



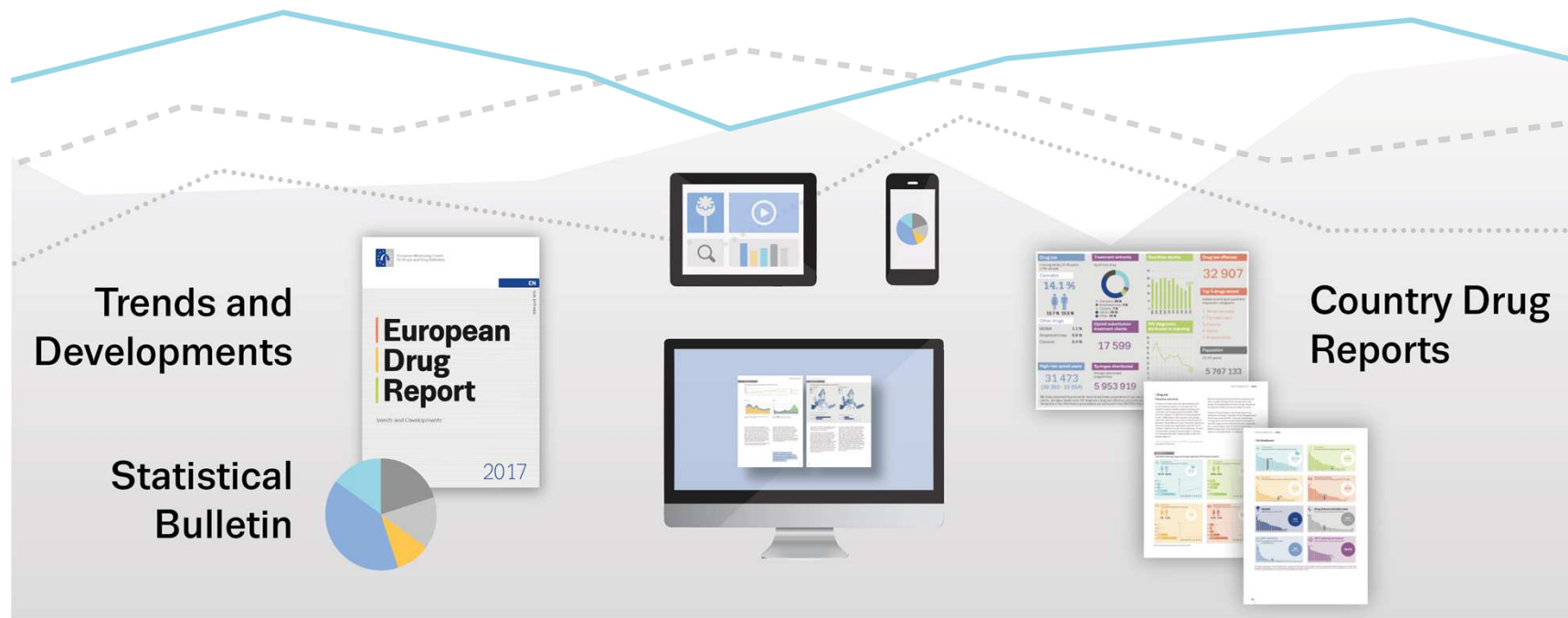
European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# **| European | Drug | Report**

Trends and Developments

6 June 2017

# European Drug Report (EDR) package



# Highlights from the European Drug Report 2017

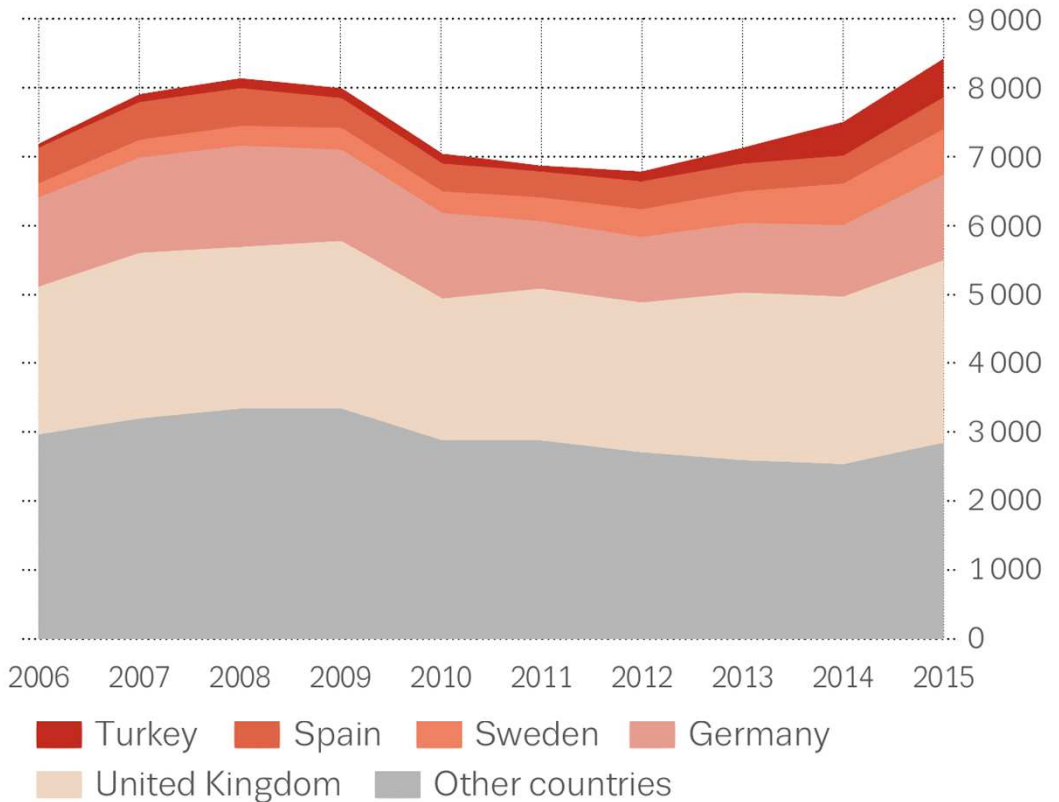
- **Overdose deaths** — rise for third year in a row
- **New synthetic opioids** — a growing health threat
- **NPS** — fewer new detections, but availability high and problems continue
- **Cocaine** — first signs of increasing availability?
- **Cannabis trends** — EU and US student substance use compared



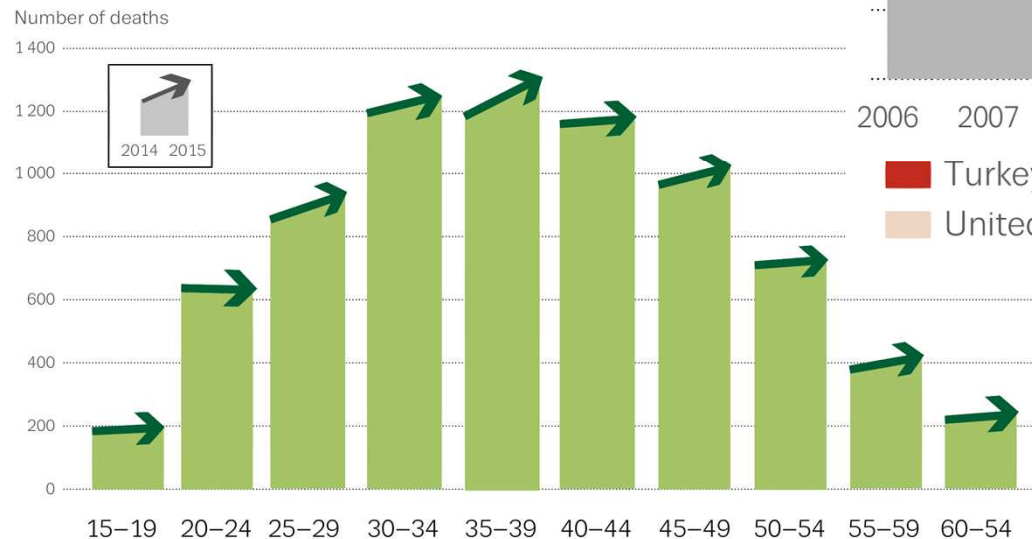
# 1. Overdose deaths: rise for third year

- 8 441 deaths in 2015
- Heroin and other opioids a concern
- Increases among almost all age groups

Trends in overdose deaths



Number of drug-induced deaths reported in Europe in 2014 and 2015, by age band



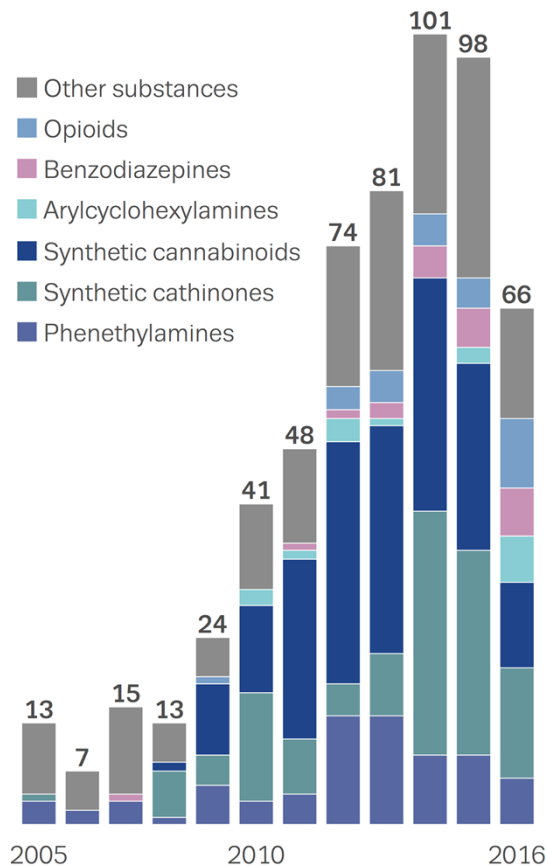
## 2. New synthetic opioids — a growing health threat

- 25 new synthetic opioids detected between 2009 and 2016
- Highly potent, also found in other products
- Intoxication risk to users and to those accidentally exposed



# 3. NPS: drop in new detections but availability still high

Number and categories of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early Warning System for the first time



- 66 new substances detected in 2016
- Decline from 2014 peak
- Impact of regulation in EU and China?
- 620+ substances monitored by EWS
- Deaths and acute intoxications still a problem



# NPS: high-risk use in marginalised populations

Low use in general population but problems for some groups:

- cathinone injection by opioid users, MSM
- synthetic cannabinoids among homeless
- use in prison a growing concern

*New report published:*

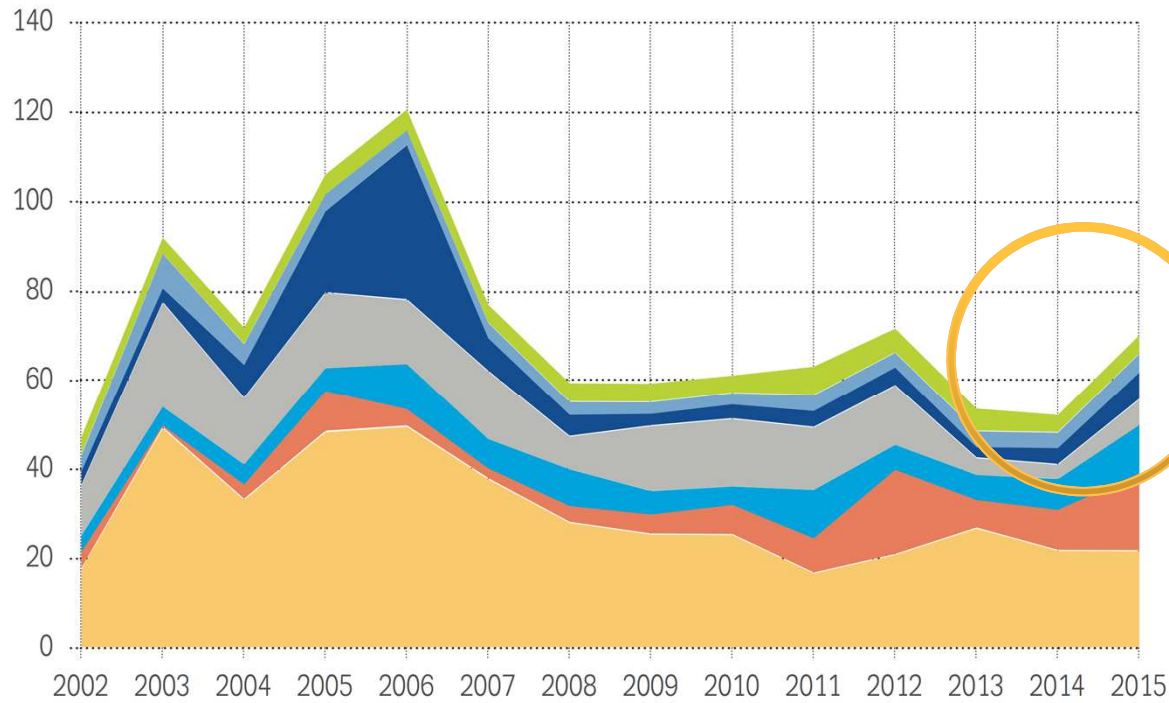
*High-risk drug use and new psychoactive substances*



# 4. First signs of rising cocaine availability?

### Quantity of cocaine seized

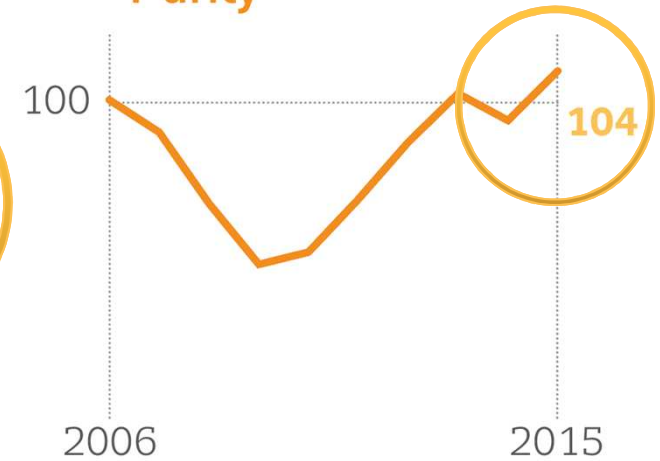
Tonnes



Italy United Kingdom Portugal Other countries  
France Belgium Spain


### Purity

#### Indexed trends: Purity

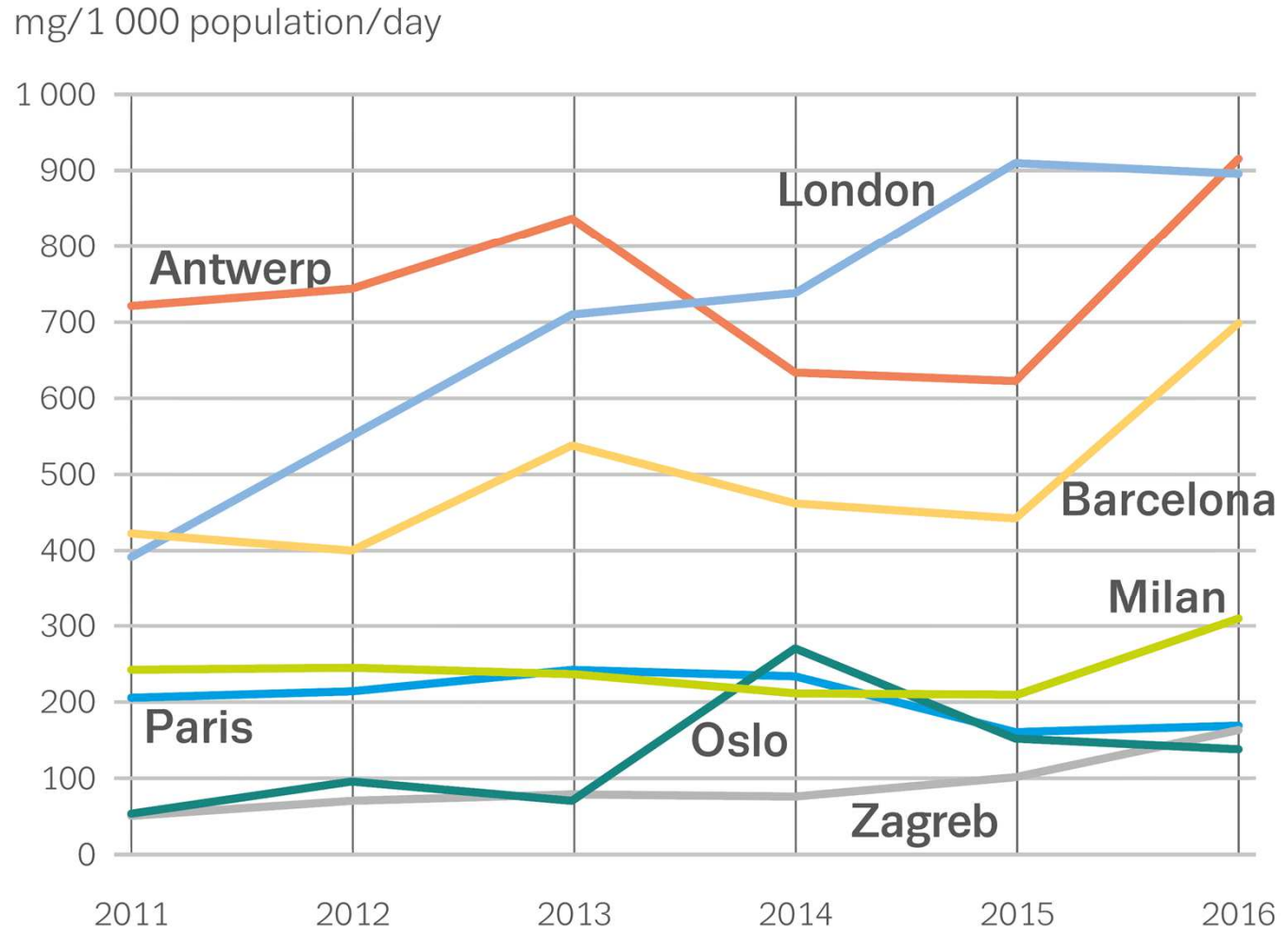




# Cocaine: increases in wastewater analysis

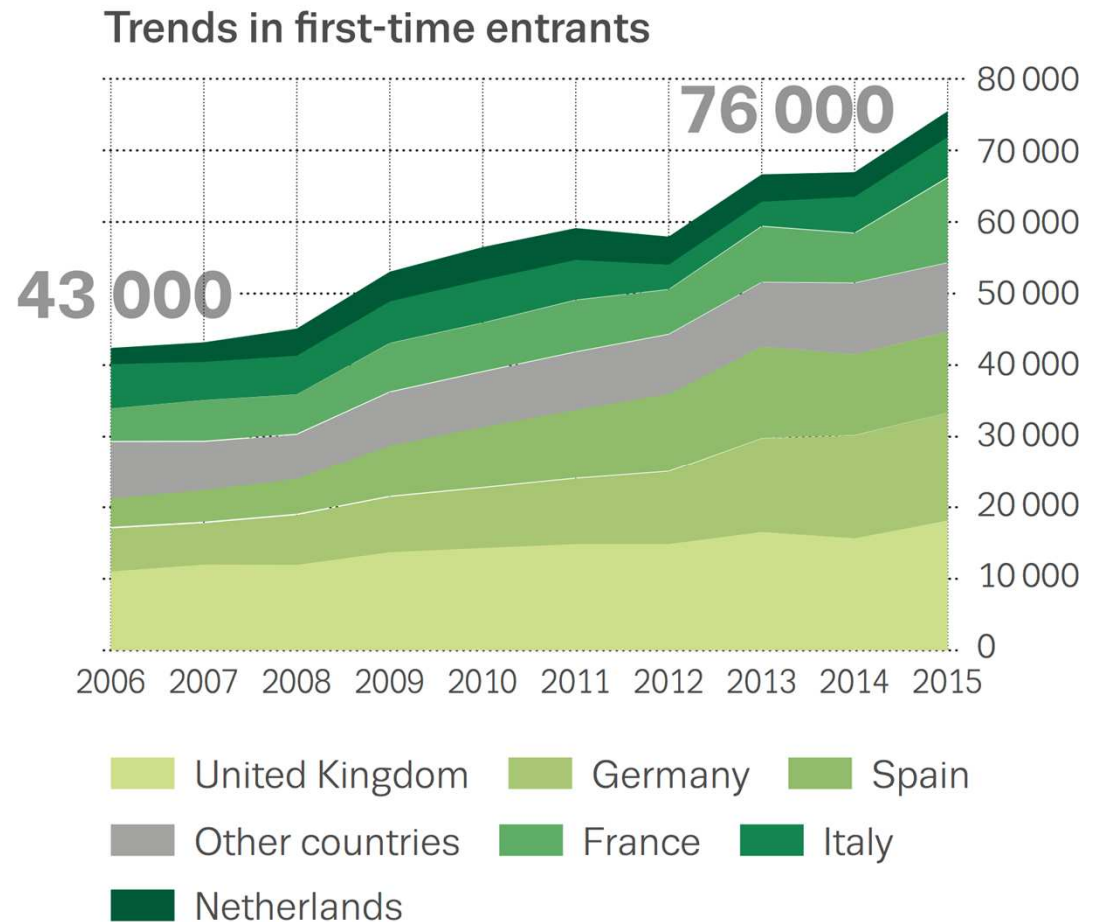
Cocaine residues   
in 22/33 cities  
between  
2015-2016

Cocaine residues in wastewater in selected European cities: trends

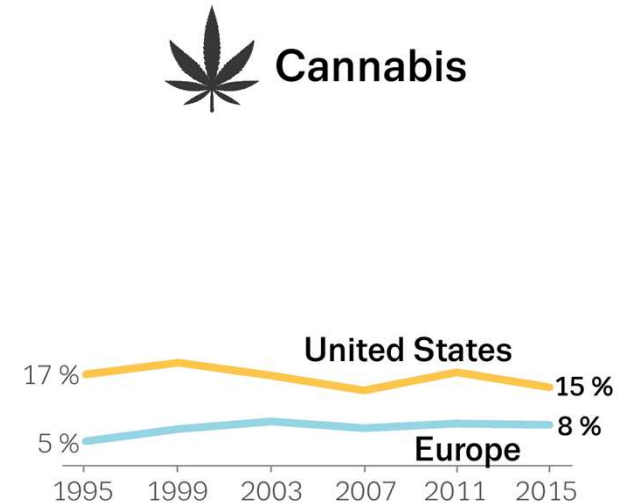
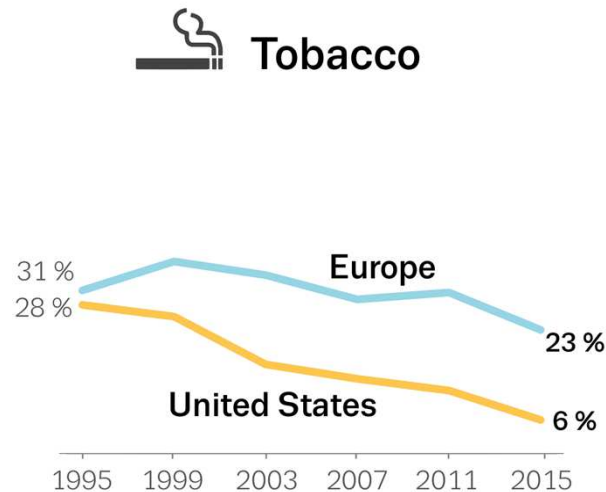
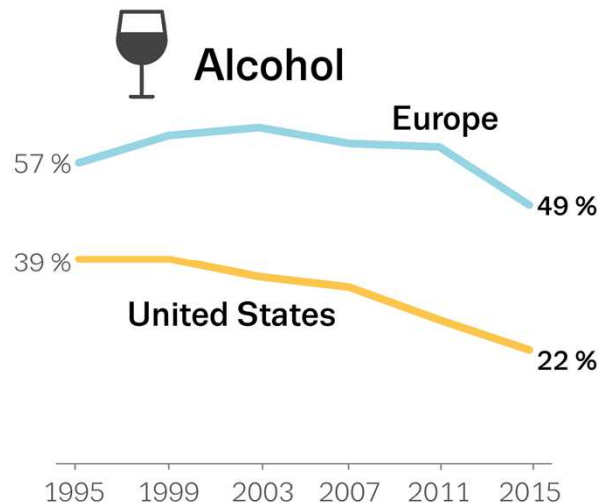


## 5. Cannabis use and problems

- 87.7 million European adults have tried cannabis
- 1% adults daily users
- National diversity in prevalence and trends
- Increasing treatment demand — 45% of new entrants



# EU and US students: last-month substance use compared



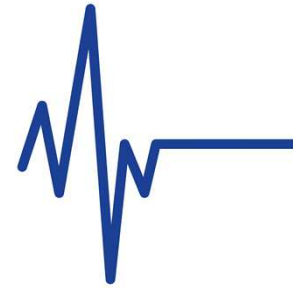
- EU cannabis use **half** levels found in US (stable)
- But alcohol use **2x** and tobacco **4x** higher in Europe (declining)
- Success for tobacco and alcohol transferable?



# Conclusions...

## Drug-related deaths

- Challenge of monitoring and responding to an evolving and complex problem
- Need to develop and share effective responses



## New psychoactive substances

- Remain a policy challenge
- New problems seen in marginalised communities and particular settings
- More interplay with the illicit drug market



## Cocaine

- Possible emerging problem, need for vigilance





European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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