



Generalitat de Catalunya
Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya
Subdirecció General de Drogodependències

Characterising people admitted to treatment in Catalonia: a cluster analysis

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Disclosure of conflict of interests

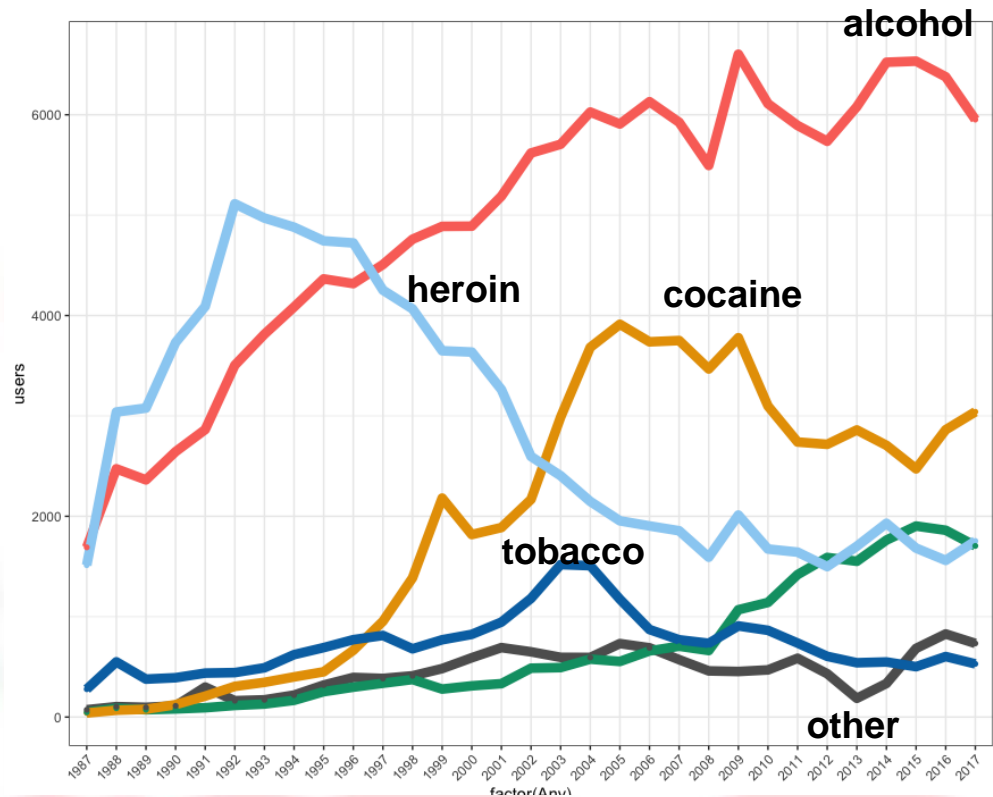
No conflict of interest

Background

Alcohol other Drug Use Disorders are often defined as chronic conditions with a high burden of disease and high socioeconomic costs (Degenhardt L et al 2013, Rhem J at al 2012)

If we can better describe drug users profiles, this might help us to design better-suited programmes and improve outcomes

Since 1987, characteristics of people admitted to treatment in Catalonia have changed.



Aim

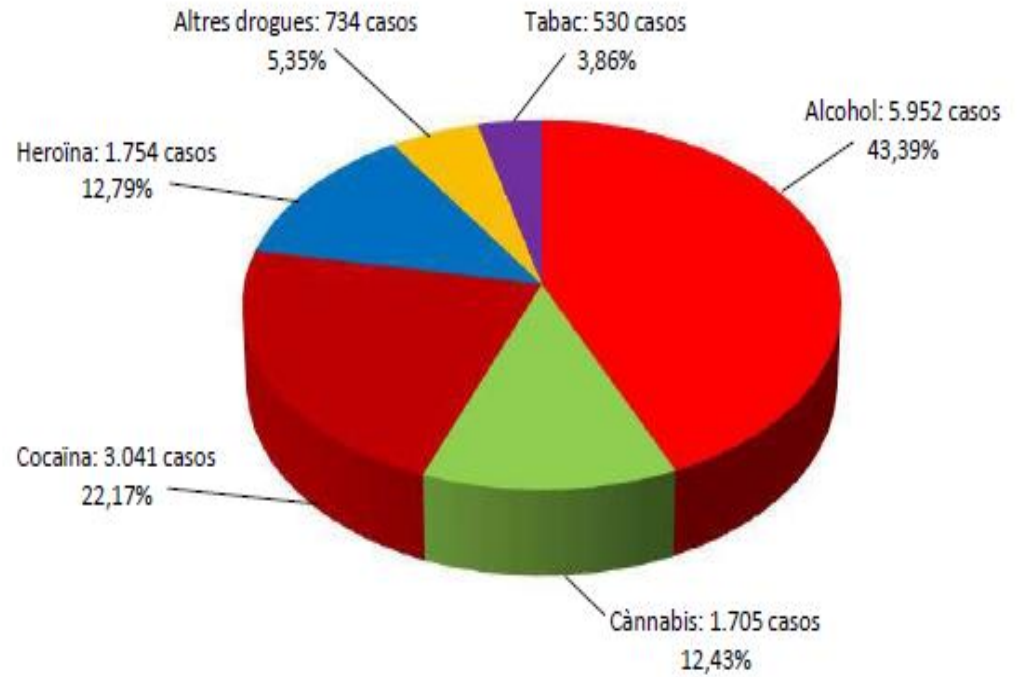
Characterise people admitted to treatment in 2017 in order to see whether this could help to improve drug care.

Method

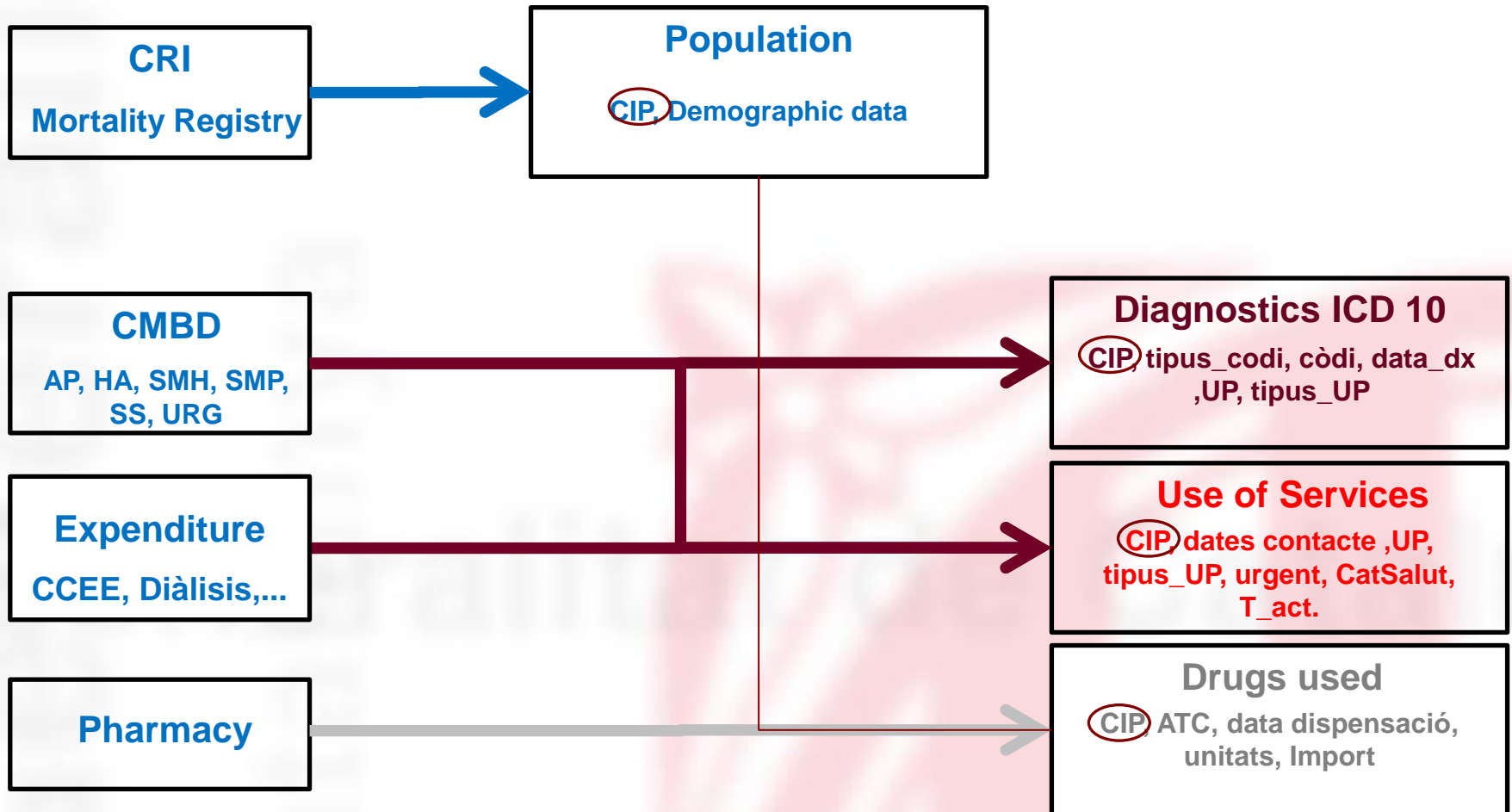
in 2017

13,716

People
Admitted to
treatment



Catalan Health System registries



Method

Measures and variables

Treatment demand indicator

sex	age	age of onset
n. children	hospital detox	main drug
Ever	previous treatment	education level
	work	

Catalan Health system registry

low socioeconomical level	Prescription of Antidepressants
Presc. of 2 or more anxiolytics	Prescription of antipsychotics

Method

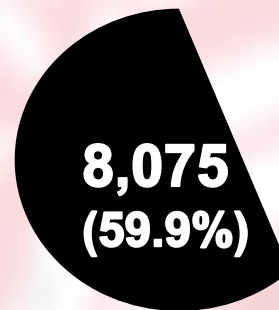
Participants

in 2017



People
Admitted to
treatment

We have included

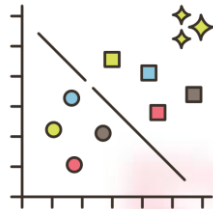


*Cases with no
missing variables
in selected
variables*

Method

Data analysis

Cluster analysis



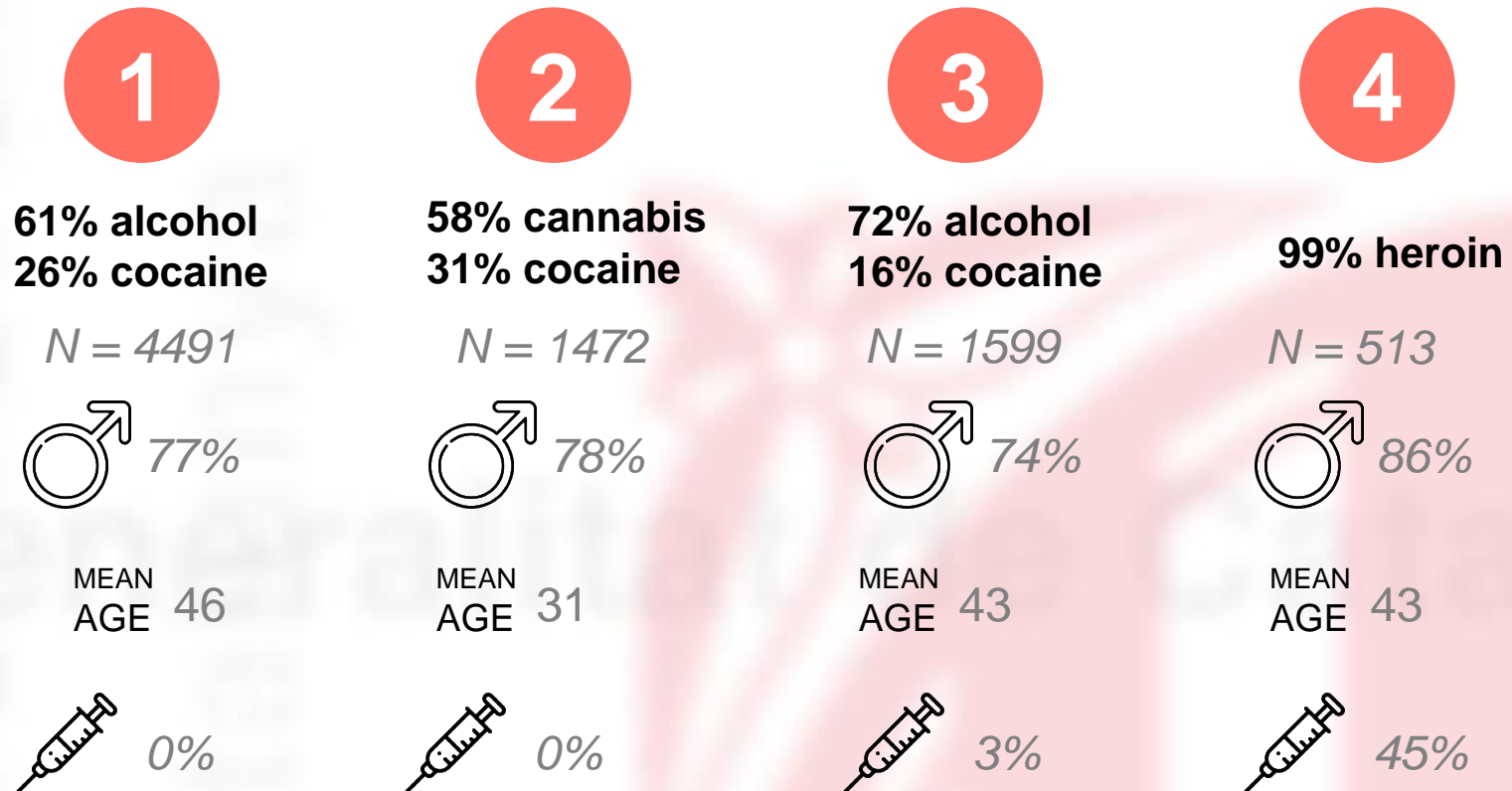
- Hierarchical cluster analysis
 - Using gower distance (allows categorical and numerical values)

R software



Results

We identified 4 clusters



Results

Characteristics

1

61% alcohol
26% cocaine

AGE
ONSET 26

65% working
28% social
benefits

VERY LOW
SOCIO
ECONOMIC
STATUS 11%

2

58% cannabis
31% cocaine

AGE
ONSET 13

47% unemployed
21% working
19% studying

VERY LOW
SOCIO
ECONOMIC
STATUS 21%

3

72% alcohol
16% cocaine

AGE
ONSET 24

100% unemployed

VERY LOW
SOCIO
ECONOMIC
STATUS 46%

4

99% heroin

AGE
ONSET 22

36% other *Mainly in
prison*
22% working
22% unemployed

VERY LOW
SOCIO
ECONOMIC
STATUS 47%

Results

Characteristics

1

61% alcohol
26% cocaine

PREVIOUS TREATMENT 49%

ANTIDEP. 34%

ANXIOL. 2%

ANTIPSY. 16%

2

58% cannabis
31% cocaine

PREVIOUS TREATMENT 40%

ANTIDEP. 23%

ANXIOL. 1%

ANTIPSY. 21%

3

72% alcohol
16% cocaine

PREVIOUS TREATMENT 57%

ANTIDEP. 33%

ANXIOL. 2%

ANTIPSY. 19%

4

99% heroin

PREVIOUS TREATMENT 89%

ANTIDEP. 21%

ANXIOL. 3%

ANTIPSY. 19%



Conclusions I

- We identified two more problematic clusters (cluster 3 and cluster 4).

Very low socioeconomic status, higher unemployment (or prison), ever injected, more previous treatments.

The 4th has fewer people but it has the highest problematic situation (background of heroin injecting and earlier onset).

- The 1st and the 3rd had similar drug use but the 3rd had a more severe situation. They started using earlier, are younger with higher number of previous treatment

Conclusions II

We can identify people needing more support and care from data collected from the TDI and other health data

With this information, we can anticipate the type of care measures to be implemented in specific group of patients, such as:

- **More intensive back to work measures**
- **More alternative measures to prison**
- **More intensive drug recovery support**

Limitations and futher progress

- We could only analyse 60% of participants
- We can study the morbidity burden, use of services and pharmacy expenditure
- We can do that when people are on and off treatment



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Thank you

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