



Epidemic and decline of new psychoactive substances in Japan: Data from nationwide survey on drug use

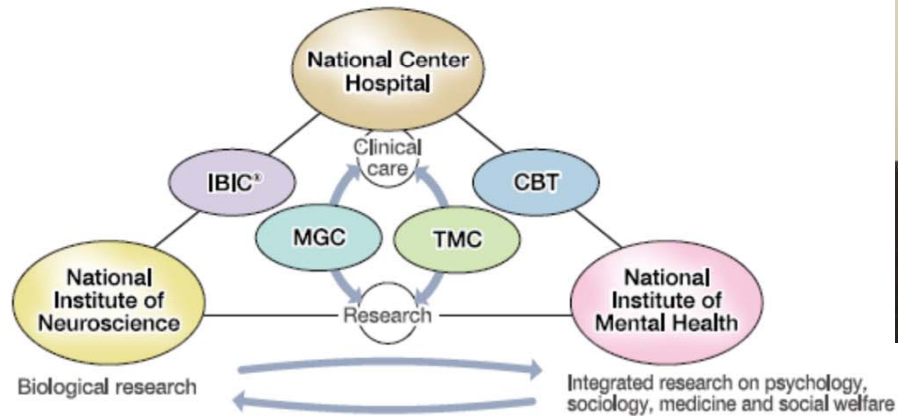
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EMCDDA, Lisbon, 6-7 June 2017

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STUDY DESIGN

Name of survey	Nationwide General Population Survey on Drug Use in Japan	The Nationwide Junior High School Student Survey on Drug Abuse and Their Background Life Style	Nationwide Mental Hospital Survey on Drug related Psychiatric Disorders
Design	Cross-sectional design (conducted every two years from 1995)	Cross-sectional design (conducted every two years from 1996)	Cross-sectional design (conducted every two years from 1987)
Target population	5,000 individuals aged 15–64 years living in Japan	About 120,000 junior high school students aged 12-15 in 241 schools	All of psychiatric hospitals and general hospitals with a psychiatric ward in Japan (About 1600 facilities)
Sampling	Two-stage stratified random sampling method	One stage cluster sampling	Census
Data collection	Anonymous self-administrative questionnaire	Anonymous self-administrative questionnaire	Transcribe information from medical records

Household

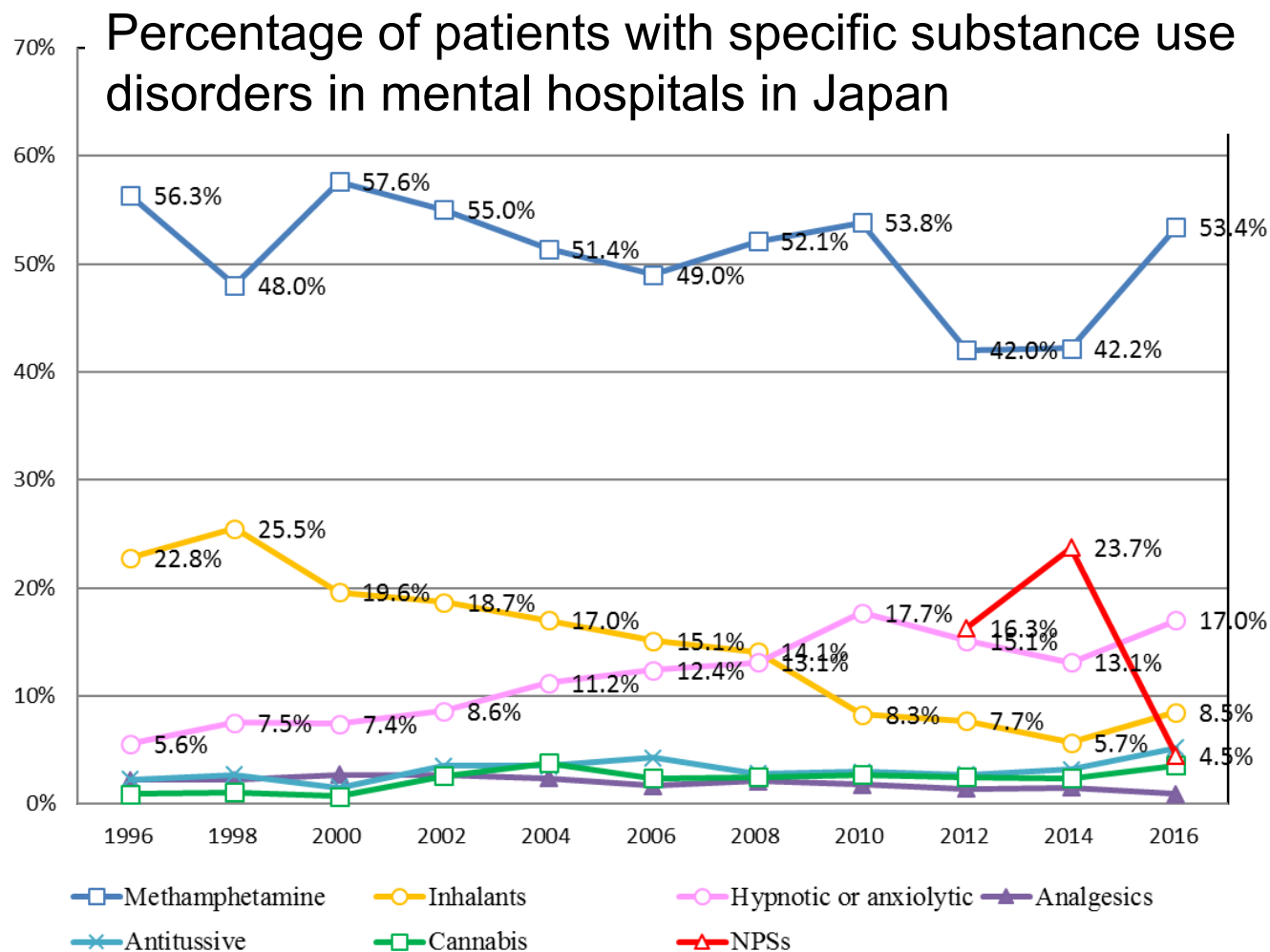
School

Hospital



Epidemic of new psychoactive substances (NPSs) in Japan

An epidemic of new psychoactive substances (NPSs), marketed as “legal herbs,” has been leading to continual occurrence of crimes and serious fatal traffic accidents by users. This poses a significant social problem in Japan.

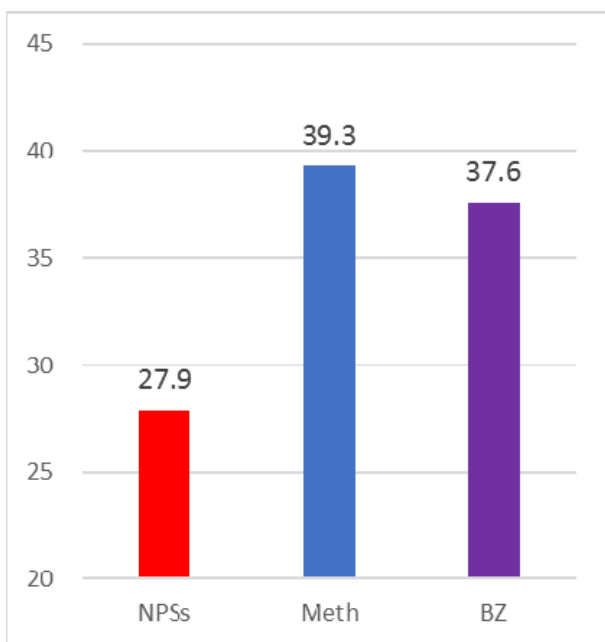


Adapted from Matsumoto T. et al. Research Report, Health and Labour Sciences Research Grant “Research on the Regulatory Science of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices” (H27-iyaku-ippan-001), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2017.

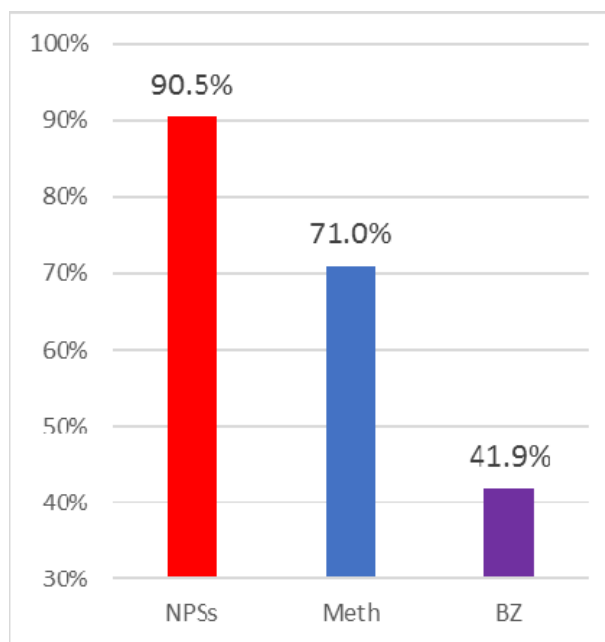


Basic demographics of patients with NPSs related disorder in mental hospitals in Japan

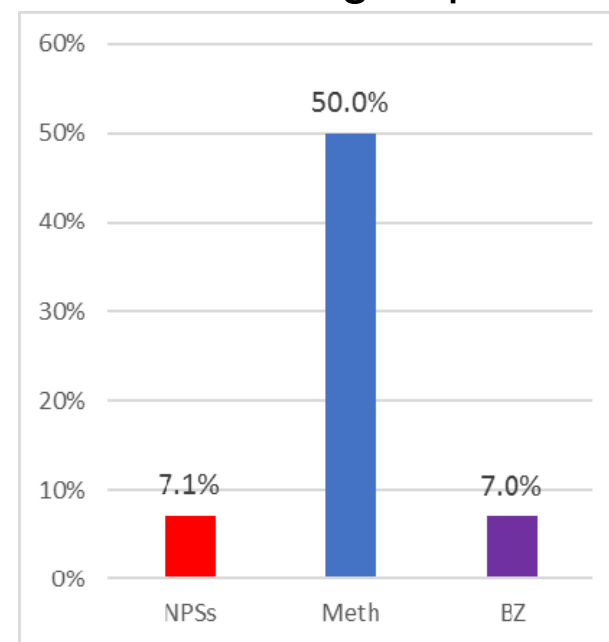
Average age



Gender (male)



Relationship with antisocial group



NPSs: Patients with NPSs related disorder

Meth: Patients with Methamphetamine related disorder

BZ: Patients with hypnotics/anxiolytics-related disorder (mainly benzodiazepine)

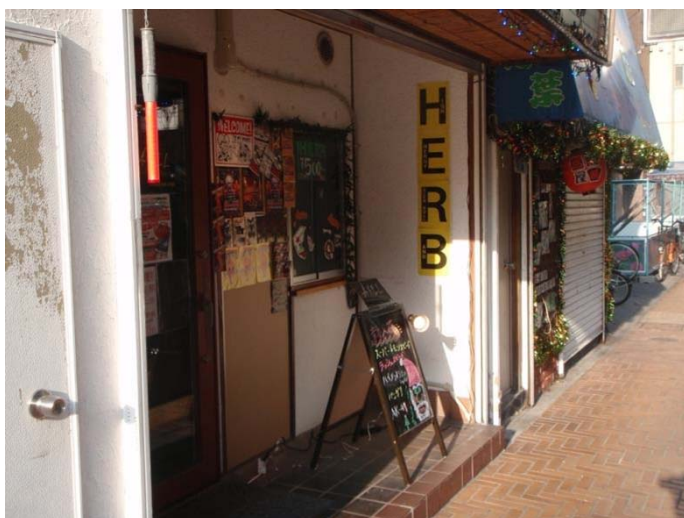


Background of the NPS epidemic

High availability: NPSs have been cheaper than other drugs such as methamphetamine, and could easily be purchased at head shops and online.

Emphasis on legality: Japan has traditionally maintained a zero-tolerance policy toward illicit drugs, and possession and/or use of drugs such as methamphetamine has been strictly prohibited by law.

Head shops

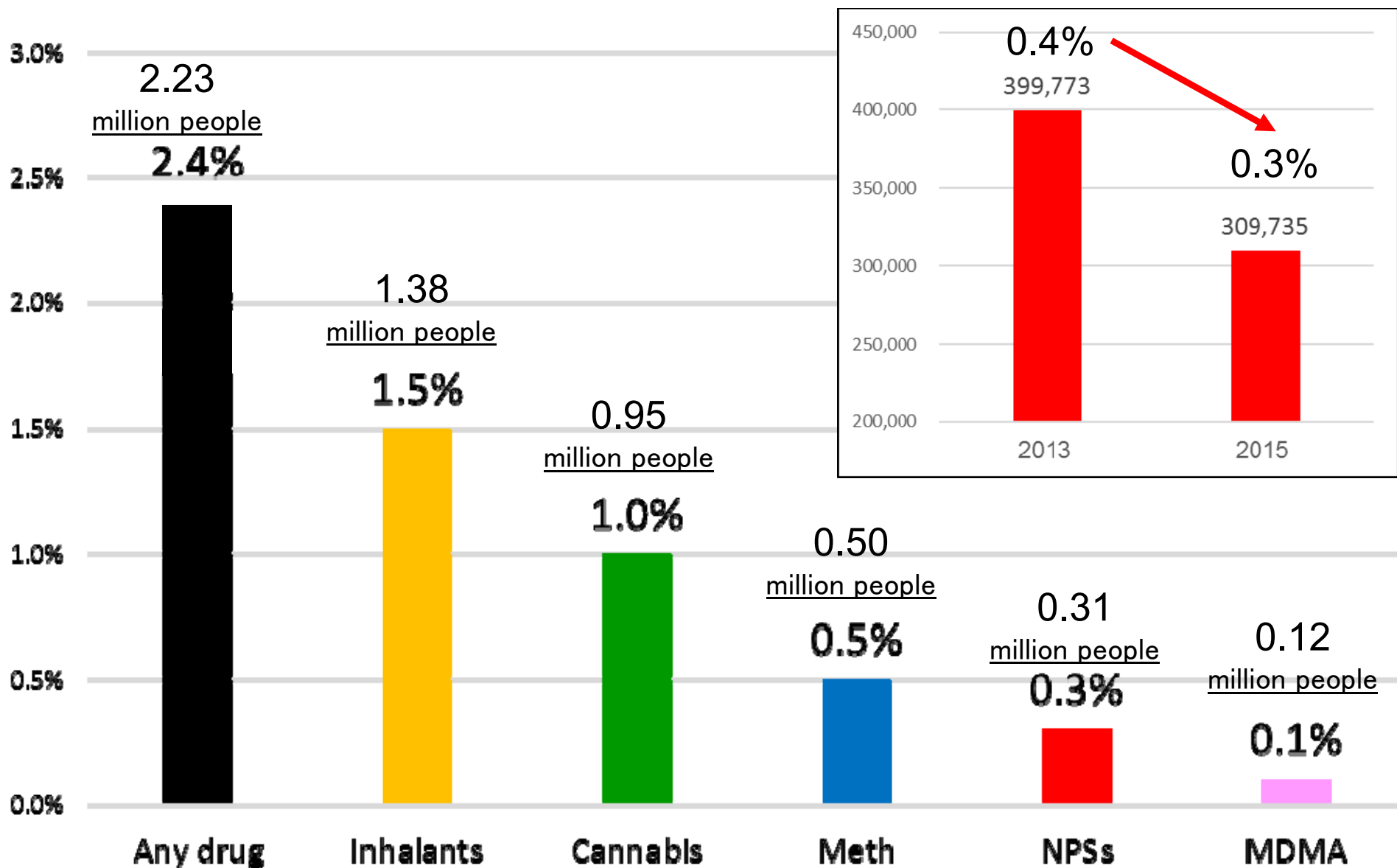


Vending machine





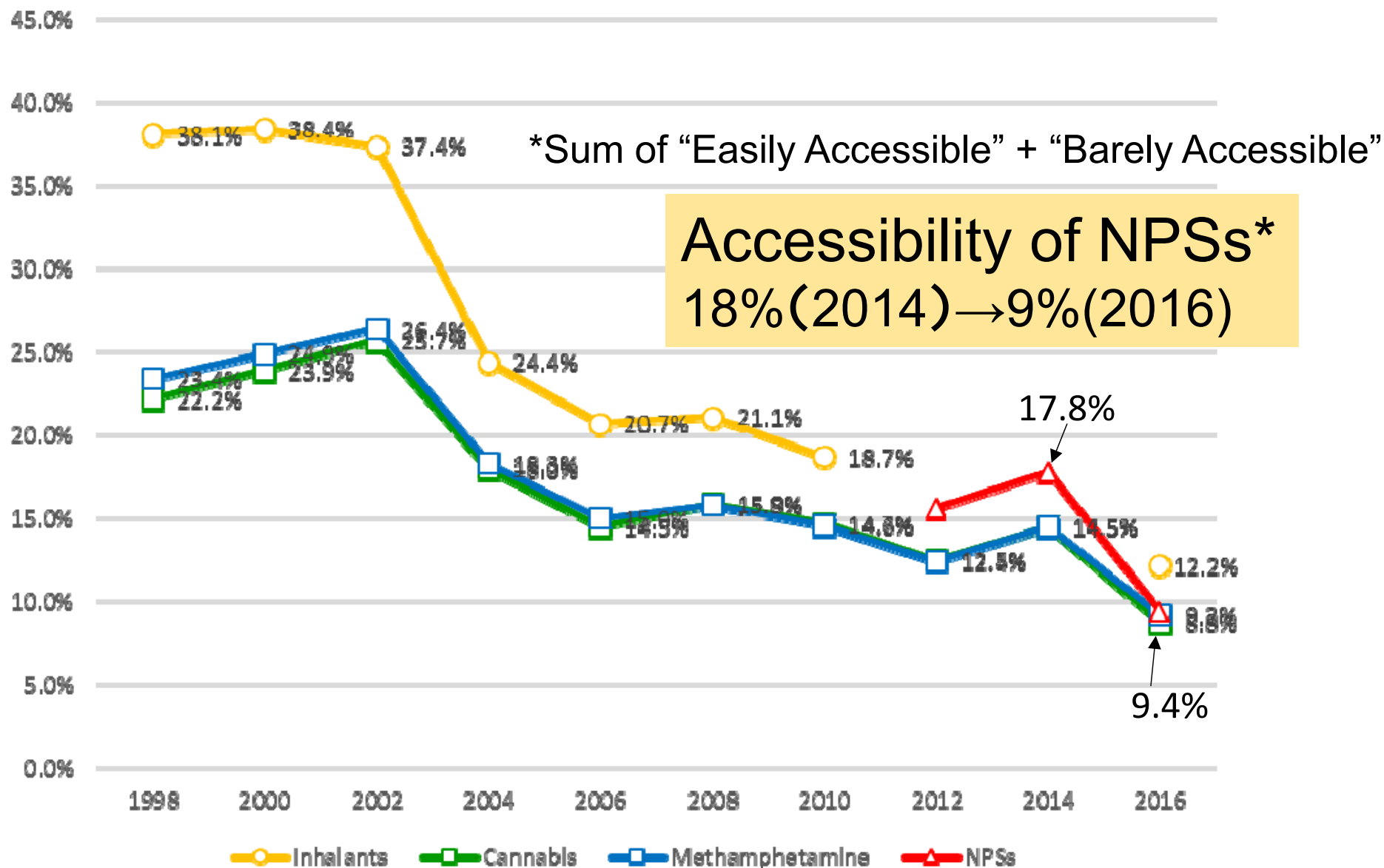
Lifetime prevalence and estimated population of NPS and other drugs among general population (2015)



Adapted from Shimane T, et al. 2015 Nationwide General Population Survey on Drug Use in Japan. Research Report, Health and Labour Sciences Research Grant "Research on the Regulatory Science of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices" (H27-iyakuA-ippan-001), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2016, pp. 7-166.

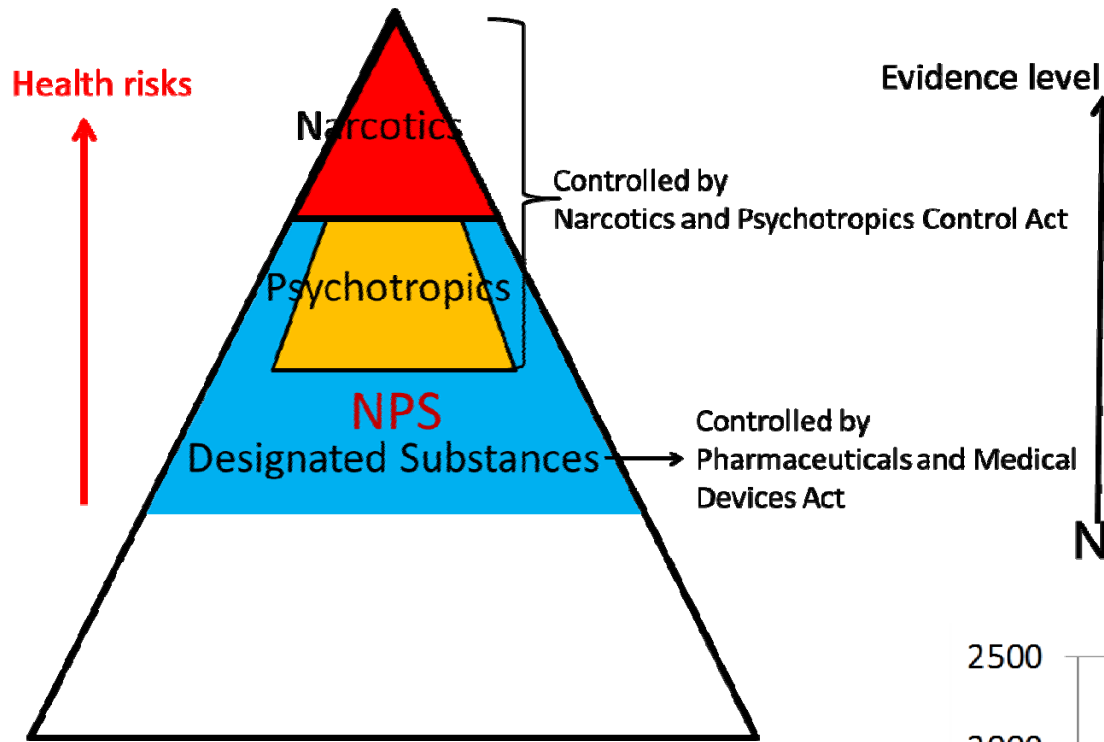


Changes in drug accessibility among junior high school students aged 12-15 years(1998-2016)

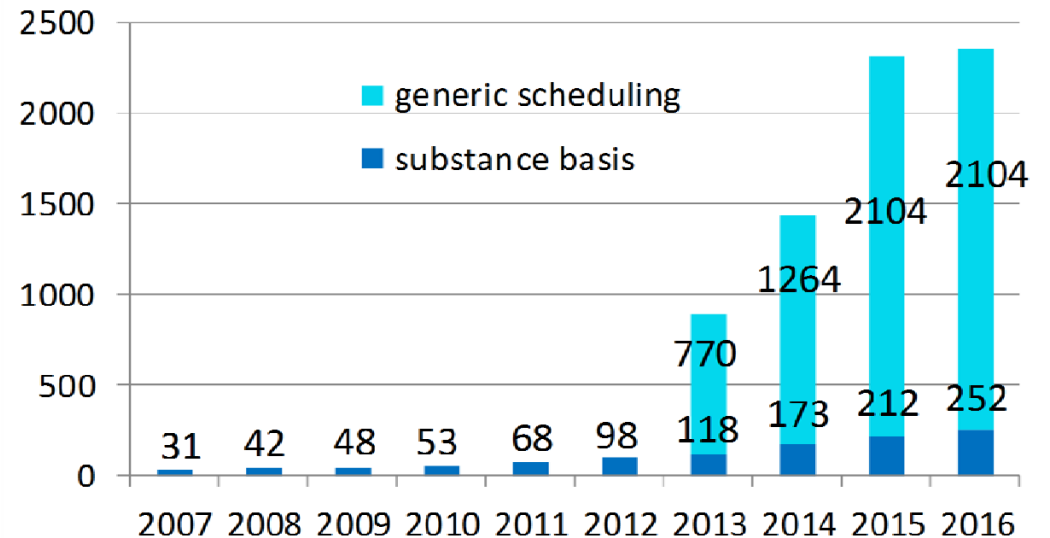


Adapted from Shimane T, et al. 2016 **The Nationwide Junior High School Student Survey on Drug Abuse and Their Background Life Style**. Research Report, Health and Labour Sciences Research Grant “Research on the Regulatory Science of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices” (H27-iyakuA-ippan-001), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2016, pp. 7–166.

Designated substances system for controlling NPSs



Number of “Designated Substances”
(as of Feb. 1, 2017)



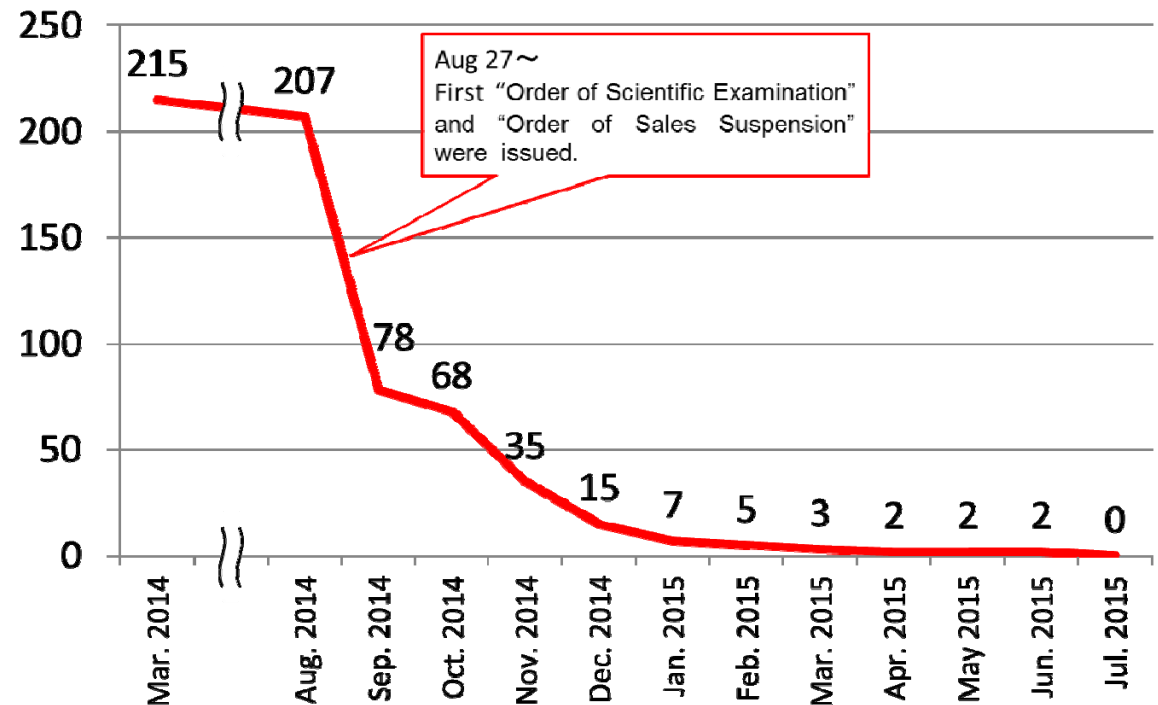
26 substances have been already reclassified to be “Narcotics” since 2007.

Designated substances system for controlling NPSs was reinforced in 2014

“Order of Scientific Examination” and “Order of Sales Suspension” of the NPS products.



NPS Shops in Japan





CONCLUSION

- Epidemic and decline of NPS was observed data from nationwide survey on drug use in Japan.
- **Epidemic of NPSs**
 - High availability
 - Emphasis on legality
- **Decline of NPSs**
 - Designated substances system for controlling NPSs leads to lower availability
 - Possession and use of the NPS becomes illegal and punishable.

2015 Nationwide General Population Survey on Drug Use in Japan (English)

http://www.ncnp.go.jp/nimh/yakubutsu/report/pdf/2017_0522_2015EN_shimane2_k.pdf

