Cannabis users inside and outside treatment: Similarities and differences

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Prevalence and patterns of drug use among general population Indicator (GPS)
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Data presented

- Presented:
  Differences between recent cannabis users (last 12 months) and
  Clients entering treatment with cannabis as main drug

- Data sources:
  ESA/GPS Germany   2000   published in 2001
  EBIS/TDI data Germany   2001   based on 368 outpatient facilities

- Published in
  Simon et al. (2004). Cannabis Related Disorders (CARED):
  Prevalence, treatment needs and provision of services in Germany

- Limitations:
  GPS does not include people living in institutions
  GPS does not include age groups below 18 years
  Some graphs still half German
  Some change in preference of substance use might have happened since 2001

Gender

Gender	Treatment		Population	
	N	%	N	%
Male	190	86,8	313	64,5
Female	29	13,2	172	35,5
Total	223	100	486	100

Age at treatment entry

Age	Treatment		Population	
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**
bis 14	0	0,0	--	--
15-17	15	7,0	--	--
18-19	32	14,9	68	14,0
20-24	89	41,4	157	32,4
25-29	33	15,3	111	22,9
30-34	19	8,8	68	14,1
35-39	15	7,0	50	10,2
40-44	8	3,7	15	3,1
45-49	3	1,4	10	2,1
50-54	0	0,0	6	1,2
55-59	1	0,5	0	0
60-64	0	0	0	0
64 und älter	0	0	0	0

High willingness/interest to use drugs
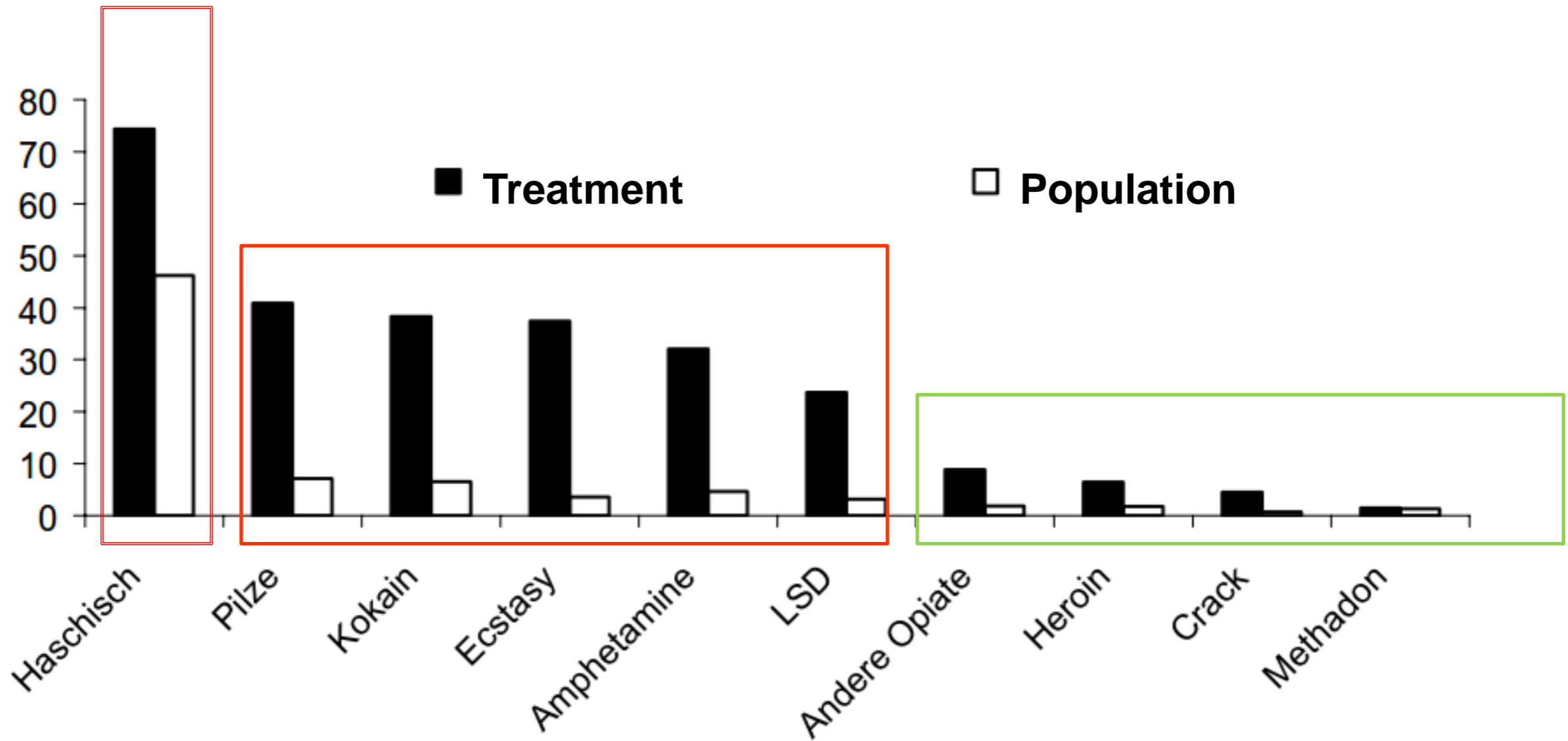
Drug use during last 12 months

Substance	Treatment %	Population %	Odds Ratio	
Haschisch	91,0	100,0%	--	--
Marihuana	90,1	--	--	--
Alkohol	92,5	--	--	--
Tabak, Zigaretten	96,7	--	--	--
Amphetamine	46,2	9,0	8,7[1]	(5,7-13,2)
Ecstasy	54,1	9,8	10,9[1]	(7,2-16,4)
LSD	36,3	2,1	26,0[1]	(13,0-51,7)
Heroin	16,4	1,7	11,2[1]	(5,1-24,8)
Andere Opiate	12,5	1,5	9,4[1]	(4,0-22,1)
Methadon	3,6	1,1	3,4[1]	(1,1-11,0)
Kokain	50,2	9,8	9,3[1]	(6,2-14,0)
Crack	5,1	0,4	12,4[1]	(2,7-57,3)
Schnüffelstoffe	13,6	1,5	10,4[1]	(4,5-24,4)
Pilze	50,5	7,9	11,8[1]	(7,7-18,2)

Age at start of drug use

Substance	Treatment			Population			p
	N	M	SD	N	M	SD	
Haschisch	208	15,8	2,73	486	18,7	4,74	0,00
Marihuana	201	15,9	2,93	--	--	--	--
Alkohol	204	13,4	2,02	--	--	--	--
Tabak, Zigaretten	201	13,4	2,38	406	15,6	2,81	0,00
Amphetamine	112	17,8	3,68	85	20,2	3,89	0,00
Ecstasy	133	18,0	3,45	72	21,4	4,82	0,00
LSD	107	18,4	3,50	73	20,0	5,15	0,02
Heroin	52	20,0	3,79	16	19,0	3,58	
Andere Opiate	34	19,8	2,95	25	20,8	5,12	
Methadon	9	23,3	4,72	5	21,8	3,89	
Kokain	128	19,2	3,67	99	22,5	5,03	0,00
Crack	15	22,9	7,24	2	17,6	0,65	0,01
Schnüffelstoffe	32	16,8	3,85	21	17,3	5,57	
Pilze	131	18,3	3,79	95	21,0	5,3	0,00

Start of drug use: Order of substances

Substance	Treatment				Population				Order
	N	M	SD	Rang	N	M	SD	Rang	
Haschisch	208	15,8	2,73	2	486	18,7	4,74	4	
Marihuana	201	15,9	2,93	--	--	--	--	--	2
Tabak, Zigaretten	201	13,4	2,38	1	406	15,6	2,81	1	1
Amphetamine	112	17,8	3,68	4	85	20,2	3,89	7	
Ecstasy	133	18,0	3,45	5	72	21,4	4,82	10	3
LSD	107	18,4	3,50	7	73	20,0	5,15	6	
Kokain	128	19,2	3,67	8	99	22,5	5,03	12	4
Pilze	131	18,3	3,79	6	95	21,0	5,3	9	

Perceived availability of drugs

Substance		N	Access to drugs — Easy .... Difficult (%)				Impossible	χ^2	df	p
Haschisch	Treat	216	71,8	22,2	3,2	1,9	0,0	37,1	4	0,00
	Pop	480	47,5	38,2	9,2	2,3	2,9			
Marihuana	Treat	215	64,7	26,0	5,6	2,8	0,9	--	--	--
	Pop	--	--	--	--	--	--			
Amphetamine	Treat	208	32,2	27,9	18,8	11,5	9,6	82,6	4	0,00
	Pop	475	9,8	19,3	18,7	20,8	31,5			
Ecstasy	Treat	206	31,1	34,0	15,0	11,7	8,3	74,1	4	0,00
	Pop	473	11,7	20,3	21,3	19,5	27,2			
LSD	Treat	205	17,6	17,6	25,4	25,9	13,7	38,7	4	0,00
	Pop	475	8,7	12,4	20,4	22,7	35,7			
Heroin	Treat	199	18,1	16,6	13,6	20,1	31,7	46,0	4	0,00
	Pop	473	5,2	8,6	12,9	23,9	49,4			
Kokain	Treat	211	25,1	29,9	19,0	11,4	14,7	79,5	4	0,00
	Pop	475	7,8	16,0	18,0	20,0	38,2			
Crack	Treat	199	9,0	12,1	14,1	20,6	44,2	20,0	4	0,00
	Pop	474	2,8	6,7	13,1	25,5	52,0			

Frequency of drug use during lifetime
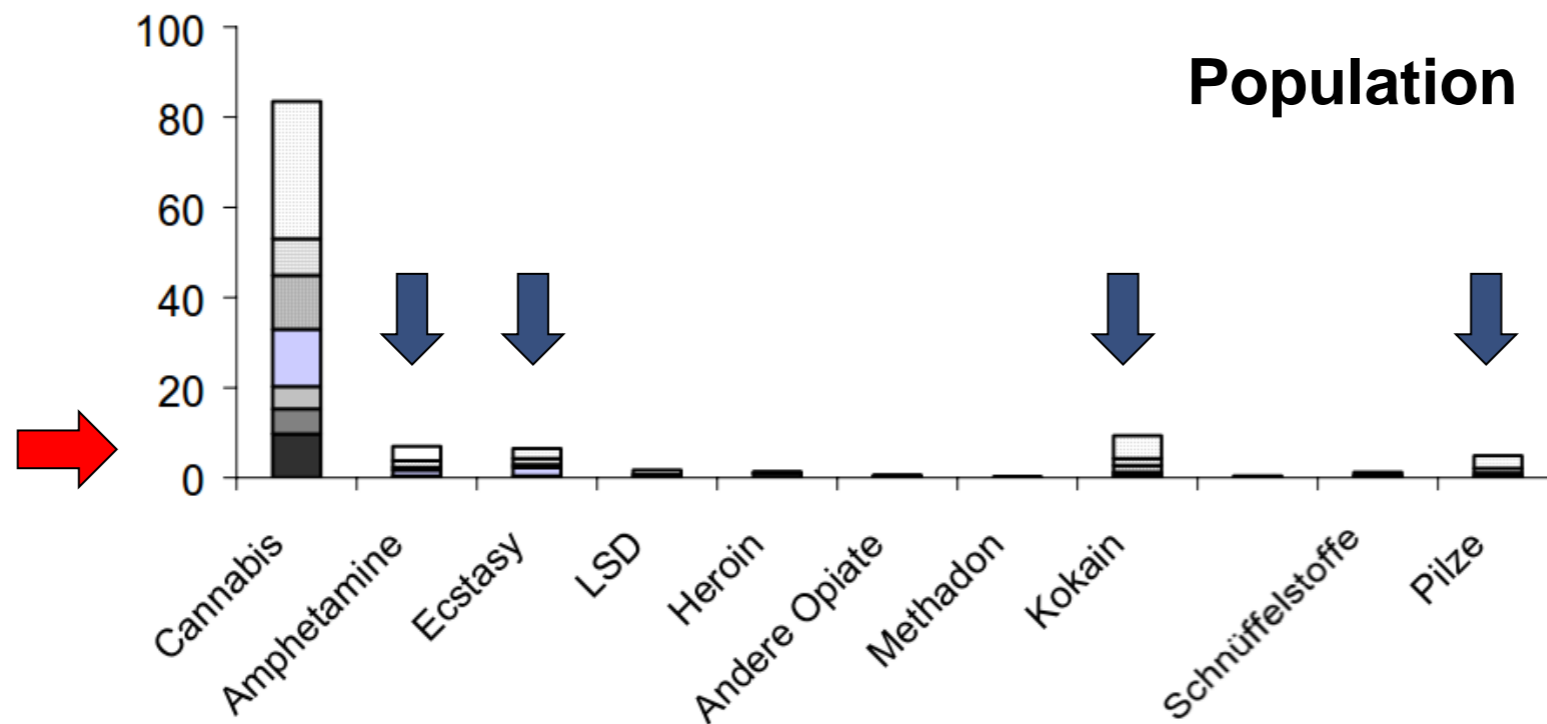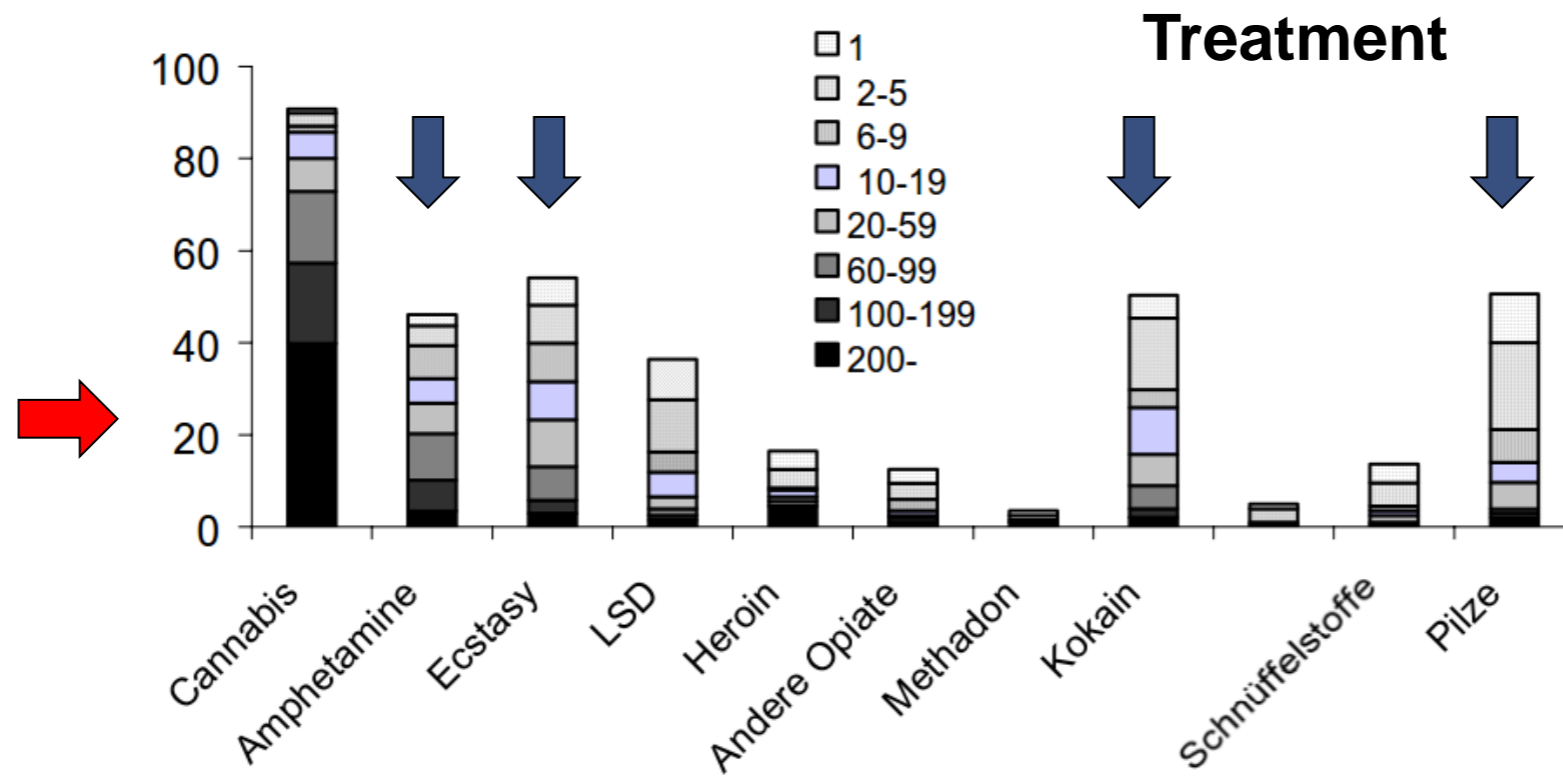
Cannabis users vs. users seeking help

Cannabis users seeking treatment for cannabis are typically

➢ male

➢ Between 18 and 24 years

➢ Have started substance use early

➢ Often are also interested/using other substances

➢ have easier access to drugs – especially to hard drugs

Similarities between users and treated cases

➢ Clusters of substances use

A. Cannabis only

B. Cannabis/ amphetamines/ ecstasy/ cocaine/ mushrooms

C. Cannabis/heroin/ opioids/ crack

➢ Succession of drugs quite similar

Would be interesting

To analyse …

- If this pattern is similar in other countries
- What could cause differences
- If increasing treatment availability made groups of users and clients more similar