prevalence of HROU and the number of OST clients by the end of the year
- Estimate yearly proportions of persons from shorter period proportions
  - Estimate yearly proportion of HROU among OST clients from misuse of opioids during a week
- Forget double counting
  - Some HROU are in OST

Ideological pitfalls and usefulness of OST coverage estimation

- A high coverage does not mean that persons in OST do not misuse heroin/opioids. Estimate the coverage of non-misusers in OST?
- OST was originally intended to help heroin users. Estimate the coverage for those?
- ‘Old’ heroin users may misuse all kinds of opioids.
- A new group of opioid misusers has emerged who partly misuse OST drugs as well as other pharmaceuticals with opioids. Who to include and will OST be relevant for these persons?
- Can a high OST coverage still be interpreted as a positive characteristic?

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Thank you for your attention!

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