

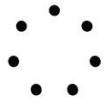
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SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS DRUG USERS IN THE CONTEXT OF PERCEPTIONS OF OTHER MARGINALISED SOCIAL GROUPS, BASED ON THE NSAPH 2019 SURVEY

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Lisbon Addictions, European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies

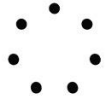


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Conflict of interes

There is no conflict of interest at all, the research was funded from the support of the National Research Development and Innovation Office

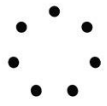


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Background and Context

- In the NSAPH 2019 research, in line with previous research in drug epidemiology (ADE 2001, 2003, NSAPH 2007, 2015), we investigated attitudes of the public related to drug users and substance use behaviours.
- Traditionally, there is a high level of disapproval of substance users (drug users, drinkers) and a widespread negative perception of substance use behaviour
- The danger of using various substances, especially of illegal substances, is perceived highly in the Hungarian society in general
- As regards the perception of drug policy interventions, the overwhelming majority of the Hungarian society is in favour of restrictive drug policy approaches.

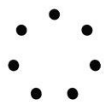


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Methods

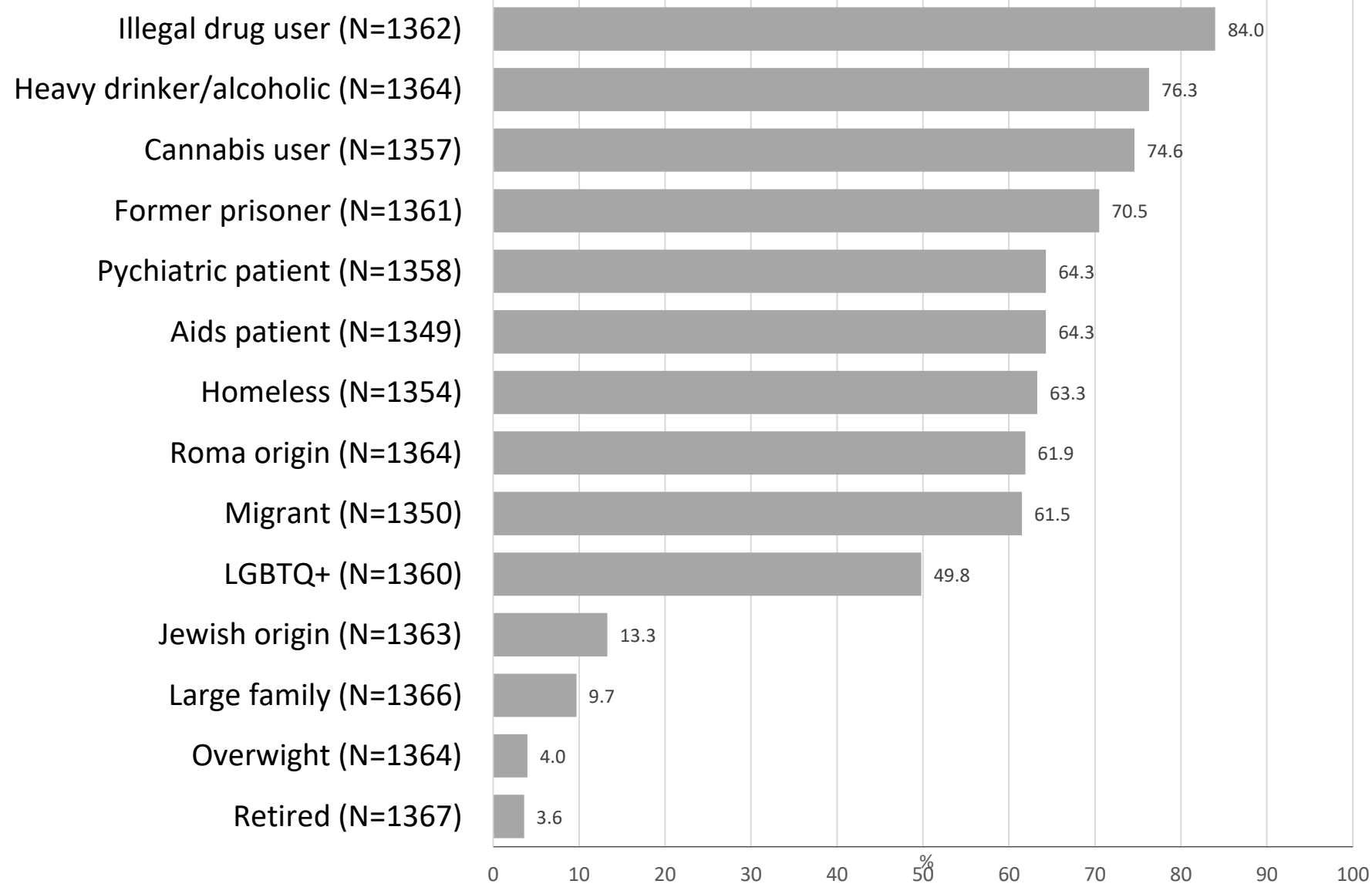
- Nationally representative sample of 1,800 gross and 1,385 net respondents aged 18-64 in Hungary.
- The sample was stratified by region, settlement size and age.
- Data collection was carried out in the form of "face-to-face interview" in the Spring of 2019, using a mixed method, with face-to-face and self-completion elements.
- Attitudes were assessed:
 - **Bogardus scale - neighbourhood relatedness question with a representative of a given social group (acceptance – rejection)**
 - Perception of risk/danger of different intensity (experimentation, regular use) and type of drug use behaviour
 - Acceptance,–/rejection of possible drug policy interventions
 - Allowing the use of certain substances
- National data were compared with publicly available data sets of the European Value Study (EVS) and Eurobarometer.



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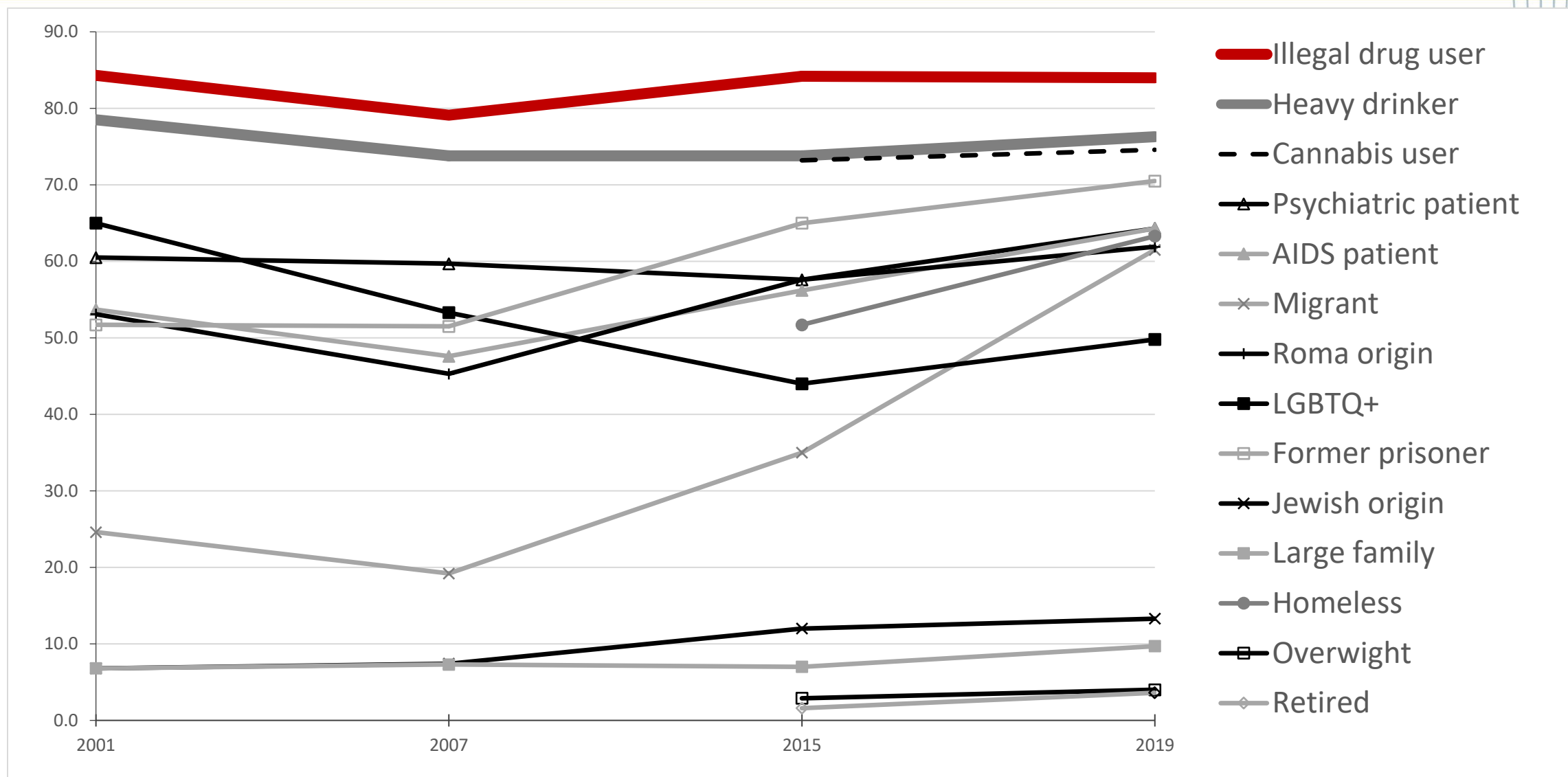
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Rejection of neighbourhood relation in case of various social groups (%) in 2019





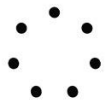
TRENDS IN REJECTING THE VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS BETWEEN 2001-2019 – measured on the Bodardus Scale 1.





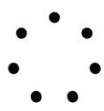
TRENDS IN REJECTING THE VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS BETWEEN 2001-2019 – measured on the Bodardus Scale 2.

Social groups	2001			2007			2015			2019		
	N	%	CI	N	%	CI	N	%	CI	N	%	CI
Illegal drug user	2323	84,3	±1,5	2697	79,1	±1,5	1456	84,2	±1,9	1362	84,0	±2,0
Cannabis user							1448	73,2	±2,3	1357	74,6	±2,3
Heavy drinker	2339	78,5	±1,7	2701	73,8	±1,7	1463	73,8	±2,3	1364	76,3	±2,3
Psychiatric patient	2318	60,5	±2,0	2690	59,7	±1,9	1449	57,6	±2,5	1358	64,3	±2,6
AIDS Ptient	2283	53,7	±2,1	2689	47,6	±1,9	1444	56,2	±2,6	1349	64,3	±2,6
Migrant	2335	24,6	±1,8	2693	19,2	±1,5	1445	35,0	±2,5	1350	61,5	±2,6
Roma origin	2337	53,1	±2,0	2698	45,3	±1,9	1461	57,6	±2,5	1364	61,9	±2,6
LGBTQ+	2300	65,0	±2,0	2689	53,3	±1,9	1444	44,0	±2,6	1360	49,8	±2,7
Former prisoner	2315	51,7	±2,0	2694	51,5	±1,9	1459	65,0	±2,5	1361	70,5	±2,4
Jewish origin	2337	6,8	±1,0	2696	7,4	±1,0	1452	12,0	±1,7	1363	13,3	±1,8
Large family	2339	6,8	±1,0	2701	7,3	±1,0	1470	7,0	±1,3	1366	9,7	±1,6
Homeless							1442	51,7	±2,6	1354	63,3	±2,6
Overweight							1465	2,9	±0,9	1364	4,0	±1,0
Retired							1469	1,6	±0,6	1367	3,6	±1,0



Regarding the trends measured on the Bogardus Scale.....

- Among the Hungarian adult population, between 2001 and 2007, the rate of rejection decreased for most of the social groups surveyed
- Between 2007 and 2015, with the exception of LGBTQ+ people, the trend showed an increase in preferred social distance
- Between 2015 and 2019, the above trend further continued, even for social groups for which the majority is not dismissive, i.e.: do not belong to stigmatized groups (e.g.: pensioners, large families).
- Together with the above changes, it can also be seen that the Hungarian society has always maintained **the greatest social distance with regard to drug- and other psychoactive substance users**



Proportion of rejectionists in the EVS 2017 survey (among the population of the participating EU countries (plus Norway and Switzerland), averaged across countries, in the Hungarian EVS sample and in the NSAPH 2019 survey (18-64 years old as % of respondents)

Drug addicts (illegal substance users)*

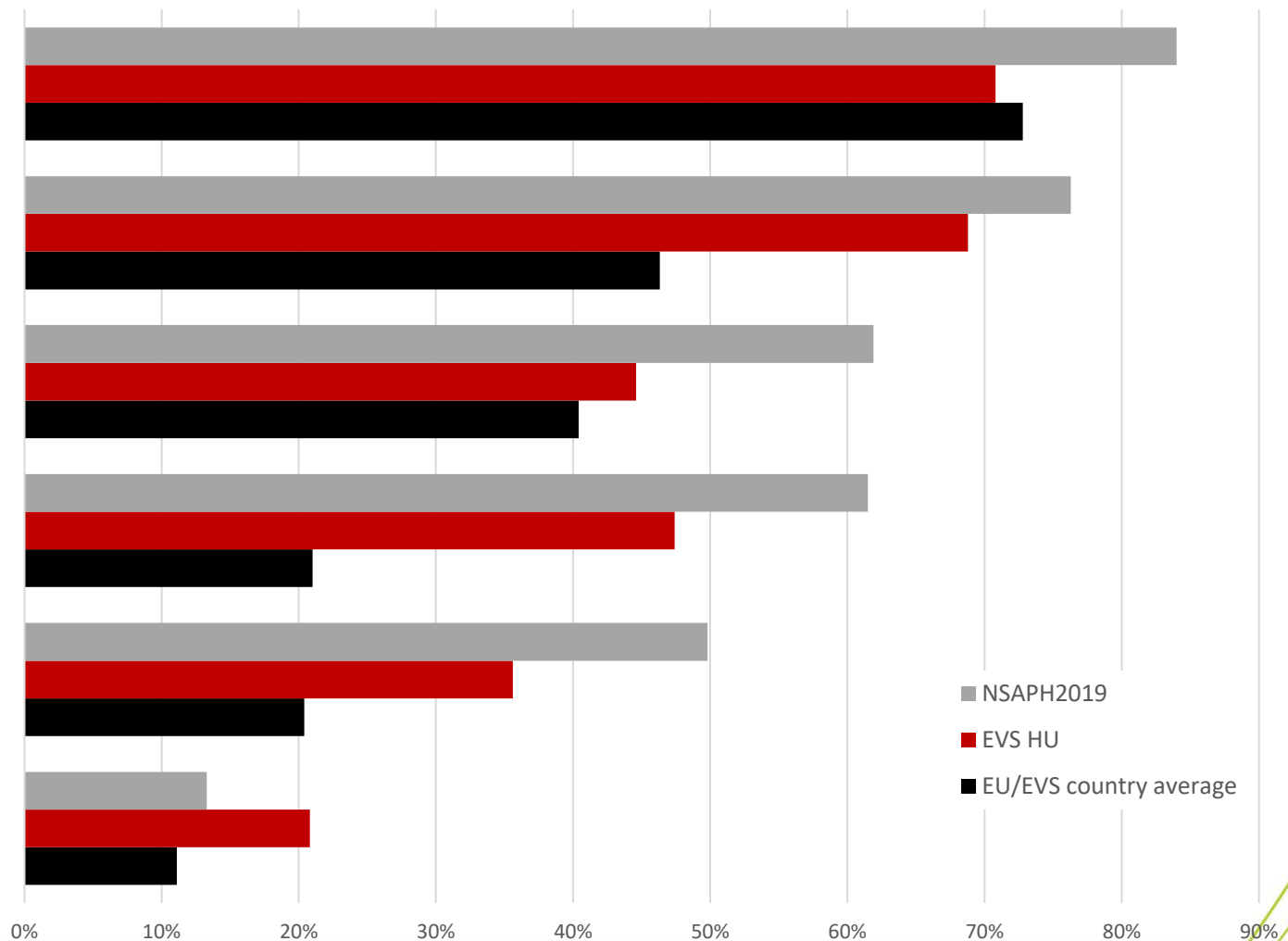
Heavy drinker**

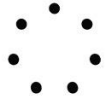
Roma origin

Migrants

LGBTQ+

Jewish origin

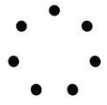




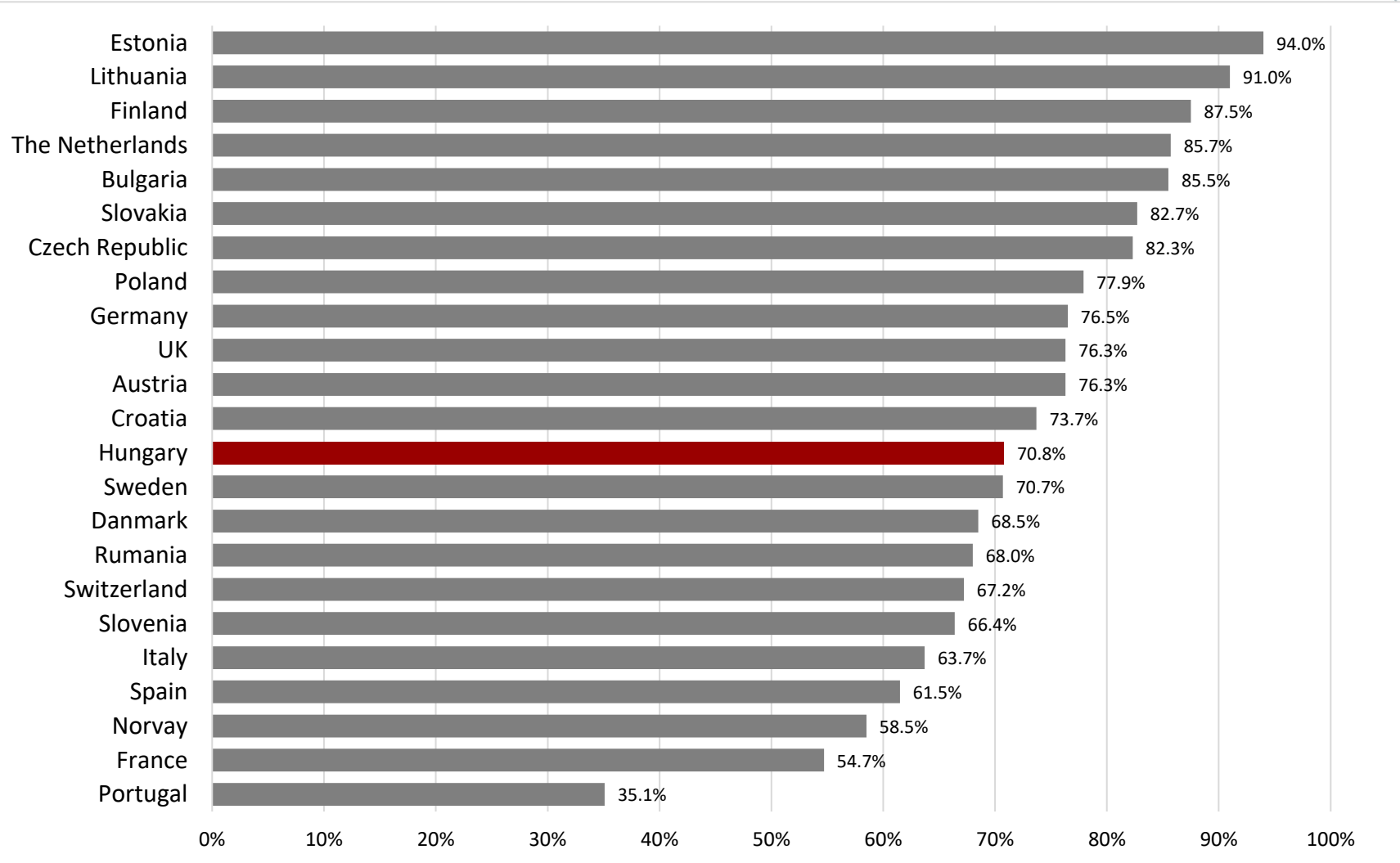
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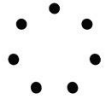
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- The Hungarian population has the same rate of rejection of drug addicts as the population in the EU countries surveyed
- In line with the data of the NSAPH 2019 in Hungary, "heavy drinkers" are the second most rejected social group in the EU Member States, but in this respect the Hungarian population has a higher rate of rejection
- Rejection of heavy drinkers is higher in Hungary than in the EU population in general



Proportion of people who reject neighbourhood relationship with drug addicts in participating EU countries (plus Norway and Switzerland) in the EVS 2017 survey (% of respondents aged 18-64)





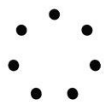
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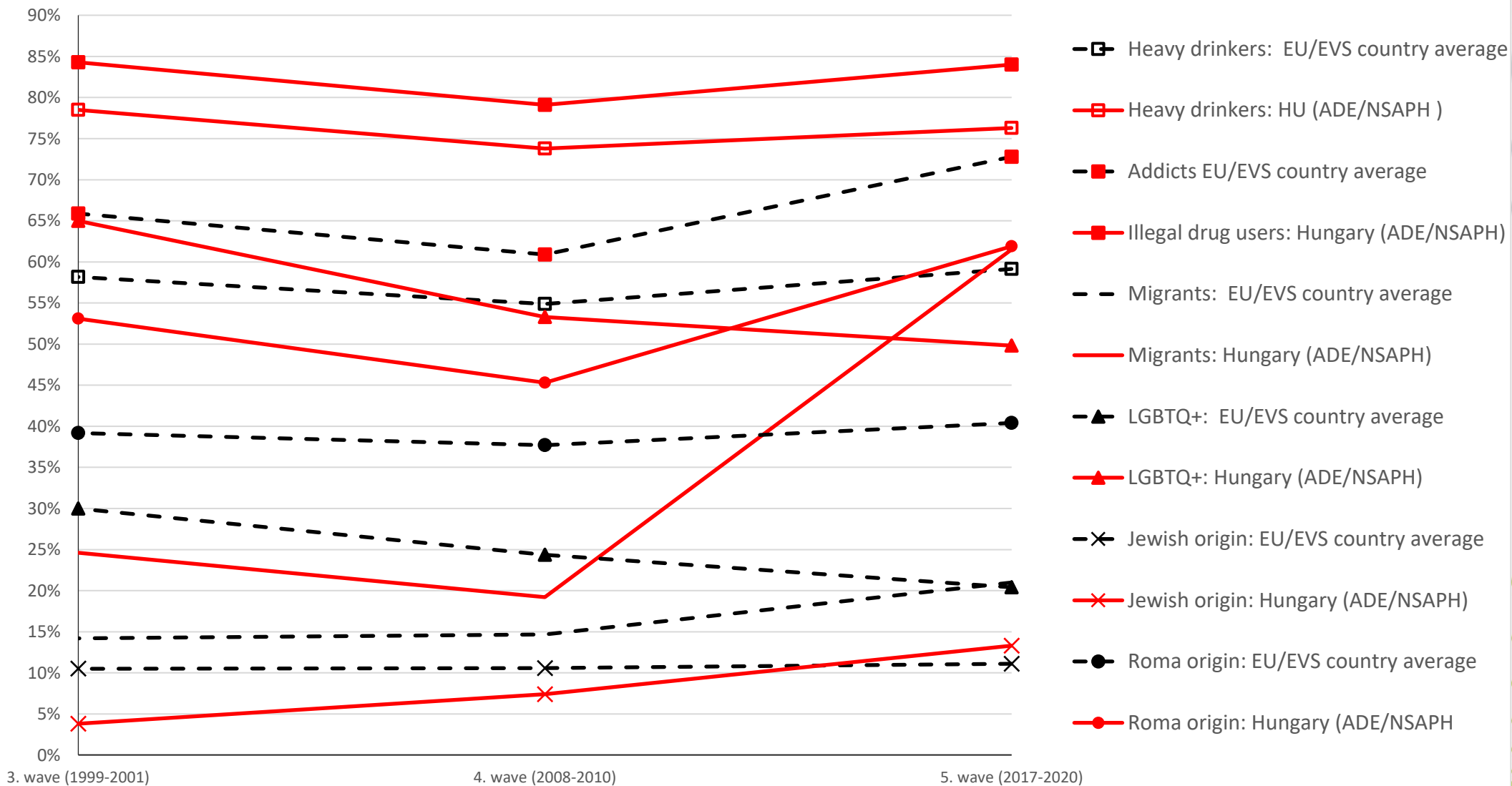
The highest refusal rate is in Estonia, with a 23.2 percentage point higher refusal rate than in Hungary, and the lowest is in Portugal, with a 35.7 percentage point lower rate.

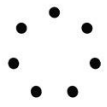
Of the 23 countries surveyed, 11 have a higher refusal/rejection rate of drug users than Hungary and 5 have a lower rate.

Hungary is in the same block as Croatia, Sweden, Denmark, Romania, Switzerland and Slovenia in terms of preferred social distance to drug users.



Trends in the proportion of people who reject neighbourhood relationship with various social groups in waves 3 to 5 of the EVS: for the population of the participating EU countries and in Hungary (ADE2001, NSAPH2007-2019 surveys (% of respondents aged 18-64)



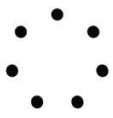


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Conclusion

- In recent years (2015-2019), the level of rejection of various social groups, especially stigmatised groups, has generally increased, but this increase is not evident for drug users, stabilising at a very high level
- In European comparison, Hungary does not follow a unique path in terms of either the rate of rejection or the change in the perception of drug users
- However, if we look at the perception of drug users in the context of other mostly stigmatised social groups, we can observe increasing levels and trends of intolerance and rejection in Hungary compared to the European average
- This intolerant, exclusionist social climate creates extremely unfavourable conditions for drug use and for the treatment of addiction problems.



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Thank you for your attention!

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