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Cannabis Trends in the Czech Republic

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Surveys

Large-scale surveys, repeated every 4 years, random sampling

- National Survey on Substance Use 2012 (GPS 2012)
 - PAPI, age 15-64, N=2134, study focusing on drug use only; every 4 years
- GPS on Substance Use and Attitudes Towards Substance Use (GPS 2008)
 - PAPI, age 15-64, N=4500

Omnibus surveys, repeated every year, quota sampling

- Prevalence of drug use 2013
 - CAPI, age 15-64, N=868
- Prevalence of drug use 2012
 - CAPI, age 15-64, N=854

ESPAD

- 2007, 2011



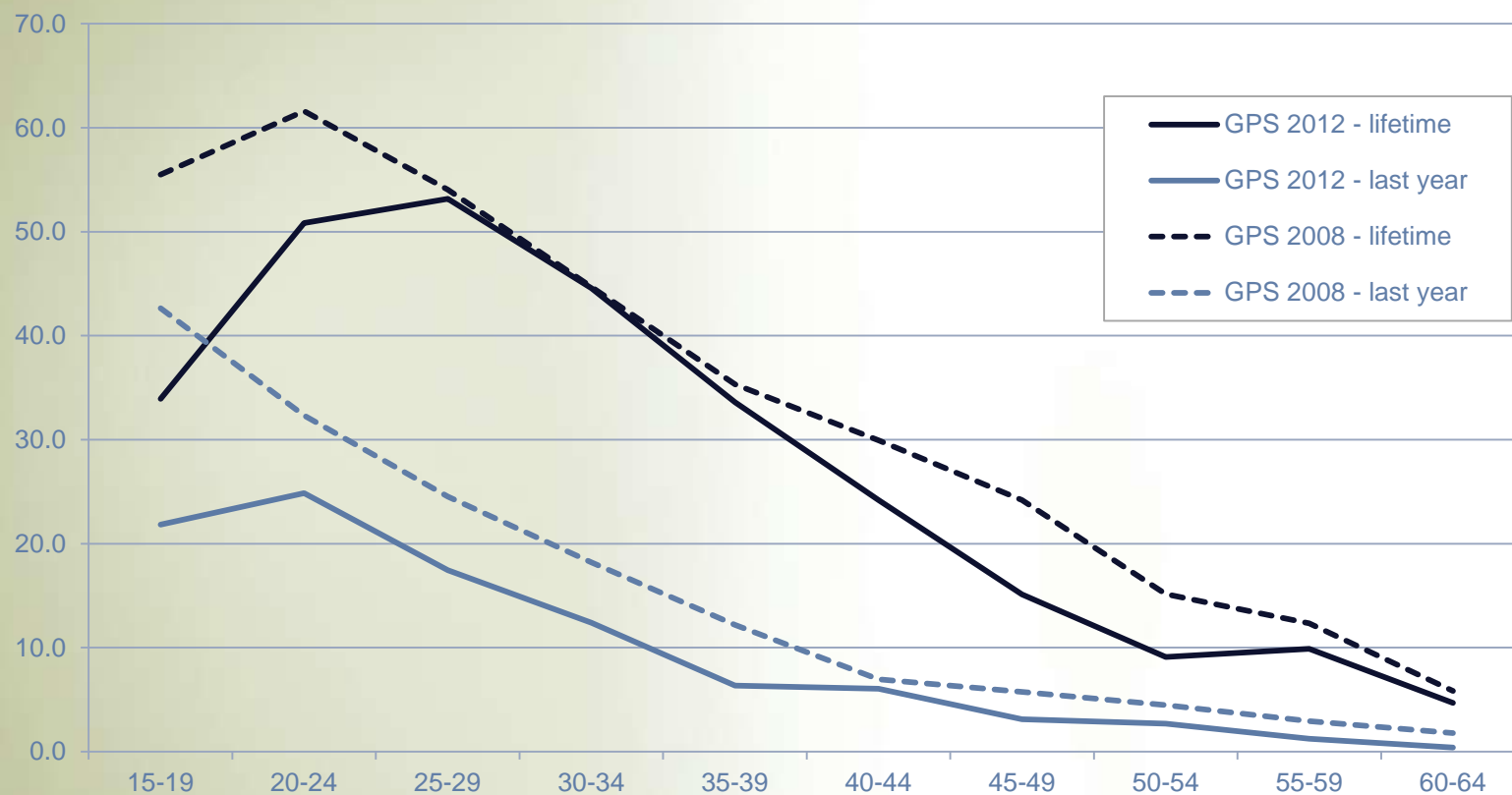
Prevalence Rates (15-64)

CANNABIS		M	F	Total	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
GPS 2012, N=2134	LTP	34.9	21.2	27.9	42.8	48.3	29.7	12.4	6.7
	LYP	13.1	5.3	9.2	23.1	14.6	6.2	2.9	0.7
	LMP	6.8	2.0	4.4	11.0	7.0	3.4	1.1	0.2
GPS 2008, N=4500	LTP	42.4	26.0	34.2	58.6	49.1	32.6	19.4	9.4
	LYP	20.1	10.1	15.2	37.4	21.1	9.6	5.1	2.4
	LMP	12.5	4.6	8.6	22.4	12.3	5.2	1.6	1.1
Prevalence 2013, N=868	LTP	29.6	15.8	22.8	39.1	41.7	18.9	13.7	6.3
	LYP	13.2	4.5	8.9	27.6	16.7	2.6	1.2	1.6
	LMP	3.5	0.7	2.1	6.8	3.6	0.0	0.0	1.6
Prevalence 2012, N=854	LTP	39.2	23.2	31.3	47.9	55.0	25.9	18,5	6.6
	LYP	12.7	6.0	9.4	26.4	15.7	3.4	0.6	2.0
	LMP	4.1	1.9	3.0	6.9	4.7	1.7	0.6	0.7

CANNABIS		M	F	Total
ESPAD 2011, N=3913	LTP	47.3	37.5	42.3
	LYP	33.7	25.9	29.7
	LMP	17.4	12.1	14.6
ESPAD 2007, N=3901	LTP	47.9	42.5	45.1
	LYP	37.8	32.1	34.8
	LMP	20.9	15.6	18.1



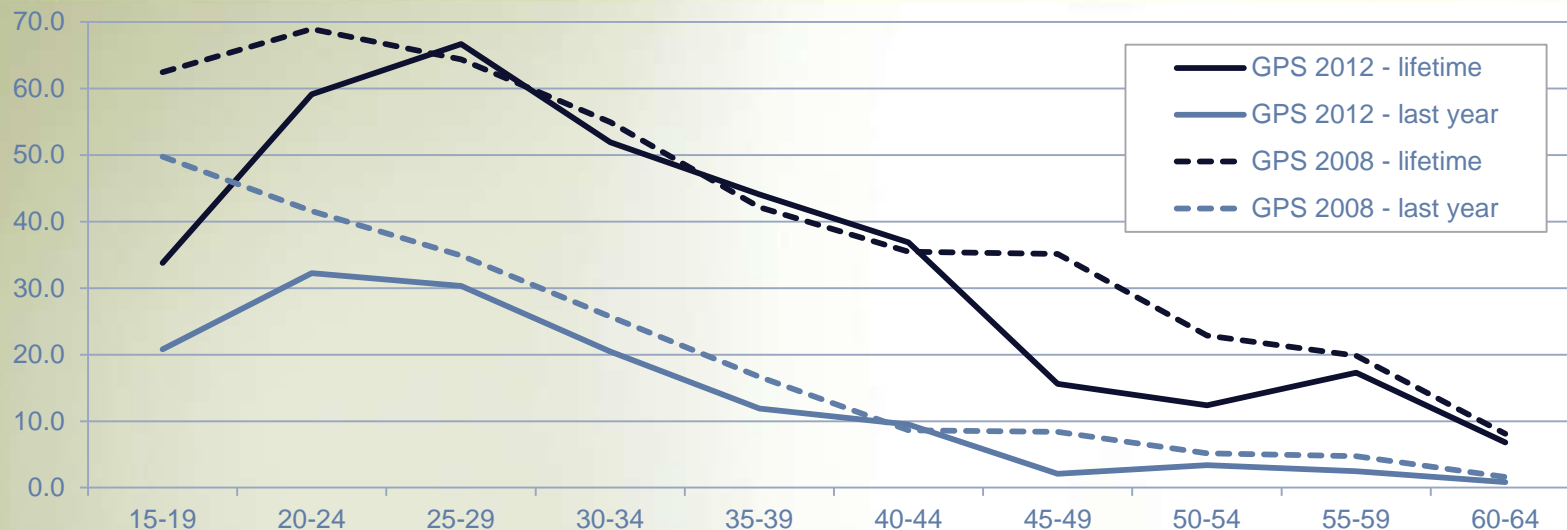
Cannabis Trends - GPS



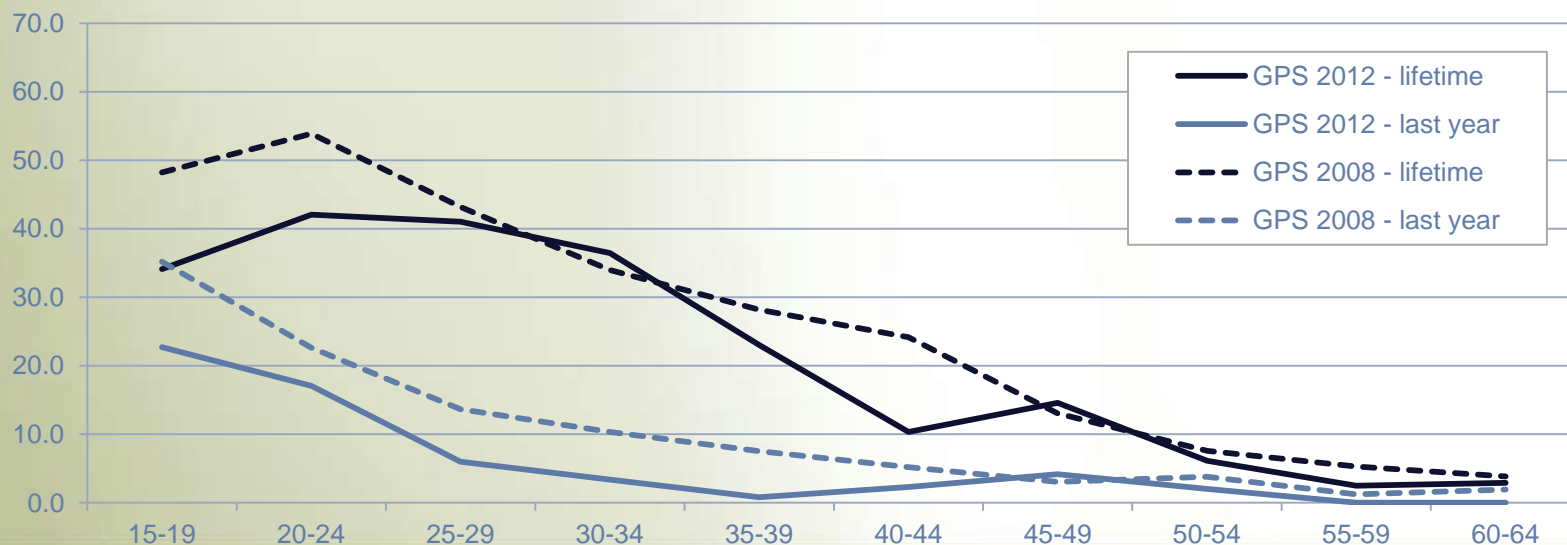


Cannabis Trends – GPS, by gender

M

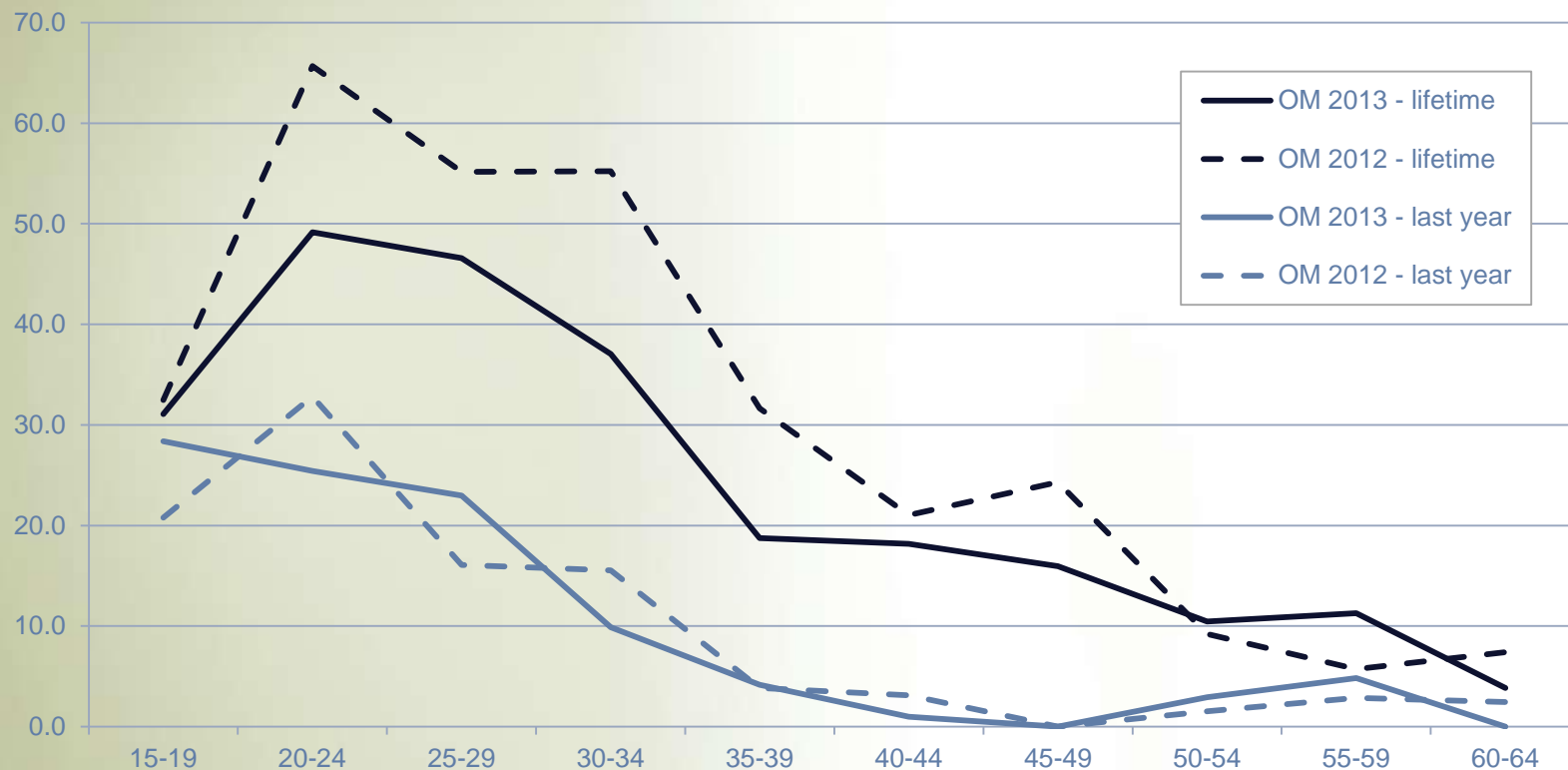


F



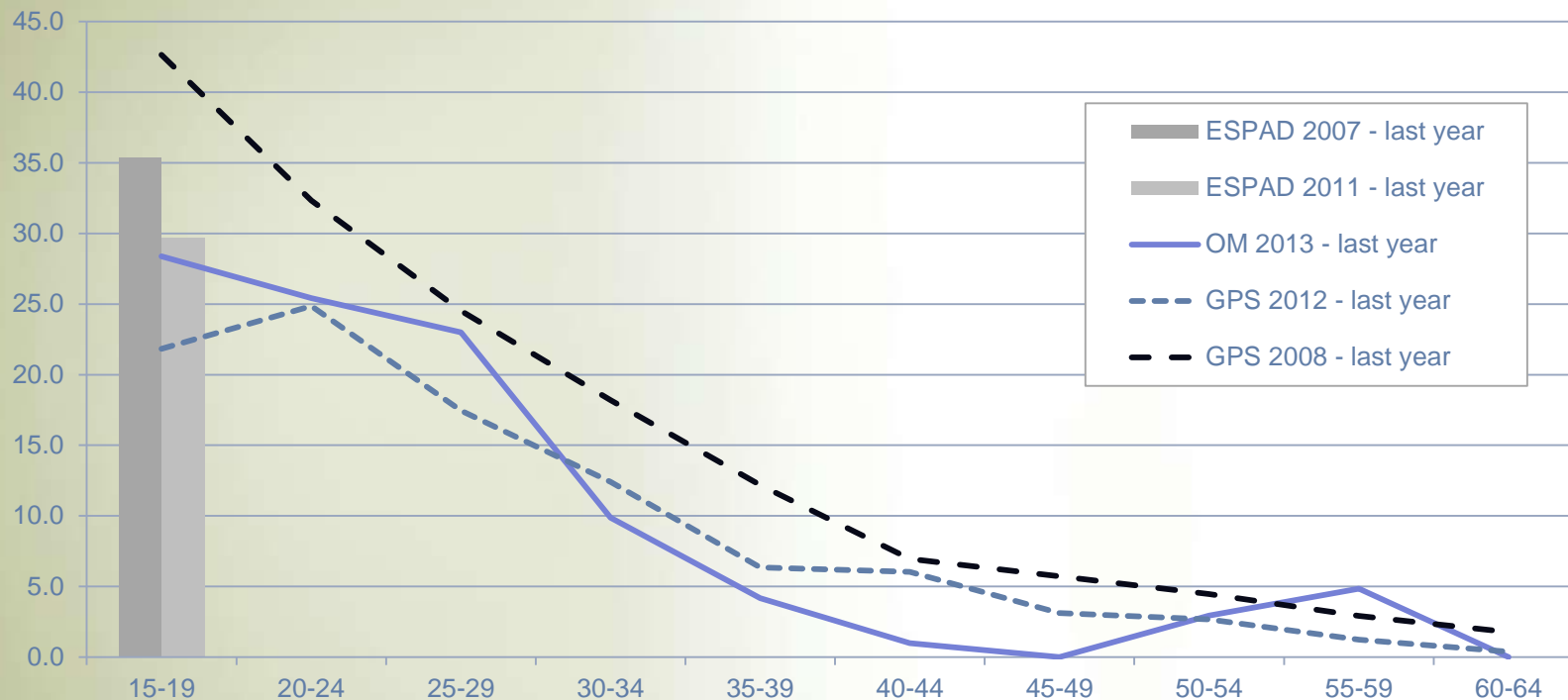


Cannabis Trends - Omnibus





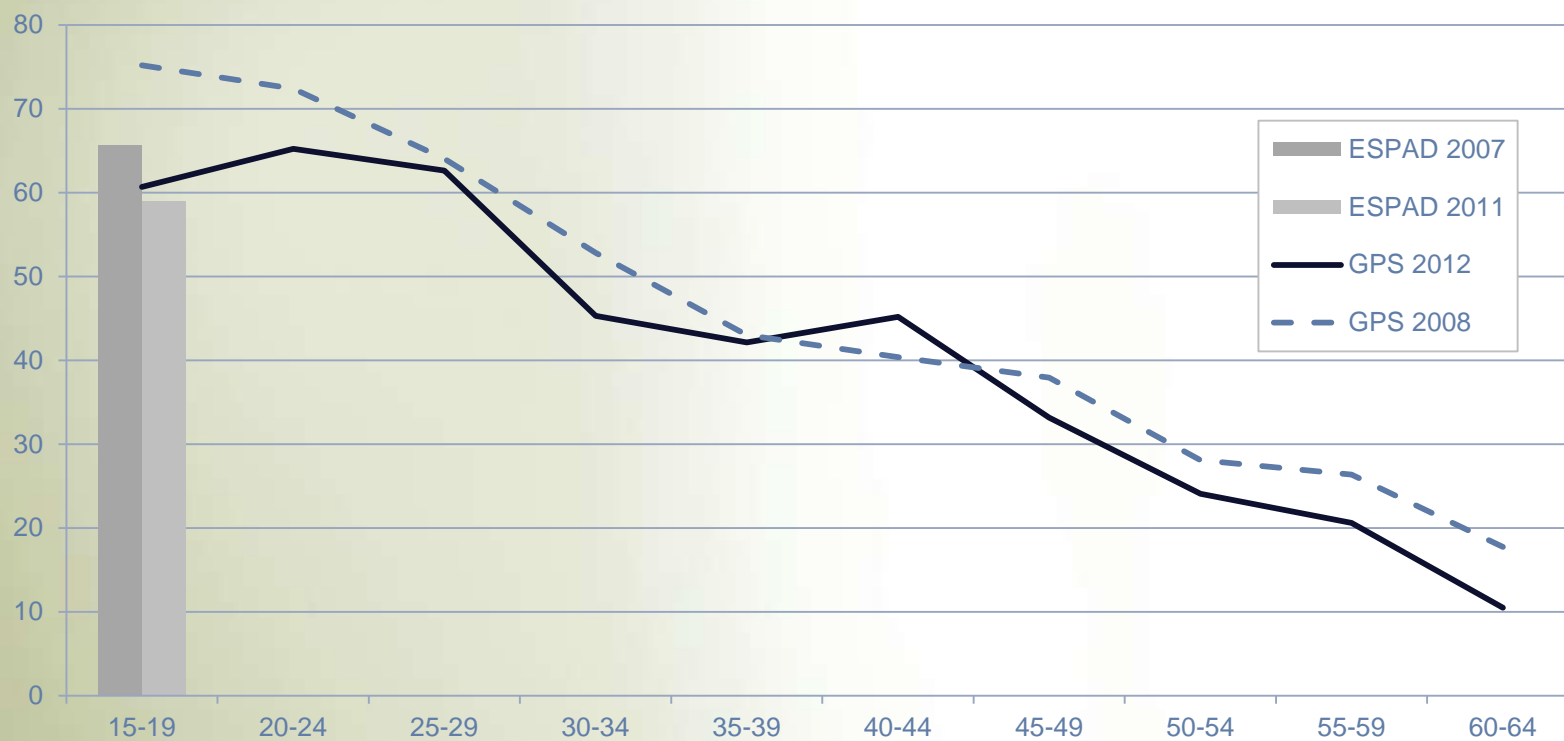
Cannabis Trends – Data combined





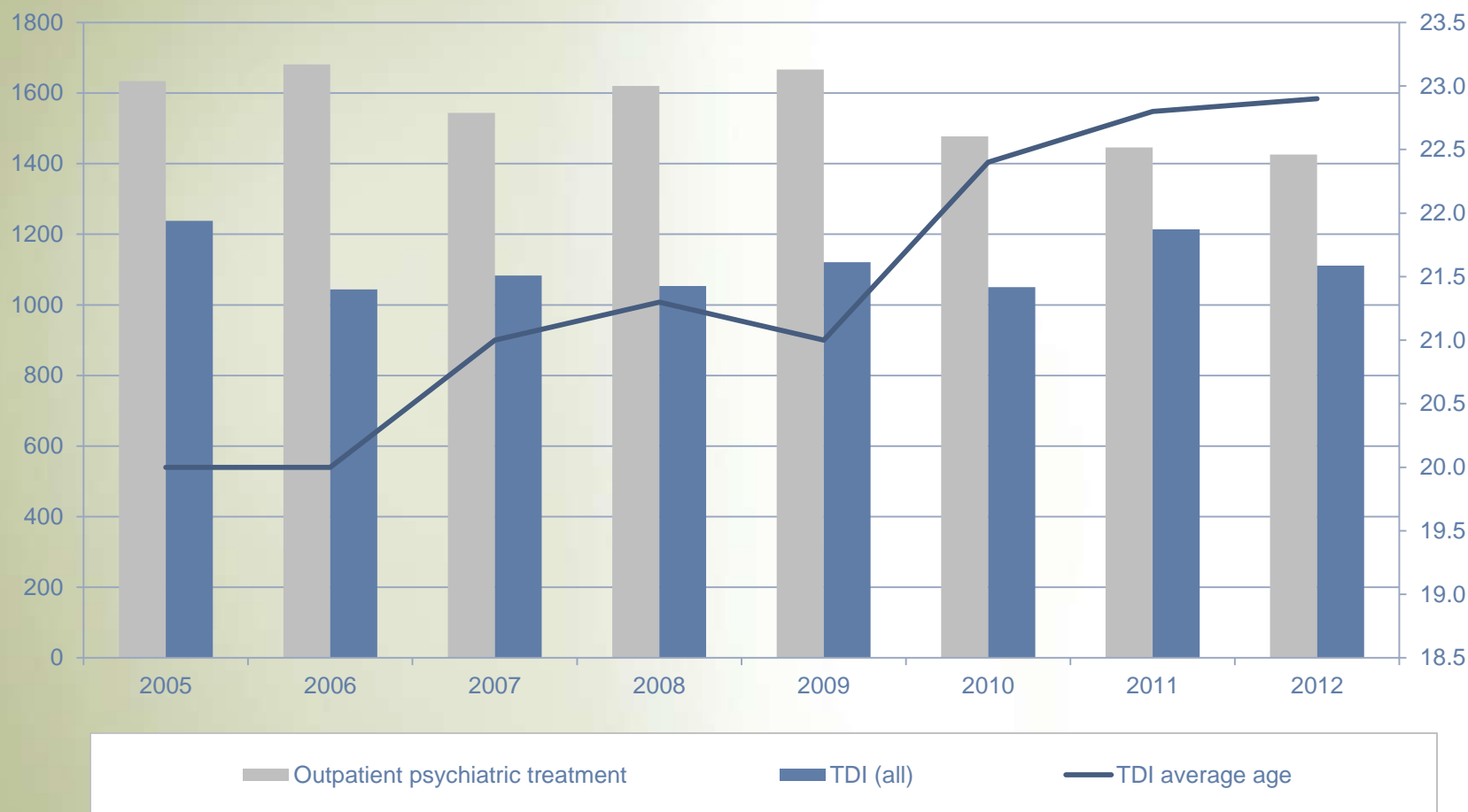
Cannabis Trends – Availability

Very easy or fairly easy to obtain cannabis within 24 hours	M	F	Total
2008	53.1	38.9	46.0
2012	44.9	35.6	40.2





Cannabis Trends – Treatment Data





Legal Context

- New Penal Code – valid since 2010
- *more liberal towards cannabis offences*
 - introduces new crime - ***unauthorized cultivation of plants*** containing narcotic or psychotropic substances for personal use in the amount „greater than small“ which means that
 - unauthorized cultivation of up to 5 plants is regarded as an *administrative offence*
 - criminal sanctions for possession of cannabis and cultivation of cannabis are *lower* than for other drugs



Discussion

- decrease in prevalence of cannabis use in CR since 2008
does not seem to be linked to:
 - legal changes
 - policy changes
 - increase of services provision
 - any other interventions

- **conclusion:** probably influenced by *broader socio-cultural influences*
 - cannabis use is no longer „attractive“ for young people
 - cannabis use is widespread and thus not seen as „forbidden fruit“
 - cannabis use is no longer linked to be a demonstration of standing against the system
 - young people want to be different from the „older“ generation



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Thank you

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