



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

The European Questionnaire on Drug Use among Prisoners (EQDP): results from the pilot data collection

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Background

- **EMCDDA has defined a general framework for monitoring the issue of drugs and prison in Europe**
 - Drug use and related problems among prisoners
 - Interventions targeting drug use among prisoners
- **“European Questionnaire on Drug Use among Prisoners (EQDP)”**
(<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/prison>)



Structure of the EQDP

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2. Drug use outside and inside prison	6
3. Drug injecting and other health risk behaviours	12
4. Health status	13
5. Use of health and drug services	16



Methodological guidelines

Principles

- Aim
- Survey management
- Existing tools
- Minimum core data set
- Methodological guidelines
- Questionnaire/data collection form
- Triangulation of sources
- Ethical issues

Check list

Guidelines

- Survey aims
- Method of the survey
- Periodicity of the survey
- Target population
- Access to prison
- Sampling
- Introduction to the interview
- Individual rights of participants
- Anonymity and confidentiality
- Non response
- Data collection methods
- Data management
- Missing values
- Data documentation requirements
- Data quality
- Priority areas



The pilot exercise (2015-2016)

- **Pilot exercise: mapping of prison's surveys conducted in 5 countries (CZ, IT, PL, PT, SI)**
- **Mapping of method and items included in each survey**
- **Use of ST.01 (FONTE) from GPS for data on general population**
- **Selection of common variables**
(LTP, LYP, LMP before current imprisonment, LTP during any imprisonment, LT injecting during any imprisonment, Injecting 30 days before current imprisonment)



Survey design and methods (1)

	Poland	Portugal	Czech Republic	Italy	Slovenia
Aims of the study	Pilot study of EQDP	To map substance use, risky behaviour, but also living conditions in prisons, interventions in prisons, concerns	To map substance use, risky behaviour, experience with drug services and interventions available in prisons	Pilot study of EQDP	To map substance use
Method (design)	Pilot cross-sectional study	Repeated cross-sectional study	Repeated cross-sectional study	Pilot cross-sectional study	Cross-sectional study
Year of data	2014	2014	2014	2015/2016	2015
Sampling	Purposive sampling, combination of various types of units/prisons.	Stratified random sampling.	Simple random sampling.	Convenience sampling.	Self-nomination
Age and gender	17+, males	16+, both gender	15+, both gender	18+, males	19+, males, females (but data provided just for males)
Target population	6 selected prisons. Excluded individuals in high security regime and remand prison population (restricted regime) Included people under administrative arrest.	All 47 prisons. Excluded 1 special prison for imprisonment of law enforcement staff. Included juvenile prisoners aged 16-18	All 35 prisons. All prisoners serving a prison sentence (females, males, young offenders). Excluded remand prisons.	2 prisons. Persons treated in prisons for addiction (drug, alcohol, gambling). Sentenced or arrested for an administrative offence	Prisoner serving a prison sentence, all prisons in a country except prison for juveniles.

Survey design and methods (2)

	Poland	Portugal	Czech Republic	Italy	Slovenia
Nett sample size	296	2149	1751	40	688
Data collection mode	Self-administered in a group setting with research assistant; questionnaires inserted into envelops	Self-administered in a group setting with research assistant; questionnaires inserted into envelops; box for completed questionnaires. Without the presence of prison guards. Distribution of the leaflets to the prisoners, chronological steps (distributed during breakfast, info on the study and its aims) Meetings with directors and intermediate stuff	Self-administered in a group setting with research assistant; questionnaires inserted into envelops; box for completed questionnaires. With presence of a prison guard. Some individuals excluded for security reasons (just single cases).	F2F interviews with selected prisoners (20 from community regime and 20 normal regime).	
Anonymity	Anonymous, no data per prison	Anonymous, no data per prison	Anonymous, no data per prison	Not anonymous, but confidential (treatment setting)	Anonymous, no data per prison

Substances

Substances (I-included, x-not included)	Poland	Portugal	Czech R.	Italy	Slovenia
Tobacco	I	I	I (NOT in prison)	I	I (JUST in prison)
Alcohol	I	I	I	I	I (JUST in prison)
Cannabis	I	I	I	I	I
Powder cocaine HCl	I	I	I	I	I
Crack cocaine	I	I	X	I	X
Amphetamine(s)	I	I	X	I	I
Methamphetamine	I	X	I	I	X
Ecstasy	I	I	I	I	I
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	I	I	I	I	I
Ketamine	X	X	X	I	X
LSD	I	I	I	I	X
Heroin	I	I	I	I	I
Methadone misused	I	I	X	I	X
Buprenorphine misused	X	I	I	I	X
Fentanyl illicit/misused	I	X	X	X	X
Other opioids (specify), in PL so-called kompot	I	X	X	X	X
Barbiturates misused	I	X	X	I	X
Benzodiazepines misused	I	X	X	I	X
GHB/GBL	I	X	X	I	X
Hypnotics/sedatives	X	I	I	X	X
Volatile inhalants/solvents	I	X	I	I	I
NPS	I	I	I	I	I
Anabolic steroids	I	I	I	I	X

Drug categories in prison surveys and GPS

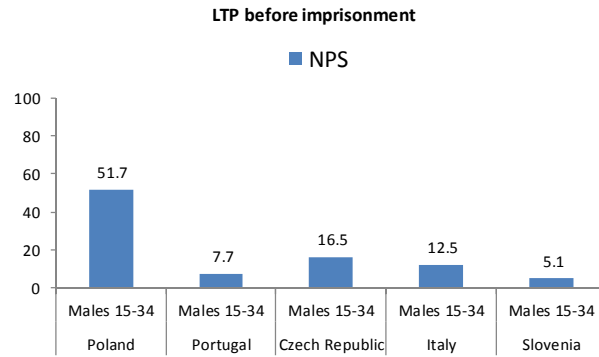
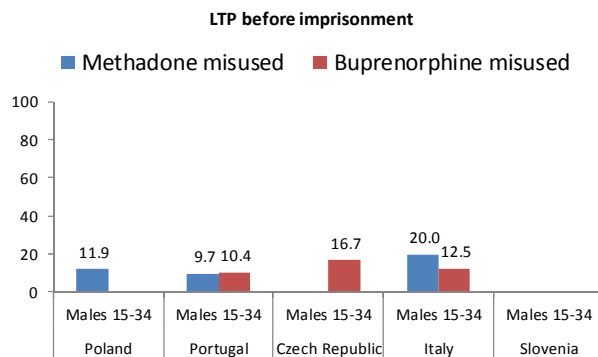
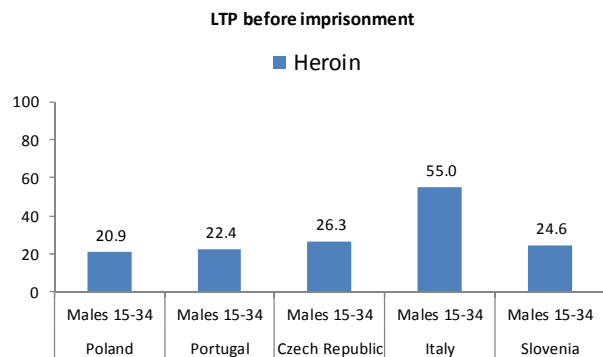
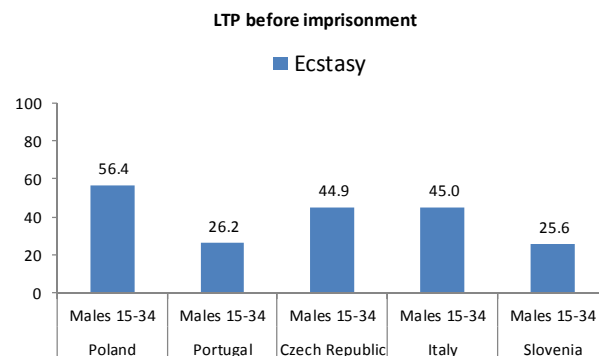
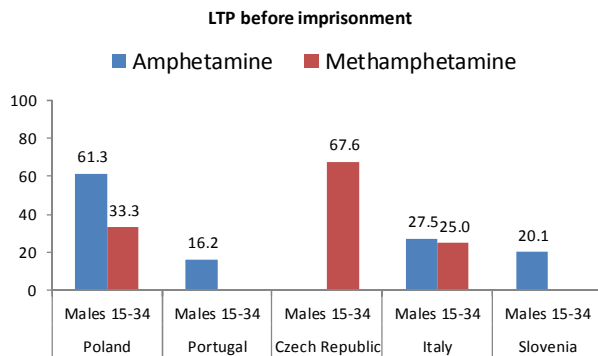
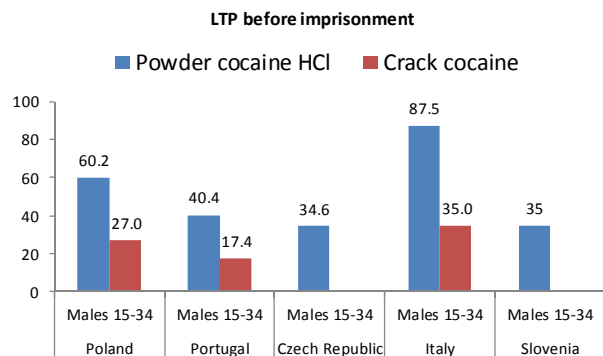
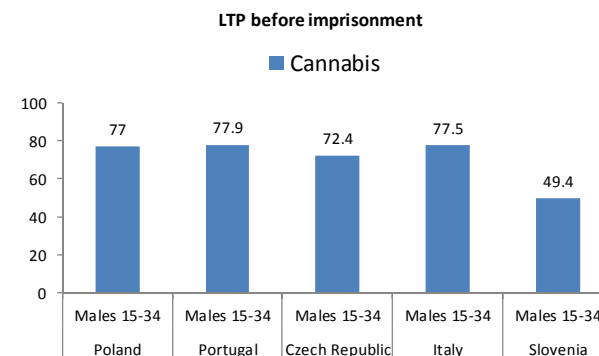
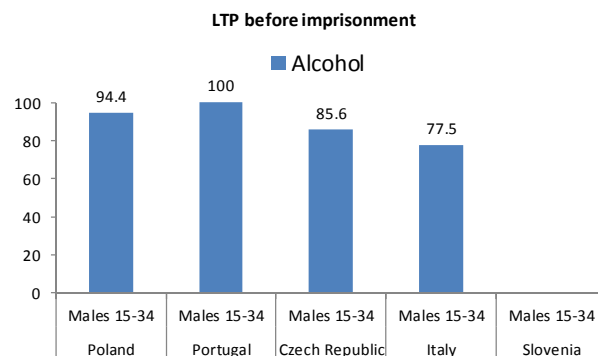
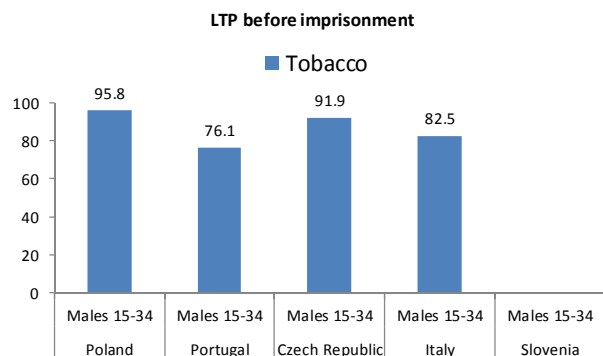
Prison surveys	GPS
Tobacco	Tobacco
Alcohol	Alcohol
Cannabis	Cannabis
Powder cocaine HCl	Cocaine (total, including crack)
Amphetamine(s)	Amphetamines
Methamphetamine	Amphetamines
Ecstasy	Ecstasy
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	Other hallucinogens (hallucinogenic mushrooms, in Italy plus ketamine)
LSD	LSD
Heroin	Heroin
Barbiturates misused	Sedatives and/or tranquillisers
Benzodiazepines misused	Sedatives and/or tranquillisers
Hypnotics/sedatives	Sedatives and/or tranquillisers
Volatile inhalants/solvents	Solvents or inhalants
NPS	Other 1 (available in Portugal , Czech Rep., Slovenia) In Portugal: legal highs (e.g. salvia, spice, mephedrone, etc.) In Czech: New psychoactive substances - including other synthetic and/or herbal drugs=substances with stimulating, hallucinogenic or sedative effects that imitate known illicit drugs. In Slovenia: new drugs (like Spice, Mefedron, Metilon, etc).
Anabolic steroids	Anabolic steroids

Data analysis

- **LTP (and LYP, LMP) among males and females before and during current imprisonment**
- **LT injecting**
- **Indexes:**
 - a) LTP among prisoners / LTP in general population
(*value = 10 indicates 10-fold excess*)
 - b) LTP in prison / LTP before prison
(*value 1 = no decrease; 0.50 = 50% decrease*)

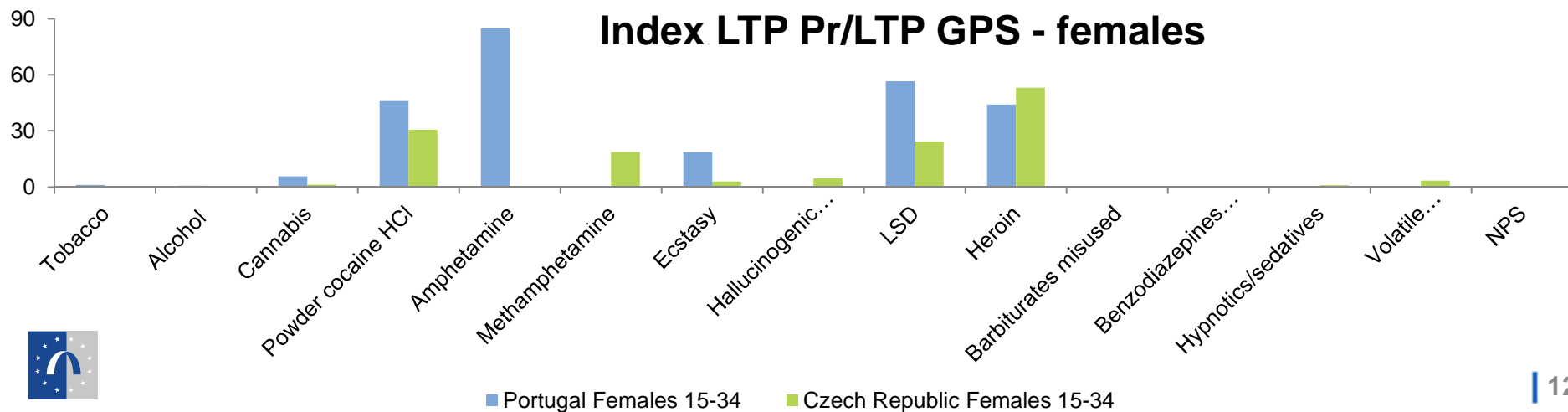
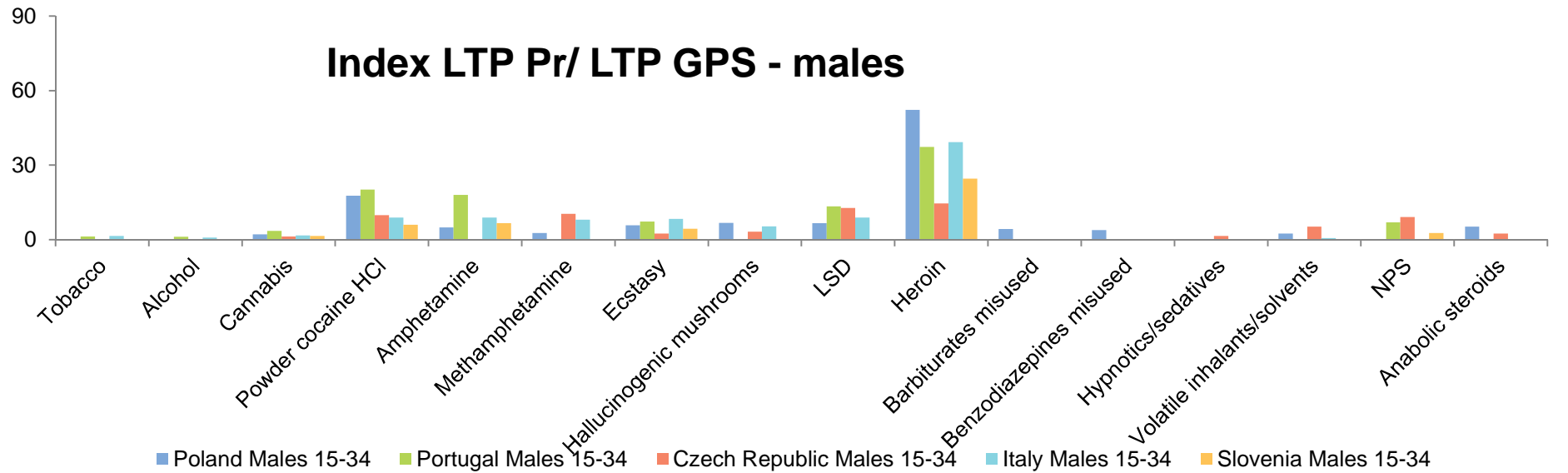


Lifetime prevalence before current imprisonment – males (%)



LTP among prisoners ↔ LTP General Population

(value = 10 indicates 10-fold excess)

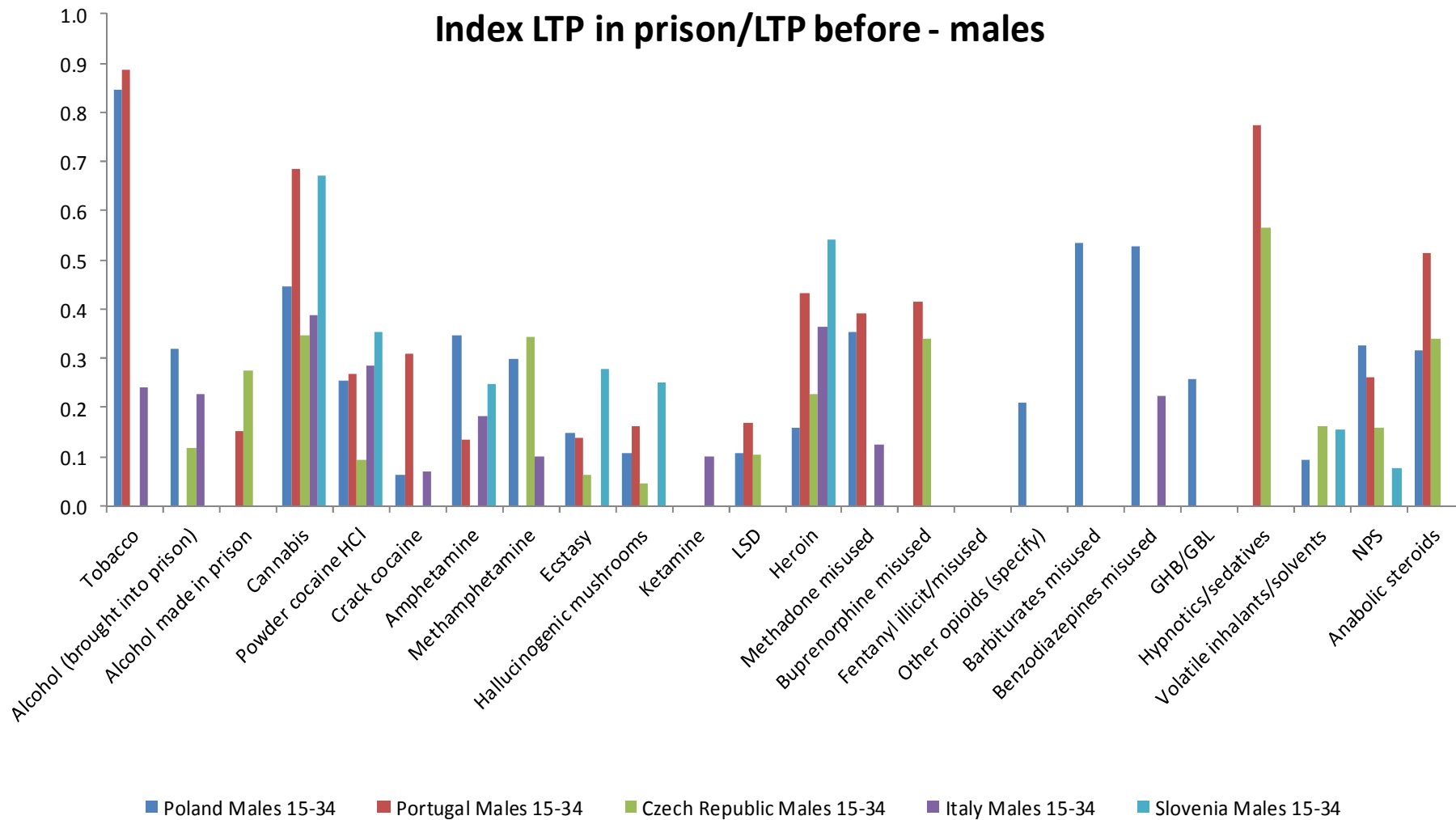


LTP during imprisonment

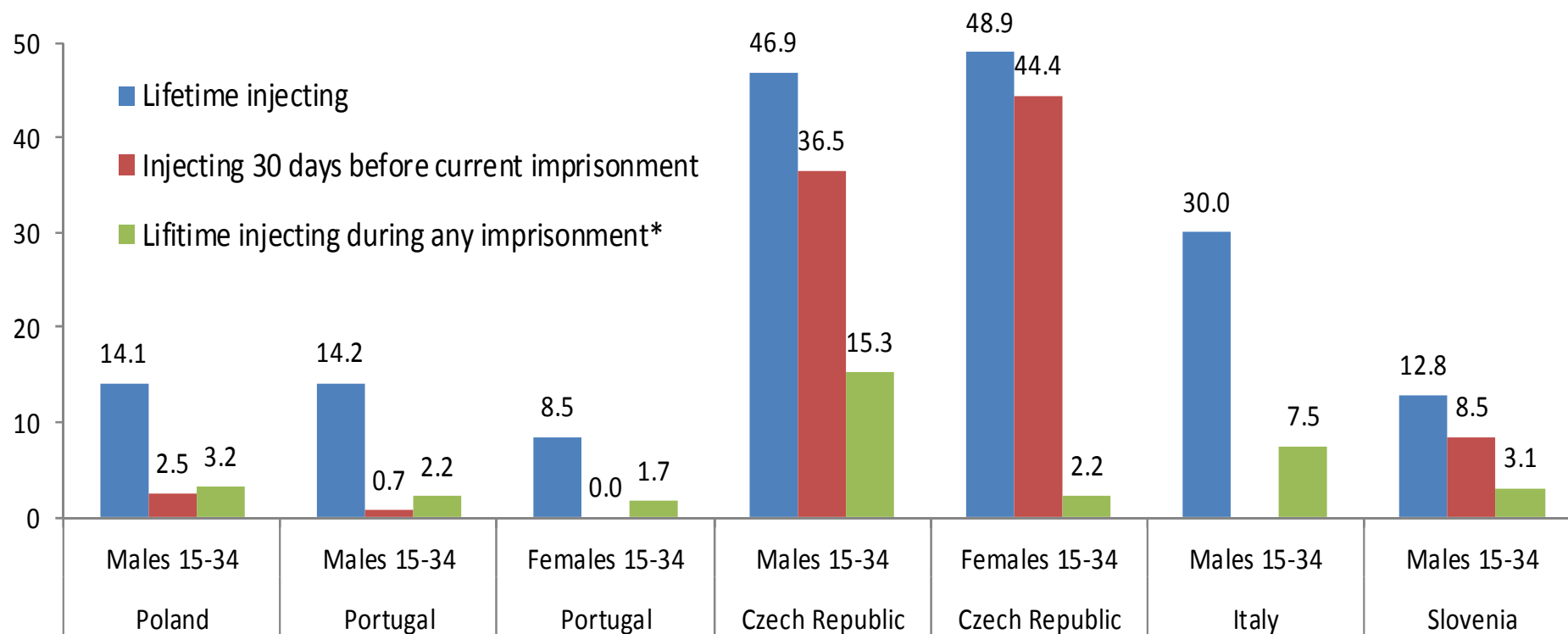


LTP before current imprisonment (males)
 (value 1 = no decrease; 0.50 = 50% decrease)

Index LTP in prison/LTP before - males



Injecting drug use (%)



Notes:

* Poland: ever injecting during current imprisonment, Italy: injecting during current imprisonment.

Number of valid answers is in males in Poland 122-128, in Portugal 555-579, in Czech Republic 400-418, in Italy 10, in Slovenia 257-258; in females in Portugal 59, in Czech Republic 45.



Summary....

- Excess prevalence in prisoners population compared to general population
- Excess prevalence highest in heroin, cocaine/crack, (meth)amphetamine
- Country's differences in LTP prisoners similar to country's differences in LTP general population
- Excess higher (LTP) in female than male prisoners compared with gen. pop.
- Reduction of drug use in prison



Reduction of drug use lowest in tobacco and sedatives/hypnotics

Recommendations

- Prison surveys should be based on representative (random) samples of general prison population to achieve comparability of prison population estimates
- Aggregated data collected by EMCDDA in STs:
 - should be based on categories (variables) allowing comparability between prison populations and general population
 - should be standardised regarding age a gender
- Prison surveys should follow common standard as much as possible since up to now, different format of data collected allow just limited comparison between countries



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