

# View of methamphetamine-type stimulants use in the Slovak Republic

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## Sharing the Experience – Symposium on Meth-/amphetamines

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NÁRODNÉ MONITOROVACIE CENTRUM PRE DROGY  
GENERÁLNY SEKRETARIÁT VÝBORU MINISTROV  
PRE DROGOVÉ ZÁVISLOSTI A KONTROLU DROG  
ÚRAD VLÁDY SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY

# Meth-/Amphetamines – a quietly emerged guest on the Slovak drug scene

## History

- Before 1989
  - Most commonly used drugs: alcohol, tablets...
    - Legally available
  - Illegal drugs (60's, from abroad, hippies culture)
- After 1989
  - State system of policy control weakened
  - Borders open – new routes, new markets
- Early 90's – drug epidemic
  - Most serious problem: heroin
    - Drug № 1: Unknown, illegal, dangerous, frightening – attractive for young people

# History

- Negative health and social consequences: base for drug policy formulation – “heroin-oriented”
  - Strategies, concepts, structures, coordinating bodies
    - Board of Ministers
    - National Programme of Fight Against Drugs
    - Treatment care, counseling services, prevention programmes
    - Enthusiastic volunteers, field work
  - Public interest, discussion
  - International help – projects, experience sharing

# Today

- New approach to drug phenomena
  - More knowledge, standards
  - More information available/shared on all levels
  - More sophisticated measures to solve some parts of problem
- Despite that, some problem arises from time to time that is new and serious like meth-/amphetamines use in Slovakia...
- It became visible in the beginning of this decade, along with the massive opioids wave falling down

# It becomes more popular

- It has stimulating effect
- It is cheap
  - Reasonably cheaper than cocaine
- It is available
  - In comparison with cocaine which is perceived as difficult to get (Eurobarometer Flash)
- It is easy to make
  - From easily available precursors (tablets) coming to Slovakia mostly from Hungary and Turkey and being sold without any major restrictions in pharmacies
  - In specialised laboratories – high productivity and quality -> home market, export (Austria, Hungary)
  - In little “kitchen” laboratories with productivity of 200-400 doses at once; prepared more frequently
  - Increasing number of laboratories, in 2007 one laboratory was disclosed in Eastern part of Slovakia for the first time
- Purity: about 64.2% median of 867 samples in 2007
- Bounded to recreational environments

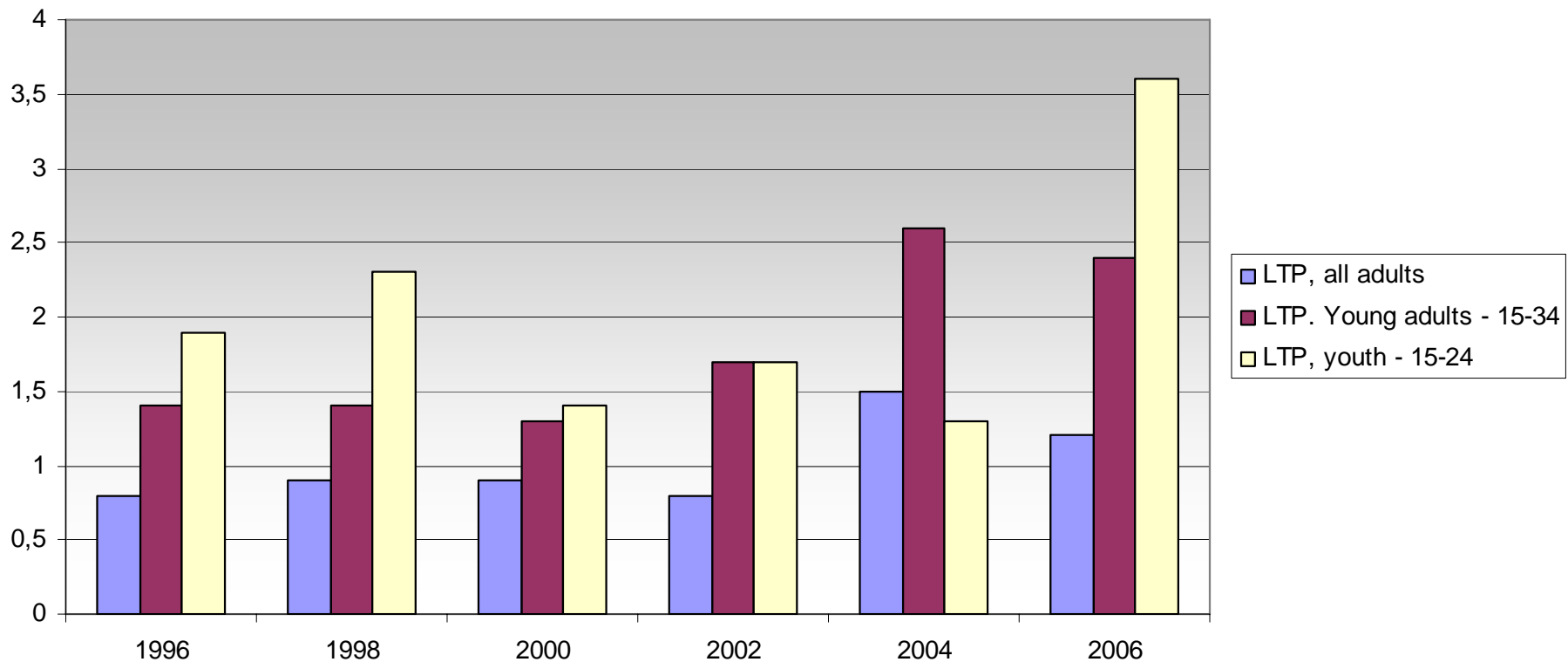
# Meth-/amphetamine use picture in Slovakia – description

- Using EMCDDA five key epidemiological indicators and complementary sources
- Do not rely just to one or couple of them!

# Use in population (GPS)

- Some signals from GPS on increasing use, especially in young people
- School surveys focused more on cannabis and ecstasy use

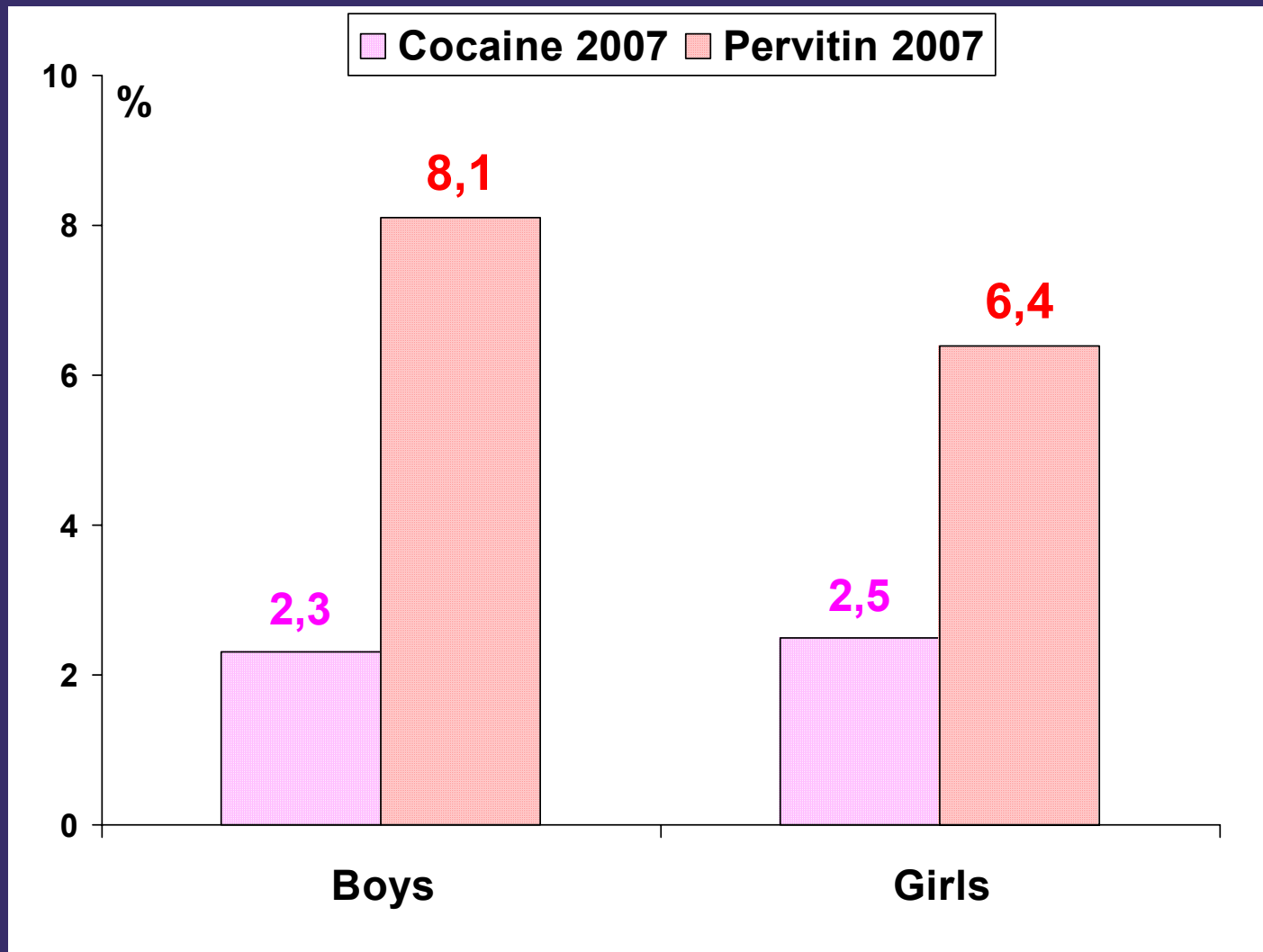
### Lifetime prevalence in different subgroups of general population Slovak Republic 2007



Source: Institute of Public Opinion Research, Statistical Office



# ESPAD 2007 Comparison of lifetime use by gender (one or more time(s) in his/her life: Cocaine & Pervitin)

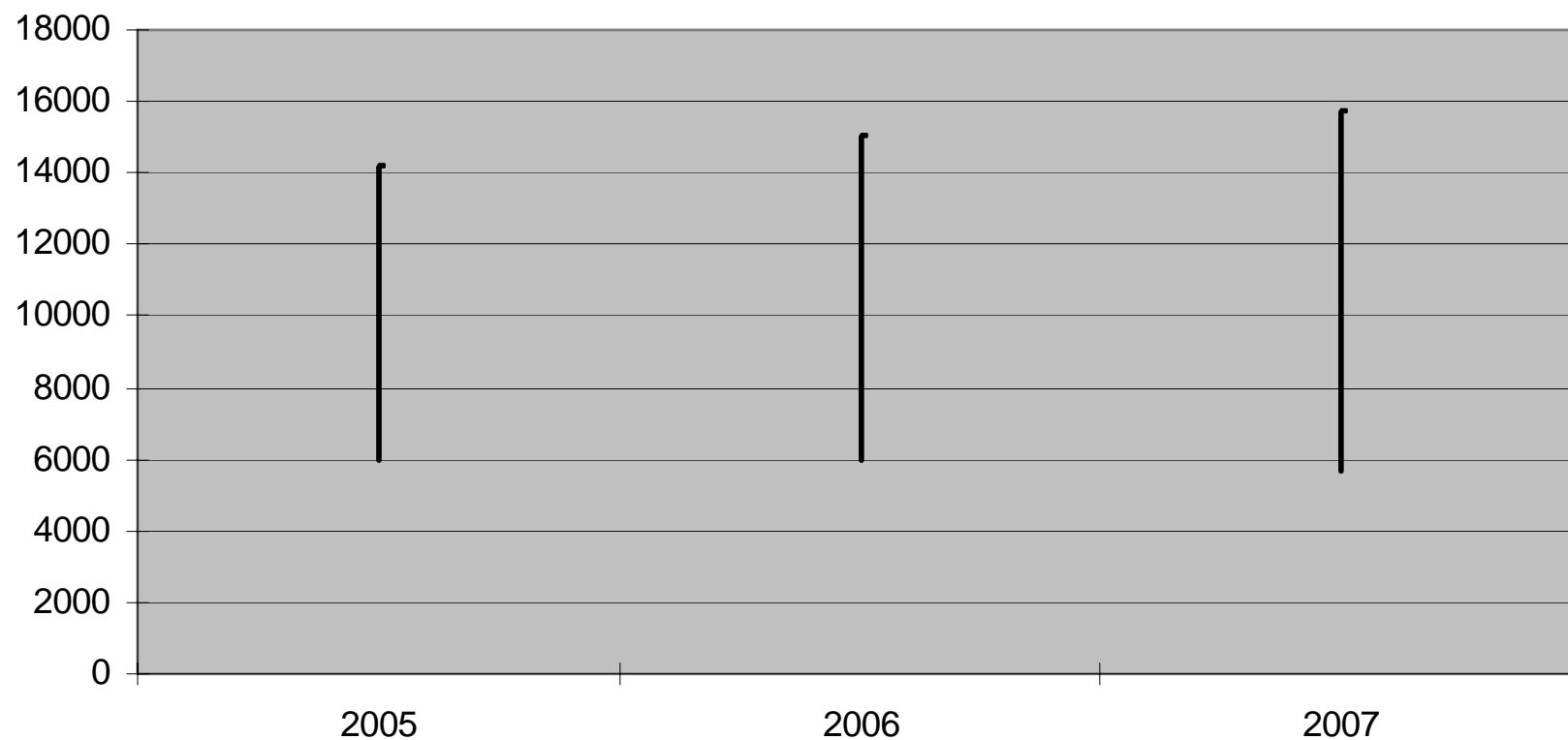


Source: Report from ESPAD survey by A. Nociar

# Problem drug use

- No indices of increase, estimates show more-less stable situation

## Problem meth-/amphetamine use estimates Slovakia

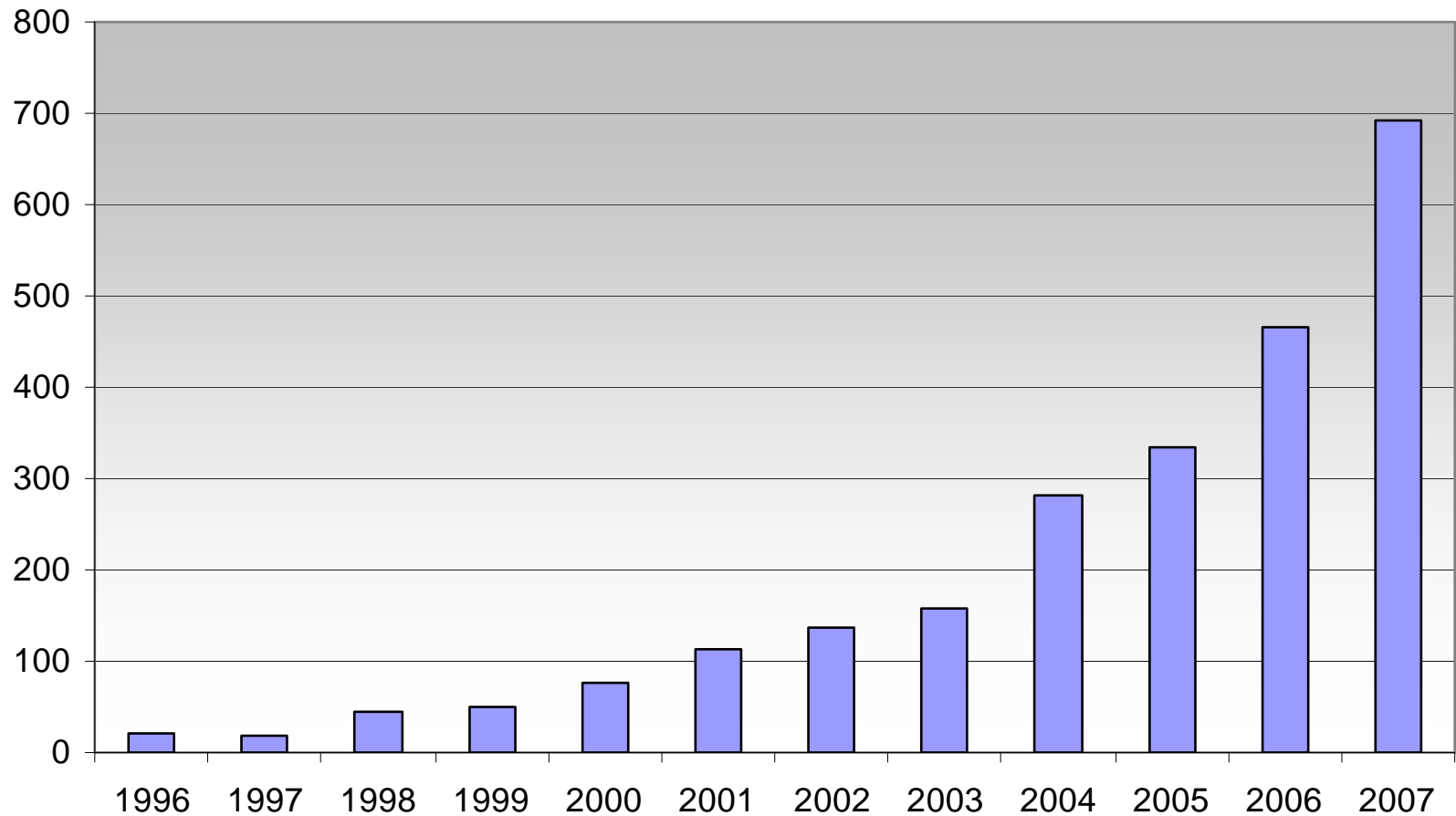


Source: PDU estimation, National Monitoring Centre for Drugs

# Law enforcement data

- Seizures – relevant and reliable indicator of problems beginning
- Indicated about four years ago increase in traffic and documented social impact of meth-/amphetamine use
- Increase of 50% in 2007 seizures, comparing with 2006
- Drugs in prison: increased presence of M-/Amph. metabolites in urinalyses (14 in 2006, 32 in 2007)

### Amphetamine-type stimulants - number of seizures Slovakia



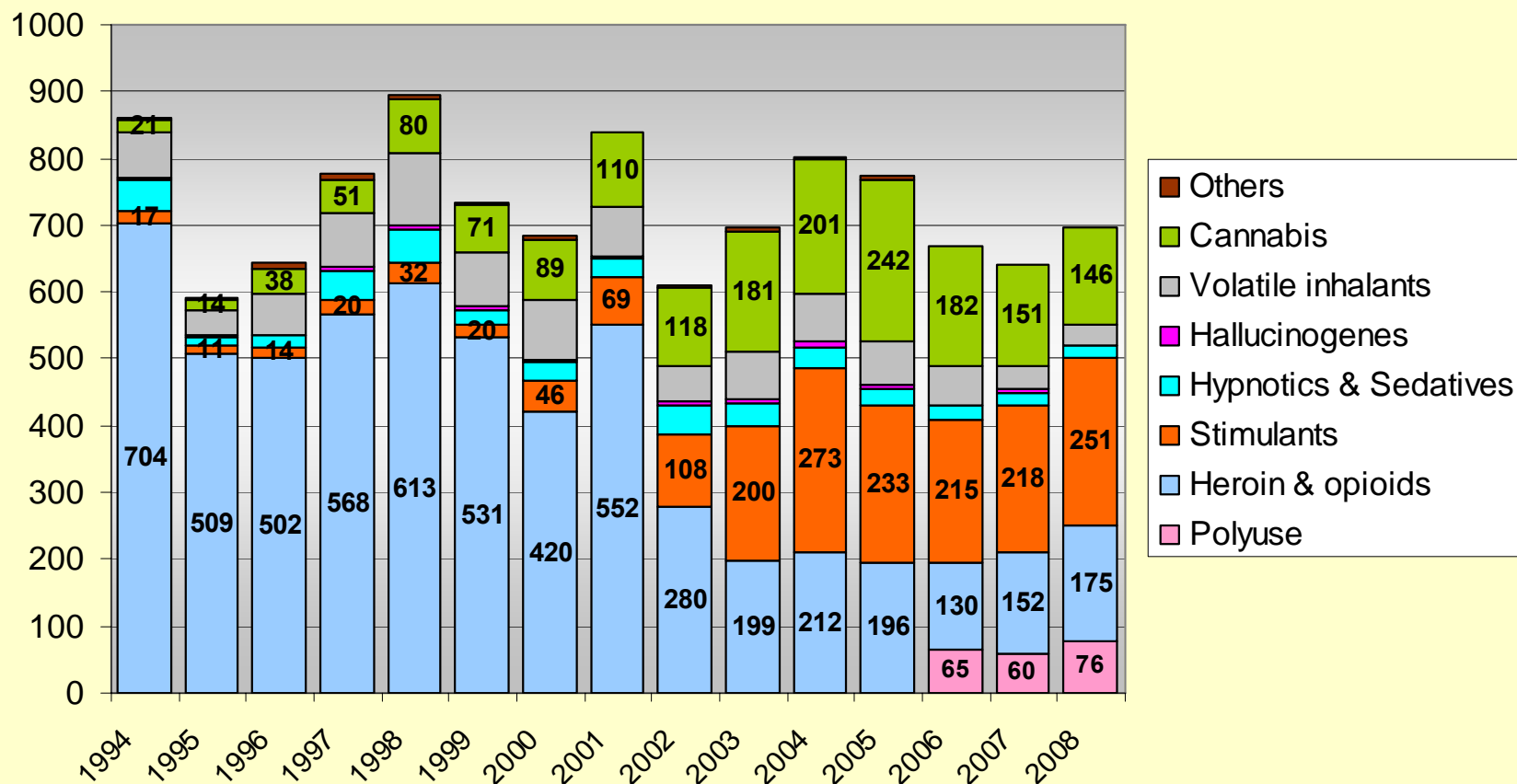
Source: Slovak Forensic Institute

# Treatment data

- In treatment: clear signals of increase since 2000
- Majority of patient treated due to stimulants use: methamphetamines (Pervitin)
- After some period of stabilisation it is increasing since 2006 again
- Slight though permanent increase of injecting patients proportion
- Shows marks of further development
- Young age groups of 15-24 are afflicted
- Accompanied by other drugs use

# Numbers and composition of patients entering treatment due to their drug use in the Slovak Republic

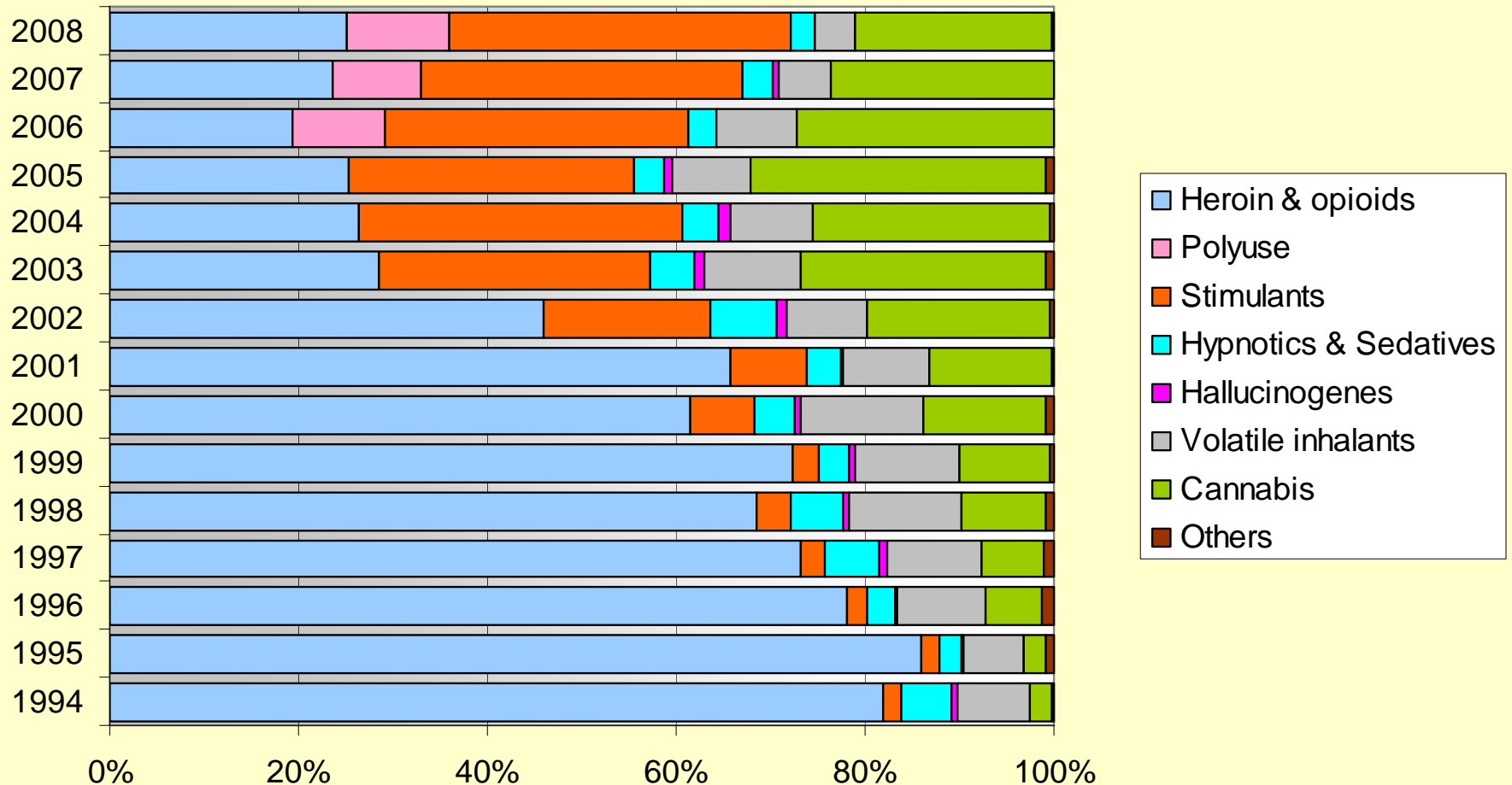
*By the primary drug - first treatment ever*



Source: National Centre of Health Information

## Composition of patients treated due to their drug use in the Slovak Republic

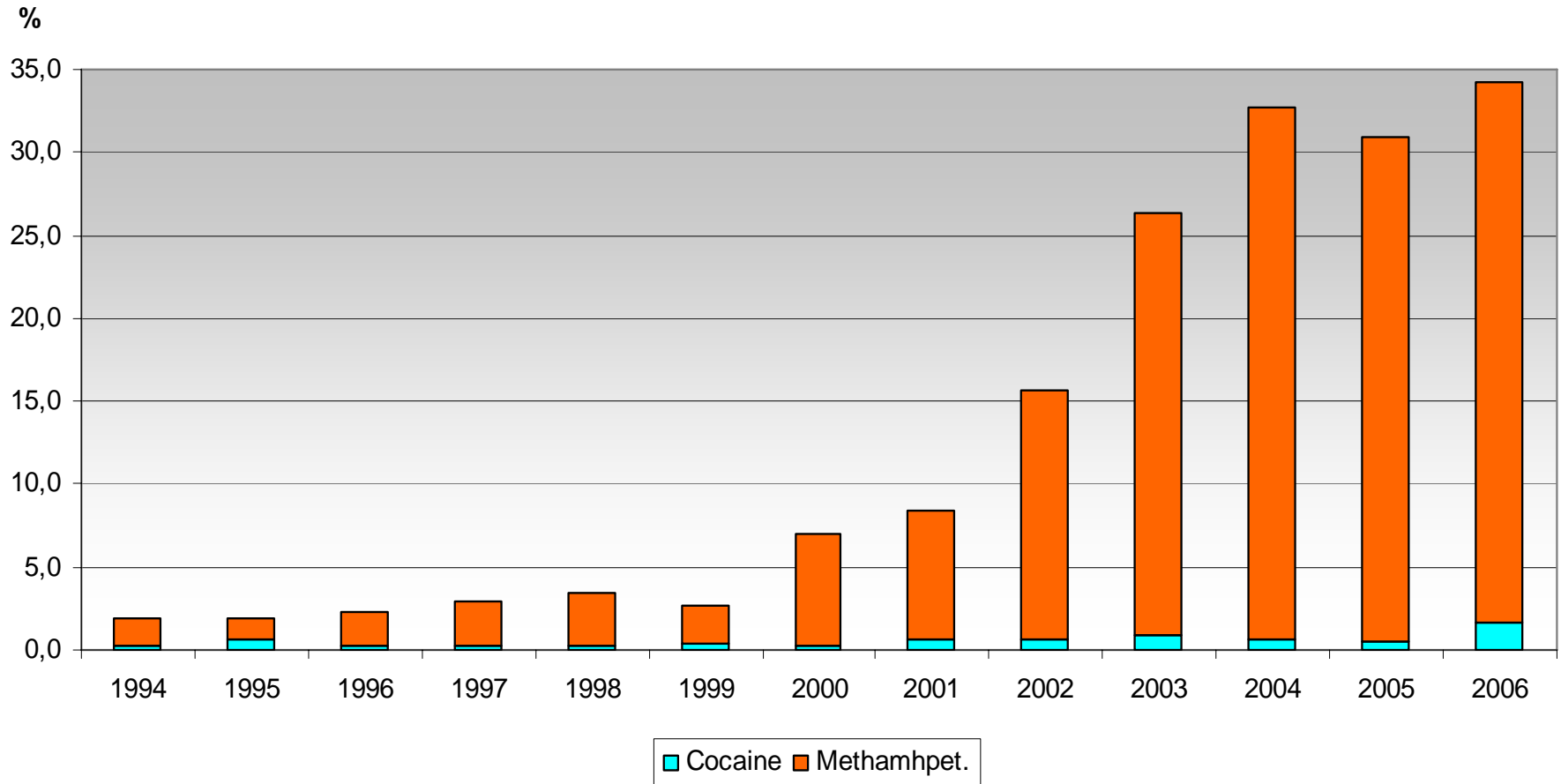
*Percentage by the primary drug - first treatments ever*



Source: National Centre of Health Information

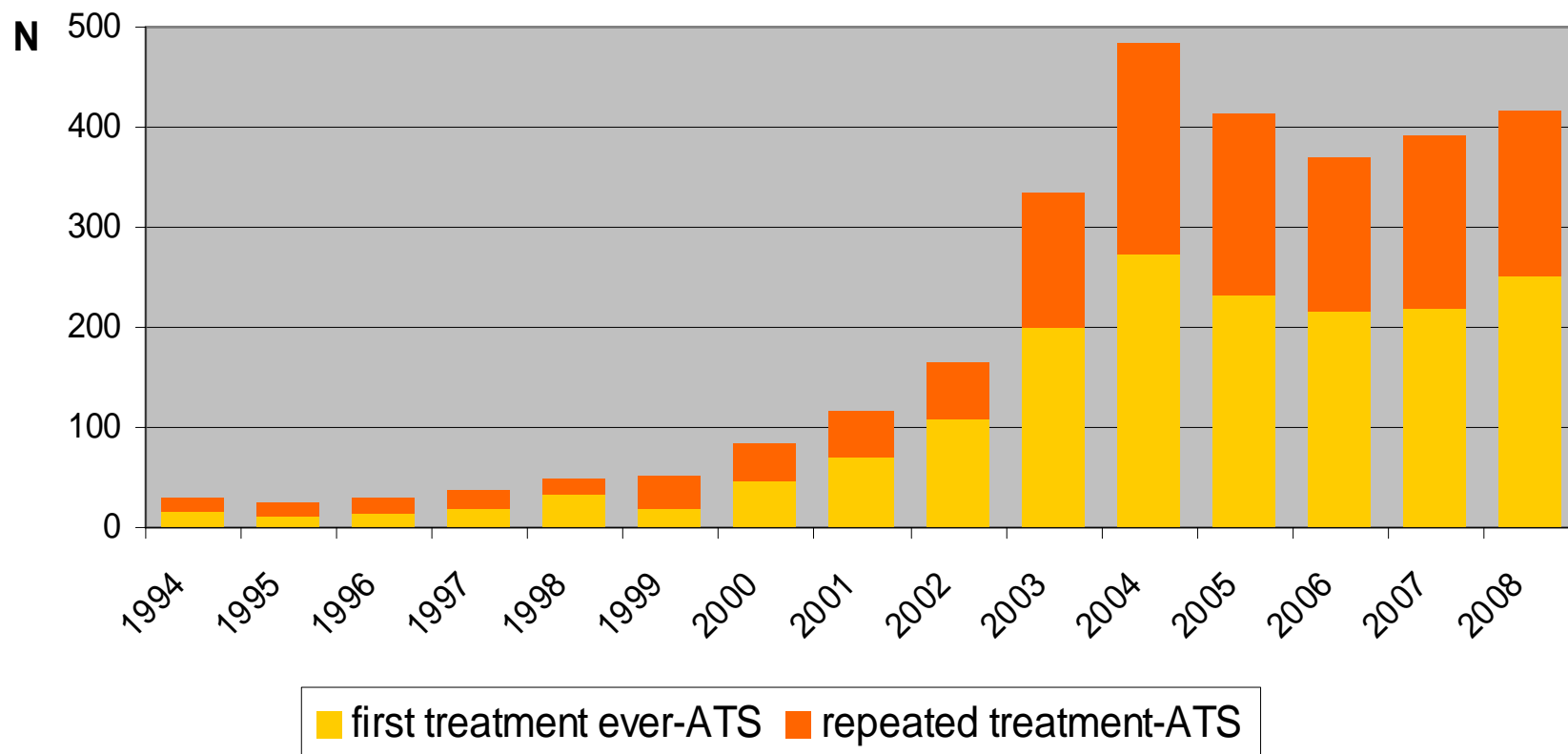


### Proportion of methamphetamine and cocaine users in patients entering treatment - percentage of all patients, Slovak Republic



Source: National Centre of Health Information

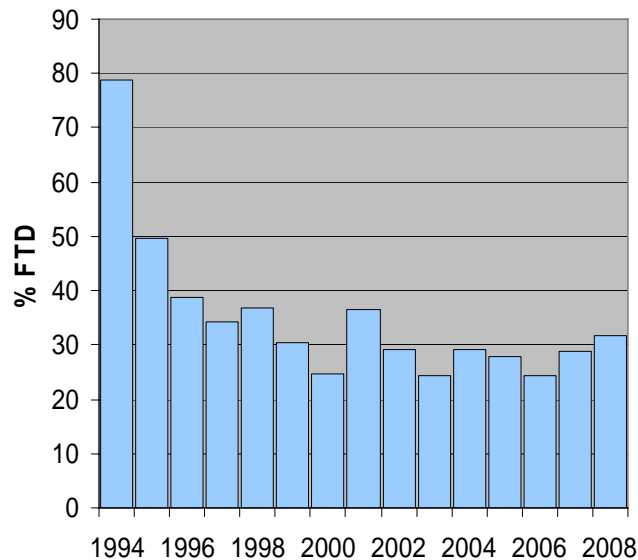
## Proportion of repeated treatment demands and first treatment demands ever, Amphetamine-type stimulants



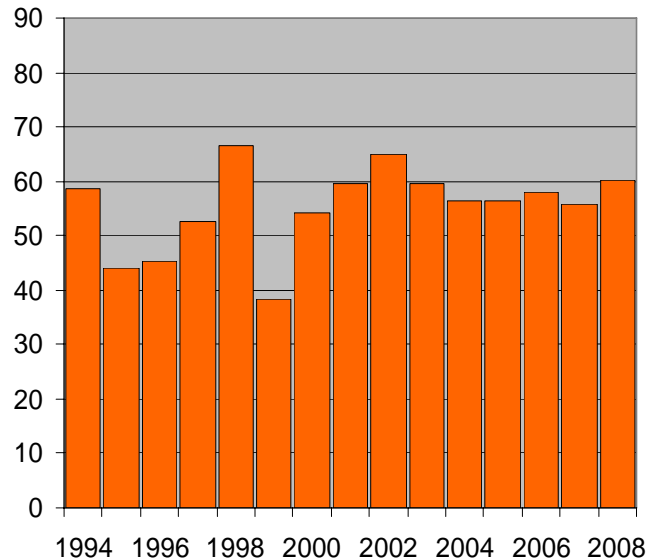
Source: National Centre of Health Information

# Proportion of first treatment demands by primary drug

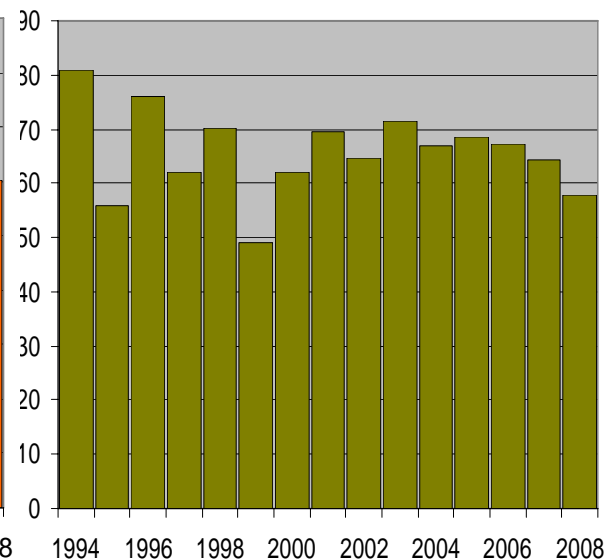
**Heroin**



**Meth-/amphetamines**

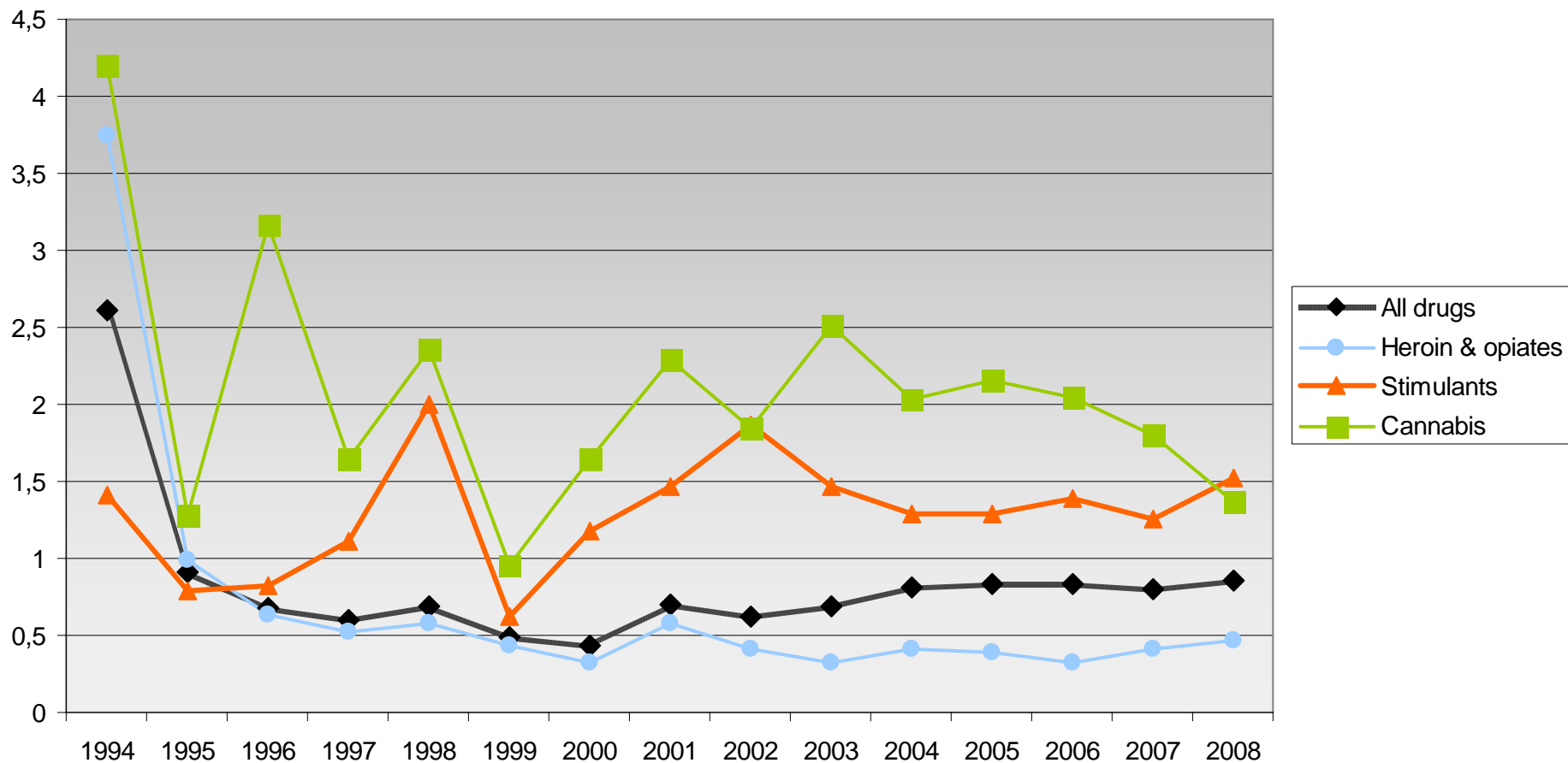


**Cannabis**



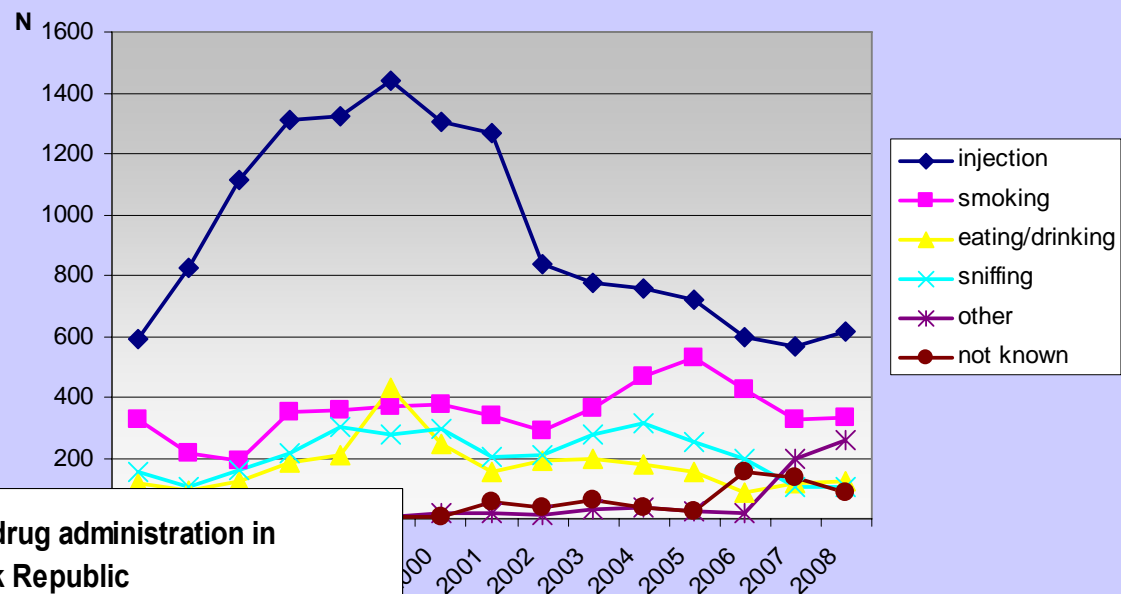
Source: National Centre of Health Information

### Indicator of epidemic development: FTD/RTD rate

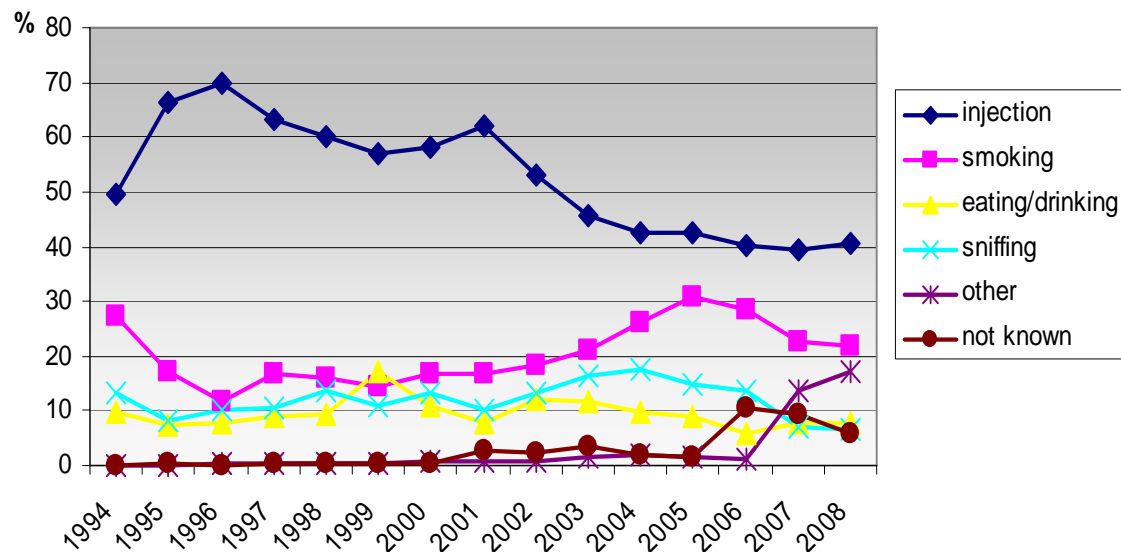


Source: National Centre of Health Information

Route of the primary drug administration in patients entering treatment, Slovak Republic

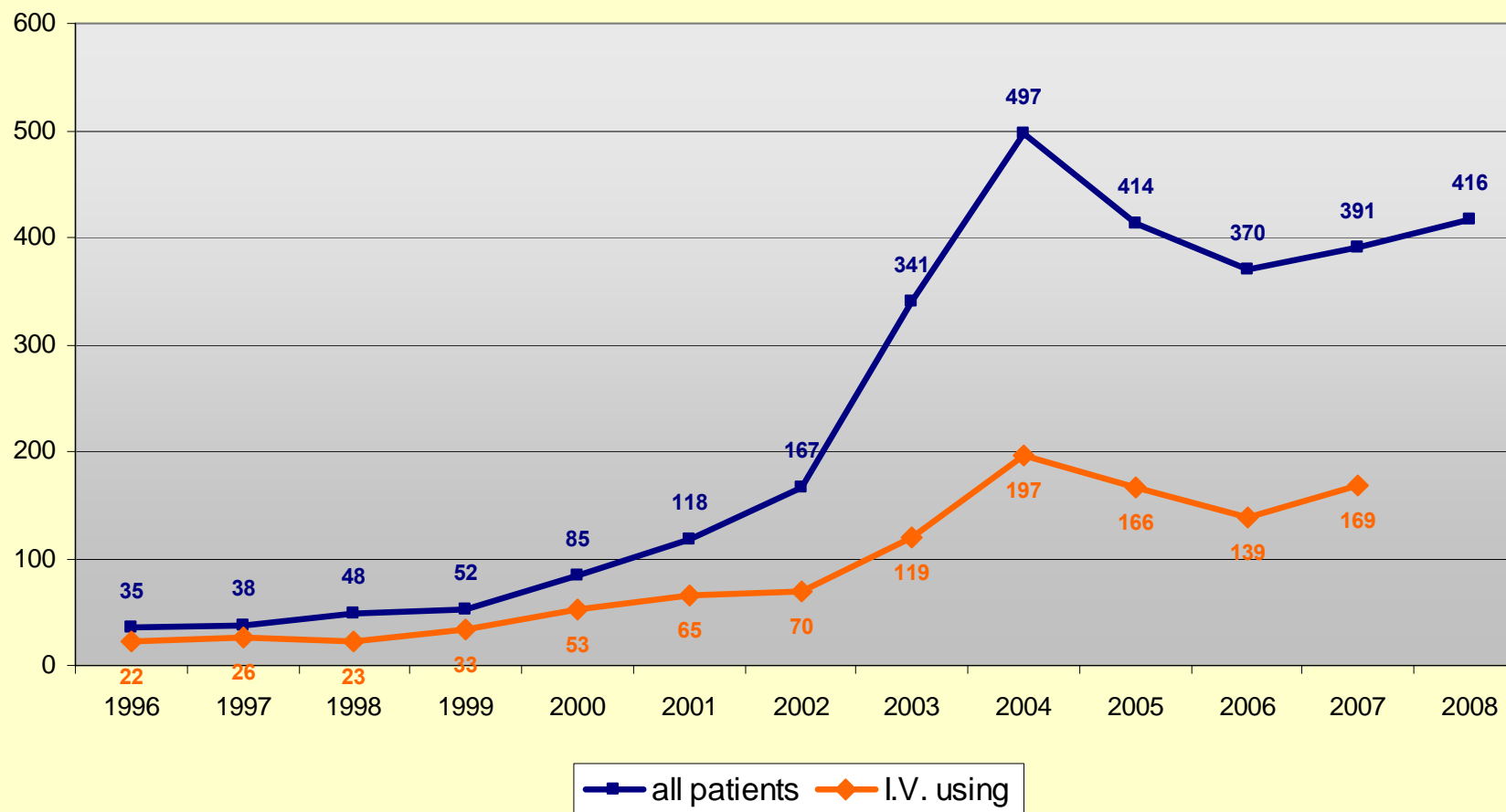


Percentage of different routes of the primary drug administration in patients entering treatment, Slovak Republic



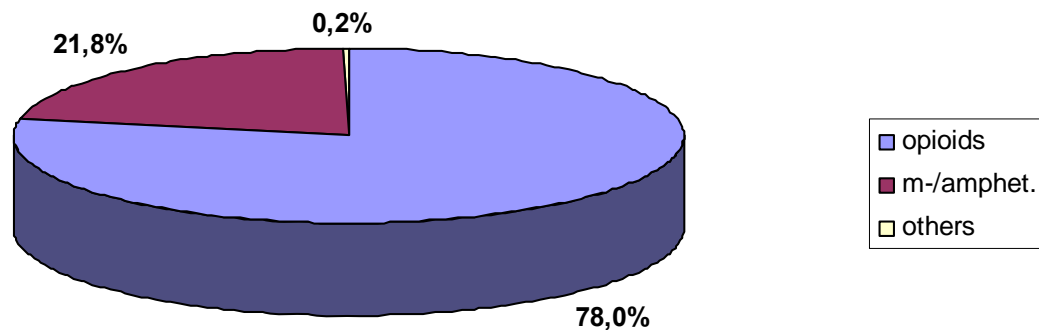
Source: National Centre of Health Information

## Proportion of injecting patients from all patients entering treatment due to ATS use, Slovak Republic

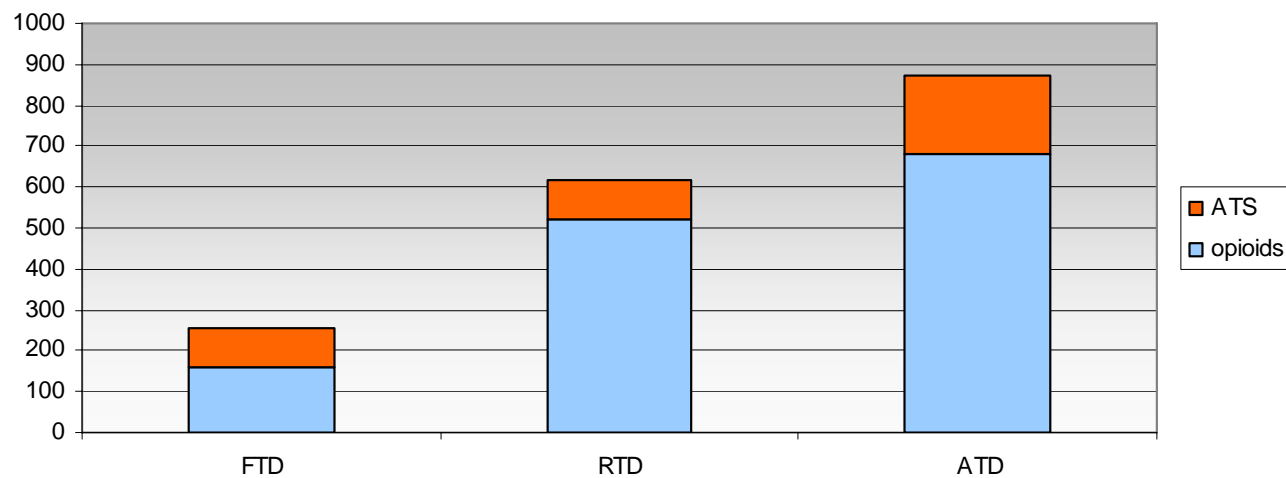


Source: National Centre of Health Information

**Primary drug - route of administration: injection,  
all treatments, Slovak Republic 2007**

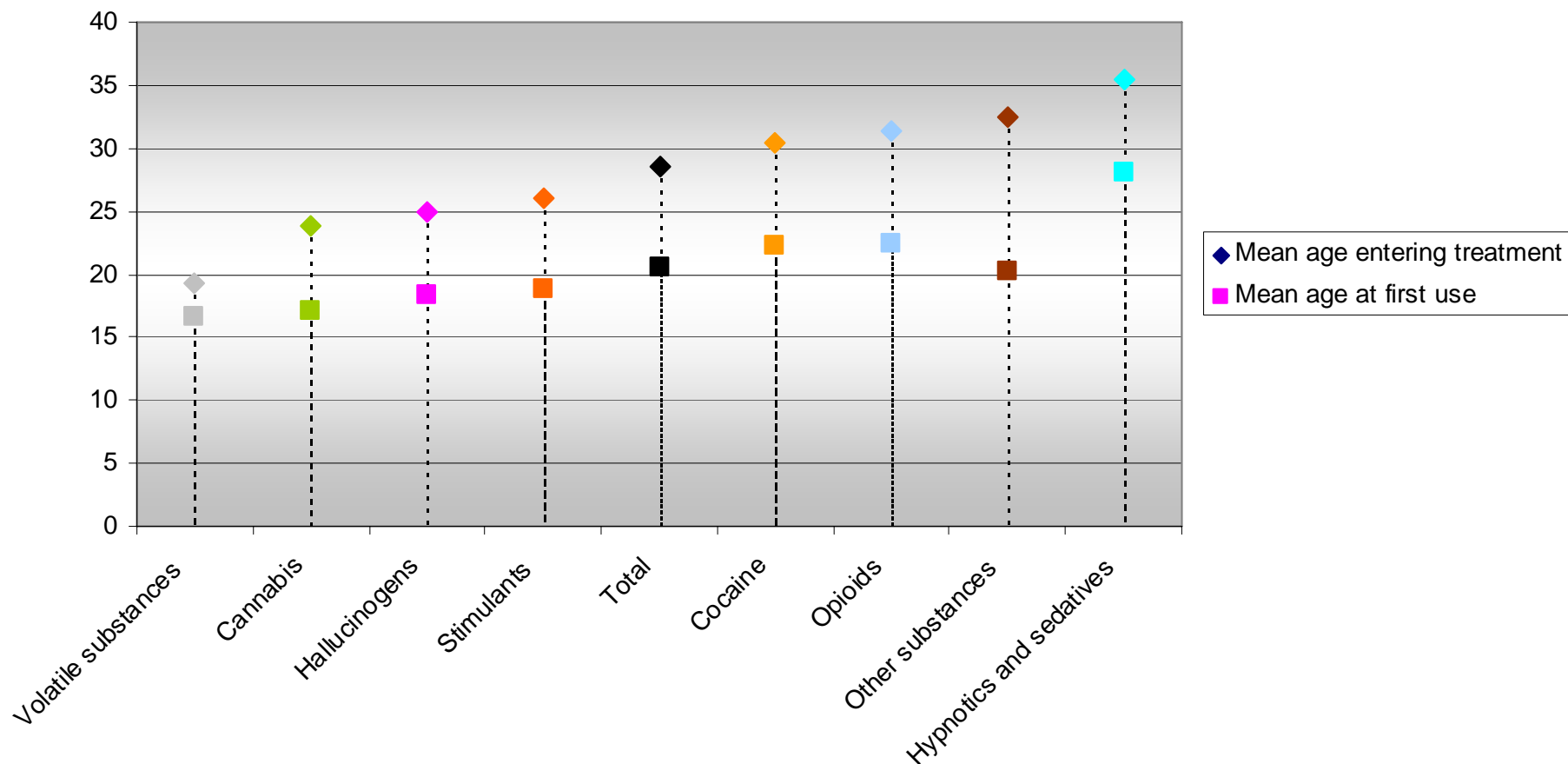


**Contribution of opioids and ATS to the picture of injection use of primary drug,  
Slovakia 2007**



*Source: National Centre of Health  
Information*

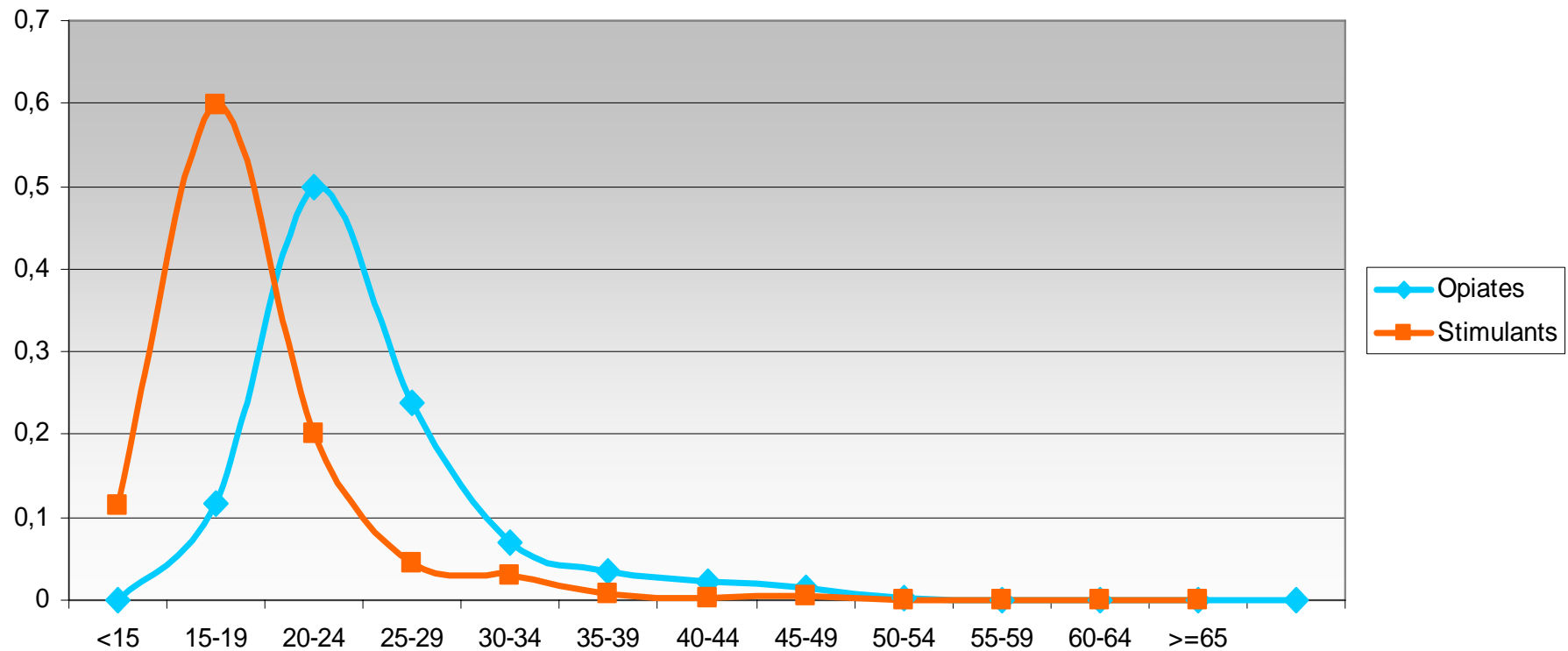
## Mean age of clients entering treatment and mean age at first use of primary drug EU 2006



Source: National Centre of Health Information

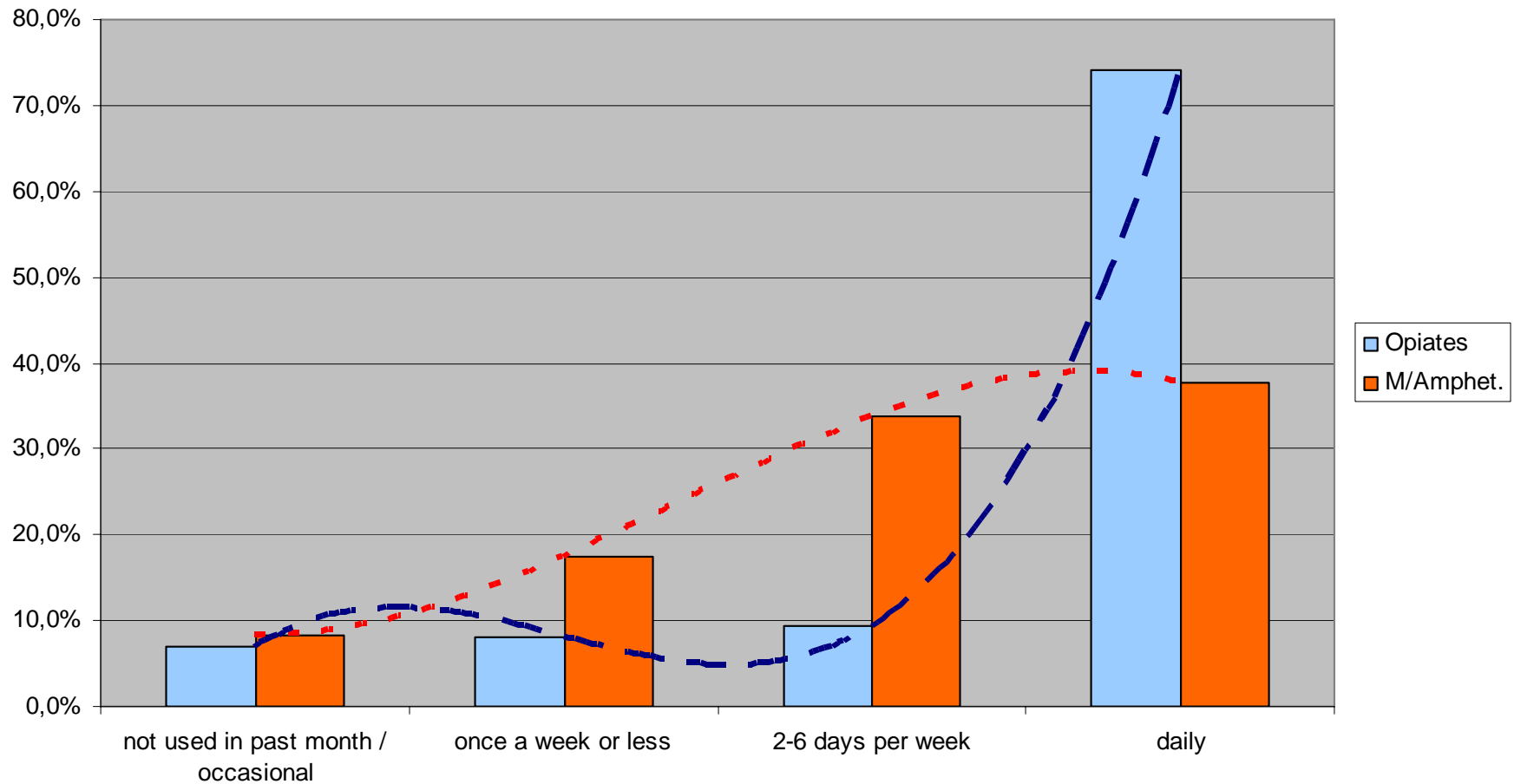


**Age distribution in FTD patients, by type of primary drug, percentages  
Slovak Republic, 2007**



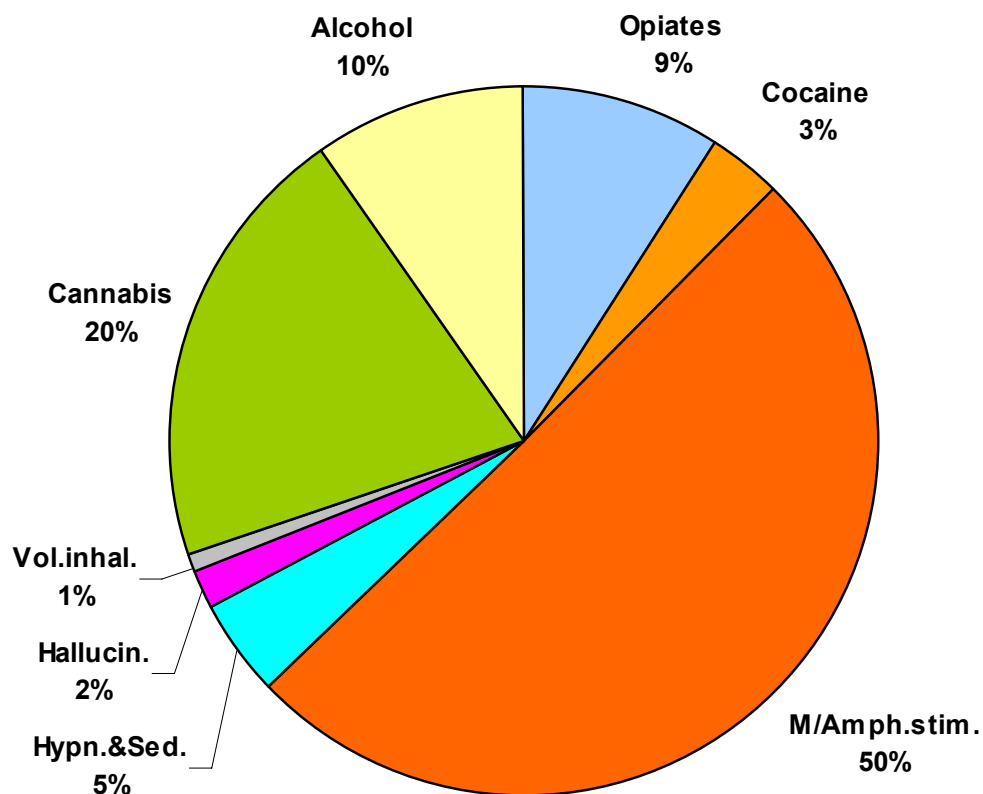
*Source: National Centre of Health Information*

## Differences in the frequency of use: opiates vs. amphetamines Slovak Republic 2007



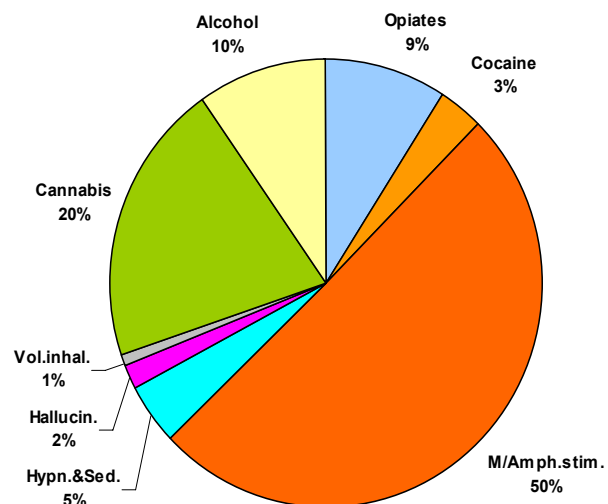
Source: National Centre of Health Information

## Types of secondary drug in "OPIATES patients" Slovak Republic 2007

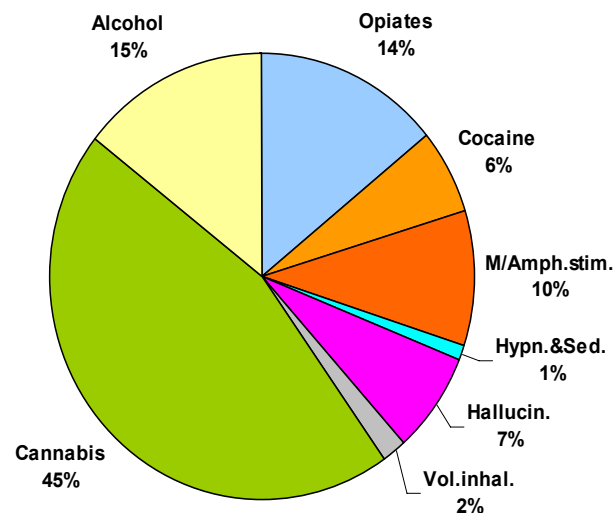


Source: National Centre of Health Information

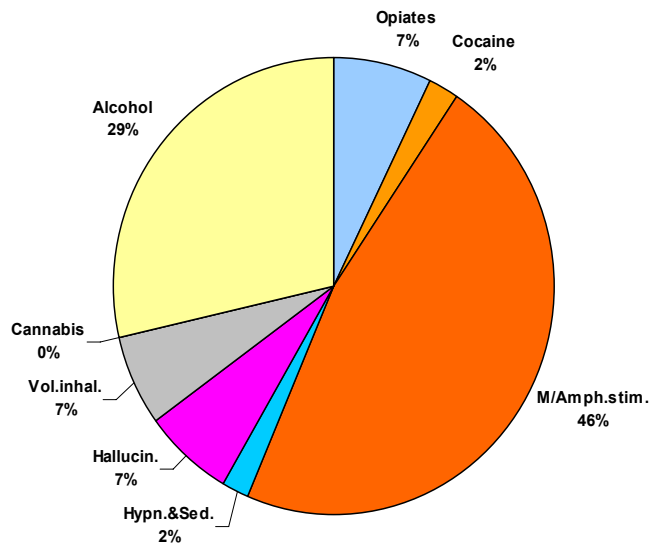
Types of secondary drug in "OPIATES patients"  
Slovak Republic 2007



Type of secondary drugs in "M/AMPHET. patients"  
Slovak Republic 2007



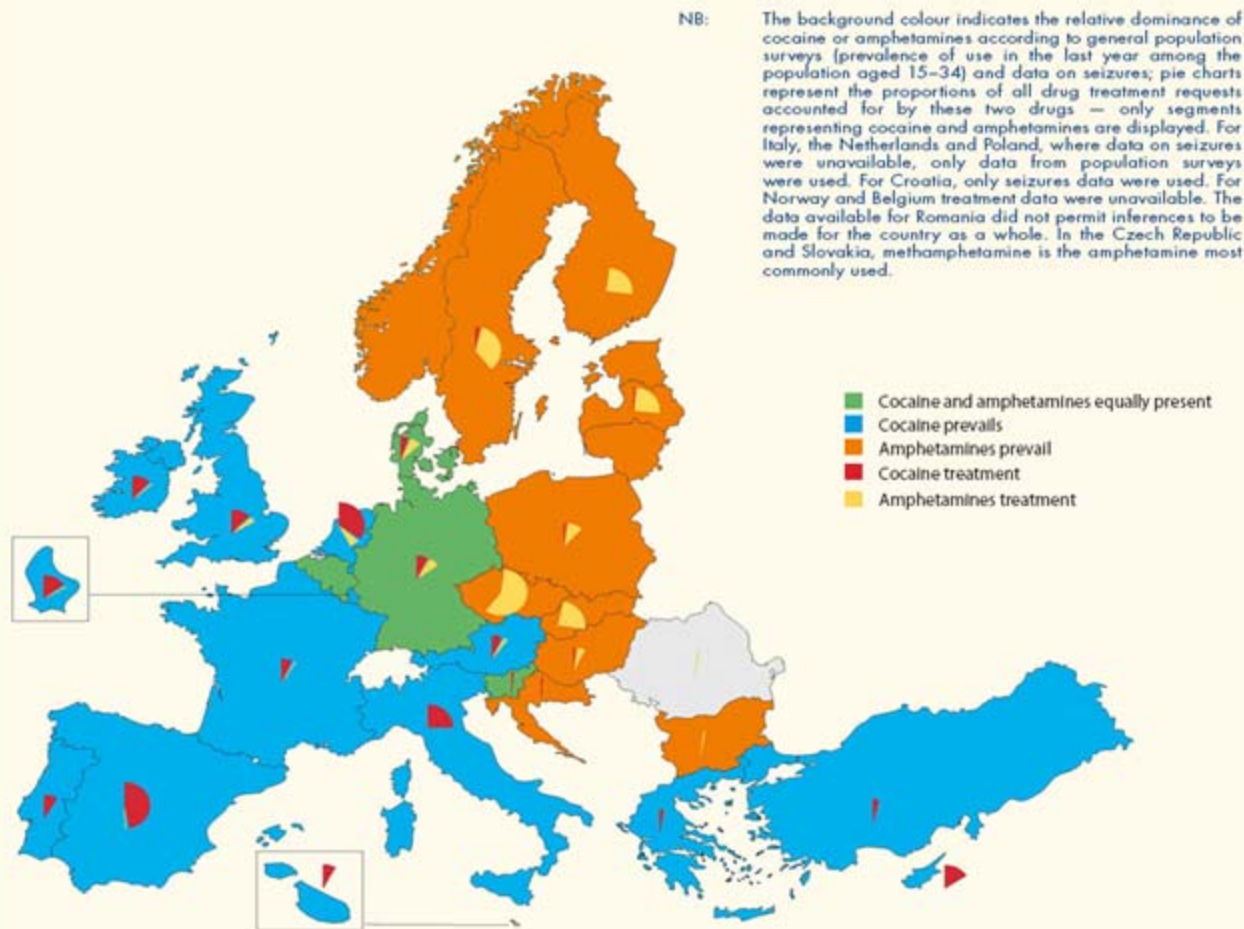
Types of secondary drug in "CANNABIS patients" Slovak  
Republic 2007



Source: National Centre of  
Health Information

# We are not alone...

Stimulant markets in Europe: the relative prevalence of cocaine or amphetamines in seizures and population surveys, and the proportion of drug users in treatment reporting these substances as primary drugs



Source: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# Thank you for your attention

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