

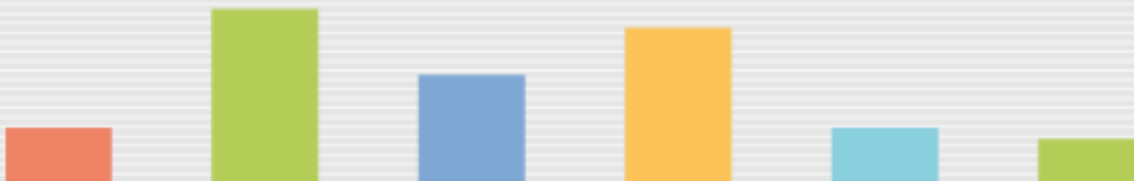


European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# Drug use in nightlife settings in Europe

**João Matias**

**Dublin, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**Club Health 2017**



# European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)



reliable and comparable  
information concerning drugs,  
drug addiction and their  
consequences'

statutory bodies

and international organisations  
has been an important part of the  
EMCDDA's work since its  
creation in 1993



Procurement

# Buy the ticket...enjoy the ride



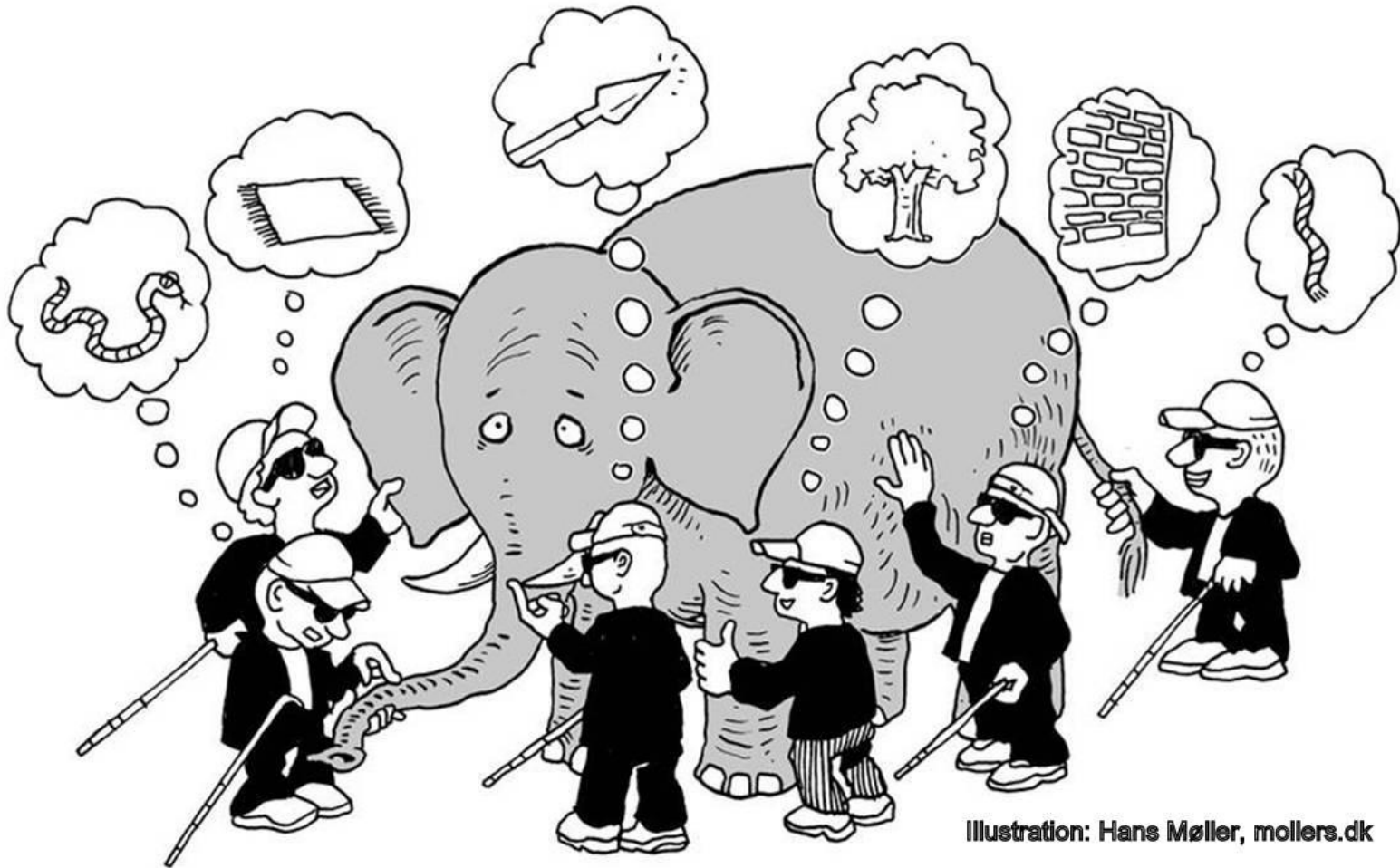
**But, before we start...safety recommendations.**



# The buyer beware

- In this area of information it is essential to be aware of the limitations of the data
- Attempt to piece together bits of information to obtain a credible whole. Triangulate!
- European picture... not possible to go deeply into methods
- Studies focus mostly on risks, forgetting pleasure
  - It's in the drugs field, the only context on which the word 'recreational' has a negative connotation

# Drug monitoring in Europe 1980s



**USIT THE ALLIANCE WITH SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.ALLIANCE.CA](http://www.alliance.ca)**

HARRIS, B. LAMON + BERTHOLD: *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* + BLAIR + ELDERFIELD + BOWMAN: *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* +

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A black and white movie poster for 'The Boatmen'. The poster features four men in a layered, close-up composition. On the left, a large, intense face of Ewan McGregor dominates the foreground. Behind him, slightly lower, is Ewen Bremner with a mustache, wearing a dark jacket and a ring on his finger. In the background, a man in a fedora and glasses (Jonny Lee Miller) is visible. On the right, Robert Carlyle's face is shown in profile, looking towards the center. The text in the top right corner lists the cast: 'Ewan McGregor', 'Ewen Bremner', 'Jonny Lee Miller', and 'and Robert Carlyle' in a red, sans-serif font.

# T2 Trainspotting

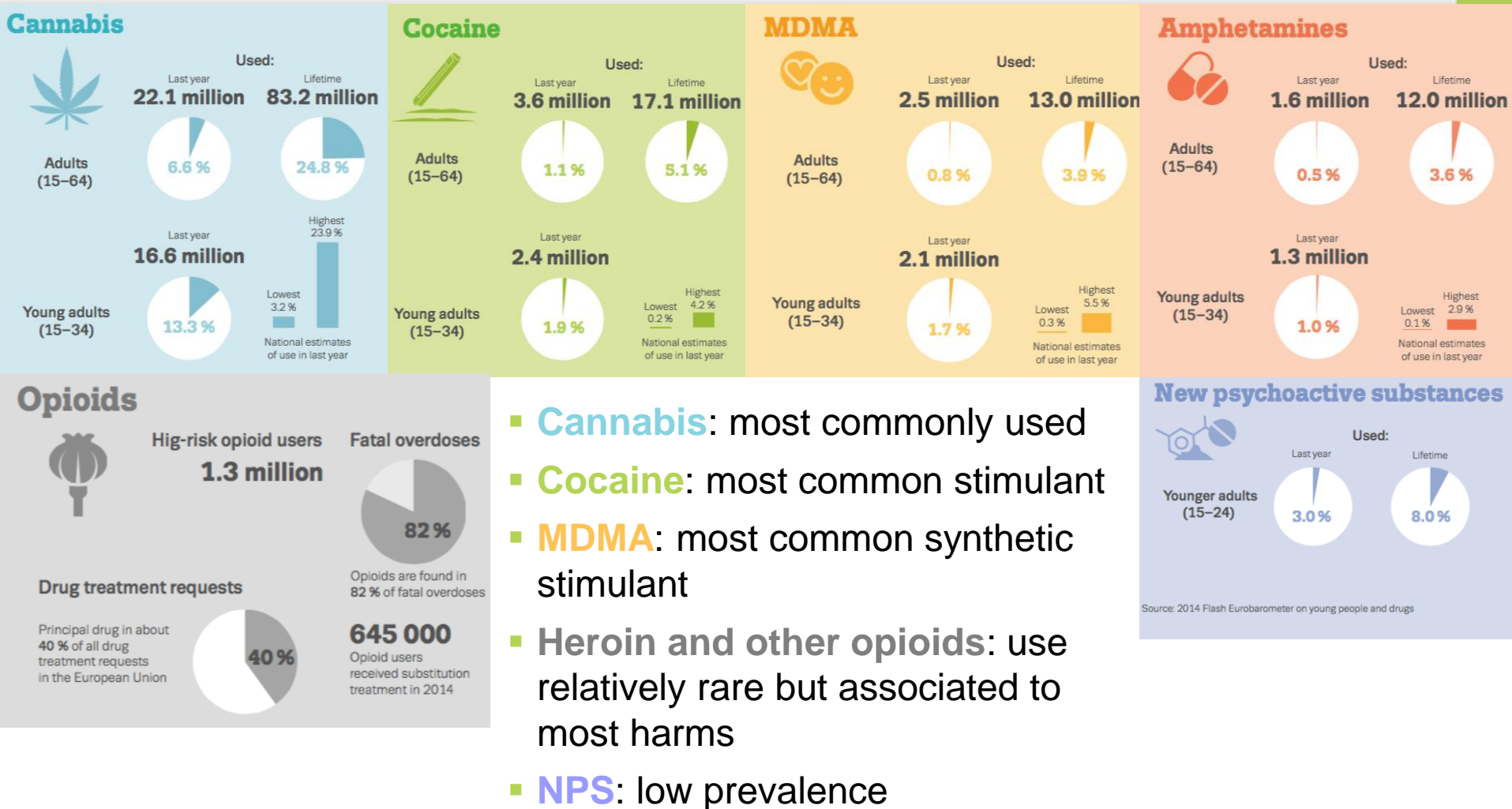
FILMA

**RESEARCH**

**March**  
#T2Trainspotting

THESE  
PAGES  
CONTAIN

# I want to dance with numbers by Kraftwerk





# Mapping studies in Europe...

## Measuring 'drug use' in recreational settings in Europe

Quite inclusive... clear geographical pattern

- Studies specifically on nightlife settings assessing drug use levels
- Studies on drug use that highlight use in nightlife settings although not being studies carried out in nightlife settings (e.g. GDS, NPS use study in Poland)
- Studies not specifically on quantifying how many use drugs but that find high levels of use in recreational settings (e.g. wastewater-based epidemiology)
- Part of an integrated approach (e.g. Antenne Netherlands, TREND in France)



# Mapping studies in Europe...

## Measuring 'drug use' in recreational settings in Europe

Setting/context: 'NTE' spaces (bars, club venues, music festivals, 'on the streets'), online,...

Method: surveys, wastewater, indirectly from hair testing, pill testing...

### Measurements:

How many? Limited data on frequency and amounts used

Characteristics? Looking at typologies of users

Amounts? Scarce info on type of product

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks



# Some numbers

Regular nightclub goers: between 4 and 25 times higher than in the same age group in the general population.\*

The most common drugs used:

- cannabis (55%)
- ecstasy (37%)
- cocaine (22%)
- amphetamines (19%)\*

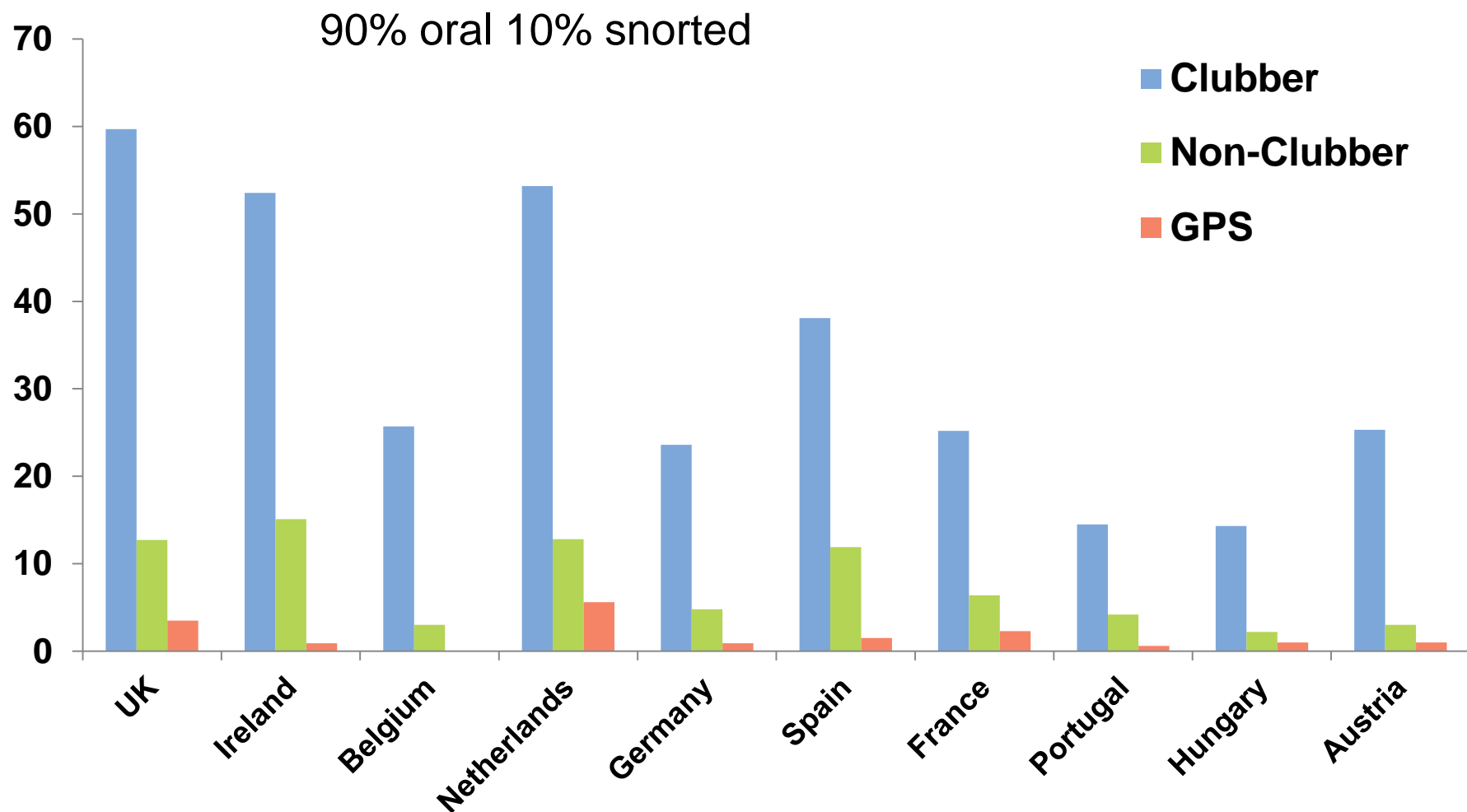
Related problems

- Intoxication
- Traffic accidents
- Violence
- Injuries
- Sexual risks

\*EMCDDA, analysis of Global Drugs Survey,  
2015



# Global Drugs Survey – MDMA use



# Patterns of use in recreational settings

Mostly in a context of **polydrug use**...alcohol almost always present

- Drugs taken together to have cumulative or complementary effects.
- Replacement effect of one drug by another, due to changes in price, availability, legality or fashion (e.g. mephedrone replacing cocaine...).
- Interactions between different drugs consumed close together in time can lead to increased toxicity.
- Naïve use.

# But which is which?

Tablets containing  
fentanyl, Canada, 2016



Oxycodone HCl 30mg tablet,  
WebMD.com, 2016



JWH-210, Finland,  
2015



Cannabis, Portugal,  
2014?



# Core themes identified.

- Increased use as a result of growing social vulnerability since the recession
- Changes in behaviours as a response to harm reduction/prevention campaigns (e.g. French example after the circulation of extremely strong tablets and Netherlands 2016 study)
- Patterns of NPS use seem to be restricted in time (e.g. Austria)
- Cocaine. Signs of increased availability? Increased purity, lower price
- 'Trendspotting component'

# German festival. Grouping users (Hannemann, 2017)

Musik

## Rund 300 Drogendelikte bei „SonneMondSterne“-Festival

Sonntag, 14.08.2016, 12:18

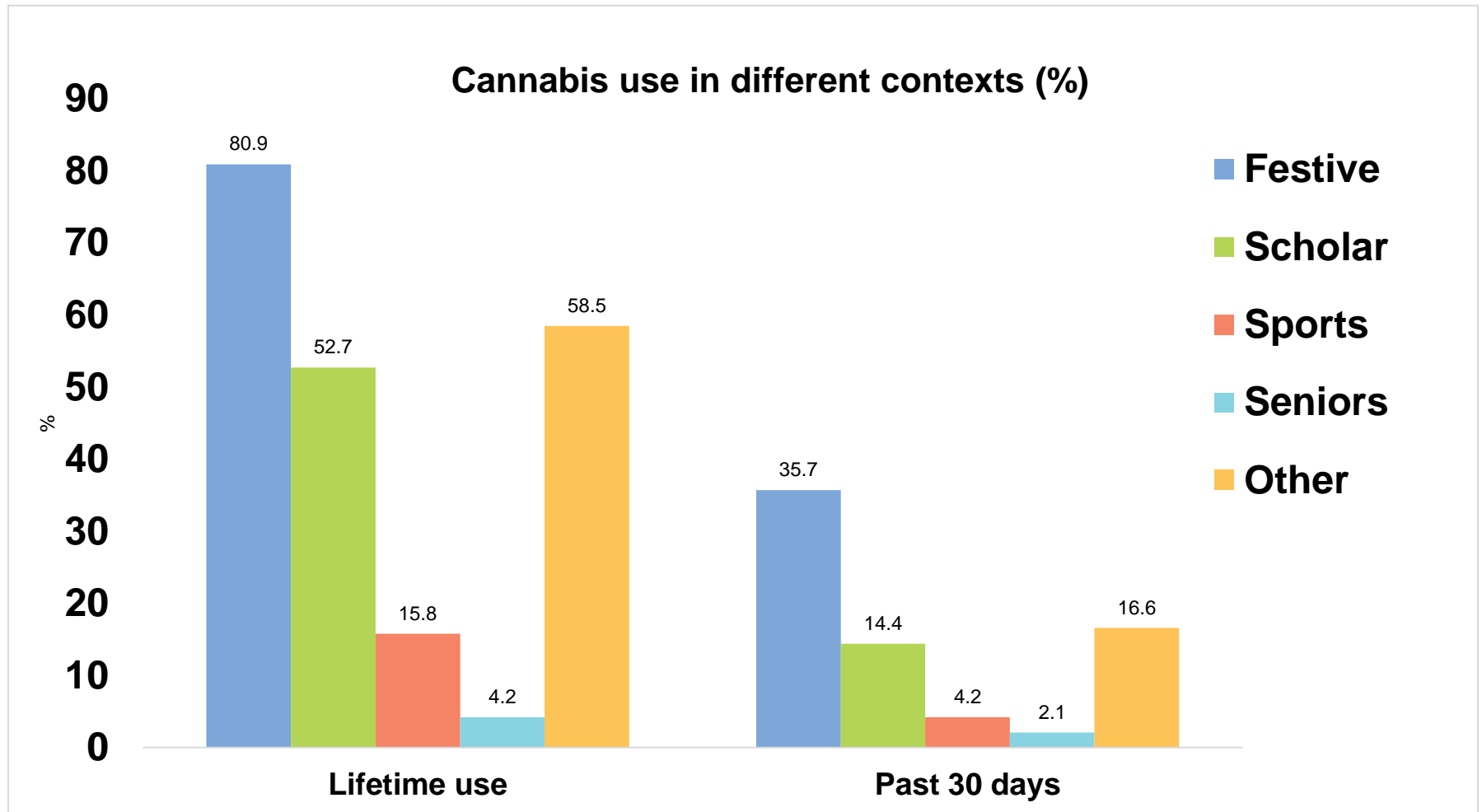


# Belgium. Comparing settings (Hogge, 2016).

Cocaine			
	2013	2014	2015
During the event (%)	6.8	10.2	13.3
Usually in nightlife (%)			
Never	75.8	72.7	64.0
Sometimes	19.4	23.6	27.8
Often	4.8	3.8	7.8
Crack, free-base			
During the event (%)	6.8	2.1	2.4
Usually in nightlife (%)			
Never	92.6	92.7	90.6
Sometimes	5.5	5.7	8.2
Often	1.9	1.6	1.2
Ecstasy			
During the event (%)	8.5	14.3	15.4
Usually in nightlife (%)			
Never	76.5	70.0	61.0
Sometimes	17.8	22.5	30.1
Often	5.7	7.5	8.9

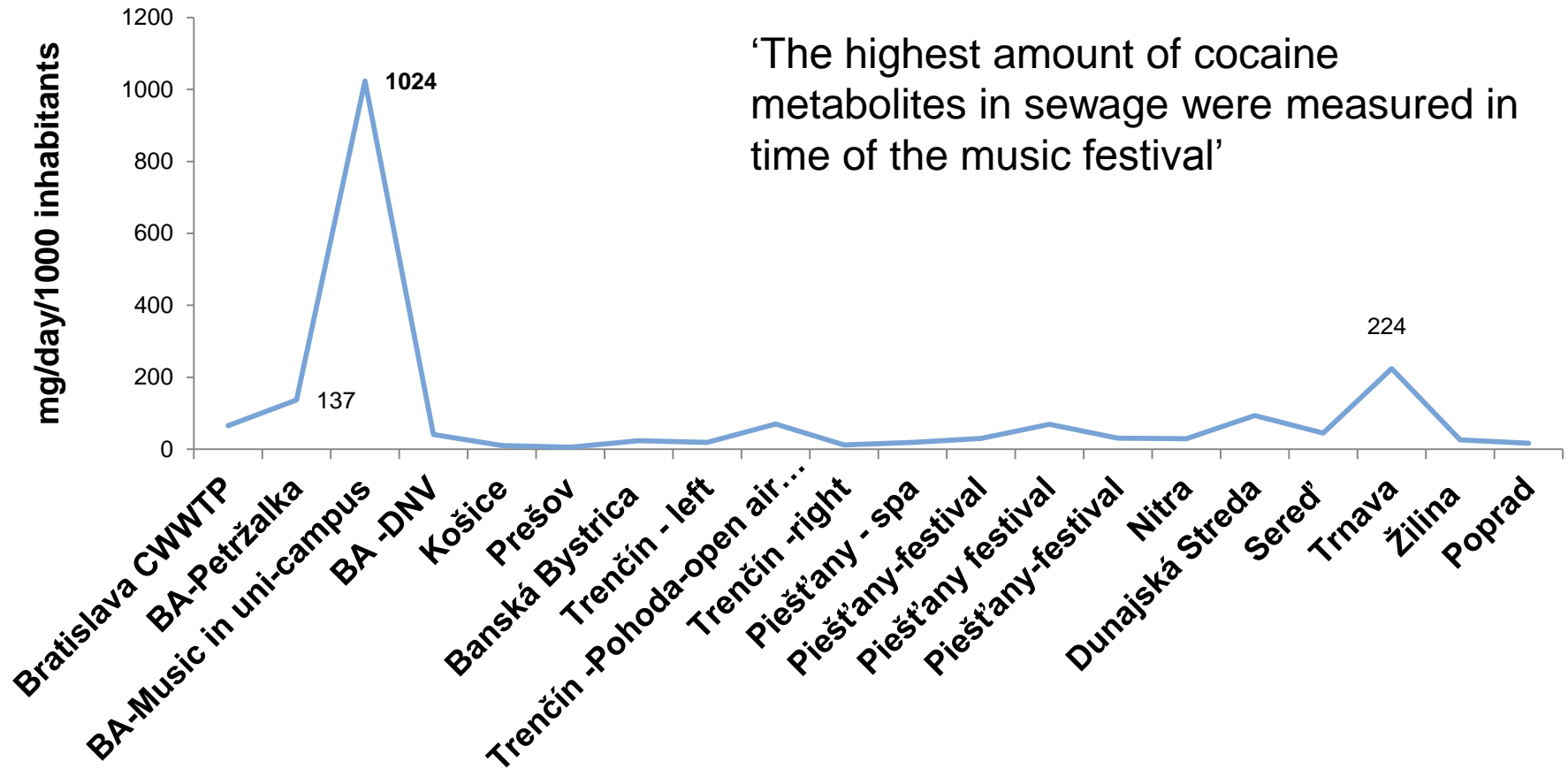


# Luxembourg. The only study available on drug use (Both, 2013).



# Slovakia. Using wastewater-based epidemiology.

Sewage epidemiology - cocaine mg/day/1000 - 2015



# Norway. Linking survey data to interventions

Risky substance use among young adults in the nightlife arena: An underused setting for risk-reducing interventions?  
(Nordfjærn, 2016)

- ‘7% reported ever having used new psychoactive substances and 1% reported having used such substances the past year. That is the highest prevalence of NPS use found so far in a Norwegian study with a considerable number of participants.’



## Drugs

# Ecstasy in comeback as new generation discovers dance drug

Survey of drug use finds MDMA is back in mainstream due to 'creative and aggressive marketing' and has a higher purity

Alan Travis in Lisbon

Tuesday 31 May 2016 10.00 BST



This article is 5 months old

Shares Comments

4,843 1,324

Save for later



Zeitgeisty logos such as Superman and UPS have helped market ecstasy to a new generation of young Europeans. Photograph: Alamy

Ecstasy is making a comeback as the drug of choice for young people in the UK and across [Europe](#) - and it is much stronger than before, the EU's drug agency has warned.

## Most popular in US



US elections 2016 live results: track who is winning, county by county



Markets reassured by Trump victory speech after initial losses - live updates



This is a terrifying moment for America. Hold your loved ones close | Steven Thrasher

# Third summer of love?



New precursors and pre-precursors available, industrial scale and flexible production processes

MDMA's return and risks from adulterants - High potency tablets available

Sophisticated marketing, designer brands, tailored products

Trade in the Internet

New names and a wider range of MDMA products

More mainstream use – parties and festivals in a more complex stimulants market

# Interventions

- Training staff and professionals
- Pill-testing
- Education of nightlife users
- Community / multi-component interventions
- Medical and first aid services
- Policing and enforcement
- Legislative measures
- Drink driving interventions



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## Healthy Nightlife Toolbox

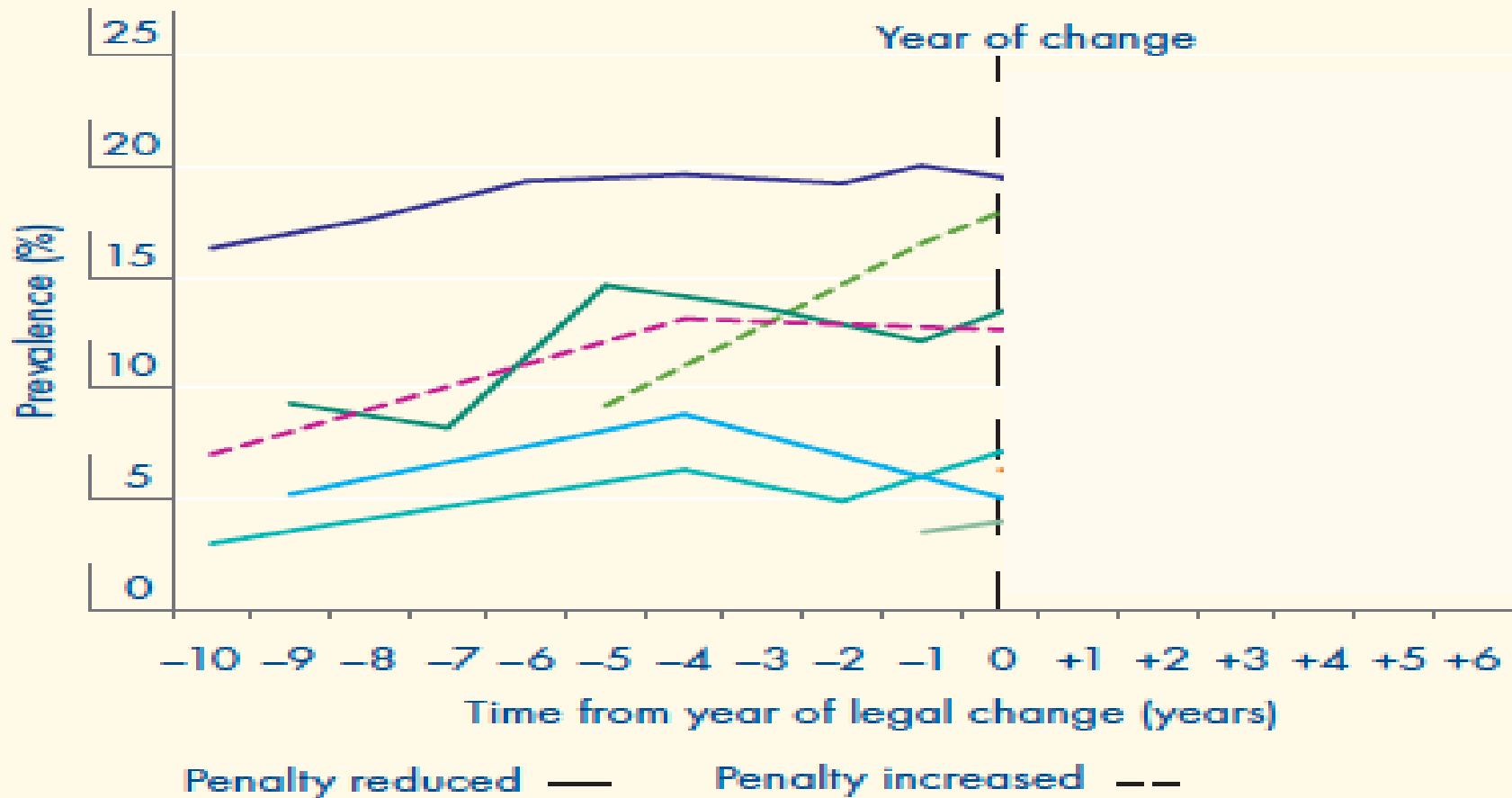
The Healthy Nightlife Toolbox (HNT) is an international initiative that focuses on the reduction of harm from alcohol and drug use among young people.

Alcohol and drug use come with health and safety problems. A relatively large amount of all alcohol and drug use takes place in recreational settings. This is why nightlife is an important setting for prevention. The Healthy Nightlife Toolbox is a website that has been designed for local, regional and national policy makers and prevention workers, to help reduce harm from alcohol and drug use in nightlife settings. The core of the online Toolbox is formed by three databases (evaluated interventions, literature, and details of experts within the field) and a Handbook providing guidance on creating a healthy and safe nightlife.

interventions	literature	handbook
Details of evaluated healthy nightlife interventions	A searchable database of reviewed academic literature on healthy nightlife interventions.	Guidelines, tips and advice to help develop alcohol and drug prevention in nightlife settings.
experts	news	contribute
Contact details of experts working within the healthy nightlife field in the EU.	Updates on new publications and events on nightlife health.	Send us details of interventions, new literature or news items



# Crystal clear... or not



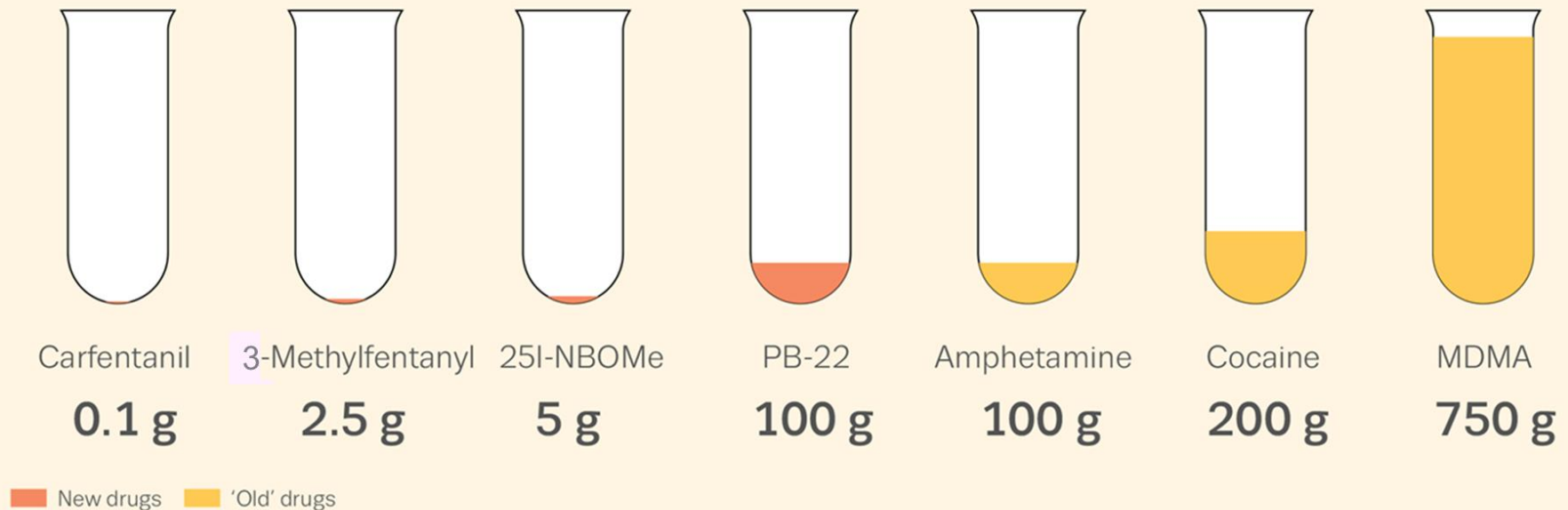
# Public health challenges of highly potent substances

New synthetic opioids

Tiny quantities can produce many 'doses'

*Opportunity for OCGs, challenge for detection and health risk to users and LEA*

HOW MUCH PURE DRUG IS NEEDED TO MAKE 10 000 DOSES?



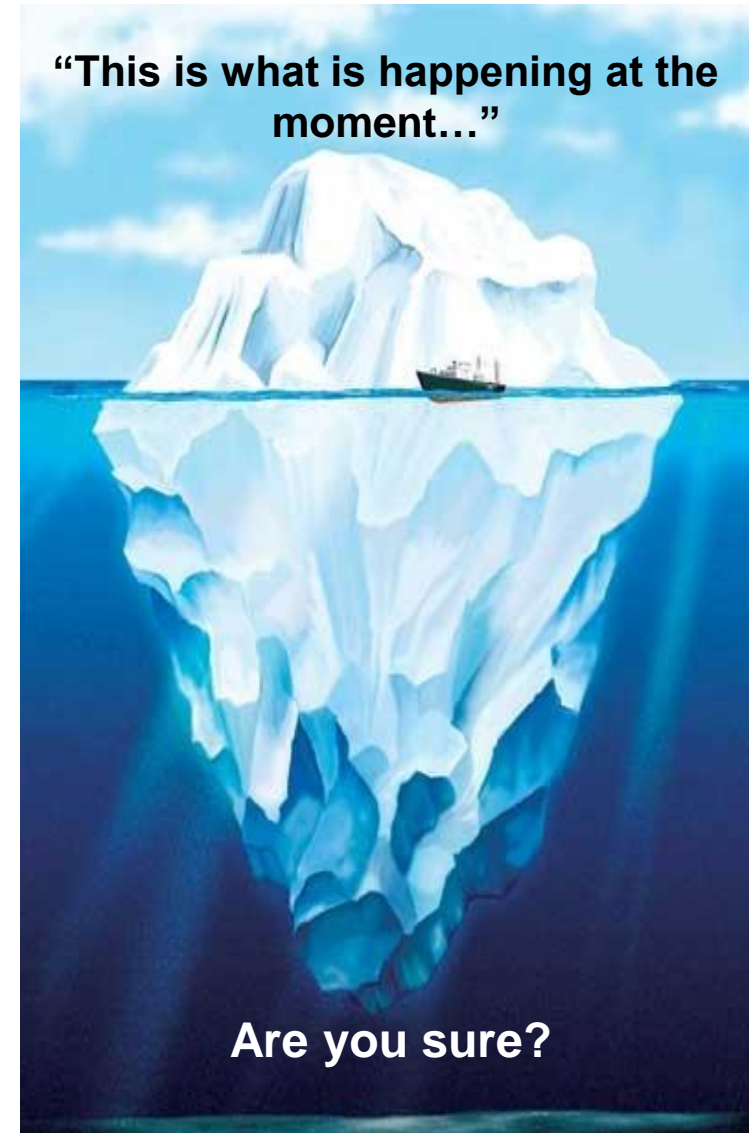


# Comparing countries... oranges and apples



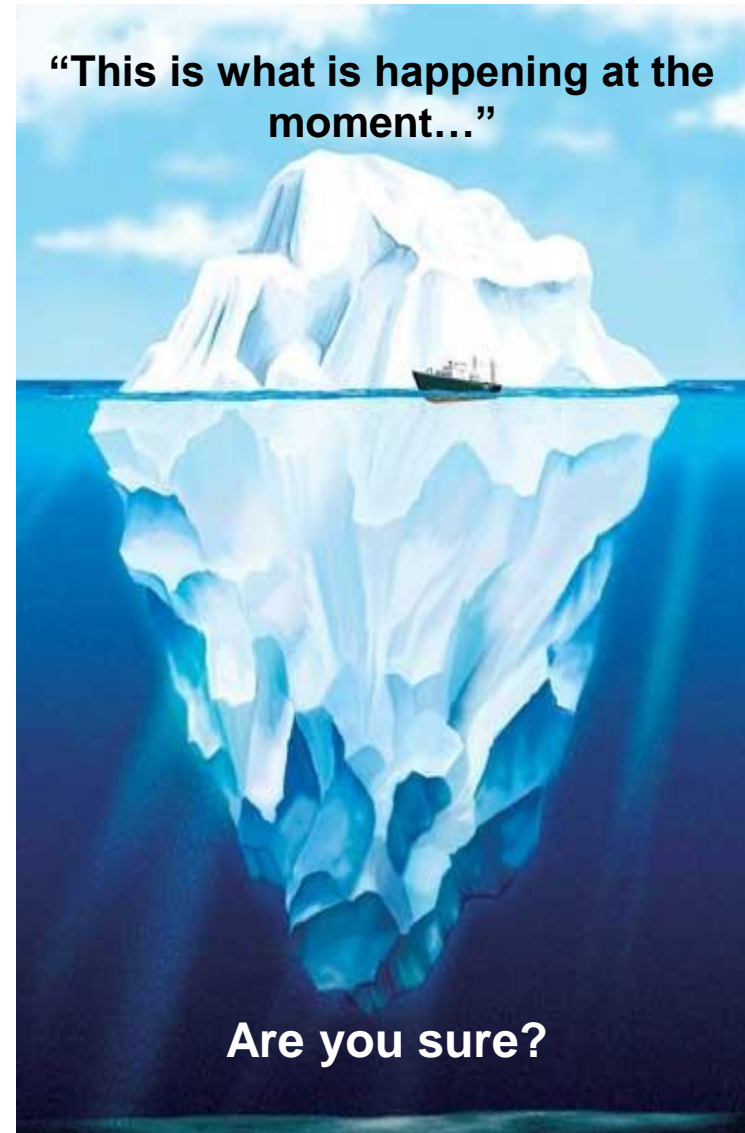
# We arrived to the final stop but...

- The market is driven by supply, not only demand
- Users may not know what they are using. Dealers/vendors may not know what they are selling. How to assess risks? How to measure?
- Difficult to retain a critical stance when confronted with the requirement to repeat previous conceptualisations and measurements for the purposes of comparability
- Trendspotting component: sometimes the easiest and fastest way to assess new trends



# We arrived to the final stop but...

- There remains significant gaps in our knowledge about drug use in recreational settings, particularly in terms of those 'recreational settings' which remain difficult to access (e.g. domestic party spaces)
- Young clubgoers are getting fed up with being 'targeted'?
- What a 'recreational setting' is depends on multiple intersectional factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality and so on...
- Interpret this as a 'GPS'





"Video games don't affect kids.  
If Pacman had affected us as kids,  
we'd all be running around in  
darkened rooms, munching magic pills  
and listening to repetitive  
electronic music."

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