



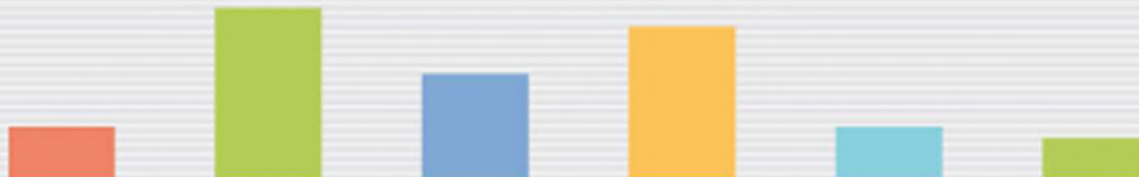
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Sex differences in drug use and drug related problems in Europe

Linda Montanari and Joao Matias

23/11/2021

Technical meeting on Gender and Drugs



Acknowledgements

Bruno Guarita

Isabelle Giraudon

Peter Heudtlass

Brendan Hughes

Luis Royuela

Lisbeth Vandam



Some figures on gender distribution in EU-27, Norway and Turkey in 2020 *(or most recent available)*

Around 33 millions women (40%) and 50 (60%) millions men have tried any illicit drug at least once in life

- 47 millions men (60%) and 31 millions women (40%) have tried **cannabis**
- 9 millions men (75%) and 4 millions (25%) women **cocaine**
- 6 millions of men (67%) and 3 millions (33%) women **amphetamines**
- 7 millions of men (70%) and 3 millions (30%) women **MDMA**

245 457 (80%) men
and over 61 939 (20%) women
have entered drug
treatment

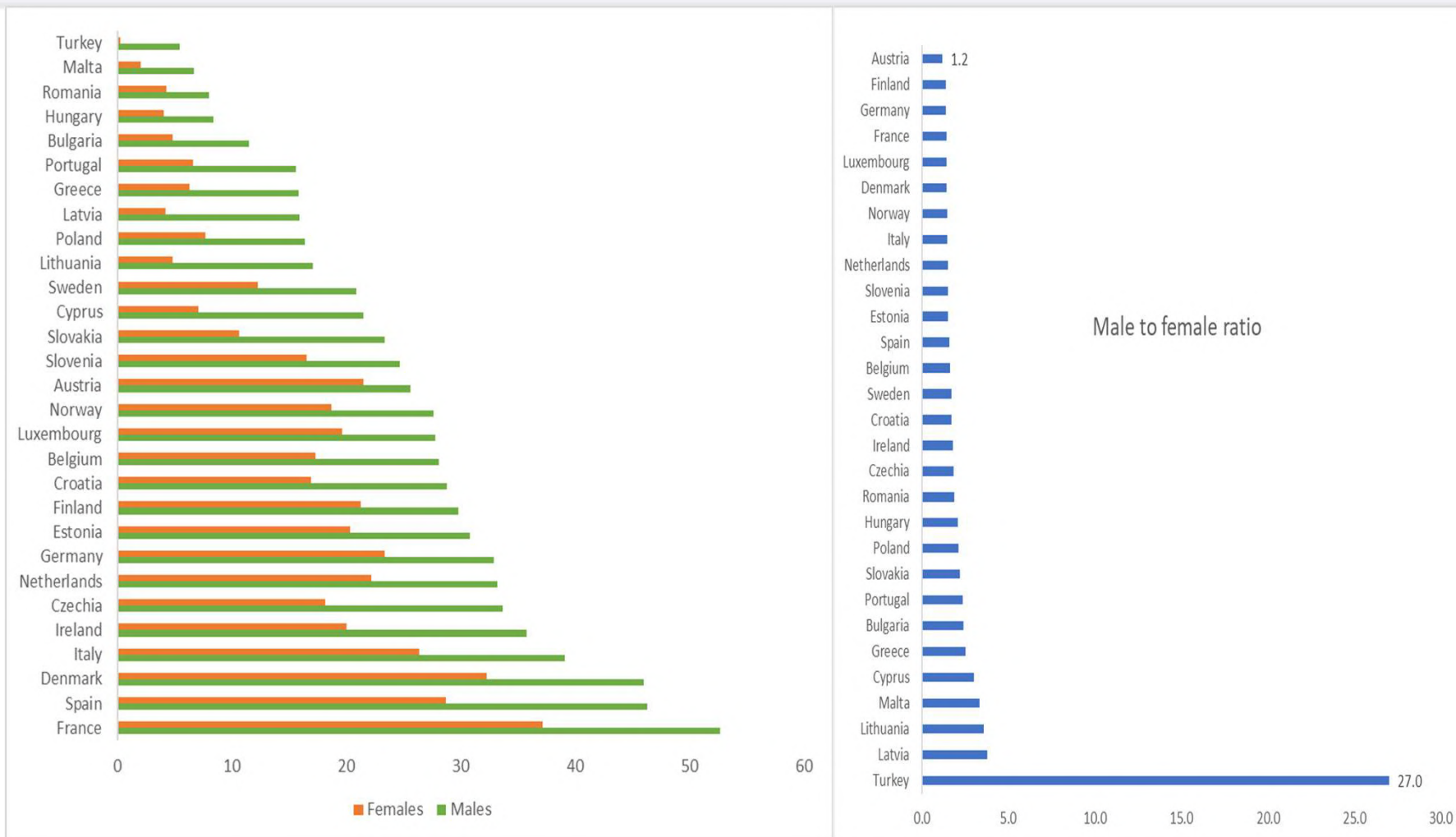
796 HIV notifications among men
(82%) and 149 for women (18%)*

estimated 4700 men (78%) and 1300 women
(22%) have died directly because of drugs
DRD



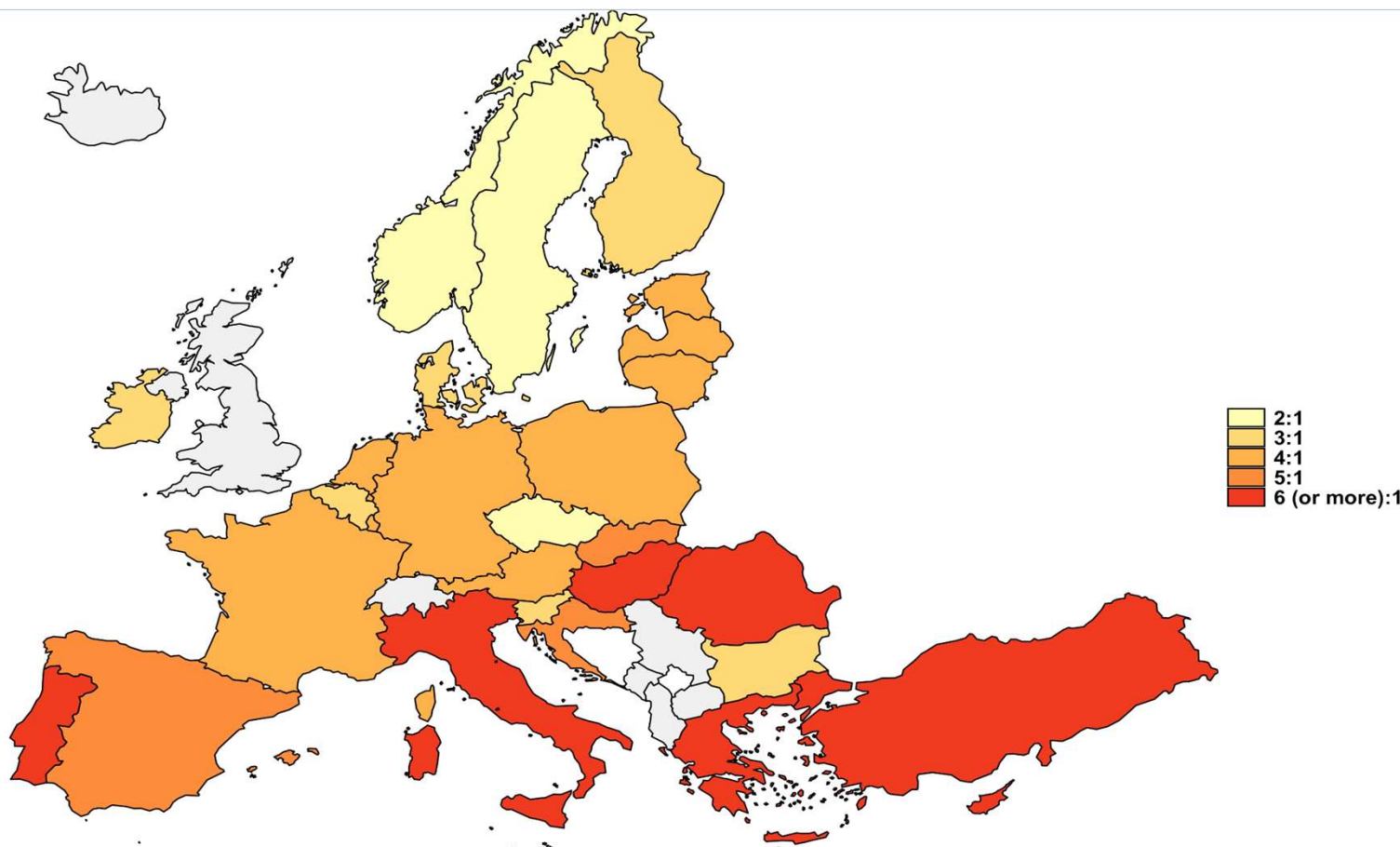
Source: 2021 EMCDDA FONTE data - * data 2019

Lifetime prevalence of cannabis use among all adults (15-64) by country in 27 EU + Norway and Turkey 2019 (or most recent year available) and male to female ratios



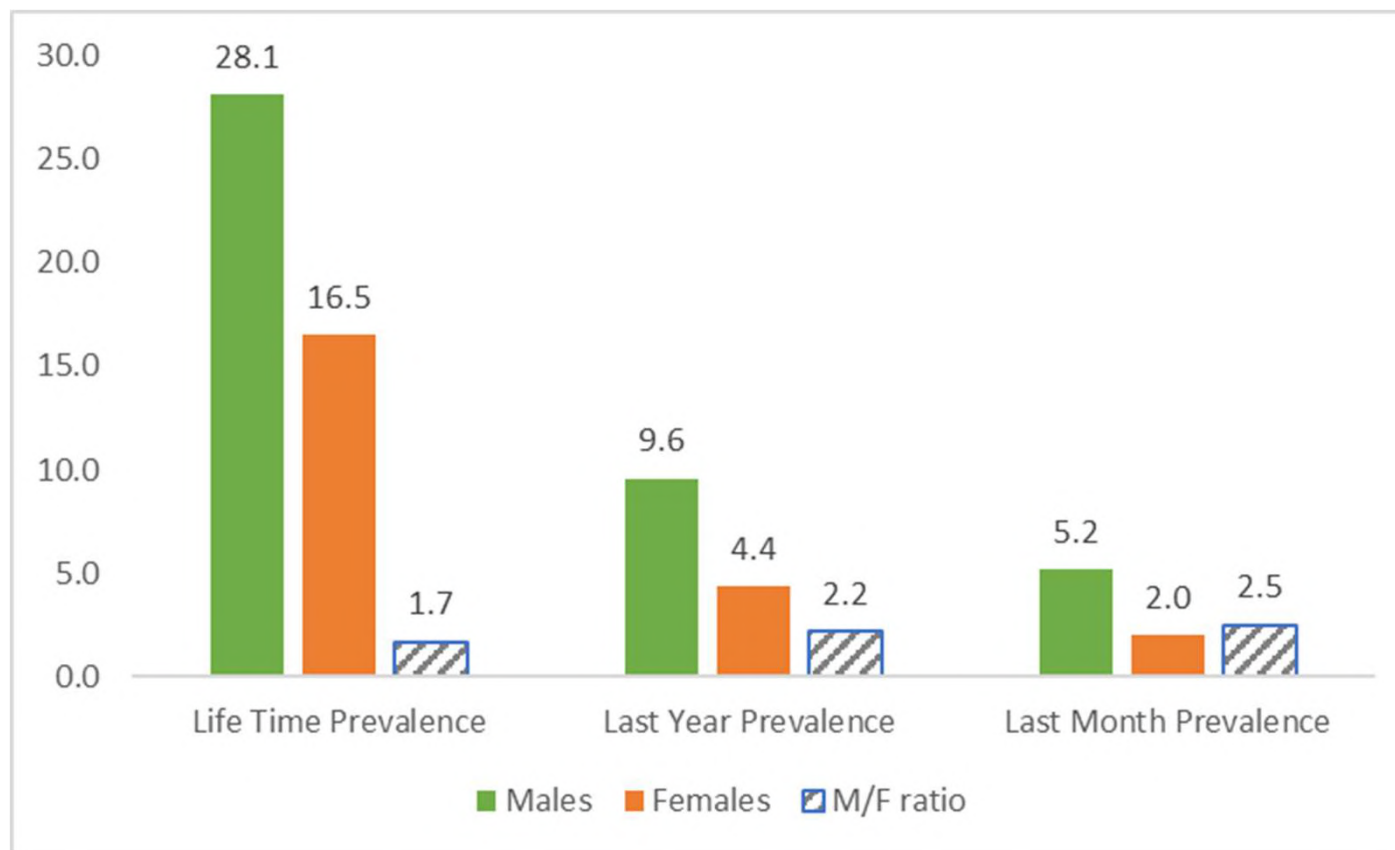
Source: 2021 Statistical Bulletin, EDR2021 - <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2021> -

Male to female ratio among clients entering drug treatment in 2020 (or most recent available)



Source: 2021 EMCDDA FONTE data

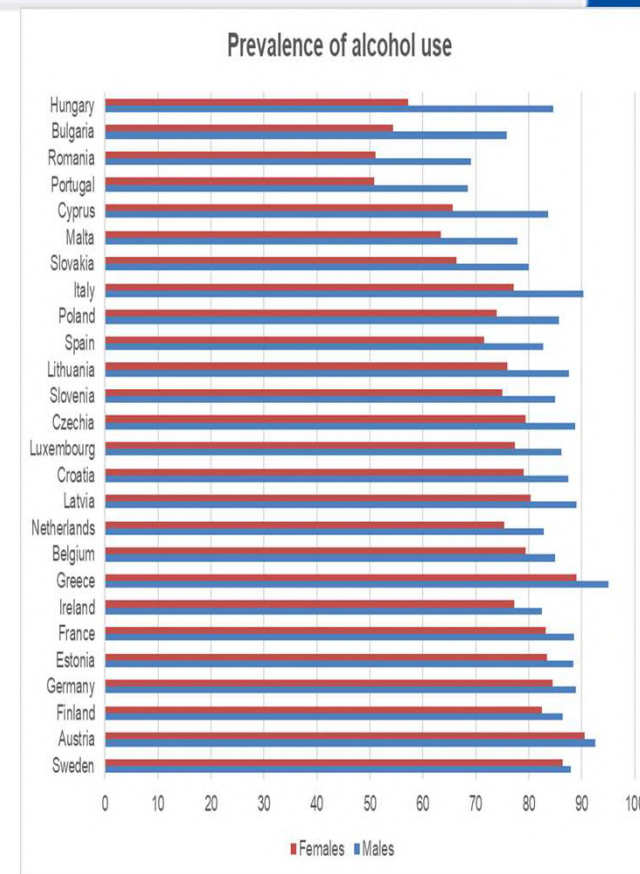
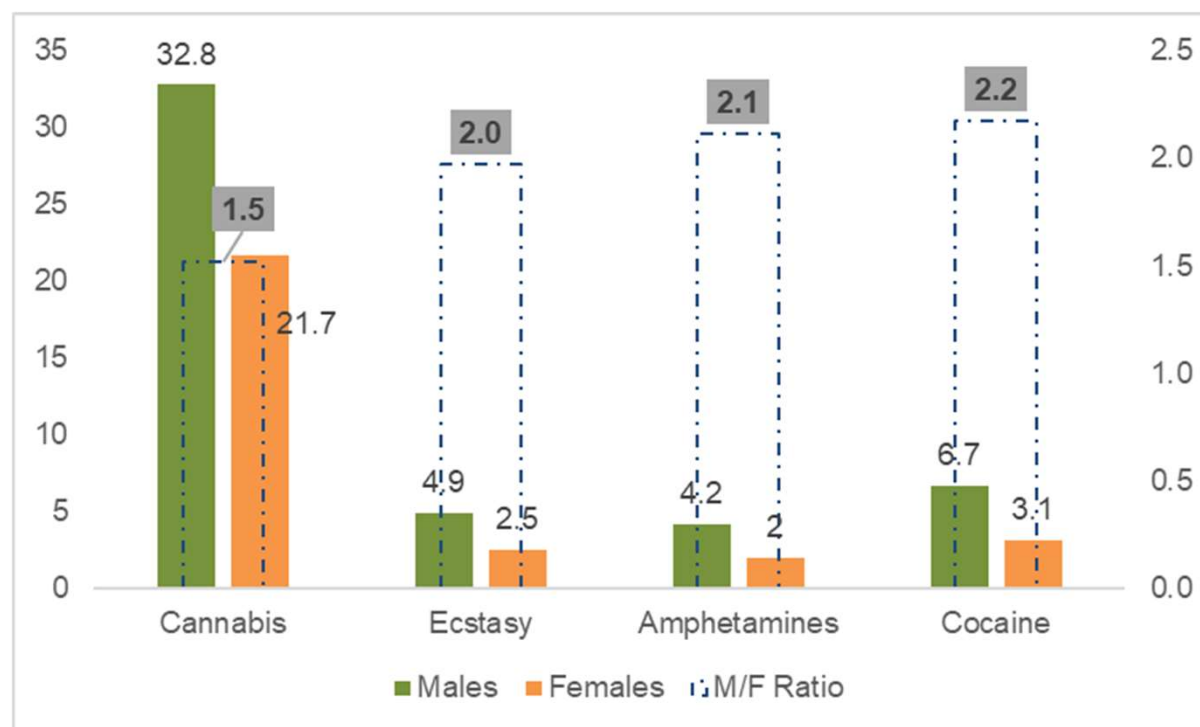
Prevalence of any illicit drugs among all adults (15-64) in the EU27 in 2020 (or most recent year available) and male to female ratio



Source: 2021 EMCDDA FONTE data



Life time prevalence of drug use, male to female ratio among all adults in EU27 by substance in 2020 (or most recent year available)

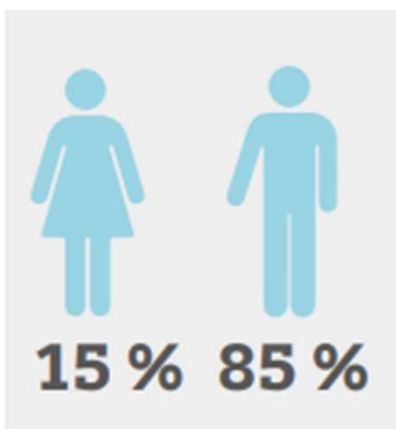


Source: 2021 EMCDDA FONTE data – EMCDDA 2021 Statistical Bulletin- (Alcohol: data 2019 or most recent available)

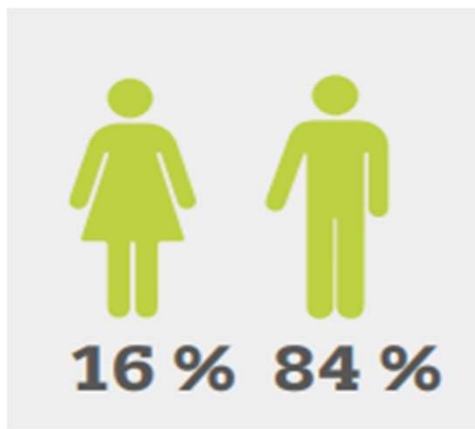


Male to female distribution of clients entering drug treatment in 2020 by primary drugs in EU 27, Norway and Turkey *(or most recent year available)*

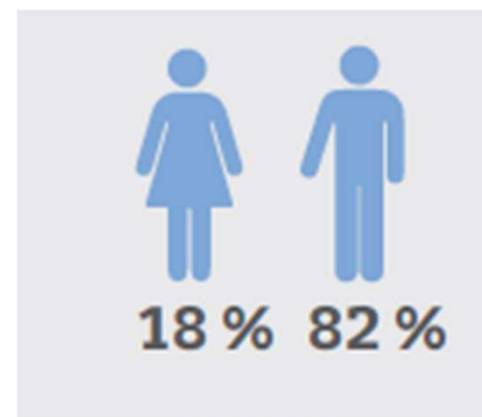
Cocaine



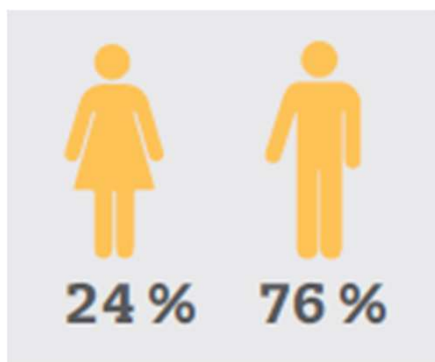
Cannabis



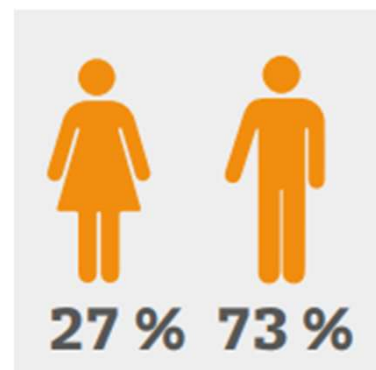
Heroin



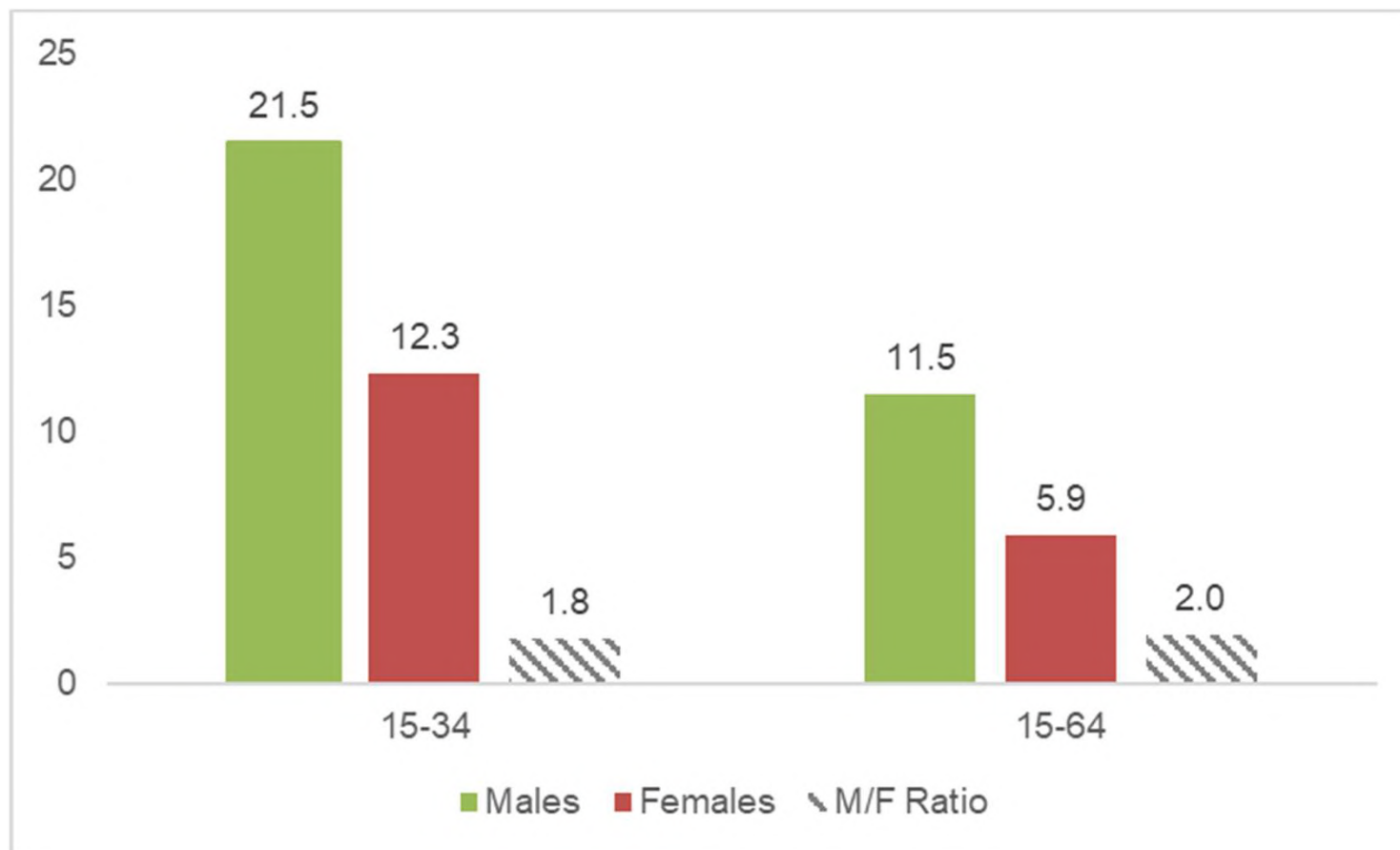
Amphetamines



Methamphetamines

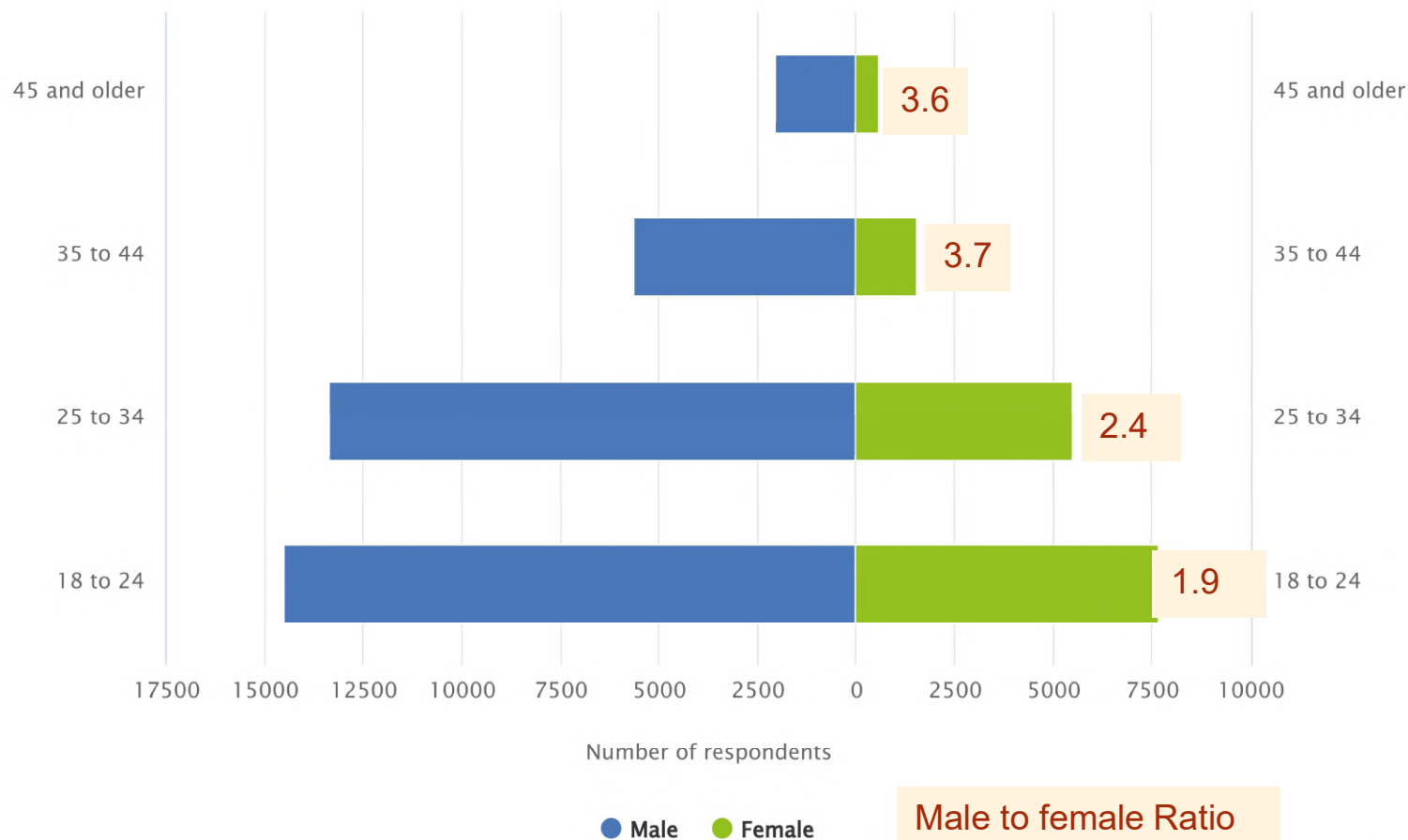


Last year prevalence of any illicit drugs - male to female ratio by age groups 15-34 and 15-64 in EU27 in 2020 (or most recent year available)



Source: 2021 EMCDDA FONTE data

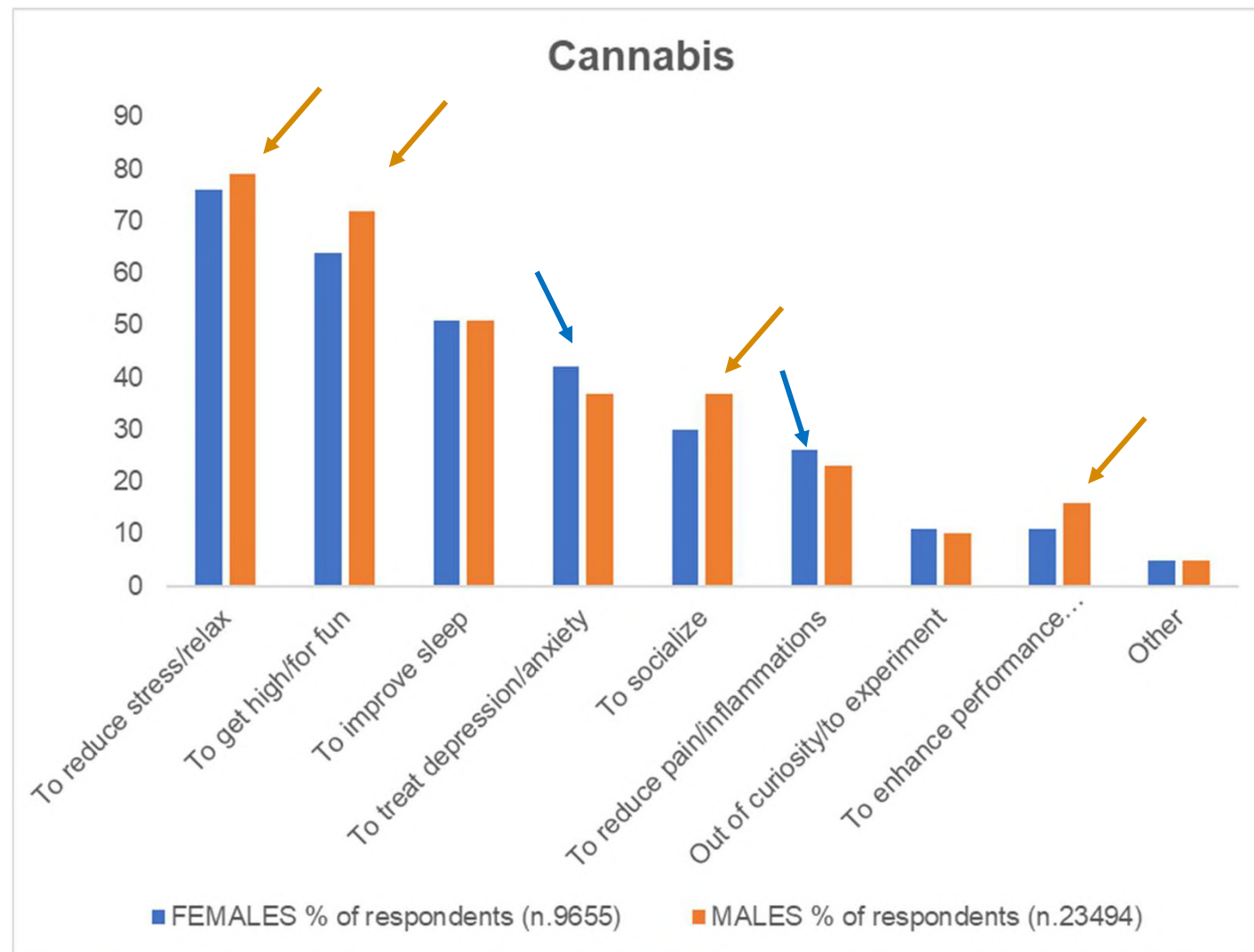
Demographic characteristics of respondents to the Web Survey on Drugs 2021 (n = 50 852)



Highcharts.com



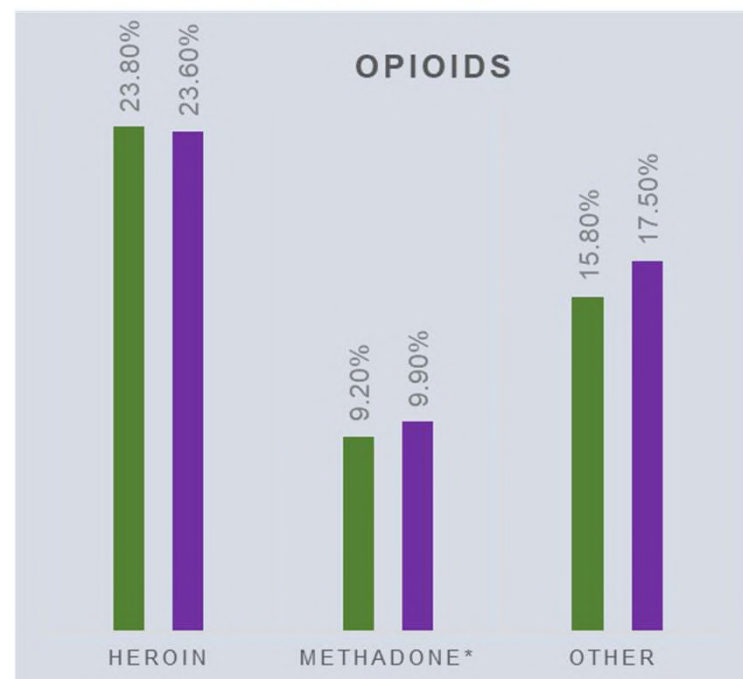
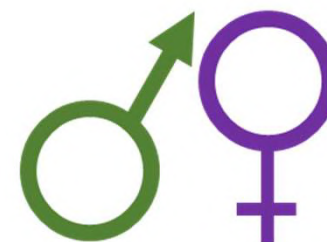
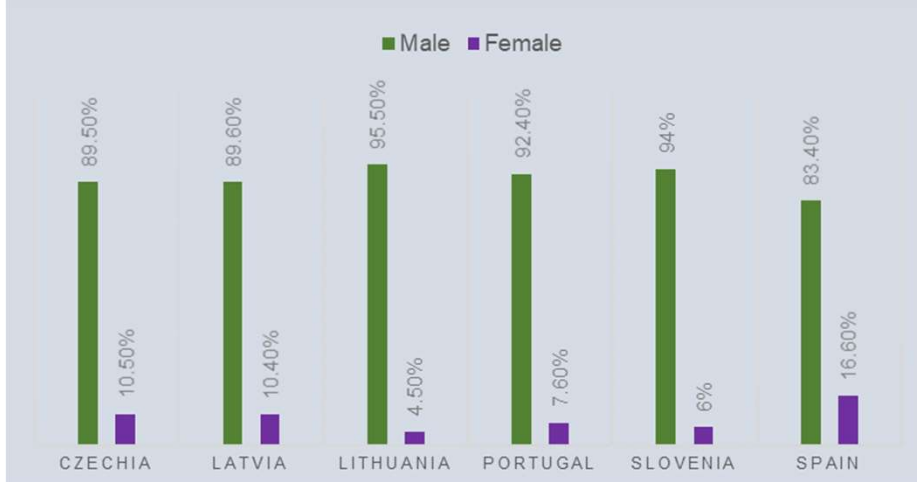
Motivation for using cannabis and MDMA/ecstasy in the last 12 months among males and females



Males and female distribution of lifetime drug use among people in prison before imprisonment in six European countries

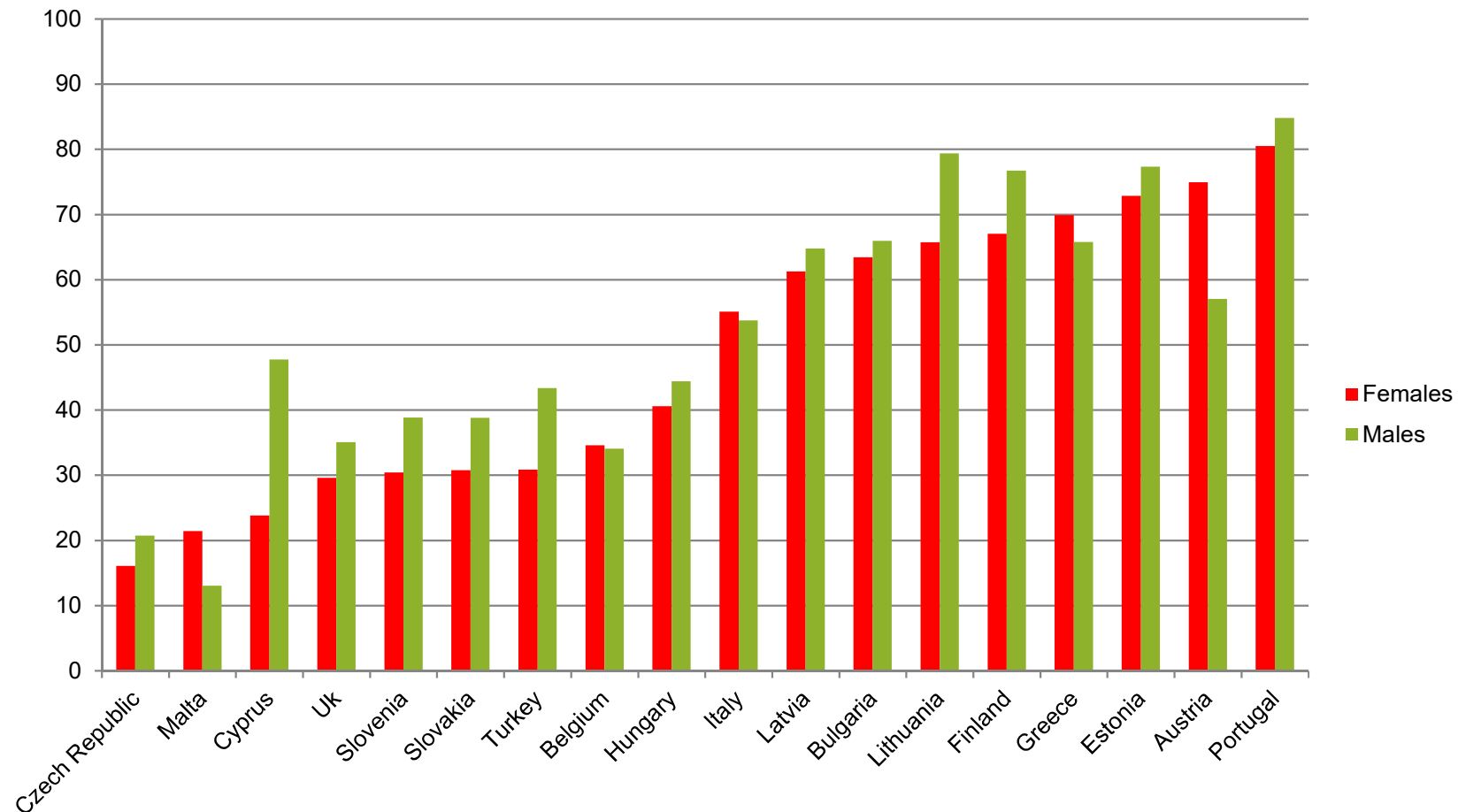
EQDP data M= 88% (N= 10.225)
F= 12% (N=1365)

Ratio M/F = 7.5:1



Source: contract HEA.0160.1.0 - Support the EMCDDA with the further development of work in the gender and drug use fields" - Contractors: Cristiana Vale Pires & Linda Lombi; EQDP data

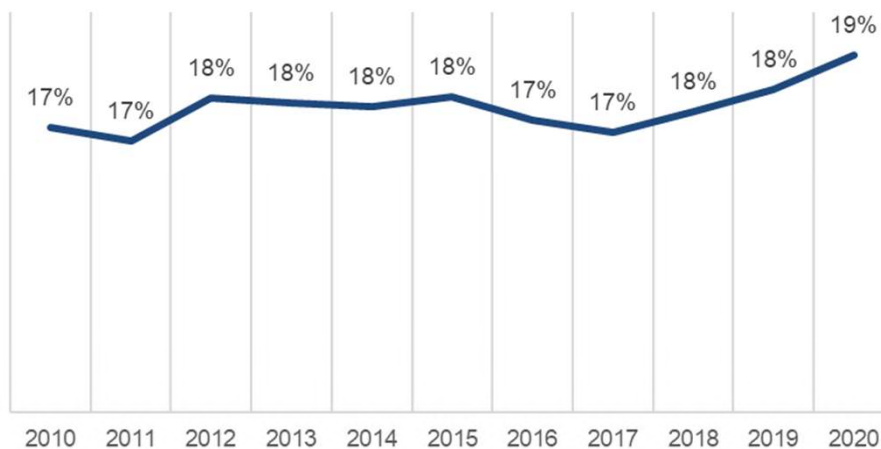
HCV prevalence (%) among PWID males and females in 2013/2014 studies in 18 countries



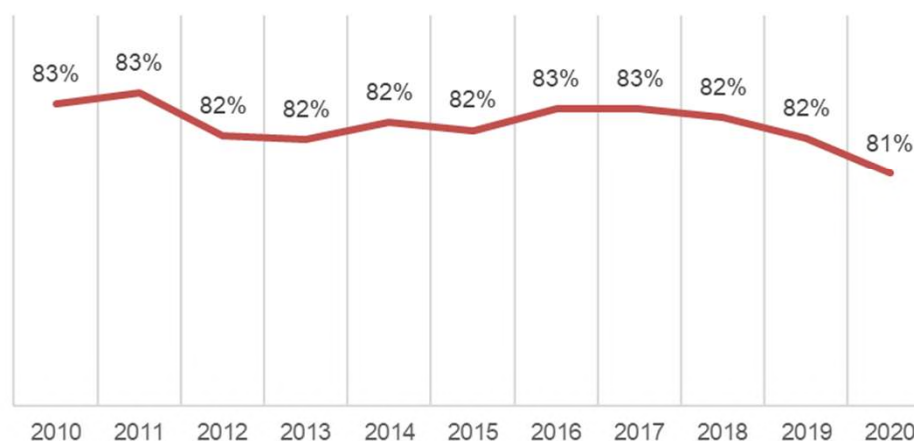
Source: 2015 EMCDDA data – FONTE reports

Trend in % of females and males out of all first time treatment entrants between 2010 and 2020

Trends in the percentage of **females** entering treatment for the first time

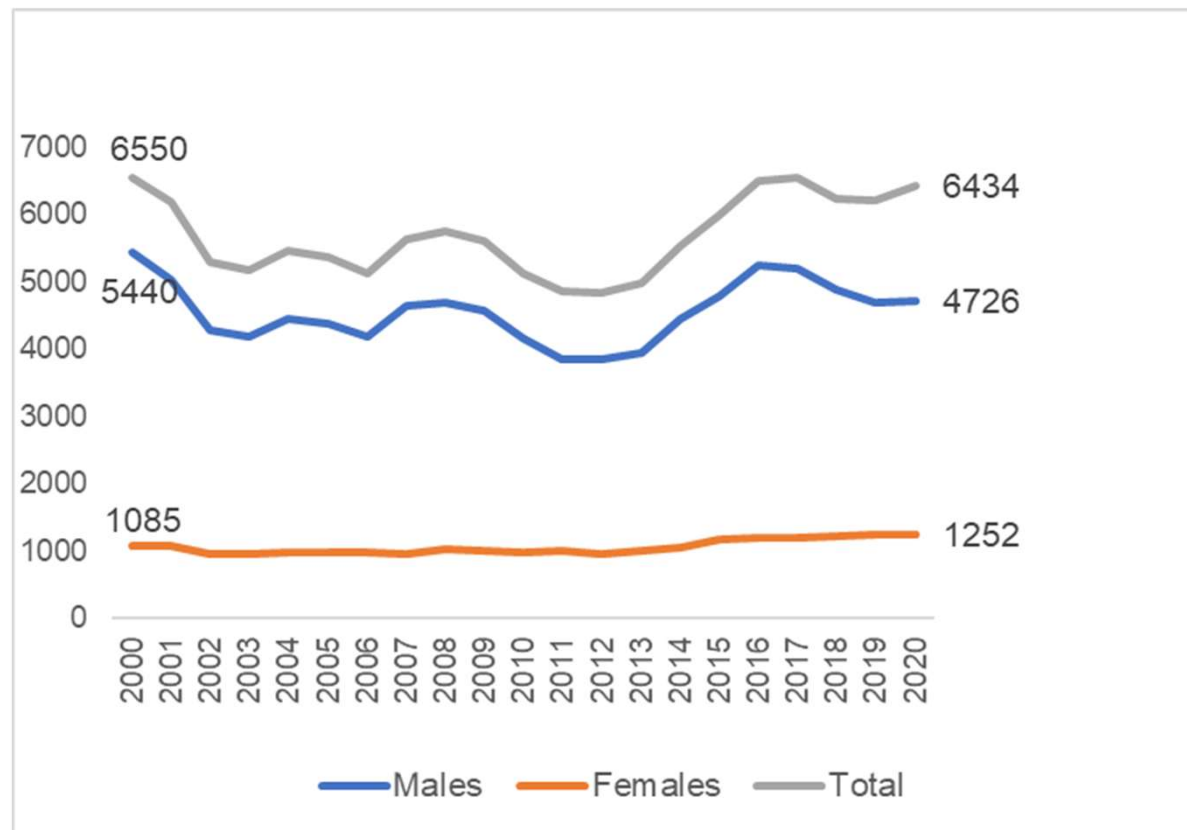


Trends in the percentage of **males** entering treatment for the first time



Source: 2021 EMCDDA data – FONTE reports- Based on data from 21 countries

Number of drug-induced deaths reported in the European Union and Norway between 2000 and 2020, or most recent year, by sex



Var % 2000-2020

TOTAL - 2 %

Males -13 %

Females +15 %



Source: 2021 EMCDDA data – FONTE reports- Based on data from 21 countries

Trend 1995 -2019 - Lifetime prevalence for recent alcohol use, heavy drinking episodes, and any illicit drugs among boys and girls young students 15-16 in 23 EU countries

Figure 21. Lifetime use of illicit drugs ^(a) by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage)

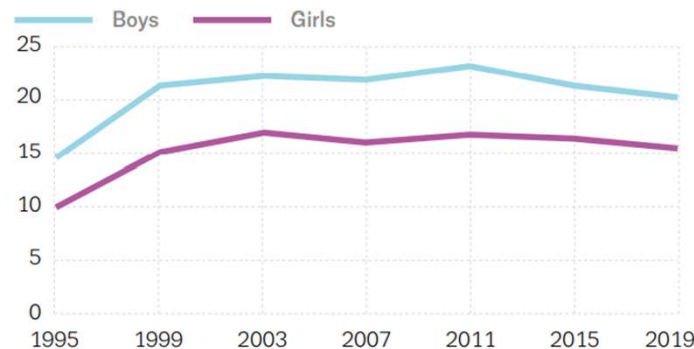


Figure 20. Heavy episodic drinking (five or more drinks on one occasion ^(a)) during the last 30 days by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage) ^(b)

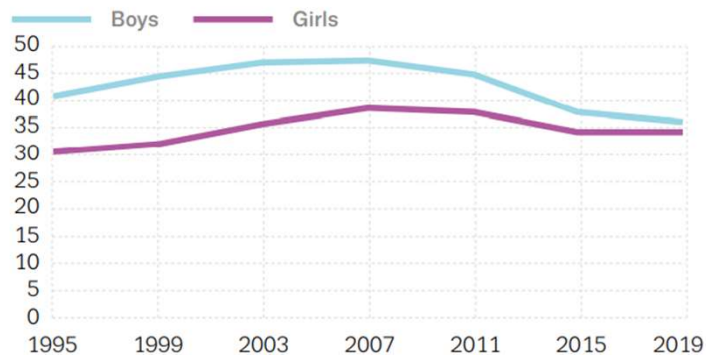
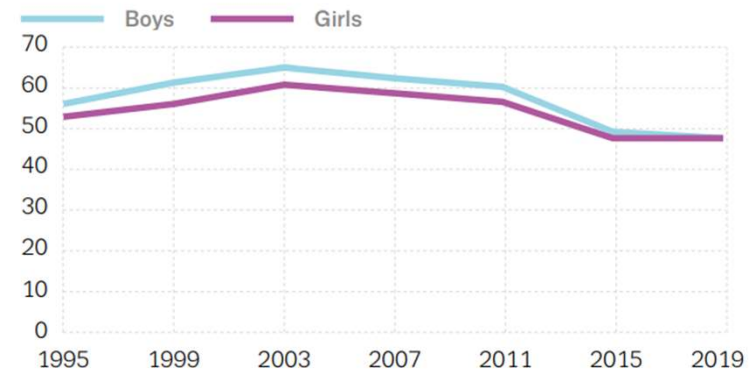


Figure 19. Alcohol use in the last 30 days by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage)



Source: ESPAD 2019 (Molinaro et al., 2019)

Summing up

- **Males outnumber females in drug use and drug related problems**
- **Male to female ratio is reported to increase with the progression in intensity of drug use**
- **Age, type of drug, country of residence play an important role in sex differences in drug use**
- **It is important to look at intersection of gender with other dimensions, including social vulnerability and specific risk factors**
 - **Gender as social structure explains large parts of sex differences in drug use patterns!**



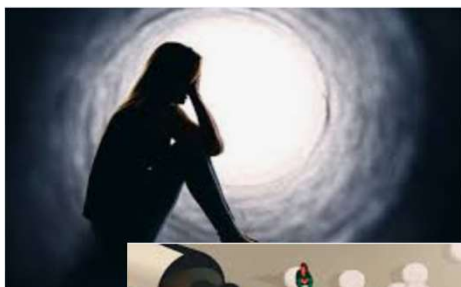
Summing up

- **Trend indicate a narrowing of the gender gap in drug use starting from licit substances**
- **What should we expect next?**
- **How can we be better prepared to?**
 - better understand sex and gender differences
 - identify intersecting dimensions
 - prevent negative consequences of drug use
 - facilitate access to treatment



Symposium on “Gender and drugs”

22 November 2022



Registrations open –No fee

Symposium on gender and drugs

Date: 22 November 2022, 9.00 to 17.00 Lisbon time

Location: LxAddictions conference site

The drug phenomenon has often been addressed as gender neutral, although sex and gender play an important role in: pathways to drug use, behaviours, correlates and harms of drug use and drug addiction. In addition, an intersectional approach has rarely been applied and research has often omitted how gender interacts with other factors, such as gender identity and sexuality.

This Symposium on gender and drugs aims to understand how gender and drugs interplay, by:

- increasing awareness on the need to incorporate a gender perspective in the drugs field as a way to better understand the drug phenomenon as whole;
- discussing gender and drugs from a multidisciplinary perspective;
- identifying ways to incorporate a gender perspective in the drugs field at international level.

The event is co-organised by the EMCDDA and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, with the support of SICAD and with the collaboration of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

[Registration](#) (deadline 30 September 2022, no registration fee).

For more information, contact: gender_drugs@emcdda.europa.eu



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<https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2022/side-events>