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Drug Use Data as a Basis for Drug Policy and Action Planning

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Presentation Outline

- Part I – Selected **alcohol data** and related actions
- Part II – Selected **illicit substances** data and related actions



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Part I – Selected alcohol data and related actions

OUTLINE

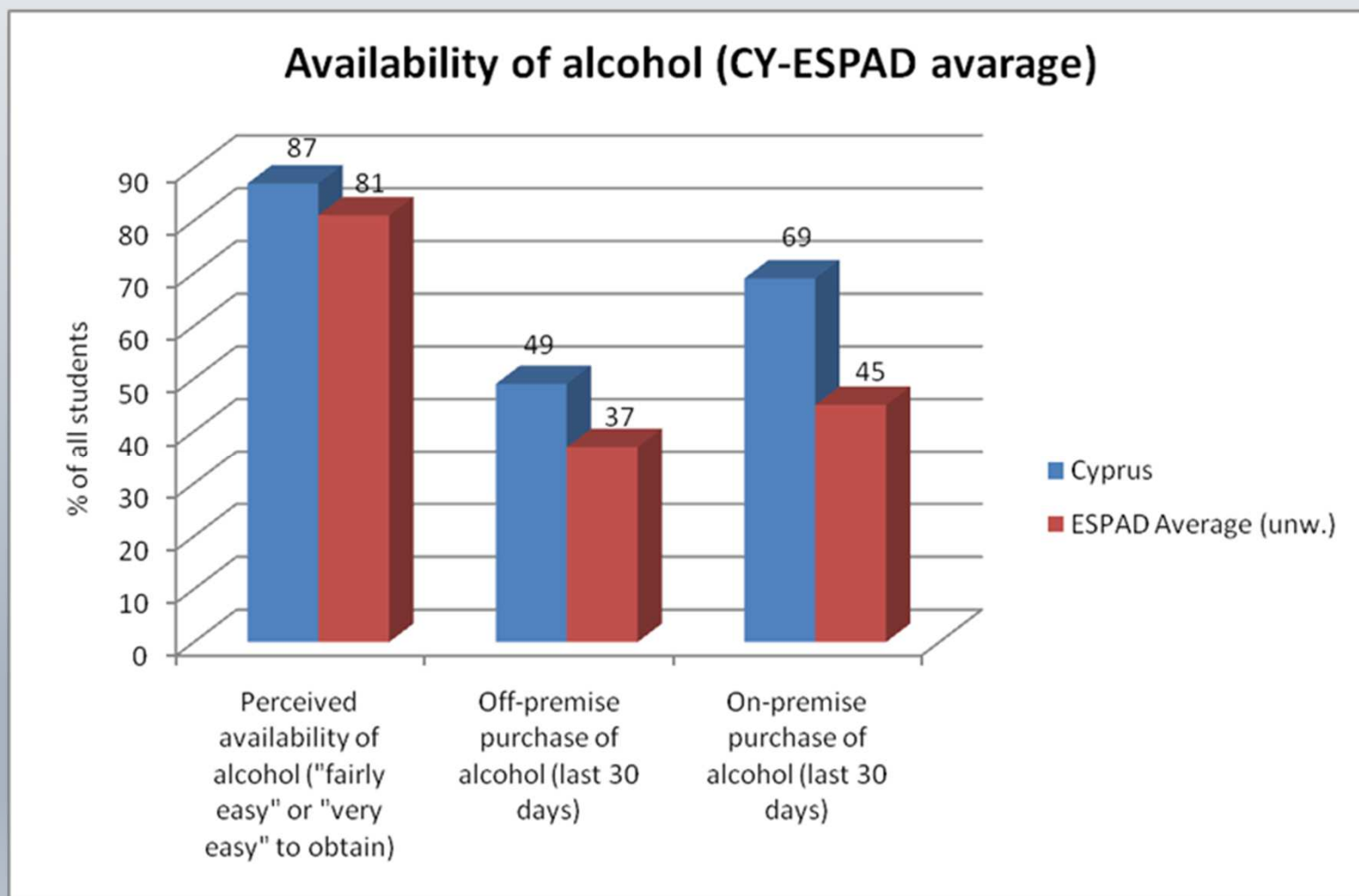
- Selected Data
- Pilot “Mystery Shopping” Study
- Action Plan 2013-2016



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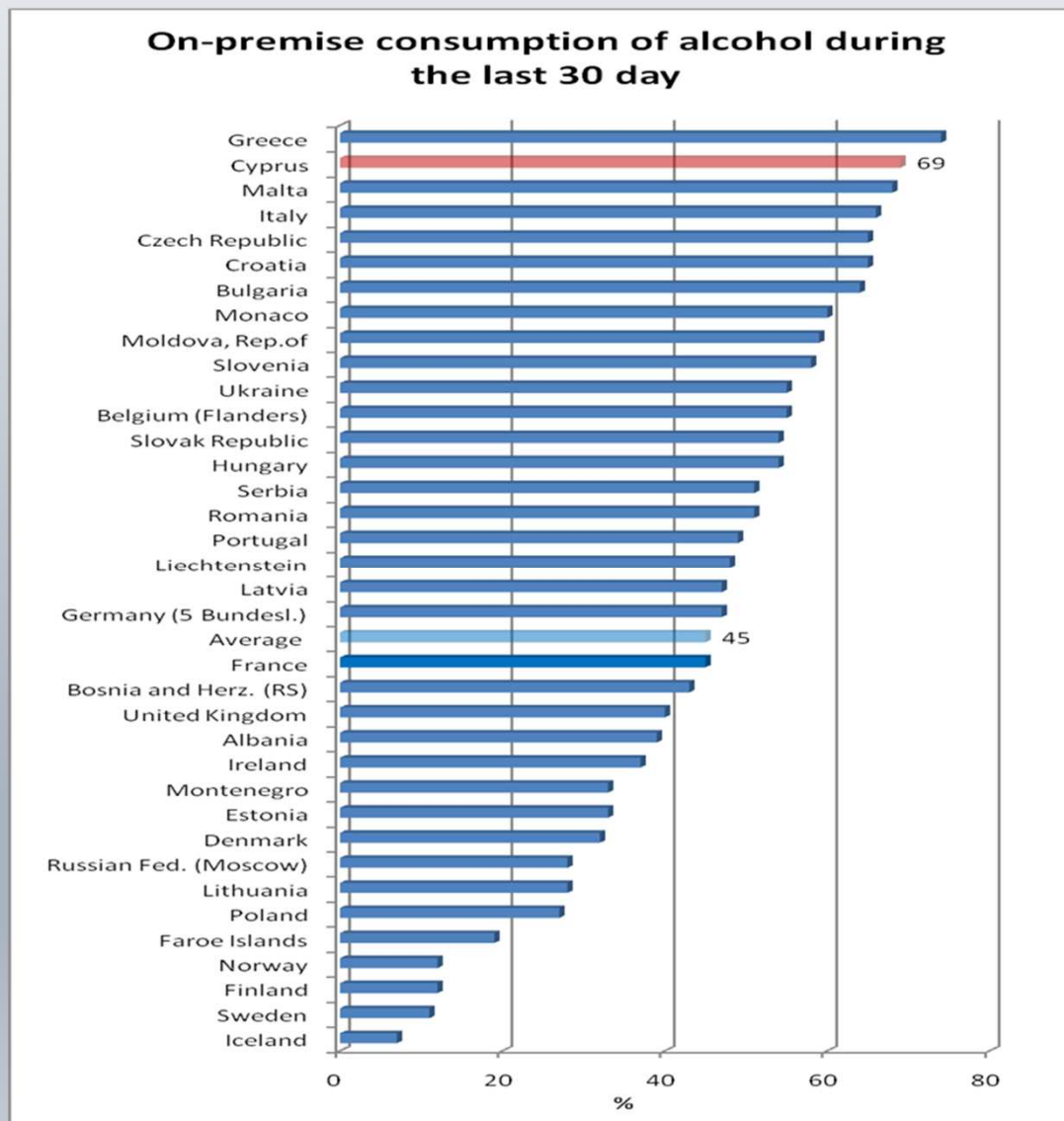
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Cyprus Data (ESPAD, 2011)

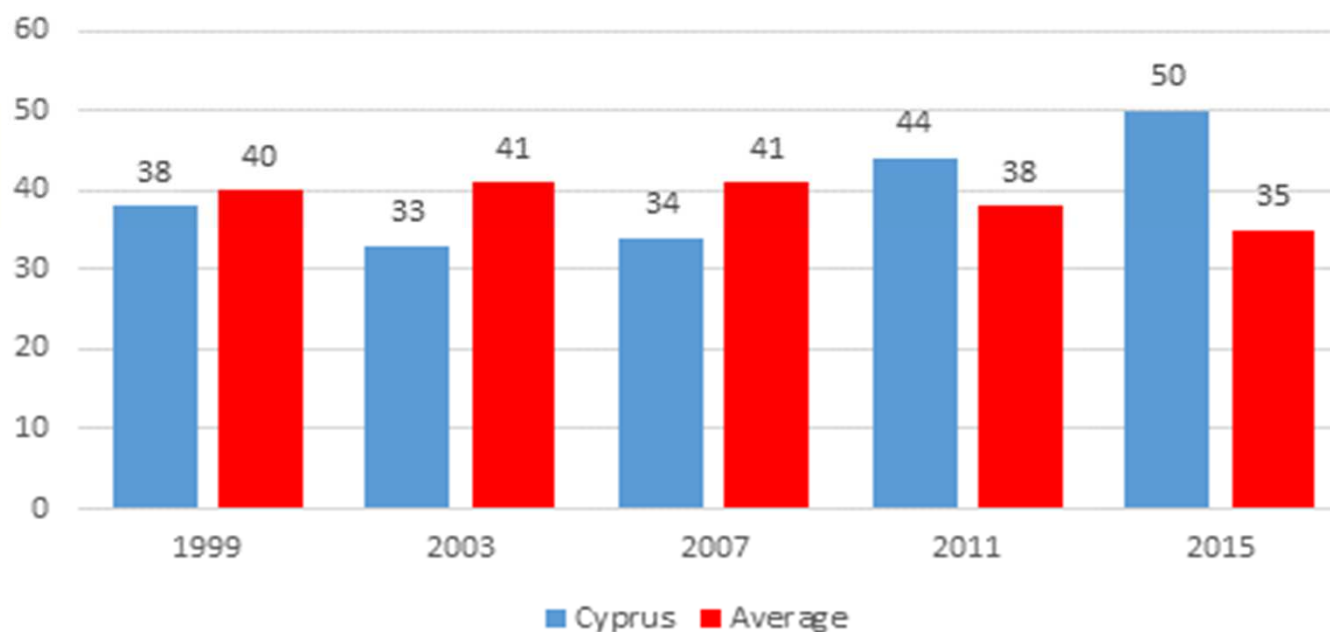




Cyprus Data (ESPAD, 2011)

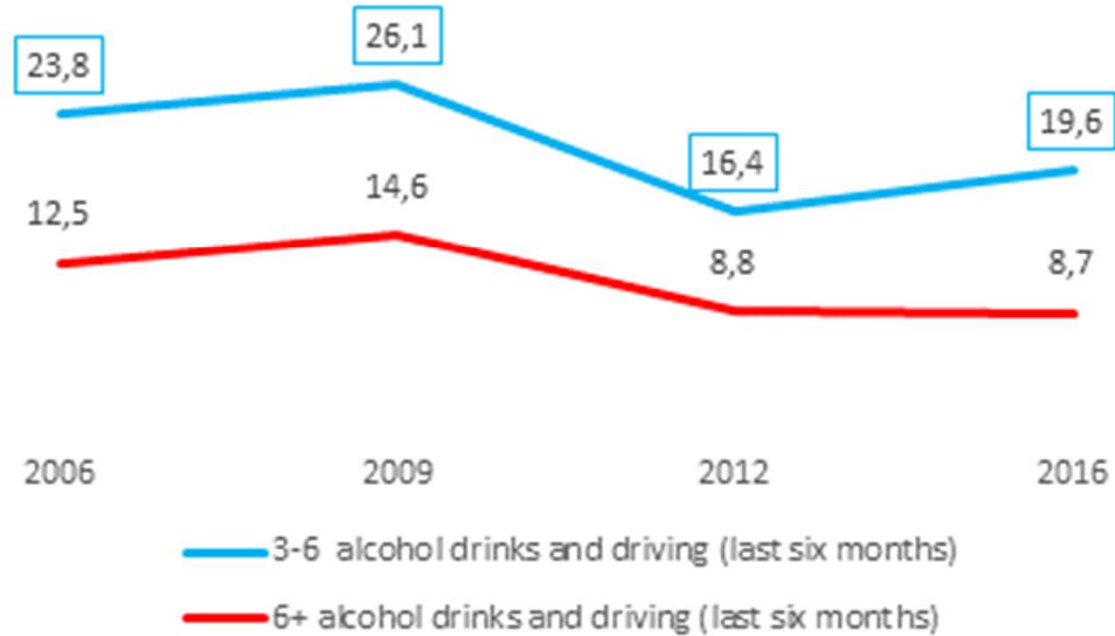


Proportion of students reporting having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the last 30 days





Drink and Driving (last 6 months): General Population (15-64)





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Pilot Mystery Shopping Program

- Phase I: **Mystery shopping attempts**: Pseudo-under-age (younger looking) mystery shoppers in the field
- Phase II: **Training** personnel for responsible alcohol selling/serving





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Pilot Mystery Shopping Program

Phase I – Shopping visits

- From 7-25 April 2015 in 12 municipalities in Nicosia and Limassol

Types of settings:

- Mini markets • Supermarkets
- Restaurants • Bars • Clubs • Cafés

Sample selection:

- Random & based on popularity
- Total visits: 200 (100 per city)
- Repeated visits: 40 (20 per city)
- Different days and hours depending on type of setting





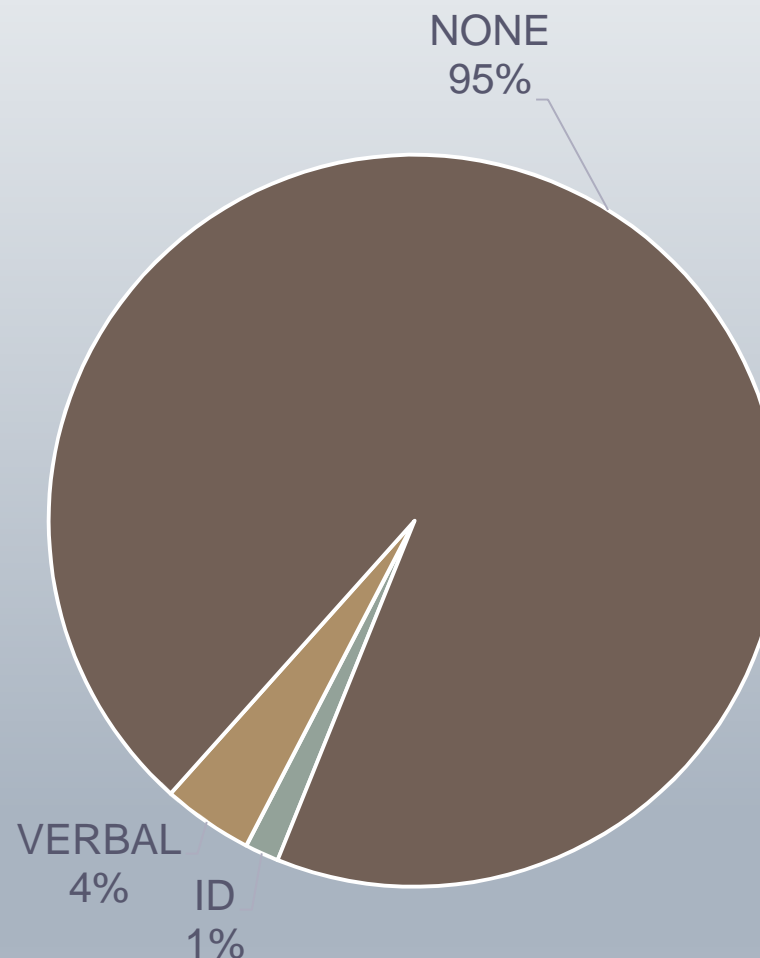
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Pilot Mystery Shopping Program

Responses:

- ID age verification (f = 3)
- Verbal verification (f = 8)
- No verification (f = 189)
- **Nicosia:** only 1 (ID, male shopper, cafeteria, morning hours)
- **Limassol:** 10 responses
 - ID in 2 settings: 1 male, club, late night & 1 female, restaurant, evening
 - Verbal in 8 settings (including 1 club repeated visit):
 - 5 male, 3 female
 - 4 at a bar, 4 at a club
 - 2 in the evening, 6 late at night





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Pilot Mystery Shopping Program

Phase II – Dissemination of Results & Training

- **Presentation** of results to stakeholders (premise owners, Police, municipalities, health care professionals, alcohol industry, etc)
- **Booklet** with information on alcohol related harm and practices for responsible sales/serving (Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council, 2015)
- **Training** Program for Responsible Sales and Serving (University of Cyprus & Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council, in five regions, 2016)





Goal: Reduction of **drink driving** incidents

Actions:

- *Reduction of BrAC limit to 0.09 µg/ml for novice drivers, professional drivers, motorists and cyclists*
- *Systematic breath testing by Road Traffic Police*
- *Campaigns on public holidays*
- *Stricter penalties and fines for repeat offenders*



Goal: Reduction of **accessibility and availability** of alcohol for vulnerable groups

Actions:

- *Monitoring the licensing system to regulate alcohol production*
- *Stricter enforcement of current legislation*
- *Revision of legislation*
 - *Provisions for personnel training on responsible selling and serving*
 - *Clear age verification system*
 - *Stricter sanctions*
 - *Annual publication of non-compliant cases*
 - *Change legal age limit from 17 to 18*



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Action Plan 2013-2016 Priorities

Goal: Reduction of alcohol **consumption** among young people and prevention of heavy drinking

Actions

- *Enforcement of **taxation** system for alcoholic beverages based on alcohol type and volume*
- *Systematic enforcement of tax legislation and controls at **borders** to minimize illegal trade*



- Alcohol Awareness Week (every third week of October, implemented since 2013)
- Formal commitment by the State & related stakeholders in the private and voluntary sector
- Parliamentary discussions
- Friendly Alco test nights
- Seminars with Bartenders Association on responsible sale/serving
- Production of TV spots to raise awareness



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Part II – Selected illicit drugs data and related actions

OUTLINE

- Data on cannabis use from the General Population Survey
- Action Plan 2013-2016 – Prevention Pillar, Goals & Actions



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Cyprus data (GPS 2016)

Drug use among **young men** much higher than in the general population:

- 20% of young males 15-24 years of age reported lifetime use of cannabis, compared to 12% in the total population (GPS, 2016)
 - 20,7% tried cannabis at age 15-17 years (GPS, 2016)
 - 61.6% started cannabis use between 18-24 years (GPS, 2016)
- ❖ Enrolment in **military** service is compulsory in Cyprus for all males after completing their secondary education



Goal A: Support of **vulnerable groups** in order to prevent the use of illicit and licit substances and the provision of programs in areas of high risk

Actions:

- *Provision of leisure time activities to soldiers in the National Guard*



Goal B: Develop actions aimed at creating deterrent environments in regards to the use of illicit and licit substances (**environmental prevention**)

Actions:

- *Improving living conditions in selected guardhouses of the National Guard*
- *Conducting systematic testing for drug use in the National Guard, for security reasons*
- *Promotion of measures to support enforcement of legislation for a total ban on smoking in the National Guard*



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Action Plan 2013-2016 – Priorities

Goal C: Universal prevention to support goals A & B

Actions:

- *Promoting online services aimed at providing information, support and referral to appropriate services*
- *Dissemination of information to young people about the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and consumption of alcoholic energy drinks*
- *Support to the new curriculum "Health Education" of the Ministry of Education and Culture, focusing on prevention*
- *Dissemination of best practices on prevention*
- *Integration of subjects related to health promotion and drug addiction in the curricula of health professionals, professionals of social welfare and educational professionals*



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Thank you for your attention...