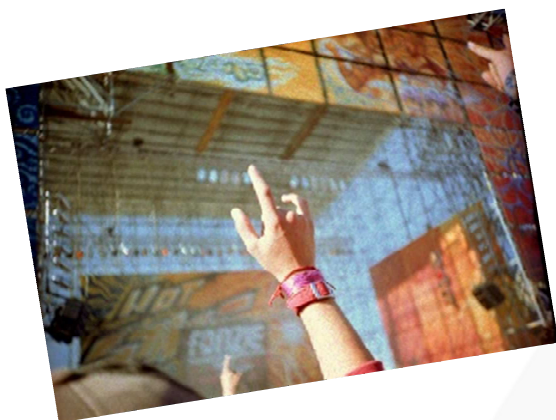


**Prevalence and patterns of drug use among the general population (GPS)
2018 Expert meeting on the indicator**
Monitoring drug use in recreational settings: challenges and opportunities

Drug use surveys in music festivals in Portugal

15-16 May 2018 - EMCDDA (Lisbon)

Elsa Lavado, Vasco Calado, Lúcia Dias



Since 2002, SICAD has been conducting **qualitative** and **quantitative** studies in recreational settings, including **music festivals**.



- **Boom** (2002)
- **Rock in Rio** (every two years since 2006)
- **NOS Alive** (2017)

Topics of study:

- Drugs and alcohol use prevalence
- Risk perceptions
- Social representations
- Knowledge of the law





QUALITATIVE STUDIES

**Qualitative studies
(ethnographic)**



**Boom 2002
Rock in Rio 2006**



Boom

Main conclusions:

- Rejection of heroin and, to a lesser extent, alcohol
- Fascination with consciousness-expanding substances
- Apology of natural substances, seen as harmless
- Curiosity for new drugs
- Relativization of health risks and harms
- Risk practices (mixtures / high doses)



Drug use is linked to the urge to escape the daily life routine.
The psychedelic experience is seen as a goal, as something that allows the «trip».
Drug use is part of a rampant hedonistic culture.

Qualitative studies
(ethnographic)



Boom 2002
Rock in Rio 2006



Rock in Rio

Main conclusions:

- Cannabis use in the open, not an hidden practice
- Cannabis use in conviviality with friends
- Drug use is higher in social leisure contexts
- Drug normalization

In some recreational settings (namely raves and trance parties), drug use (cannabis) is no longer an exception to the rule, but rather the rule itself.





MIXED STUDIES

Mixed Studies



Rock in Rio 2008/2010/2012/2014/2016/2018
NOS Alive 2017

NOS ALIVE

In the framework of NPS Euronet, in Portugal beside the collection for chemical analysis of wastewater treatment, a questionnaire was applied to the public of the music festival **NOS Alive Lisbon**, in July 2017.

SICAD collaborated in the design and implementation of the questionnaire and in the analysis of the results.

Main Goal: Characterize the public and their NPS use



Partnership between:

SICAD

Egas Moniz (Álvaro Lopes)

INMLCF (Mário João Dias)

SICAD: General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (Serviço de Intervenção nos Comp. Aditivos e nas Dependências)

Egas Moniz: Egas Moniz – Higher Education Cooperative, C.R. L.

INMLCF: National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, I.P.

ROCK IN RIO (RIR)

In the scope of the SICAD Program of Studies on Social Representations (that began in 2008), studies have been carried out focusing on the adolescent and young adult population present in each edition of the **Rock in Rio - Lisboa (RIR)**, a music festival, held every two years in the Portuguese capital.

Main Goal: identify patterns of illicit substance use, as well as social representations and attitudes towards illicit substances, by young people.

A questionnaire concerning **drugs** was applied in three editions of Rock in Rio - Lisbon (**2008, 2012 and 2016**).



NOS Alive 2017
Rock in Rio 2008/2012/2016



more female than male

young (15-24 years old)

mostly are students (university)

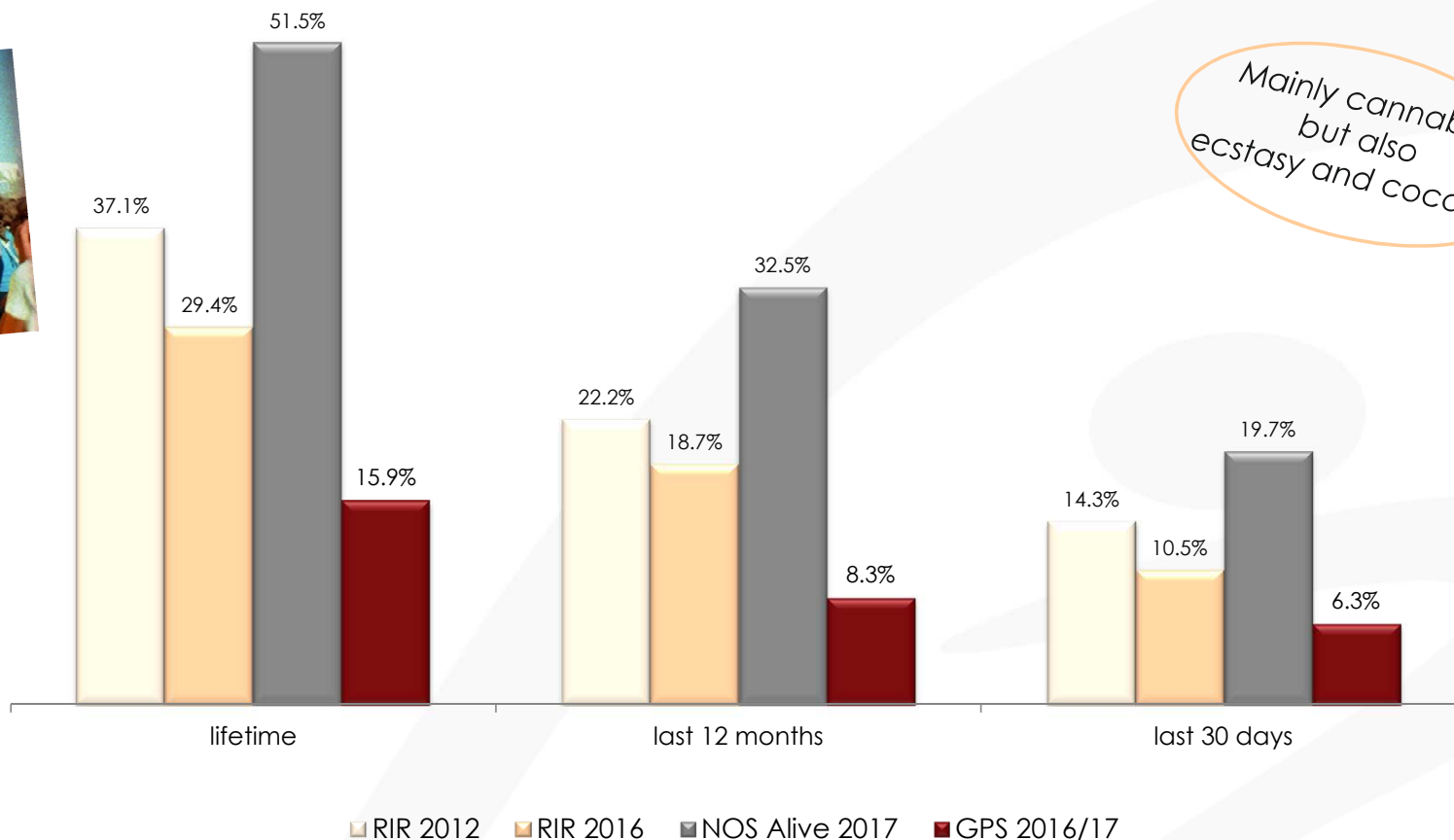
mainly with residence in the region of **Lisbon**

in NOS ALIVE almost all with Portuguese
nationality (foreign countries=11%)

in RIR all Portuguese

SAMPLE
Rock in Rio:
2008 N=994
2012 N=1139
2016 N=1031
NOS Alive:
2017 N=887

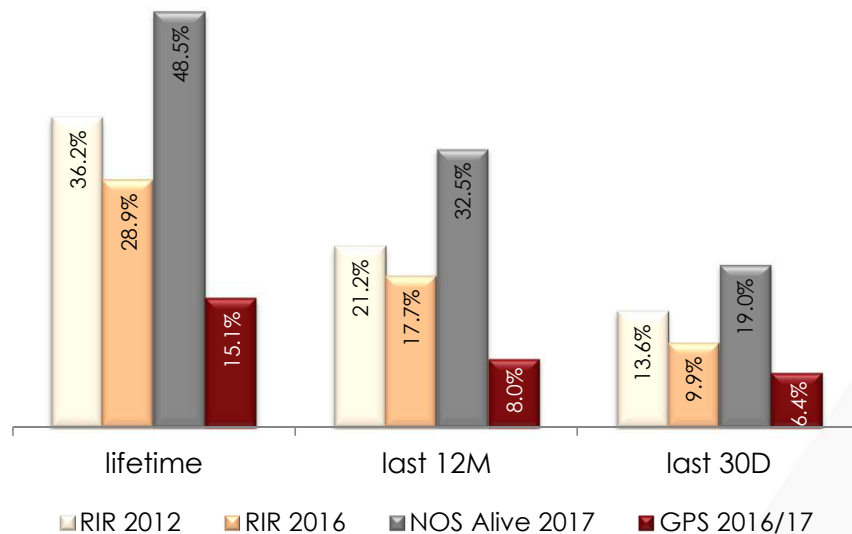
Illicit drug use prevalence (%) (15-34 years old)



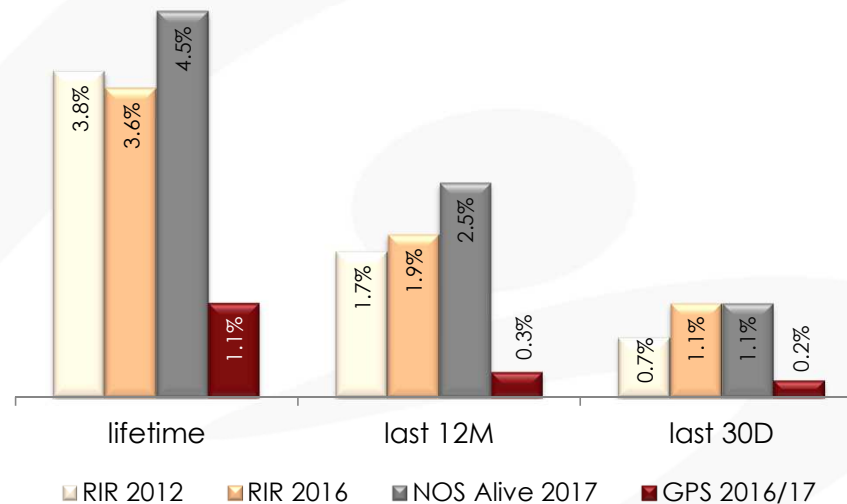
Mainly cannabis, but also ecstasy and cocaine

Balsa, et al., 2017. National Survey on Drug Use in General Population, Portugal 2016/17 (GPS 2016/17)

Cannabis use prevalence
(15-34 years old and Portuguese) (%)

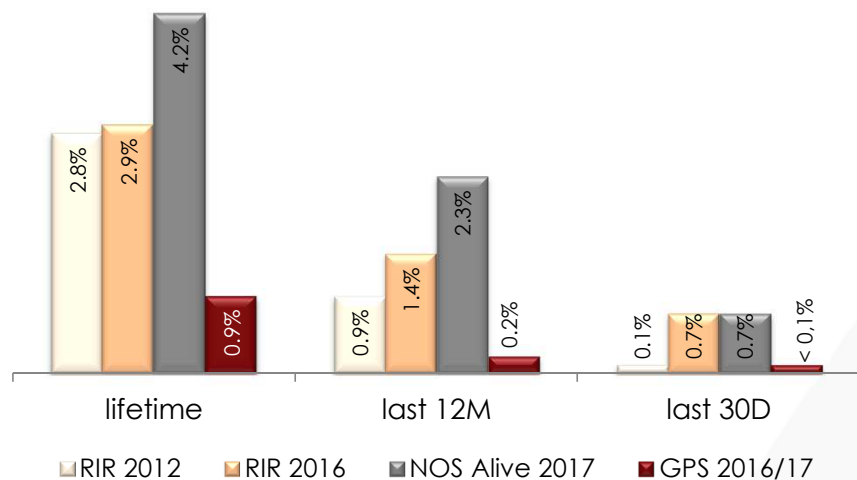


Cocaine use prevalence
(15-34 years old and Portuguese) (%)

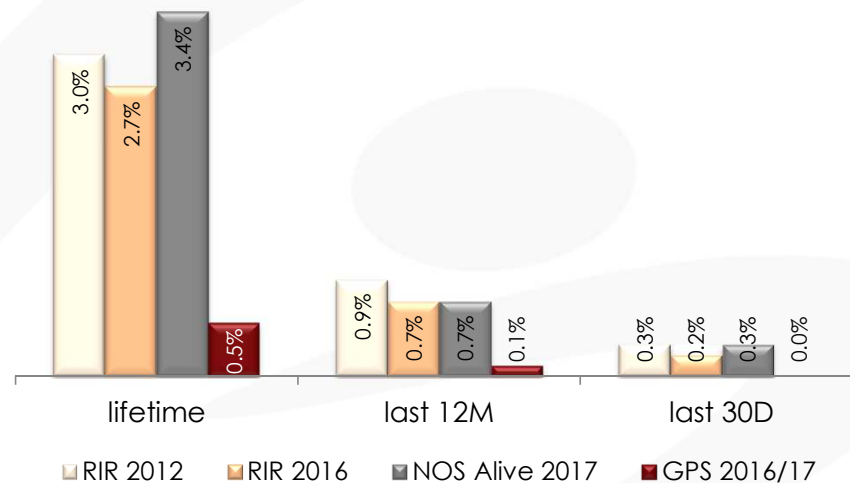


Balsa, et al., 2017. National Survey on Drug Use in General Population, Portugal 2016/17 (GPS 2016/17)

Ecstasy use prevalence
(15-34 years old and Portuguese) (%)

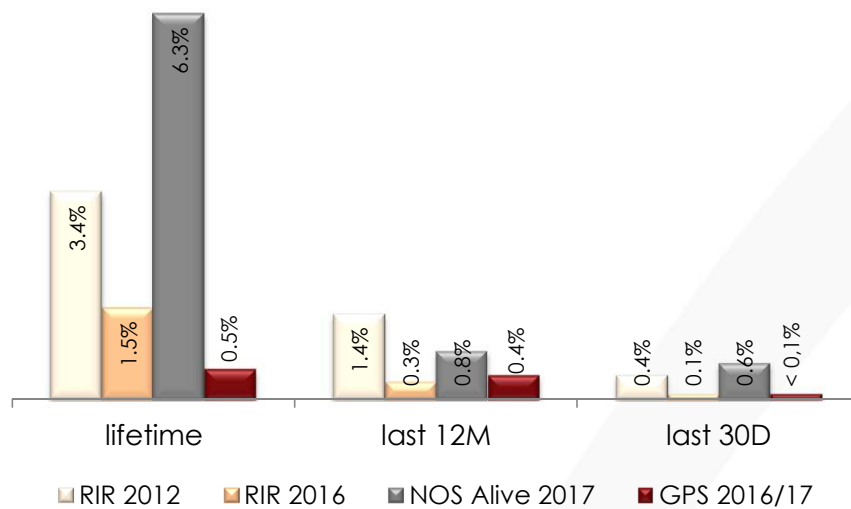


LSD use prevalence
(15-34 years old and Portuguese) (%)



Balsa, et al., 2017. National Survey on Drug Use in General Population, Portugal 2016/17 (GPS 2016/17)

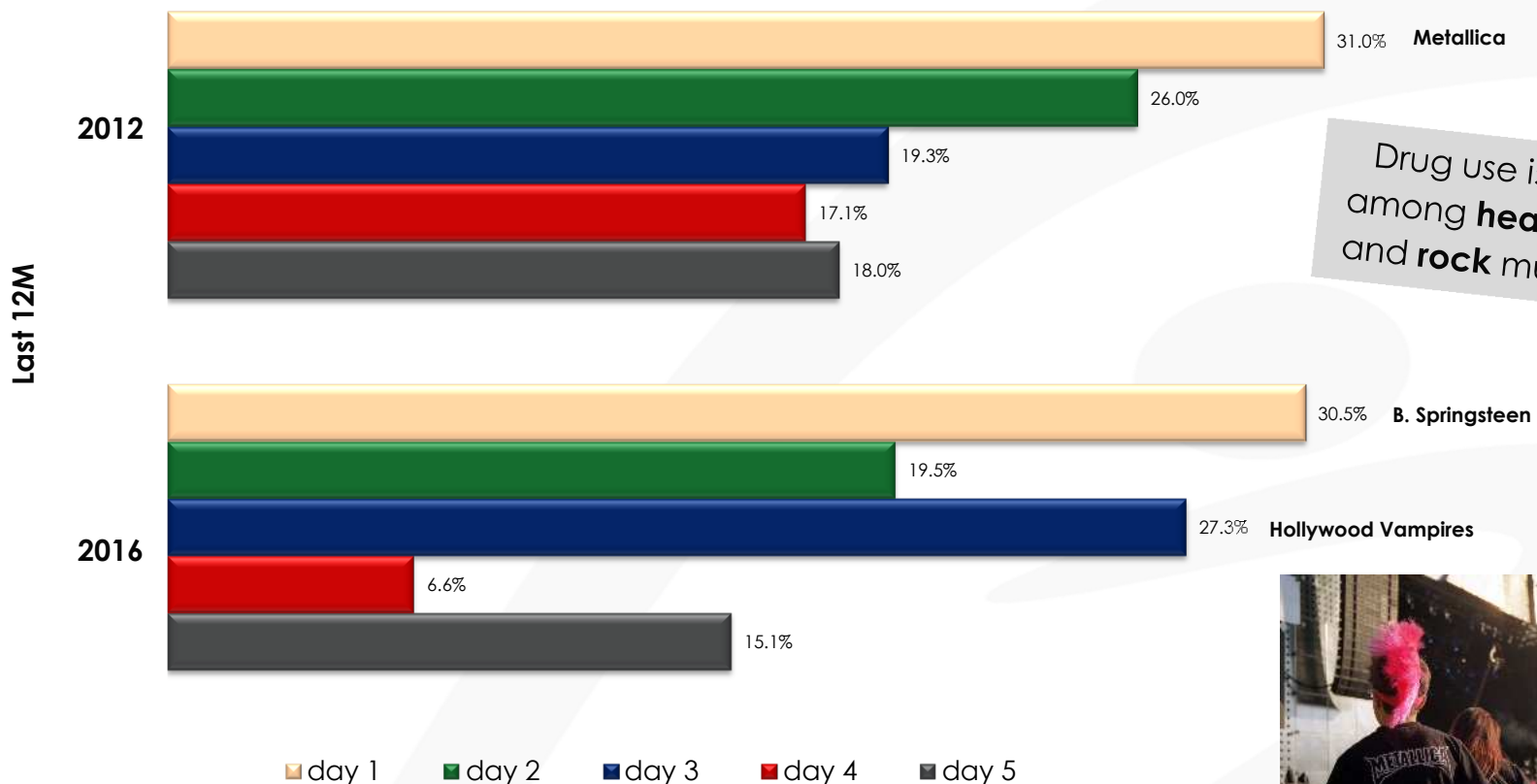
NPS use prevalence
(15-34 years old and Portuguese) (%)



Balsa, et al., 2017. National Survey on Drug Use in General Population, Portugal 2016/17 (GPS 2016/17)



Illicit drug use prevalence by festival date (%)



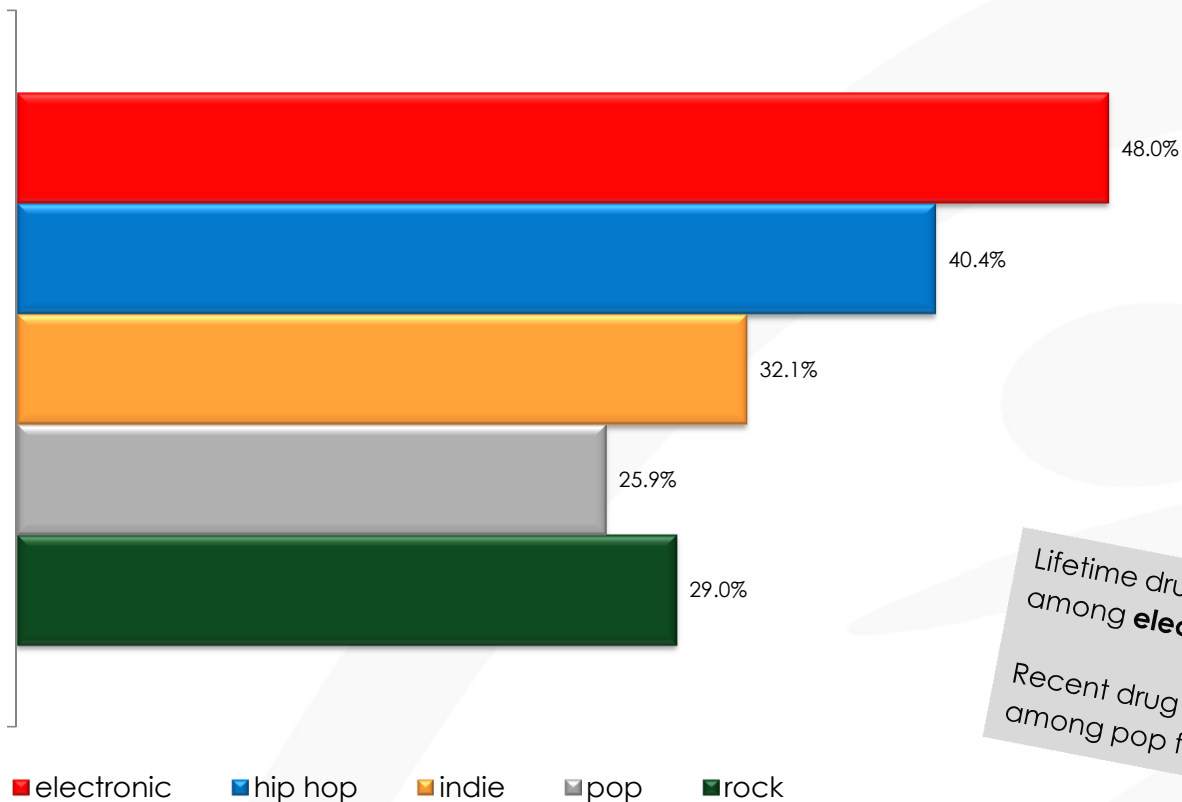
Drug use is higher among **heavy/punk** and **rock** music fans



Illicit drug use prevalence according to favourite musical genre (%)



2017
last 12 months

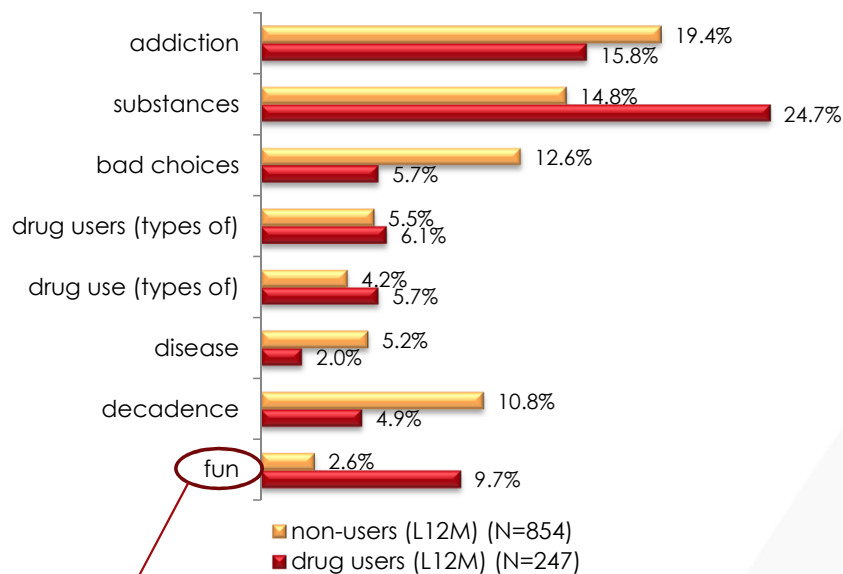


Lifetime drug use is higher among **electronic** music fans.
Recent drug use, is lower among pop fans.

“What comes to mind when you think about «Drug»?” (%)

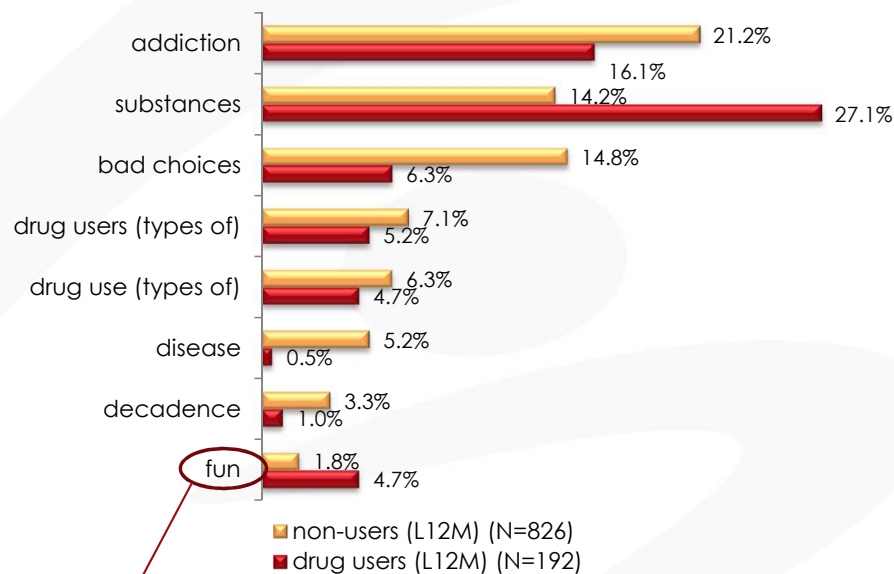


2012



party, adrenaline, relief, joy, night, festivals, social, summer, fun, ...

2016

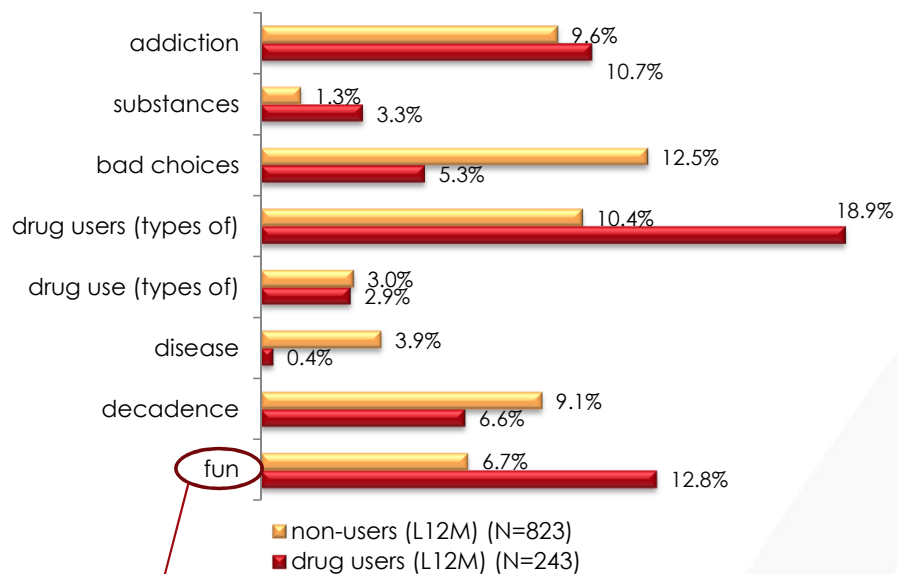


night life, conviviality, enjoyment, fun, euphoria, happiness, parties, ...

“What comes to mind when you think about «Drug Users»?” (%)

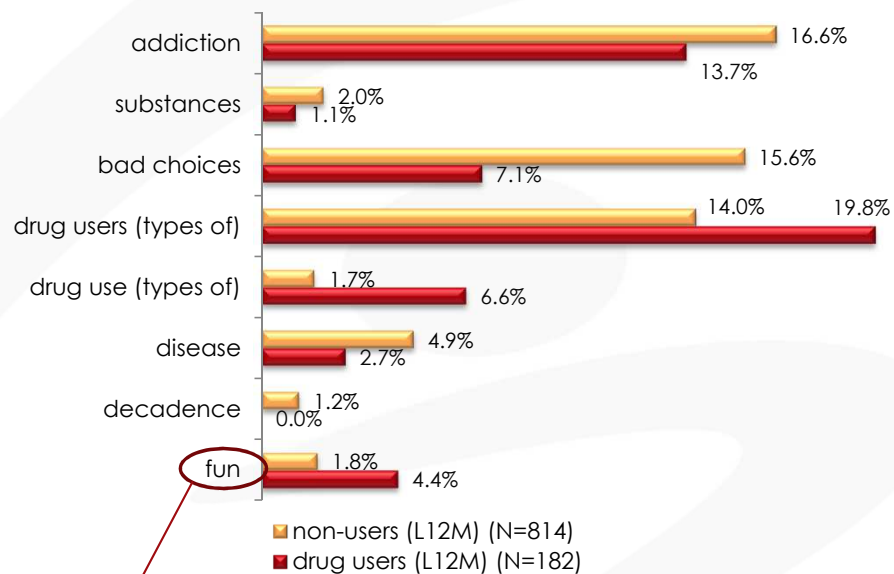


2012



party, friends, entertainment, fun, happiness, adrenaline, music, night,...

2016

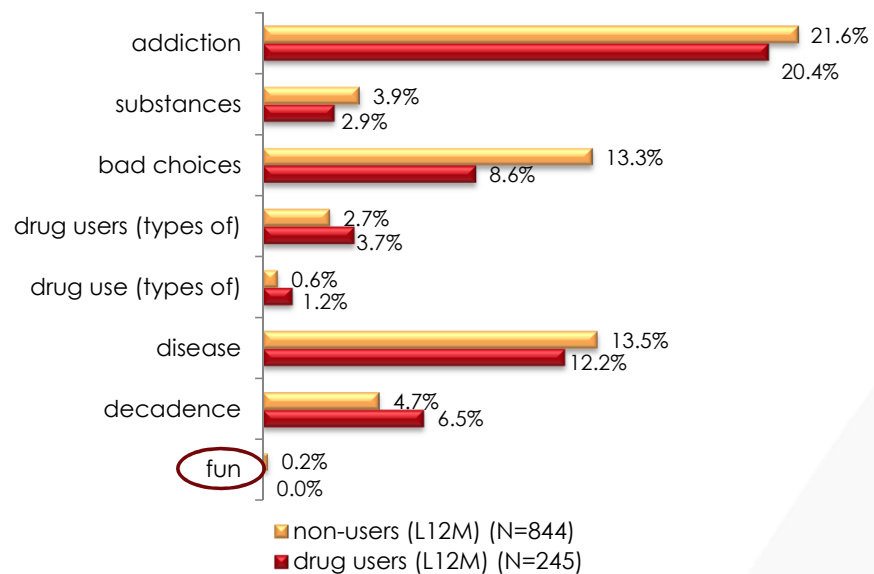


night life, rave, joy, well-being, festivals, recreational, rock music, socialize, ...

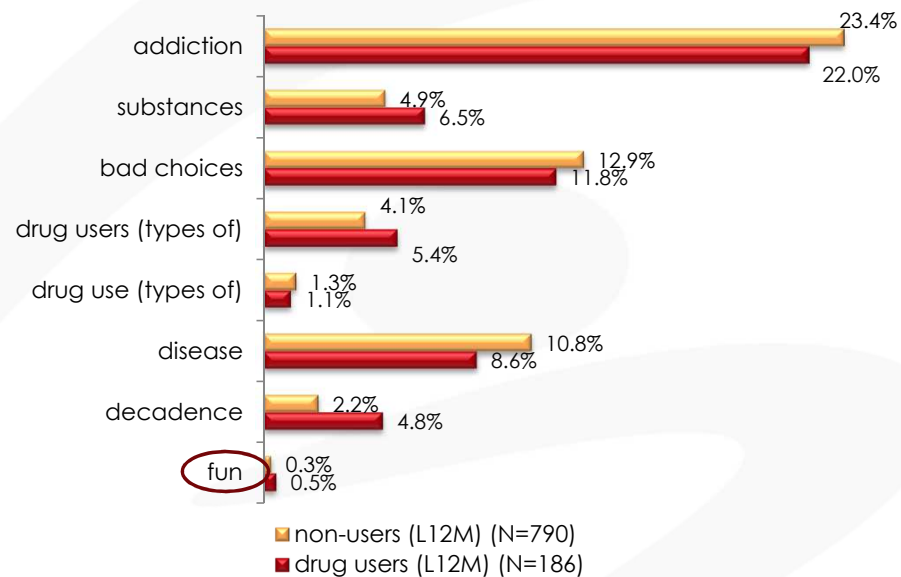
“What comes to mind when you think about «Drug Addicts?»” (%)



2012

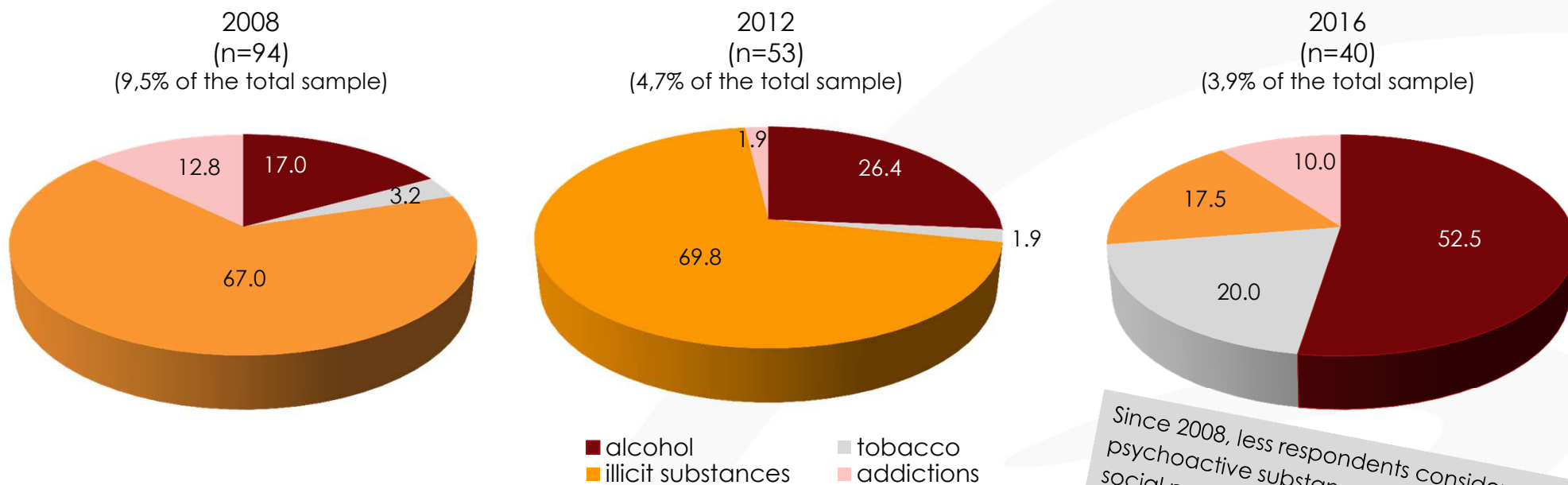


2016



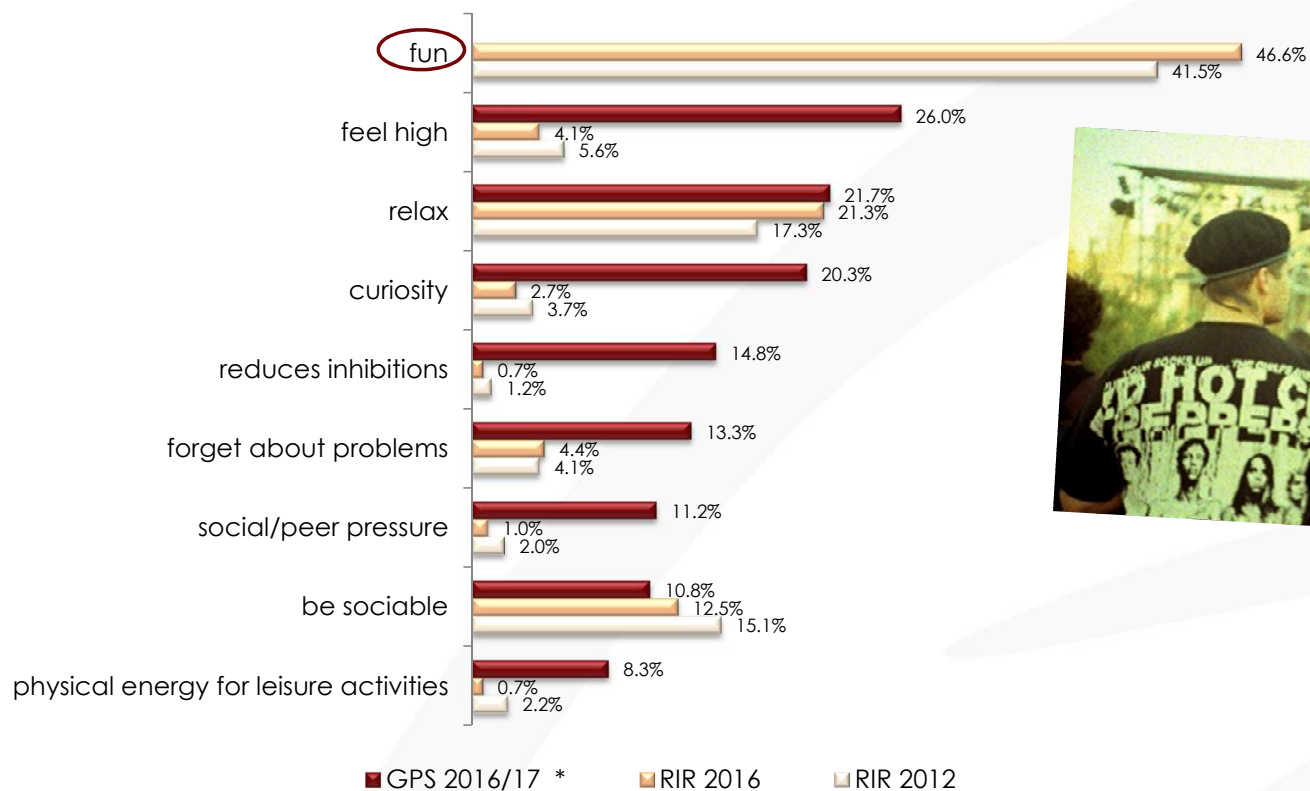
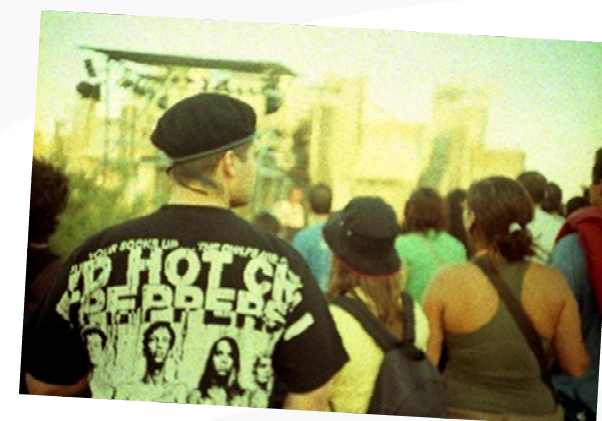


Category "**additive behavior**" in the open question
 "What comes to mind when you think about «Greater Problems of Portuguese Society» (%)



Since 2008, less respondents consider psychoactive substances use as a major social problem.
 Alcohol and Tobacco use is seen as more serious than drug use.

Cannabis use motivations according to lifetime users (15-34 years old) (%)



* Considered the category "very important"



Considering Rock in Rio...



Between 2008 and 2016, there were fewer respondents who considered illicit substances as a serious social problem, and by **2016, alcohol was considered a major problem.**



Illicit substances are **less associated with crime**, poverty and social exclusion.



According to the respondents, **problematic drug use is less visible than it used to be**, young people show less familiarity and contact with drug addicts. According to this study of Rock in Rio, the heroin user/abuser figure, who was a central figure of popular culture in the 80s and 90s, is absent in the discourse of the young people.



Respondents tended to associate the word "**drugs**" **more with cannabis** rather than with heroin, as was common in the past. They also associate the word "drug users" more with friends and young people than with drug addicts.



However, drug use is seen primarily as a life style, albeit something bad, an unhealthy lifestyle that can lead to health problems and addictions.



MAIN CONCLUSIONS...

Drug use is higher among partygoers and music festival participants.

Drug use is lower in the general population, even considering the same age group.

Drug use varies according to musical preferences and recreational settings.

Strong link between drug use and leisure among young people.



studies available at: www.sicad.pt

Thank you for your attention

