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Implementation of SMART alcohol questionnaire in Latvia

Marcis Trapencieris
Ildze Redoviča

Alcohol research in Latvia

- ❖ Nationally representative studies
- ❖ Adolescents
 - ❖ ESPAD / LaSPAD (1995, 1999, 2001 (*local*), 2003, 2007, 2011, 2013 (*method.*))
 - ❖ HBSC (1991, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014)
- ❖ Adults
 - ❖ FINBALT (bi-annually since 1998) (n~3000)
 - ❖ EHIS / LVHIS (2010) (n~6000)
 - ❖ General population survey about substance use (2003, 2007, 2011:) (n~4500)

Alcohol questions in substance use surveys in Latvia

2003

- Generic quantity, frequency
- 30 days, RSOD
- EMQ-based

2007

- GENACIS, ECAS
- QF, BSQF, GF
- Alcohol-related violence, partners' drinking

2011

- SMART questions
- Additional own questions

SMART questionnaire areas

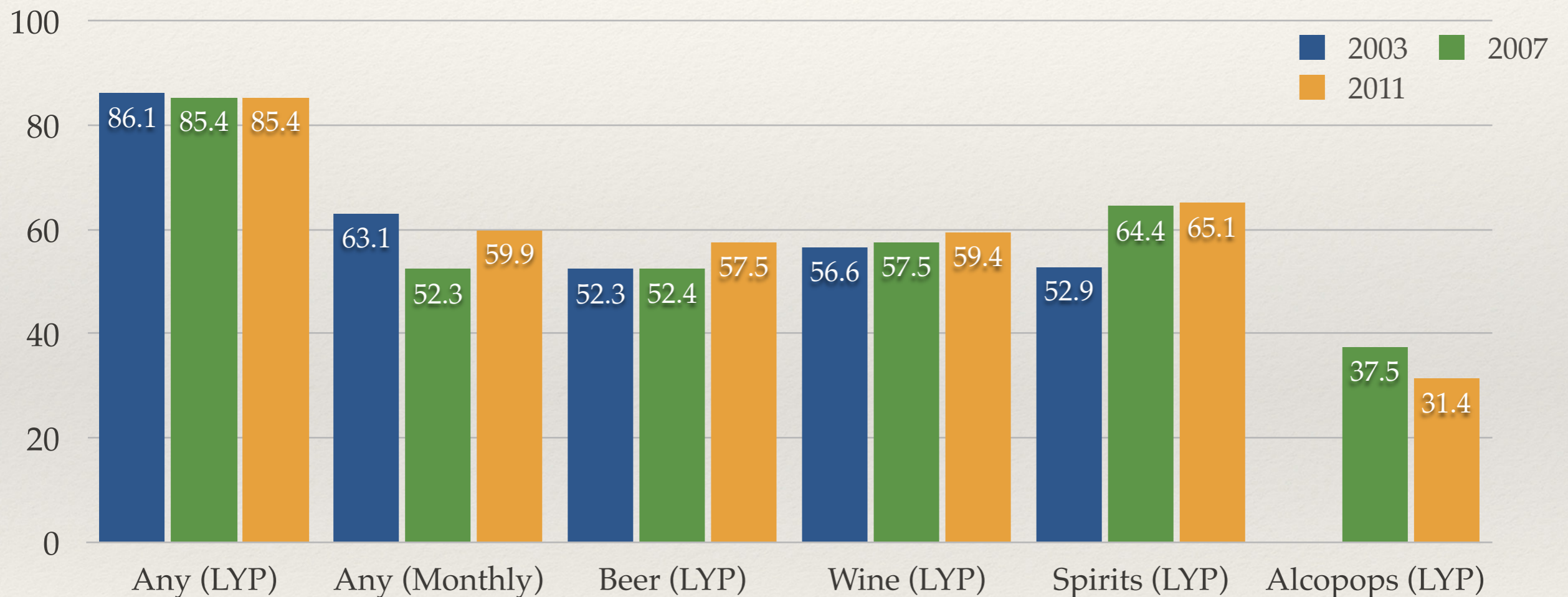
- ❖ alcohol consumption *(9 questions)*
- ❖ context of drinking *(9 questions)*
- ❖ risky single occasion drinking *(4 questions)*
- ❖ alcohol dependence measure *(M-CIDI – 10 items)*
- ❖ problems because of own alcohol use *(7 questions)*
- ❖ harm from others *(11 questions)*
- ❖ unrecorded / irregular alcohol supply *(31 questions)*
- ❖ attitudes towards alcohol policy *(8 questions)*

Alcohol consumption

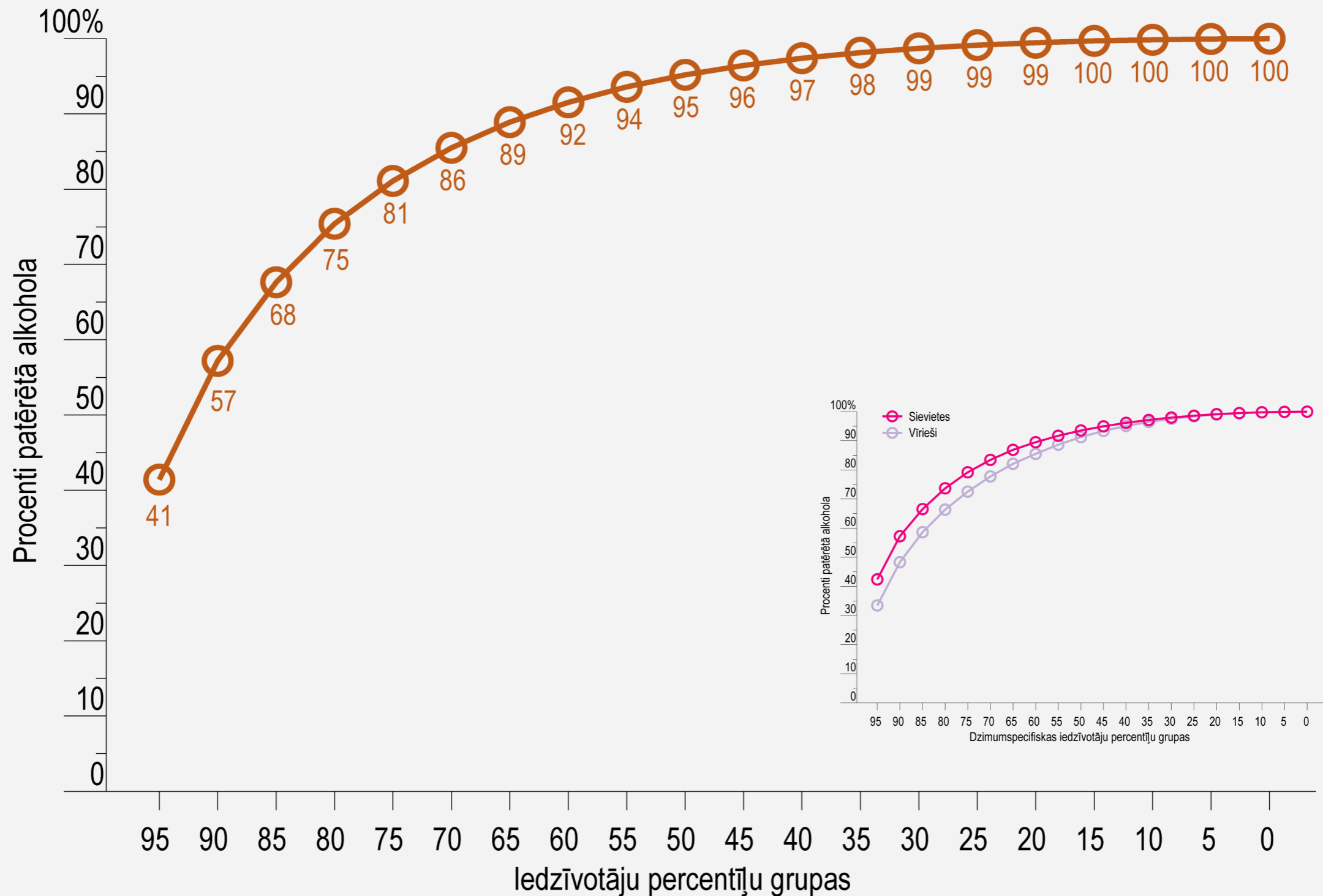
- ❖ Beverage specific
 - ❖ Beer, wine, spirits, cider / alcopops
- ❖ Last 12 months
 - ❖ Quantity (according to leaflet with standard units)
 - ❖ Frequency (11 categories)

Consumption of different beverage types

Overall, 85% of 15–64 y.o. population are current drinkers

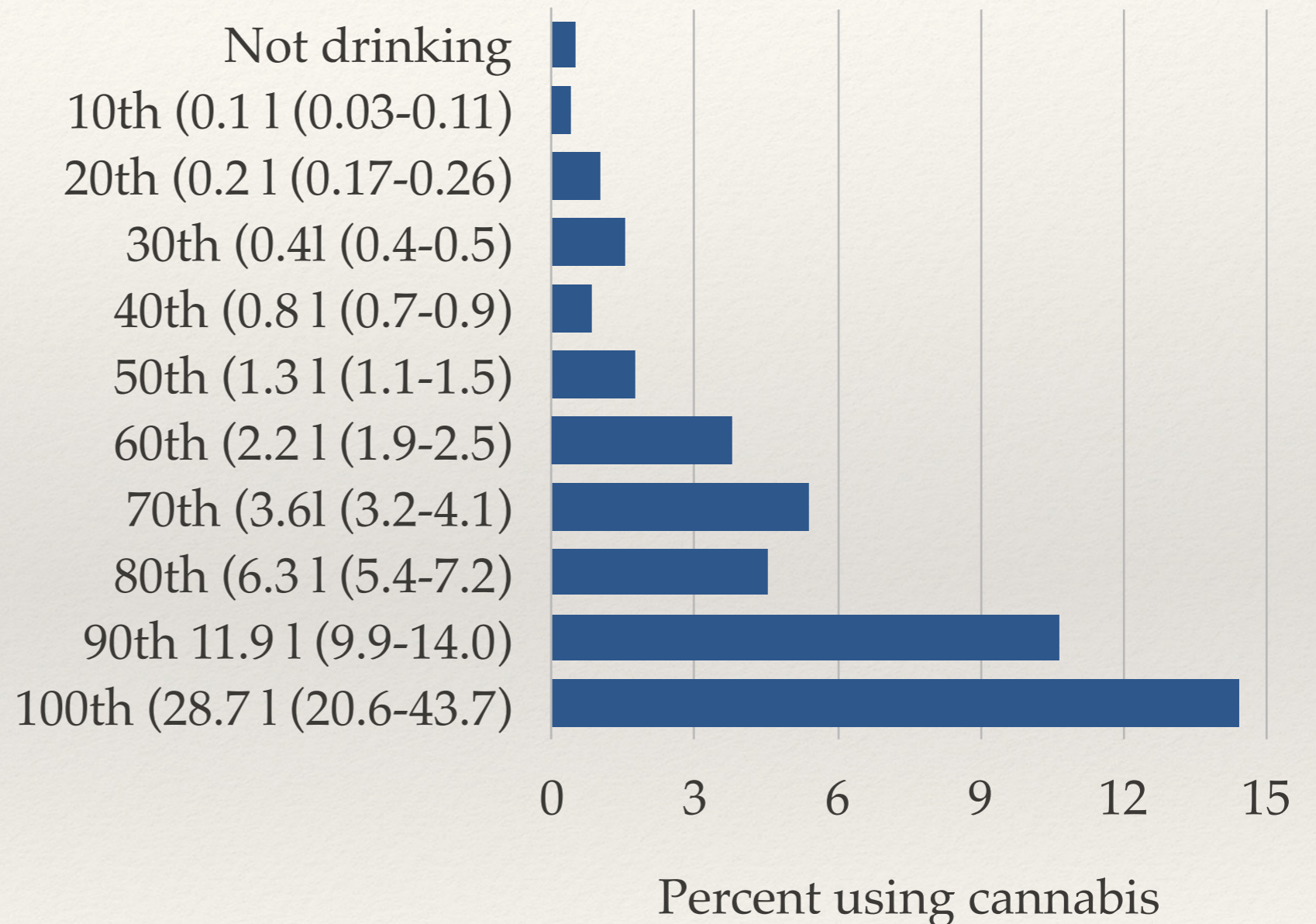


Drinking percentiles



Alcohol and cannabis use

- ❖ High risk alcohol use associated with cannabis use
- ❖ Also after adjusting for age and gender



Risky single occasion drinking (RSOD)

- ❖ 4 questions
 - ❖ 60+ grams (but not gender specific)
 - ❖ 120+ grams
 - ❖ Two questions about length of drinking occasion
- ❖ Additional questions – weight & height

RSOD - Some results

- ❖ 44% (Males 62%, Females 26%) – consume 60+ g at least once over the last 12 months
- ❖ Number of drinking occasions per year and risky drinking occasions
 - ❖ 54 total vs 18 risky = 33%
- ❖ BAC males (60+g) 1.02
- ❖ BAC females (60+g) 1.56

Consumption figures

- ❖ $(QF)_{\text{beer}} + (QF)_{\text{spirits}} + (QF)_{\text{wine}} + (QF)_{\text{alcopops}} + (QF)_{\text{RSOD60}^+} + (QF)_{\text{RSOD120-RSOD60}}$
- ❖ Quantity-frequency measurements used in survey suggest about 60% of alcohol consumption per capita is covered
 - 5.83l per capita including non-drinkers (15–64 y.o.)
 - 6.82l per capita among drinkers; 11.4l among males, 2.35 – females

Other topics

- ❖ Illegal / informal alcohol market
 - ❖ 16% home-produced, personal imports, illegal places, from known people
 - larger share for spirits (39%) than beer (1%) or wine (19%)
 - ❖ 15% off-premise after regulated sales hours (22:00)
- ❖ Alcohol dependence
 - ❖ 12% population (CIDI 3+ (of 7) criteria)
- ❖ Alcohol policies
 - ❖ Overall, majority support stricter alcohol control
 - ❖ Highest support for BAC “zero policy” (71%);
 - ❖ increasing of legal age towards 21 (65%);
 - ❖ more strict alcohol advertising regulations (66%)
 - ❖ less support for raising prices (31%)

Summary

- ❖ Adding additional questions about alcohol improves understanding of the substance use phenomenon in the country
- ❖ SMART questionnaire is a robust tool
- ❖ We plan piloting the new alcohol questions for inclusion in 2015 GPS
- ❖ Also assessing length of questionnaire and timings of the specific questions

Thank you!

marcis@petijums.lv

ildze.redovica@spkc.gov.lv