



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Heroin trends in European treatment demand data

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Heroin trends analysis: project's objectives

- To identify trends regarding:
 - heroin treatment demands in Europe: incidence and prevalence
 - characteristics of heroin clients by country and geographical area in Europe
 - injecting drug use among heroin clients in Europe
- To generate sound hypothesis for the changes



Methodology

- Data on first heroin treatment demand 2000-2009
- Number of admissions per country, mean age at treatment entry, mean age at first use, injection
- 12 countries since 2000; 21 countries since 2004; 29 in 2009 (all EU + HR+TK)
- For analysis EU countries divided in two regions: Eastern-Western
- Unit of observation: country; no individual data reported
- Focus on temporal trends and countries differences
- Analysis of % distribution+ trends estimation using “joinpoint” regression

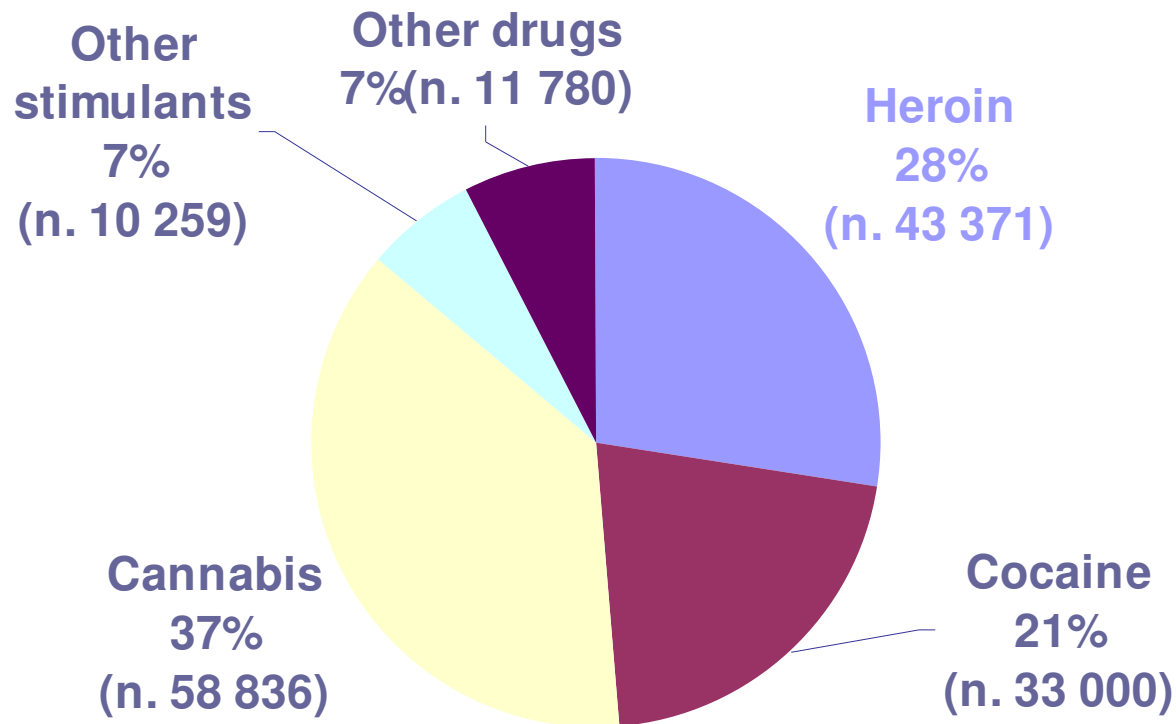


Main results

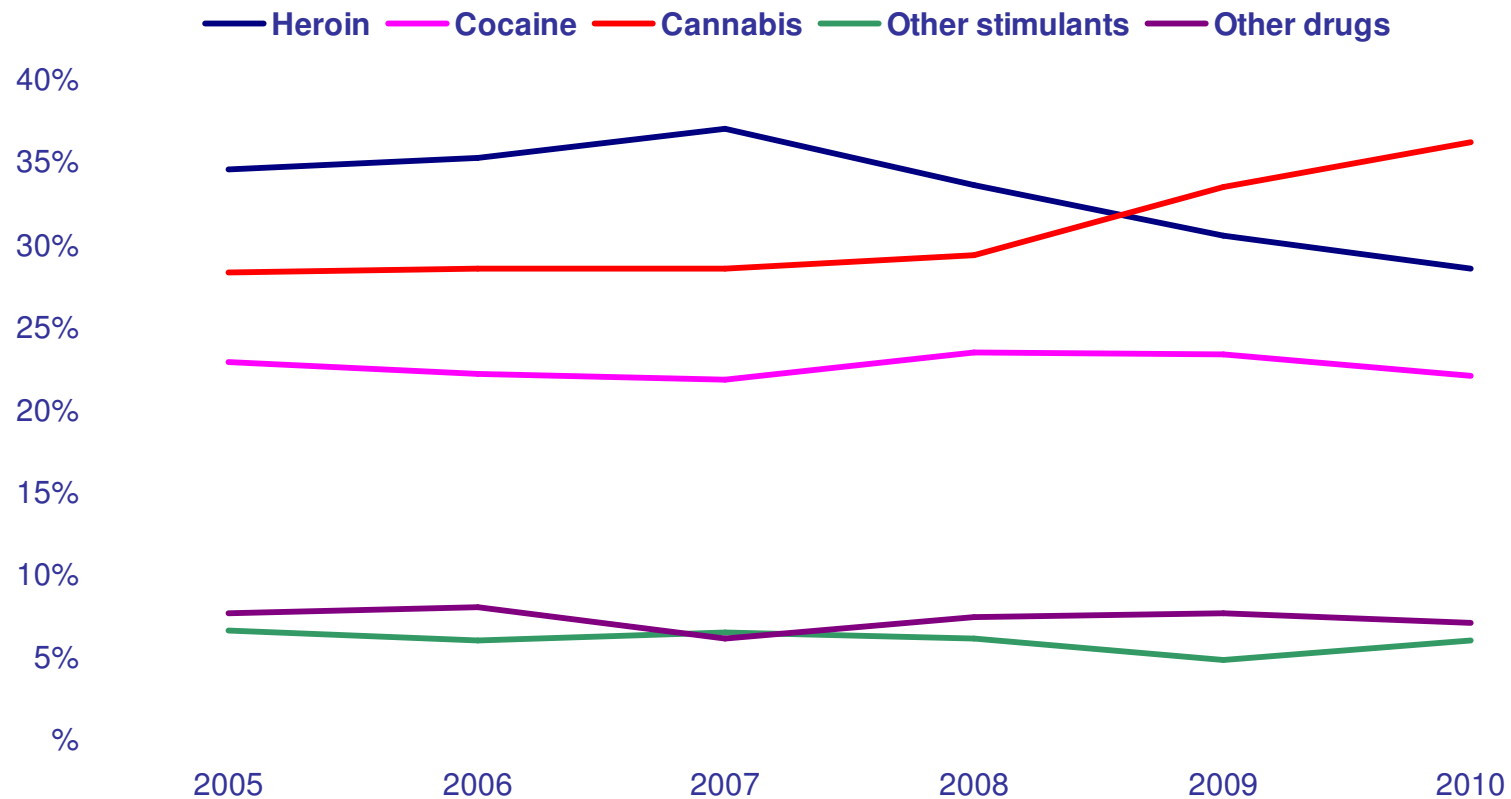
- Background information from last EMCDDA data
- Project results



New clients entering drug treatment by primary drug in 2010 (n.157 246)



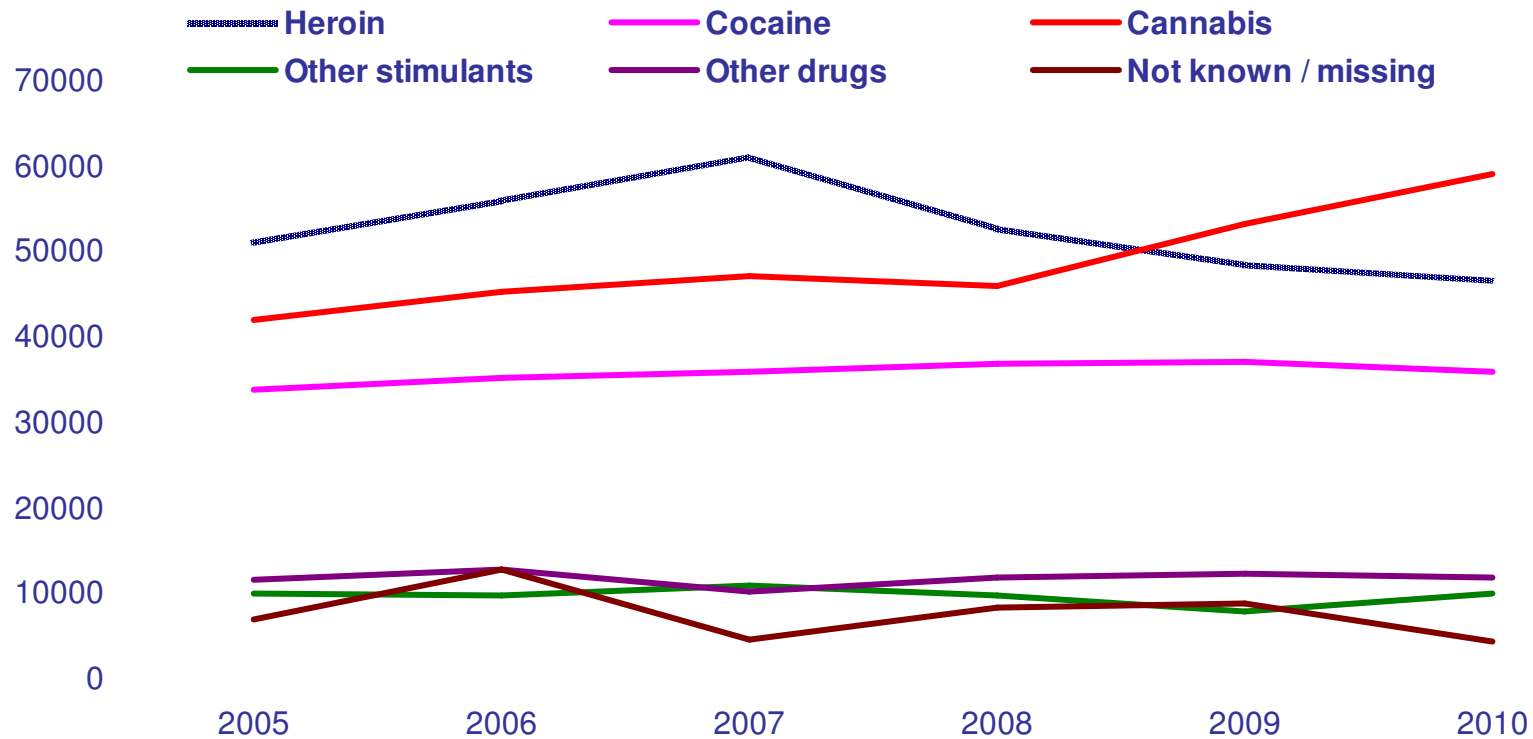
Trend of new clients entering drug treatment 2005-2010 – Percentages-



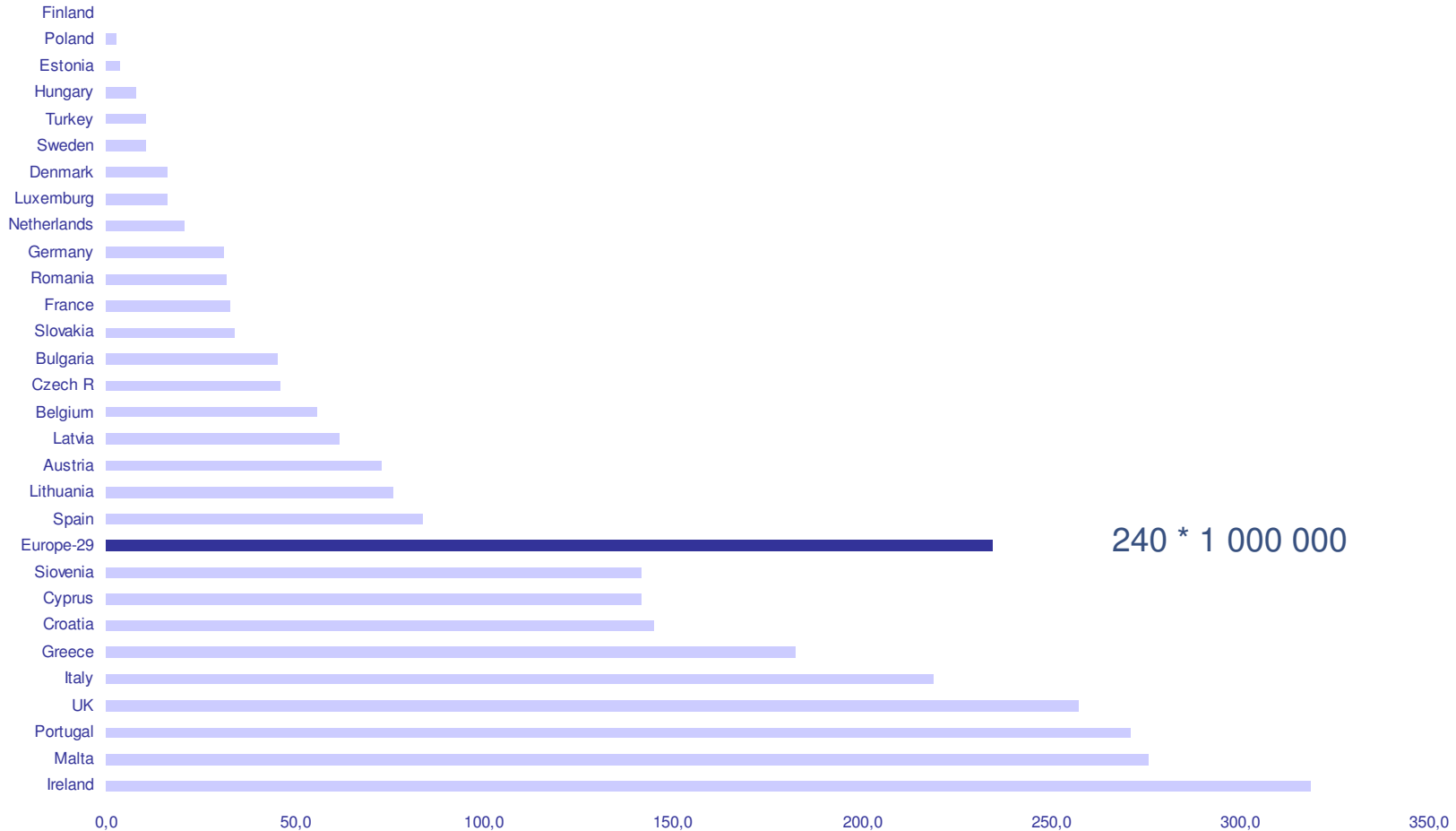
Source: 2012 Statistical Bulletin – Figure TDI-1
24 countries (not included: BE, EE, LU, PL, NO, HR)



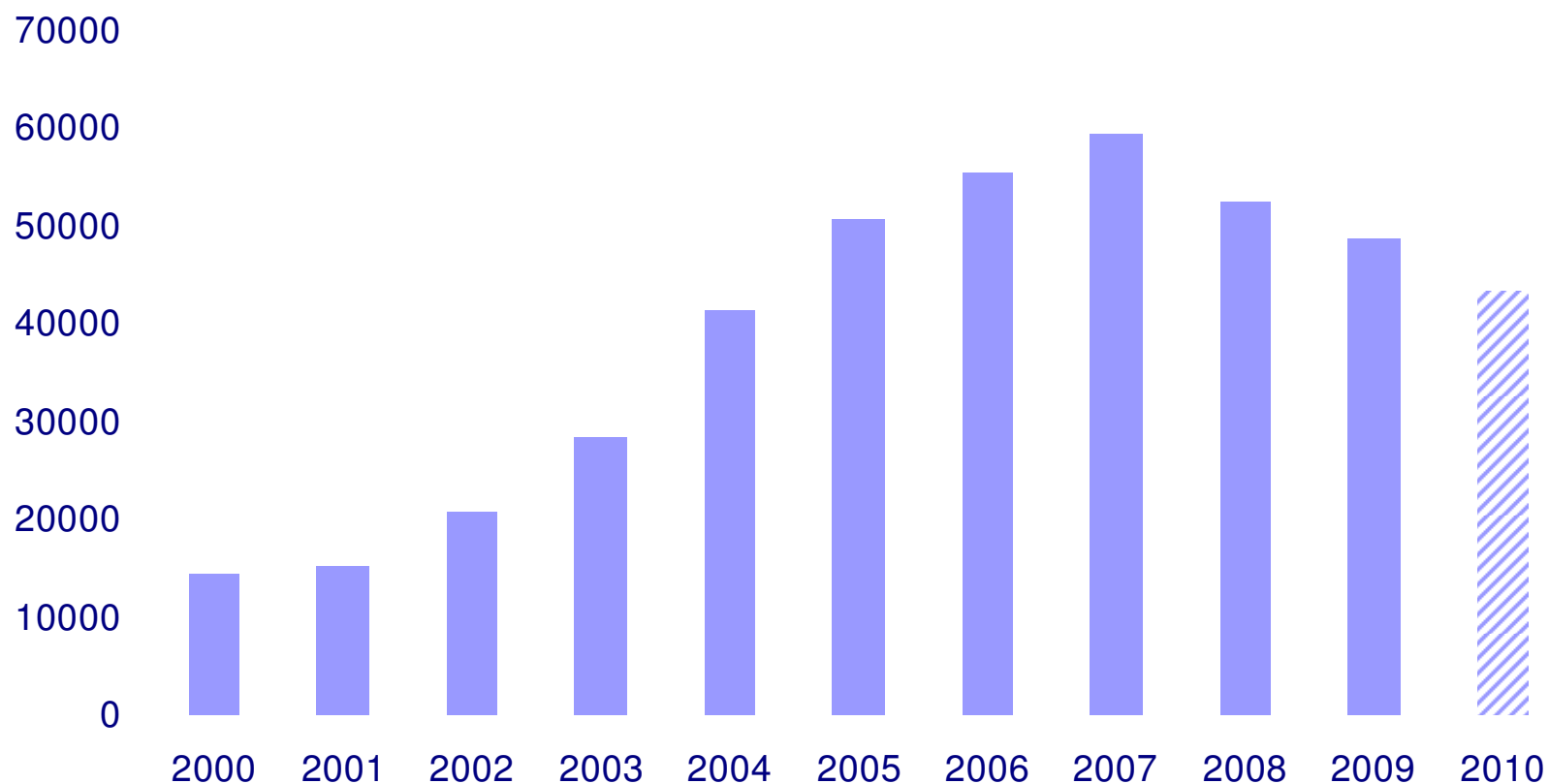
Trend of new clients entering drug treatment 2005-2010 – Abs. numbers-



New heroin clients by country * 1 000 000 population (2009)

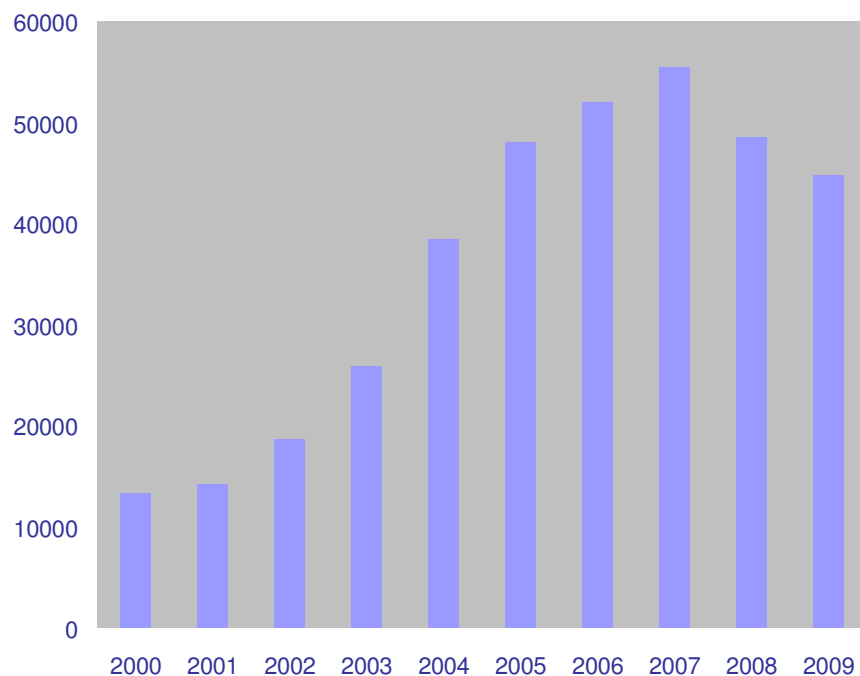


Trend in the number of new heroin clients 2000 - 2010



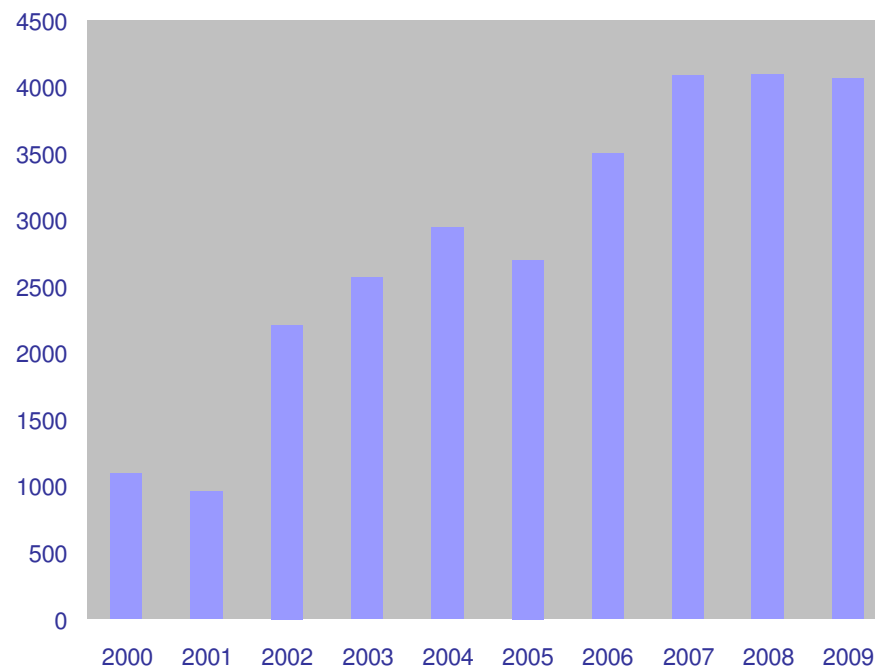
Trend of new heroin clients in “Western” and “Eastern” Europe 2000 and 2009

WE



16 countries:
BE, DK, GE, SP, IE, FI, FR, GR, IT,
LU, MT, NL, AT, PT, SE, UK

EE



13 countries:
EE, LV, LT, PL, SK, CZ,
HU, SI, BG, RO, CY, TK



Average Annual Percent Change

	AAPC of treatments per reporting centre
EU 29	-3.7
Western Europe	-2.6
Eastern Europe	-0.7

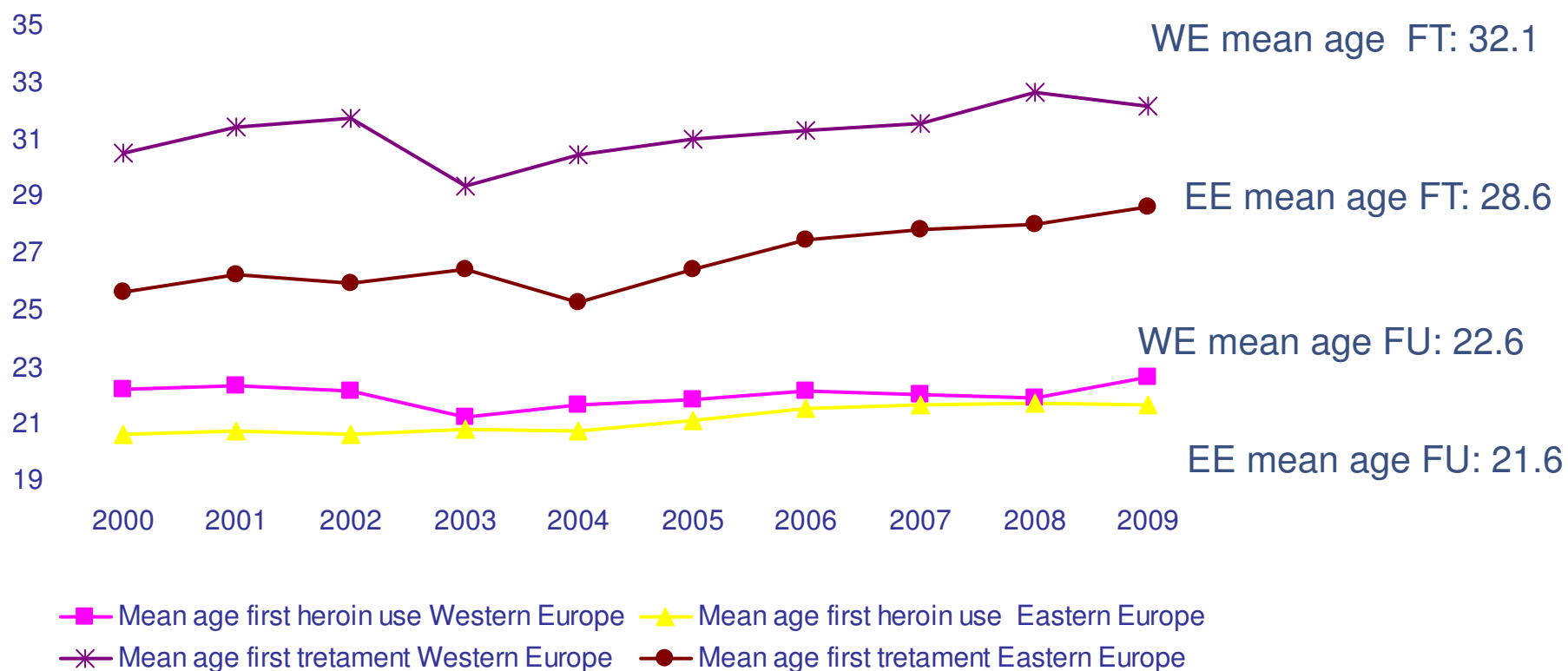


Average Annual Percent Change by country

	AAPC		AAPC
Belgium	-1.5	Hungary	0.0
Bulgaria	-14.1*	Malta	-24.4*
Czech Republic	-0.4	Netherlands	-13.2*
Denmark	-13.2*	Austria ^a	-8.1
Germany	-16.3*	Portugal	-5.2*
Ireland	-12.2*	Romania	-18.0*
Greece	-5.2*	Slovenia	-4.8*
Spain	1.5	Slovakia	11.9
France	3.2	Finland	-13.8
Italy	0.5	Sweden	-9.7
Cyprus	-3.5	United Kingdom	-2.5
Latvia	13.2	Croatia ^a	-27.9
Lithuania	-12.8*	Turkey	10.9
Luxembourg	-17.7		



Trends in mean age at first heroin use and mean age at first heroin treatment admission



Methodological limitations

- Caution: analysis only based on TDI data:
- Aggregated data and problems of data quality
- TDI data influenced by differences within and between countries by many factors such as:
 - Coverage, availability, policy and use of treatment services
 - Selection criteria of treatment admission episodes, definition of variables, or systems to avoid double counting
 - Variable data quality



Summary findings

- Absolute numbers of new heroin clients 2000-2009 remain quite stable
- Increase of new heroin clients until 2007 and then decrease until 2009
- Decrease in most countries - considered individually
- Overall decrease in the Western countries
- Less clear in Eastern countries
- Increase of age at first treatment
- Slight increase of age at first use
- Important differences between WE and EE, now narrowing



Data from other indicators

- Drug-induced deaths with opioid use evidence:
 - Declined in the European Union until 2003, new increase until 2008-09 and stabilisation
 - Most recently declining in some countries (GE, IT, SP, NL, AU, UK), not in others (EE, CZ, LT, HU, HR)
 - However, DRD as indicator of trends is limited because:
 - Opioid users increasingly old with higher risk of death from this cause
 - Increase of DRD due to opioids other than heroin and polydrug use
- Price-purity of heroin:
 - Data not consistent across countries
 - 2004-09 downward trend in the retail price of brown heroin reported
 - Indications of a heroin drought in the market in 2009



Possible reasons for TDI trends and link with problem drug use

- Reporting coverage did not decrease or increase
- High probability for most heroin users to start treatment
- Heroin use incidence could be declining some years before 2000-2009
- Changes in heroin use epidemic probably occurred more recently in EE than WE
- Time lag to treatment may give indications on estimates of problem heroin users and when they may turn up to treatment

