



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

The issues facing Europe

An overview

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Supply reduction and New Drugs unit

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European Drug Report 2015



<https://youtu.be/vzzyp3k6pSk>

Opiates (heroin)

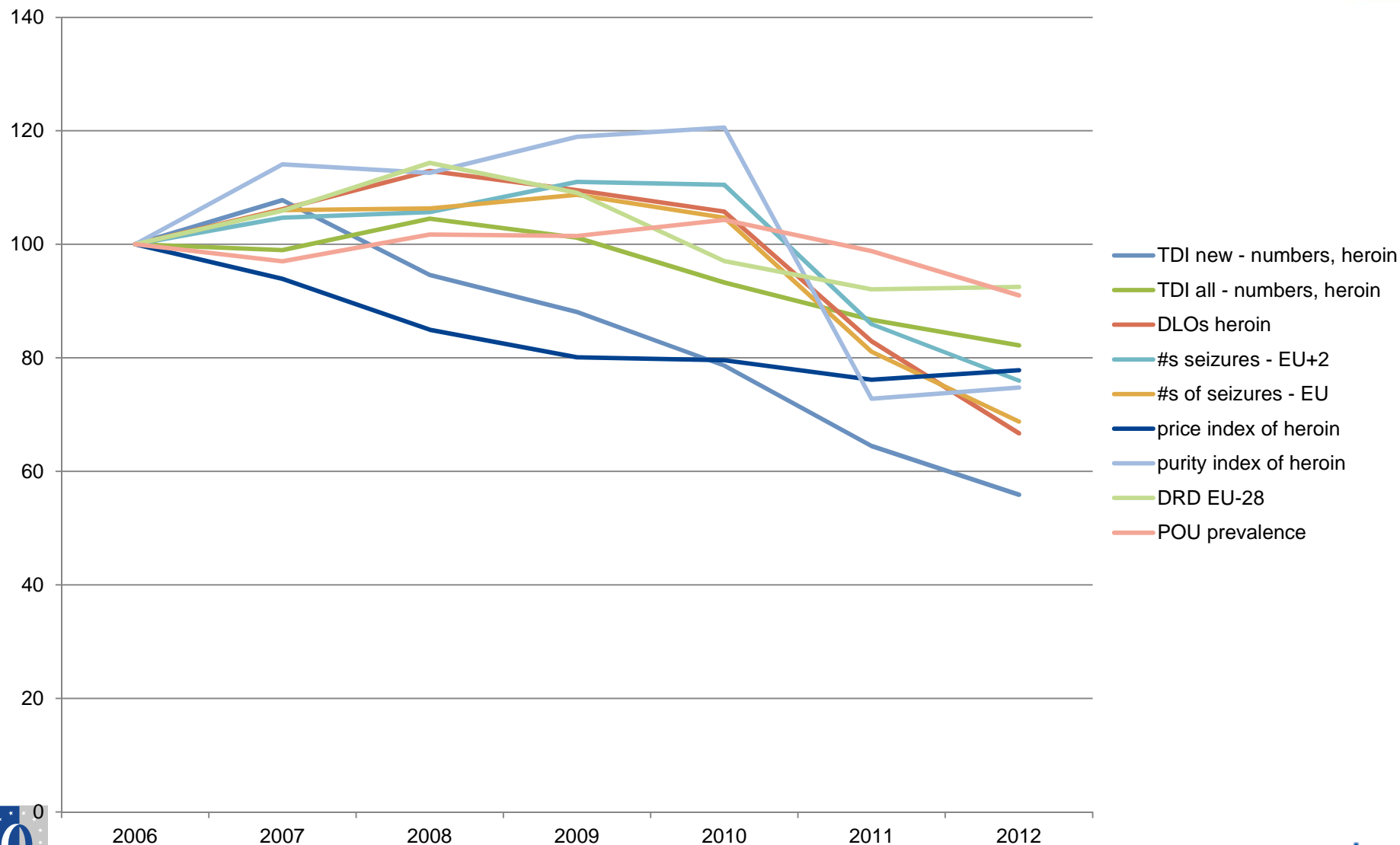


Europe's main drug issue (still)

1.3 million problem users

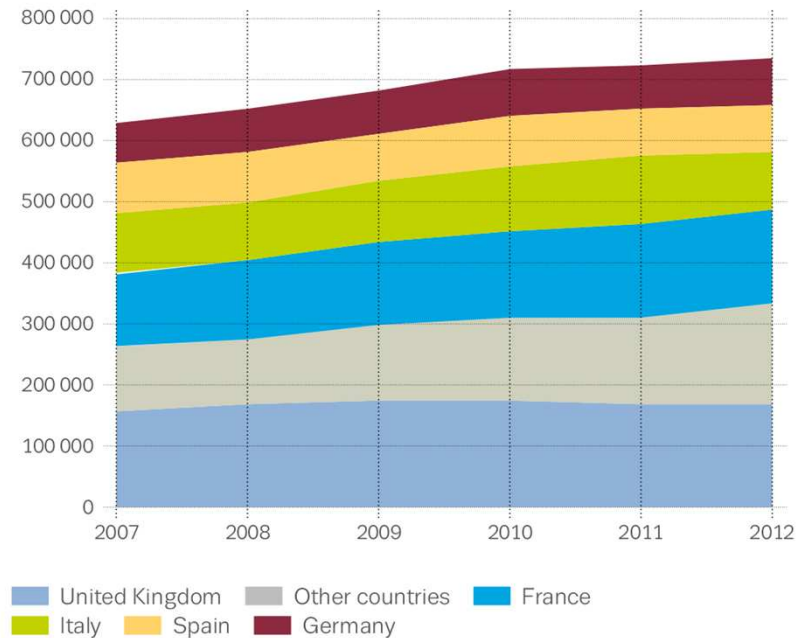
Less heroin in Europe?

Indexed EU trends in important standard data sets related to heroin



More than a million receive treatment in Europe

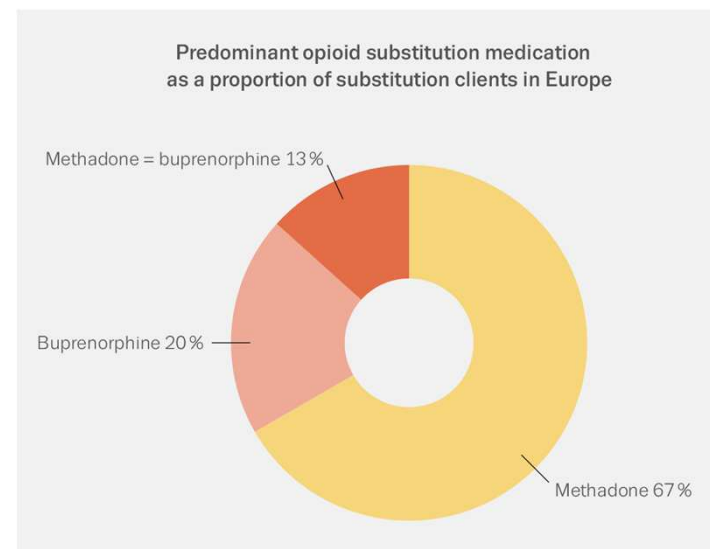
Trends in number of clients in opioid substitution treatment



734 000 receiving substitution treatment in Europe in 2012

50% coverage for POUUs

Methadone most common (67%)



Cannabis



73.6 million adults ever used cannabis

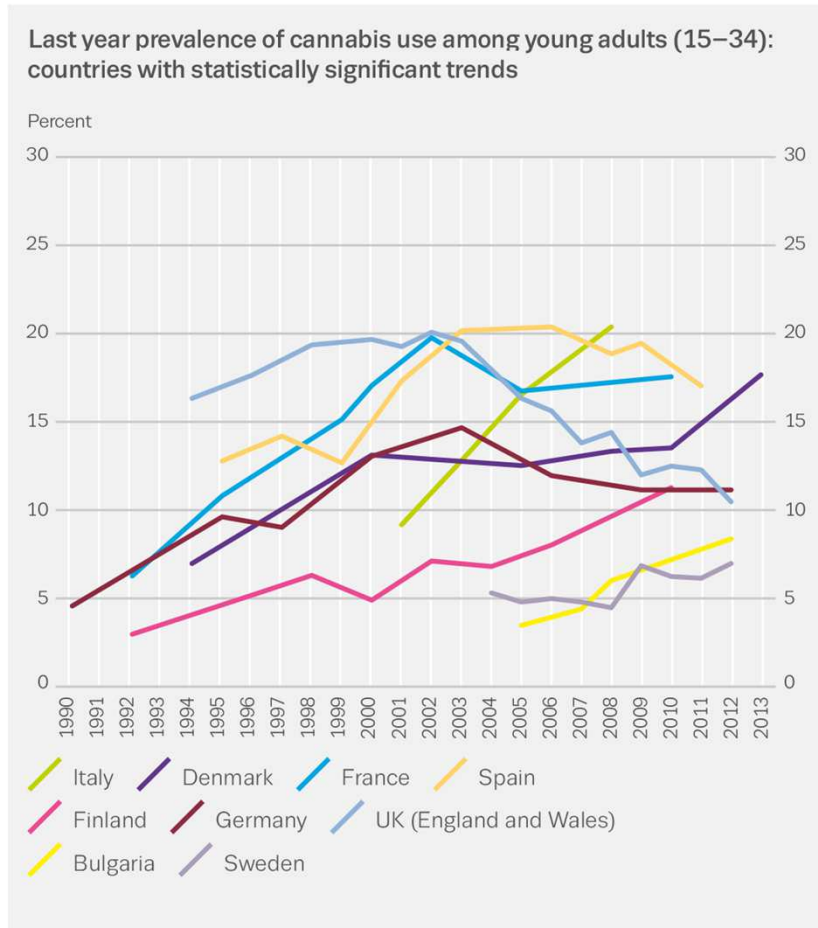
14.6 million young adults used last year

Cannabis: divergent national trends

9 countries — statistically significant trend

Regional patterns observable

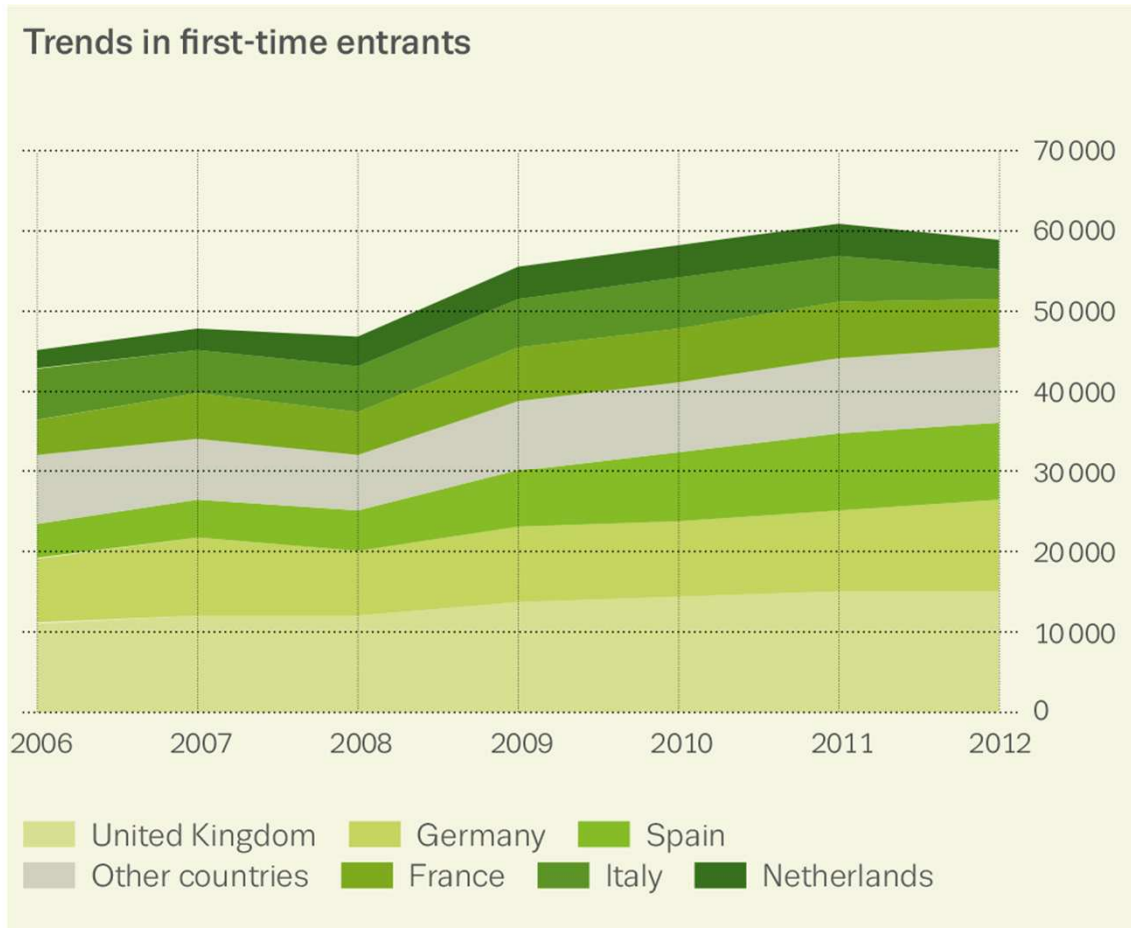
Latest surveys — divergence continues



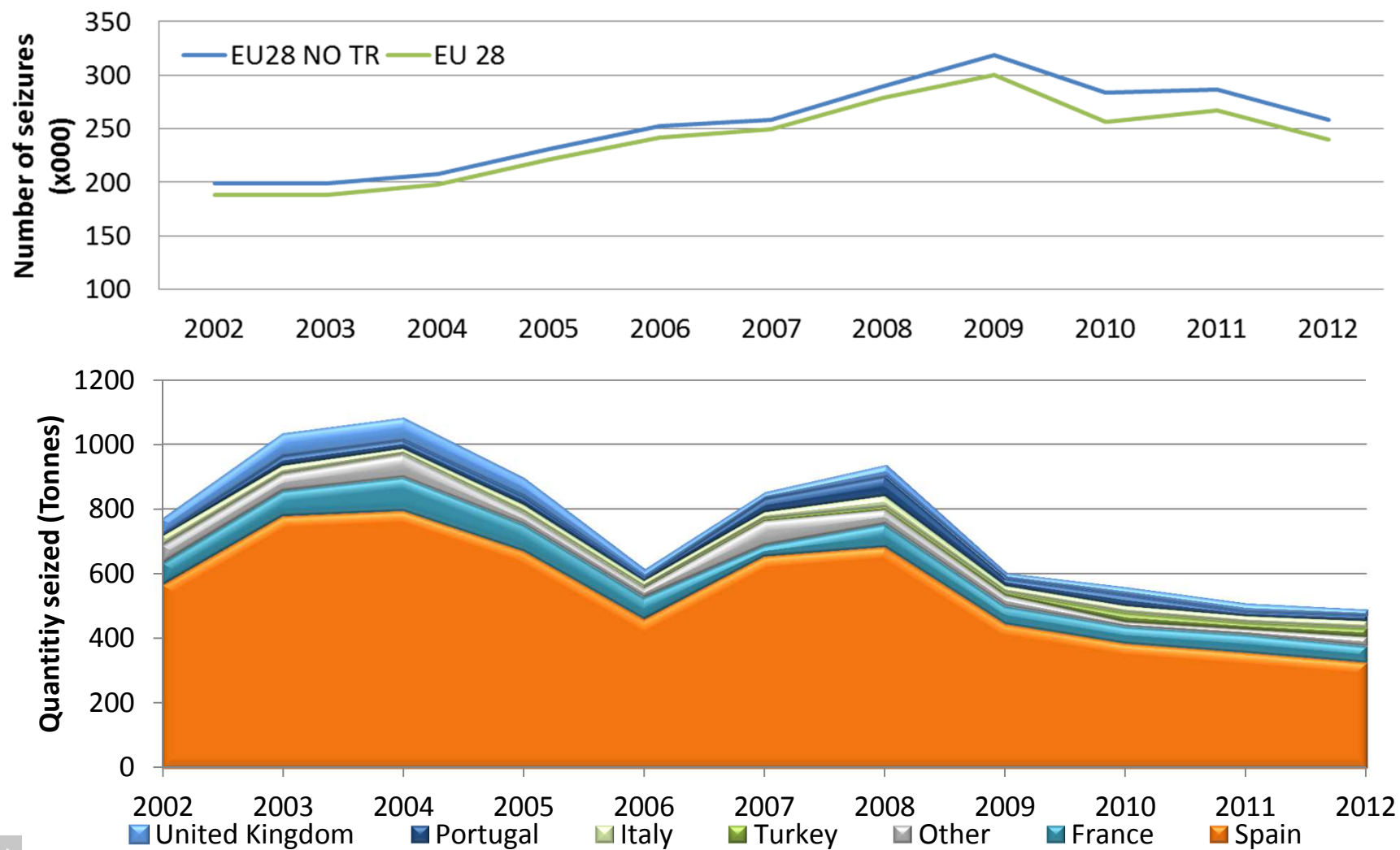
Cannabis-related problems continue

Almost 1% of adults
daily users

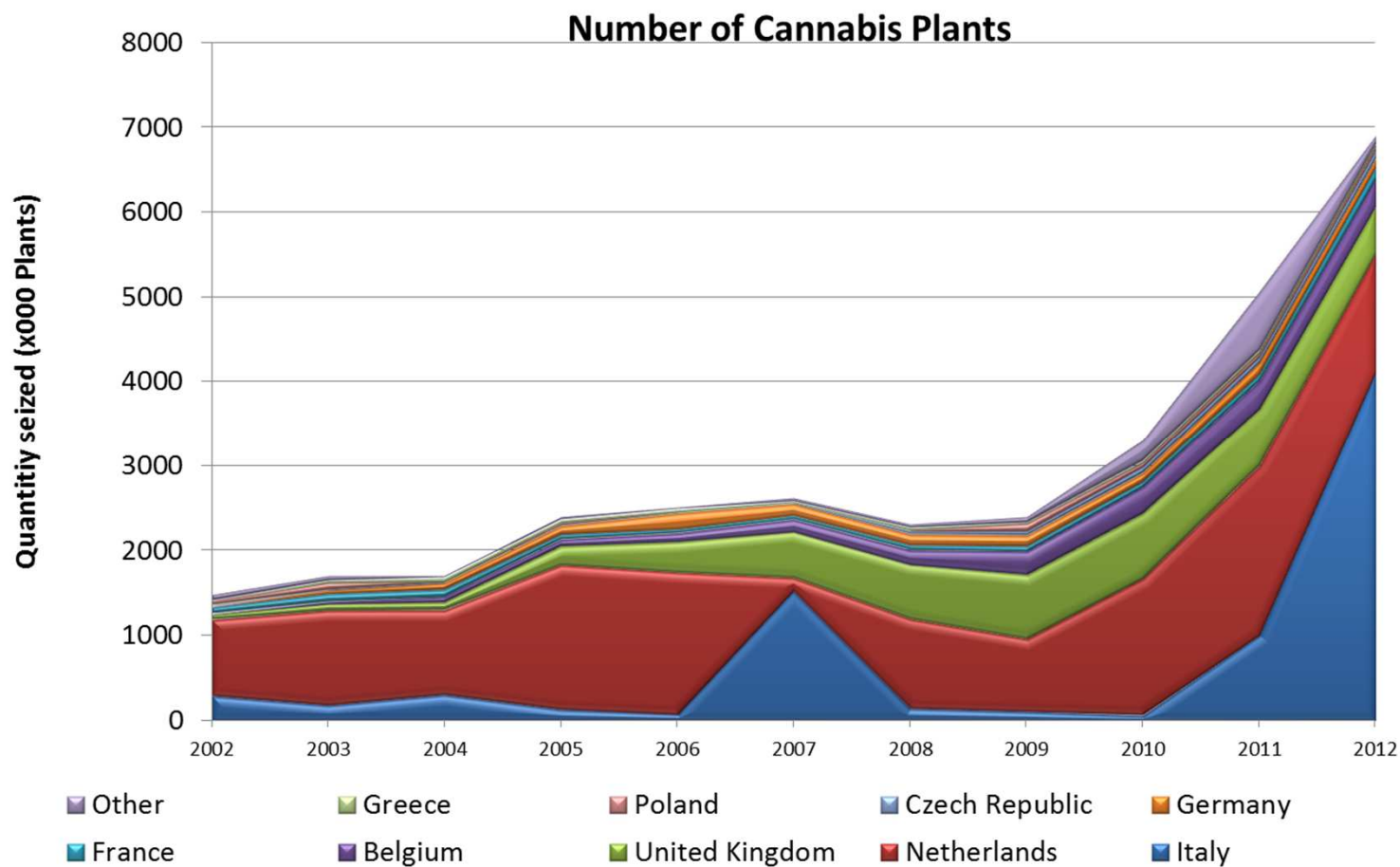
Most frequently
reported drug by
new treatment
entrants



Trends in cannabis resin seizures in Europe, 2002–12



Domestic Cannabis cultivation



Cannabis supply



Domestic production up

Innovation

Cultivation of
plants high in THC

Potency increases for
herb and recently resin



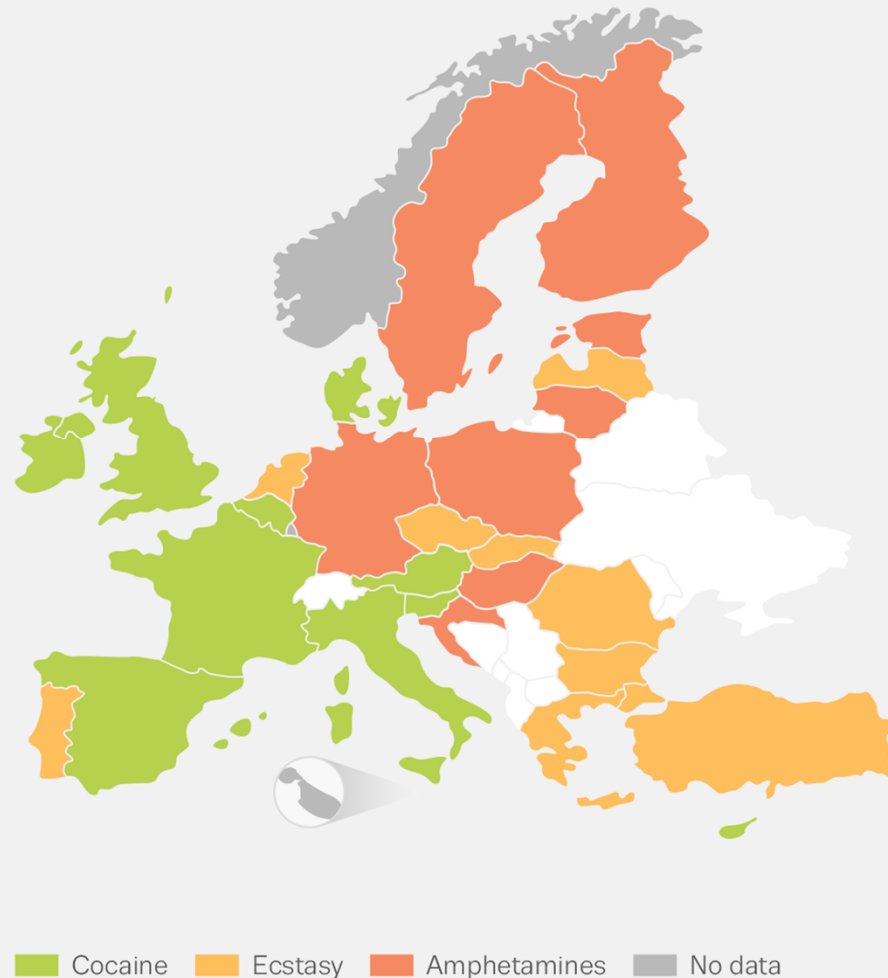
Stimulants



A geographically divided stimulant market

2.3 million
Europeans
(15–34 years old)
used cocaine in
the last year

Predominant stimulant drug by last year prevalence among young adults (15–34)



1.3 million used
amphetamines

1.4 million
used
'ecstasy'

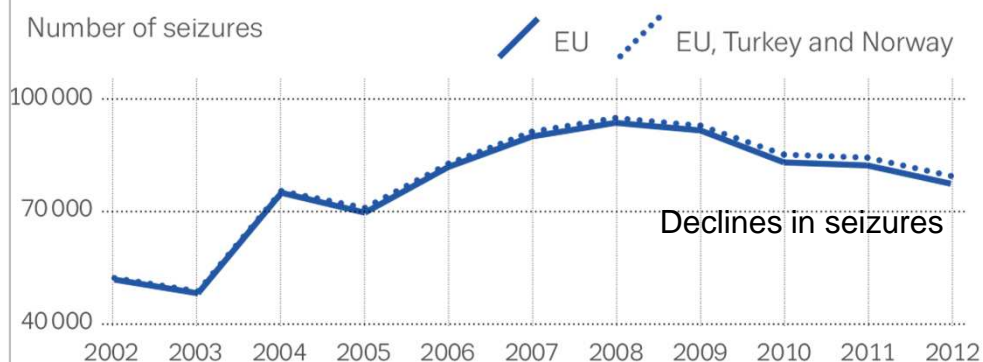
Cocaine



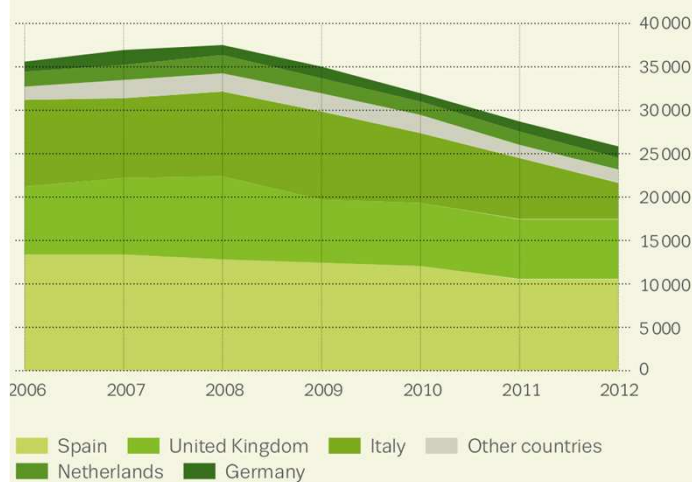
2.3 million young adults used last year

Cocaine: continued signs of decline

Number of cocaine seizures, 2002–12

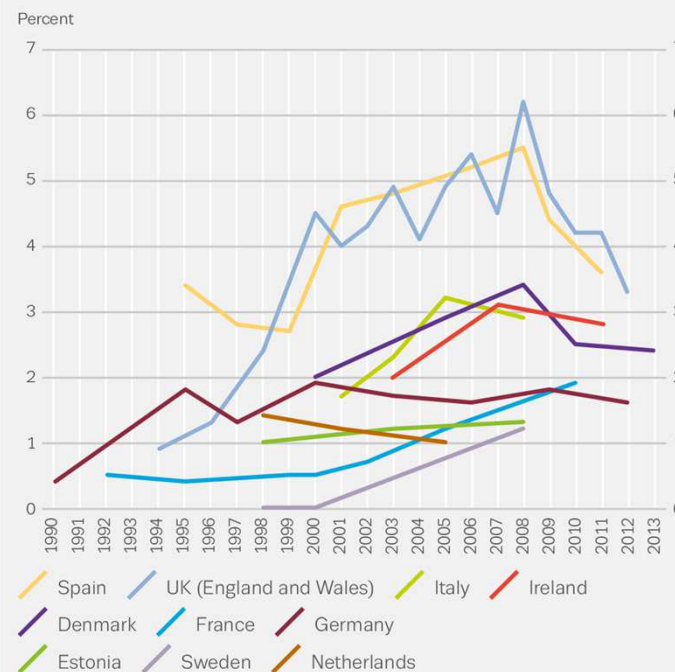


Trends in first-time entrants



Decrease for first-time treatment entrants

Last year prevalence of cocaine use among young adults (15–34): selected trends



Declines in 11 of 12 new surveys



Synthetic drugs



Source: Europol.

1.4 million young adults used ecstasy/MDMA last year

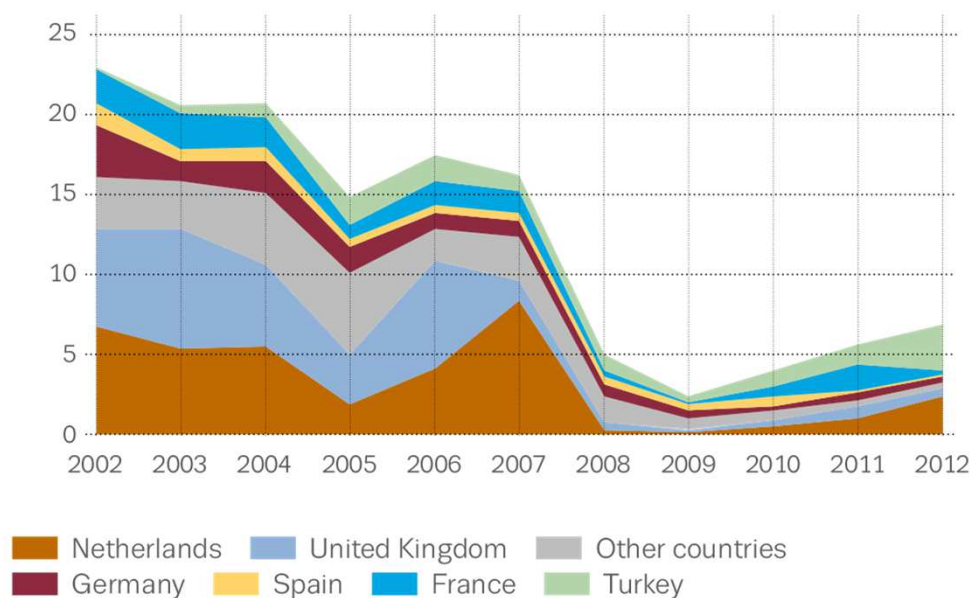
1.3 million used amphetamine/methamphetamine

Ecstasy: increased availability of high purity MDMA powder

- Low and stable prevalence trends
- Seizures decline — small rebound
- Upturn mirrored in purity data
- Highlights impact of precursor controls (PMK)

Numbers of ecstasy tablets seized, 2002–12

Tablets (millions)



Amphetamine use stable: new methamphetamine outbreaks

CZ and SK: longer term entrenched patterns of use, but treatment up

CZ/DE: cross border markets

North: interlinked with amphetamine

South: crystal smoking for first time, pipes used

MSM in large cities — IV use (slamming)



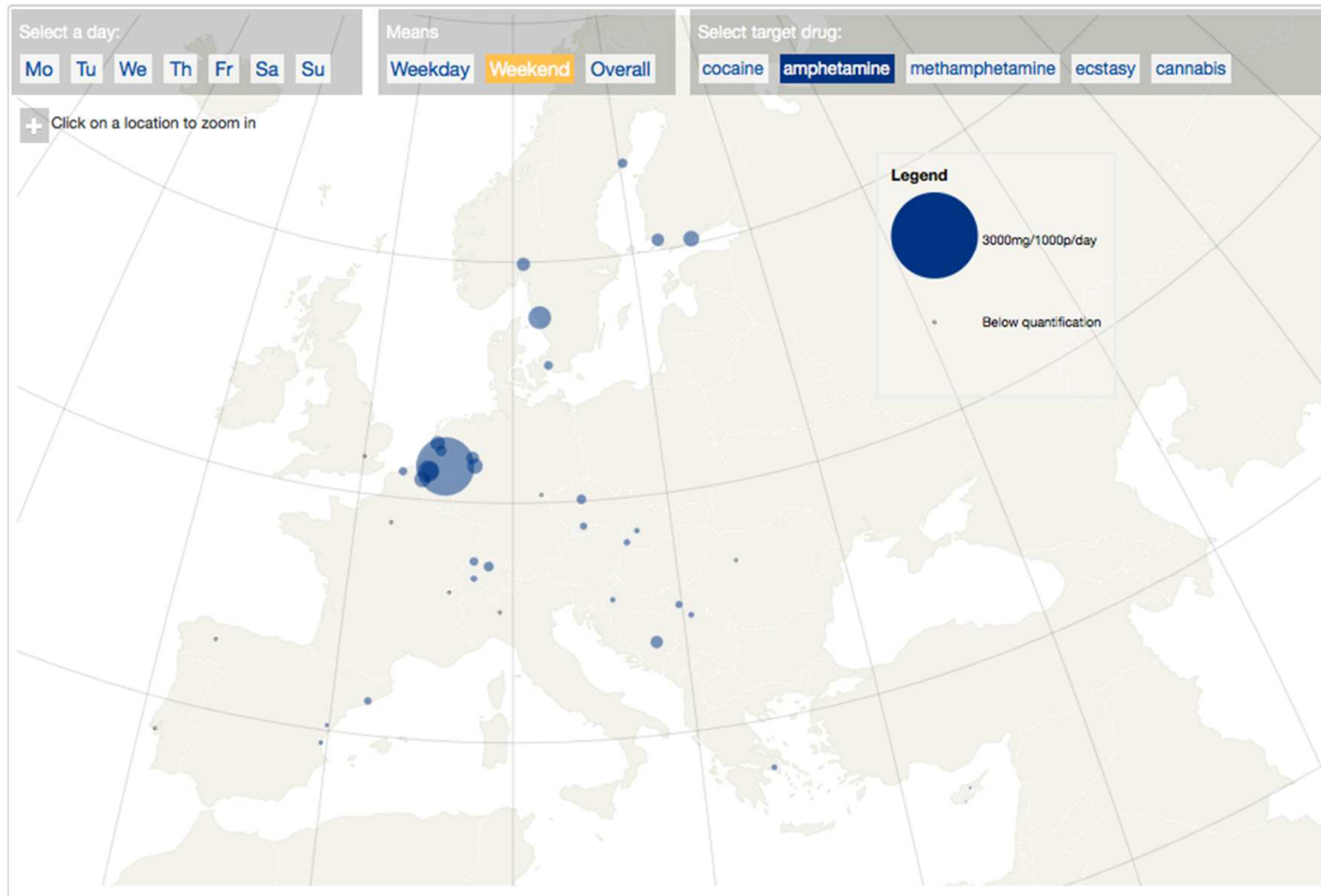
Wastewater analysis — city-level variation in use of amphetamine

POD

Select a year:

2012

2013

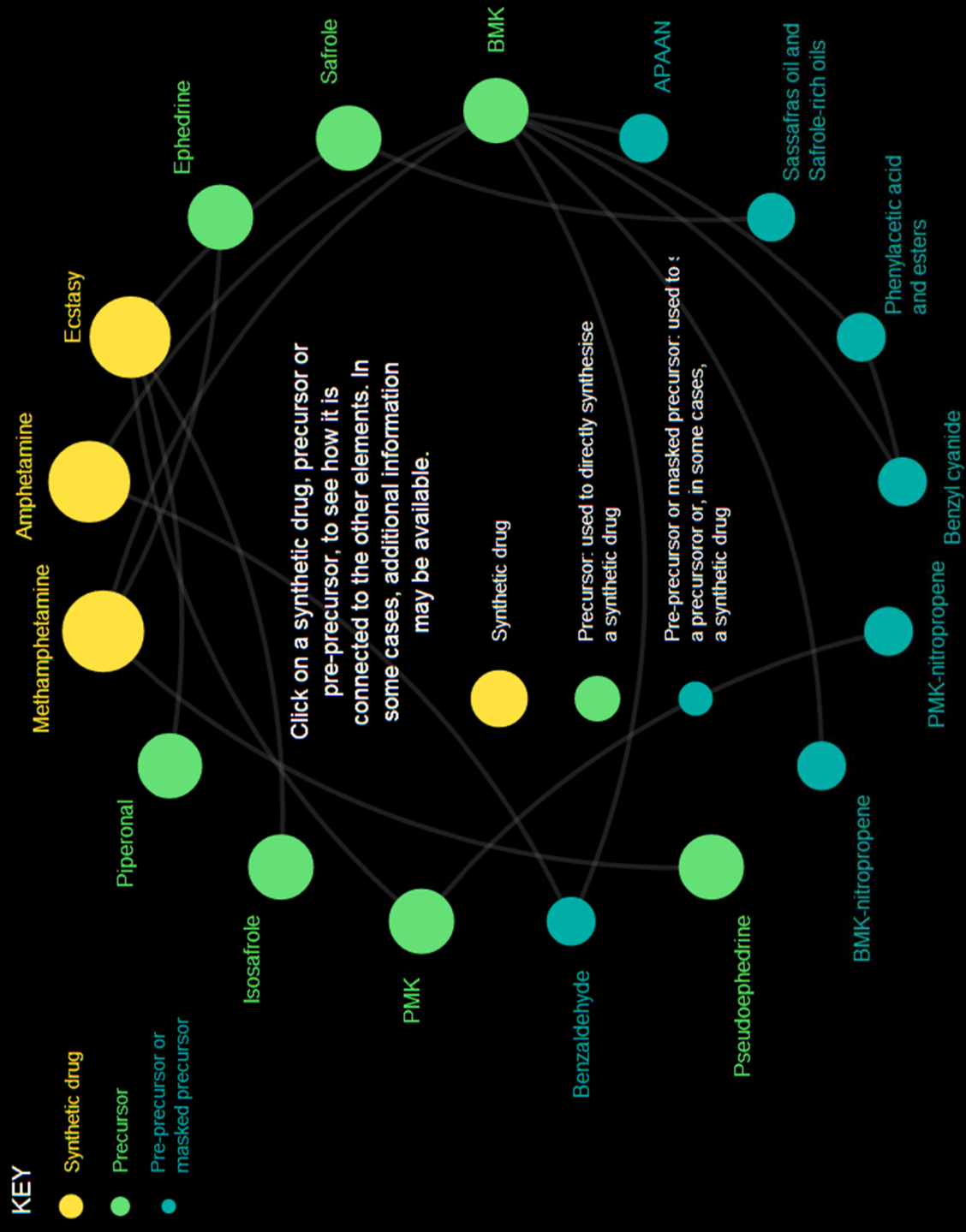


Synthetic drug production, precursors and pre-precursors

Each time a precursor chemical is placed under control, producers find a new one ...



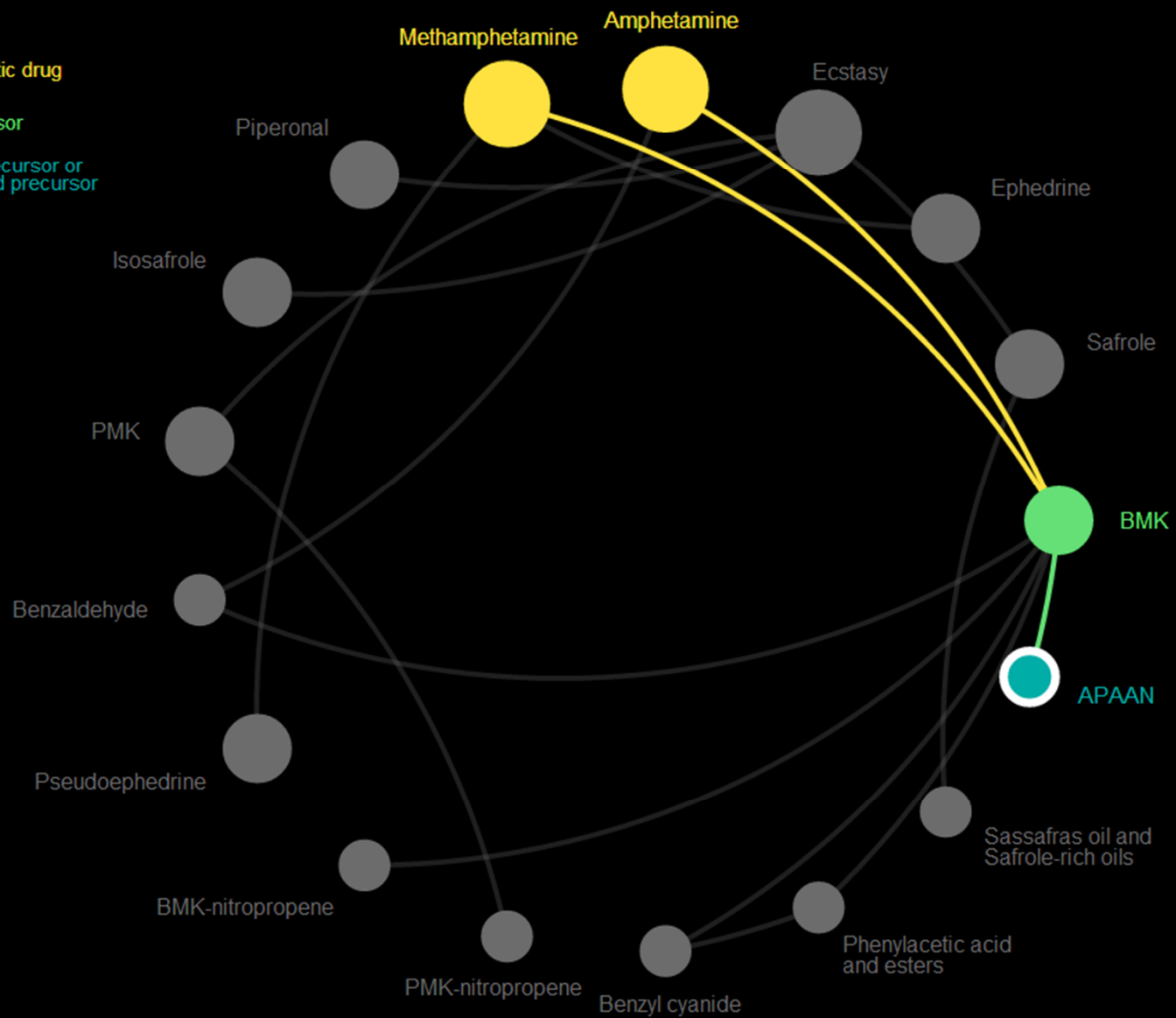
Synthetic drugs, precursors and pre-precursors: understanding the connections



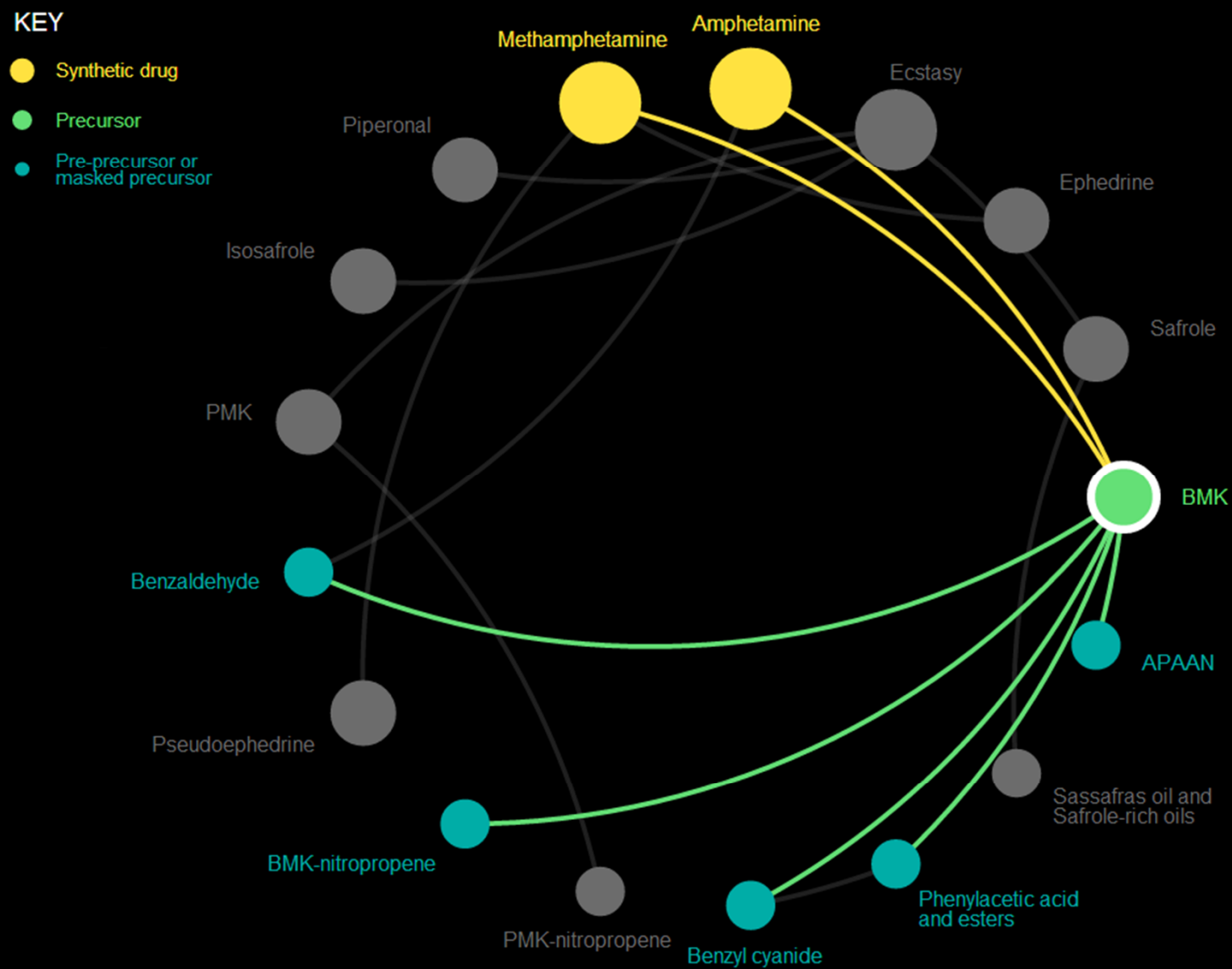
Synthetic drugs, precursors and pre-precursors: understanding the connections

KEY

- Synthetic drug
- Precursor
- Pre-precursor or masked precursor



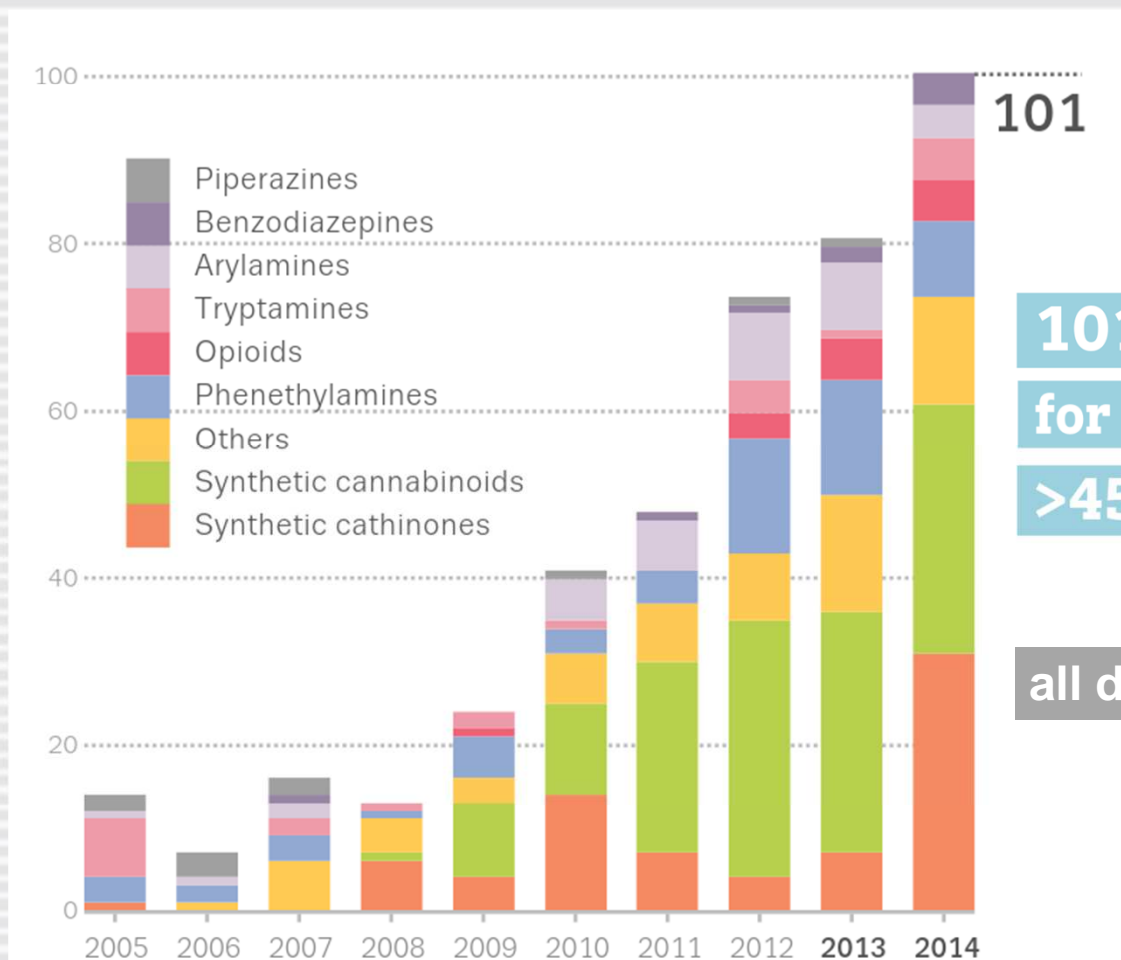
Synthetic drugs, precursors and pre-precursors: understanding the connections



New drugs



Number of NPS reported to the EU-EWS (2005-2014)



**101 NPS reported
for the first time in 2014**

>450 NPS currently monitored

all detections analytically confirmed

New psychoactive substances...

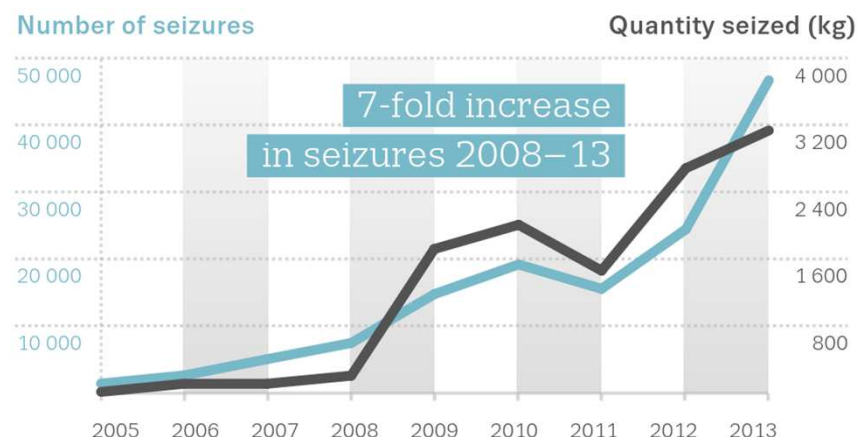
Just like synthetic drug precursors....

Each time a new drug is placed under control, producers find a new one ...



Number of seizures of NPS

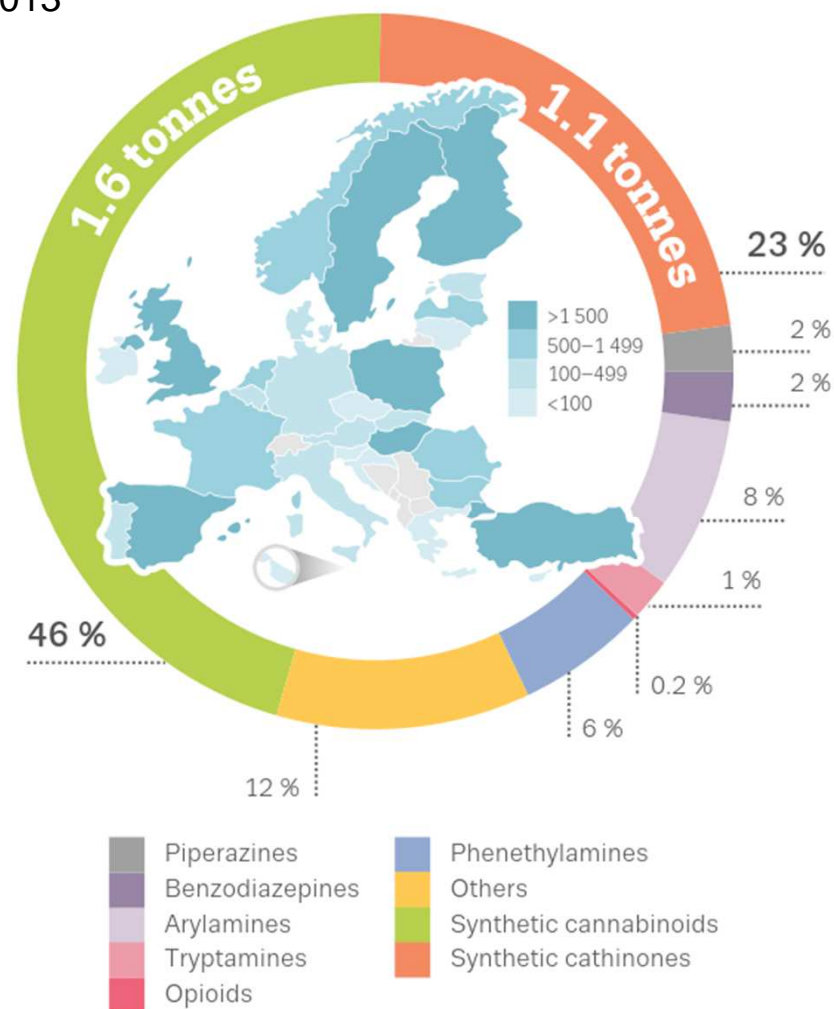
Number and quantity seized, 2005-2013



46 730 seizures in 2013 amounting to more than 3.1 tonnes in Europe

299 different NPS detected in 2013

Numbers and proportion of seizures by category, 2013



The NPS Market



Legal highs

Marketed in bright and attractive packaging. Sold openly in head/smart shops and online. Aimed at recreational users.



Research chemicals

Sold under the guise of being used for scientific research. Aimed at 'psychonauts' who explore the effects of psychoactive substances. Sold openly online.



Food supplements

Sold under the guise of being food or dietary supplements. Aimed at people wanting to enhance their body and mind. Sold openly in fitness shops and online.



Designer drugs

Passed off as drugs such as MDMA and heroin. Produced in clandestine labs by organised crime. Sold on illicit drug market by drug dealers.



Medicines

Medicines that are diverted from patients or illegally imported into Europe. Sold on illicit drug market by drug dealers.

From synthesis to consumer...

Chemical companies in China and India synthesise the NPS powder in bulk



Legal highs, research chemicals and dietary supplements are processed and packaged in EU



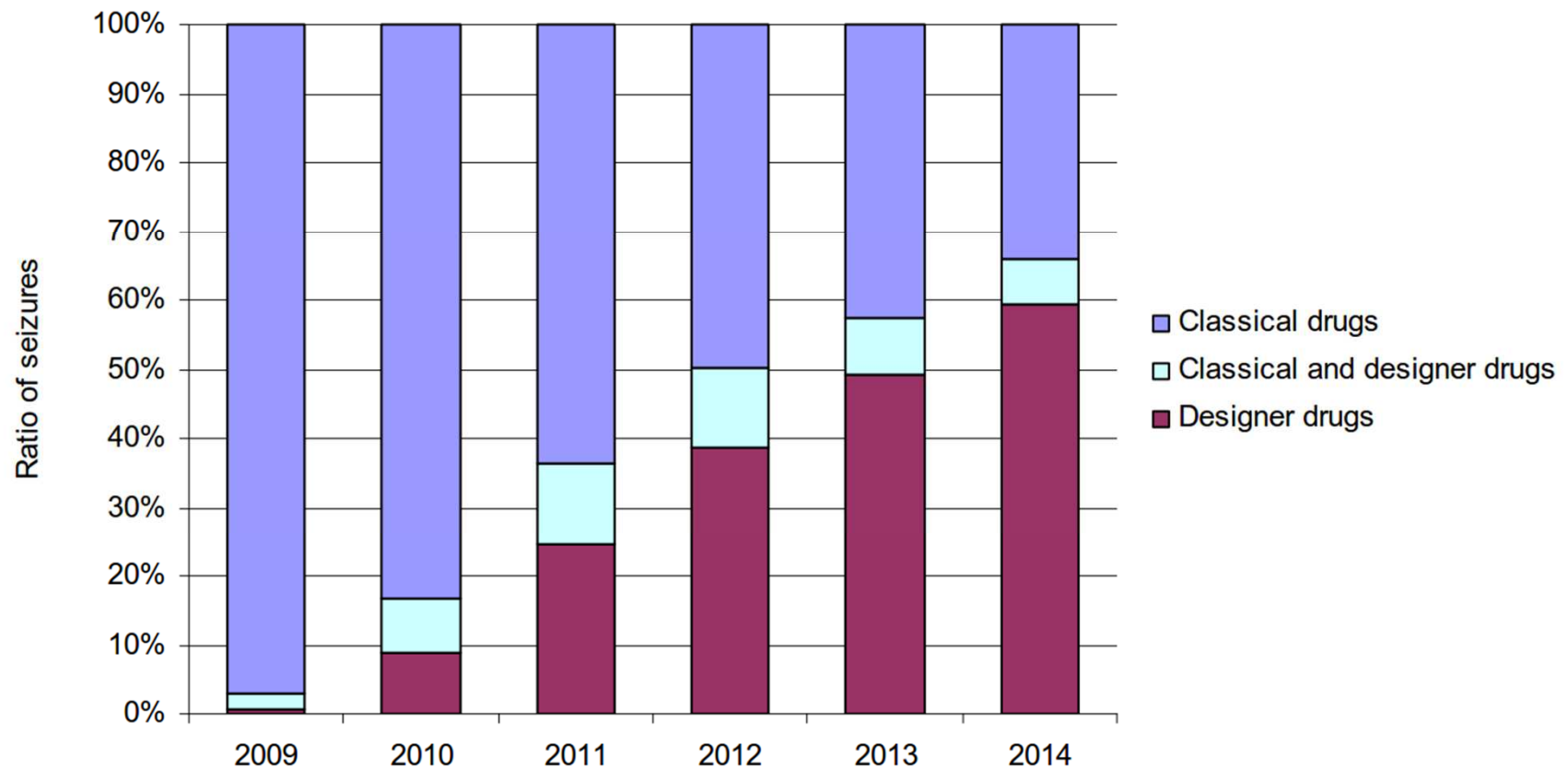
The NPS powders are shipped to Europe by air and sea

8 % young Europeans has used NPS in their life (Eurobarometer, 2014)



They are sold openly in shops and on the Internet

Market transition example: Hungary



Courtesy of the Hungarian Institute of Forensic Sciences



Key points

Greater interaction

Diversification in trafficking routes
Is the face of organised crime changing?

Globalisation is the key driver of change

The growing importance of the Internet
The impact of new markets
EU as a producing region
Innovation

Significance of different drugs is changing

The heroin problem is changing
The drug marketplace is less discriminating
Cannabis market – pervasive and resilient
New drugs entering the market in parallel






European Monitoring Centre
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Thank you

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