

Putting together the puzzle of gambling addiction

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Gesundheit Österreich
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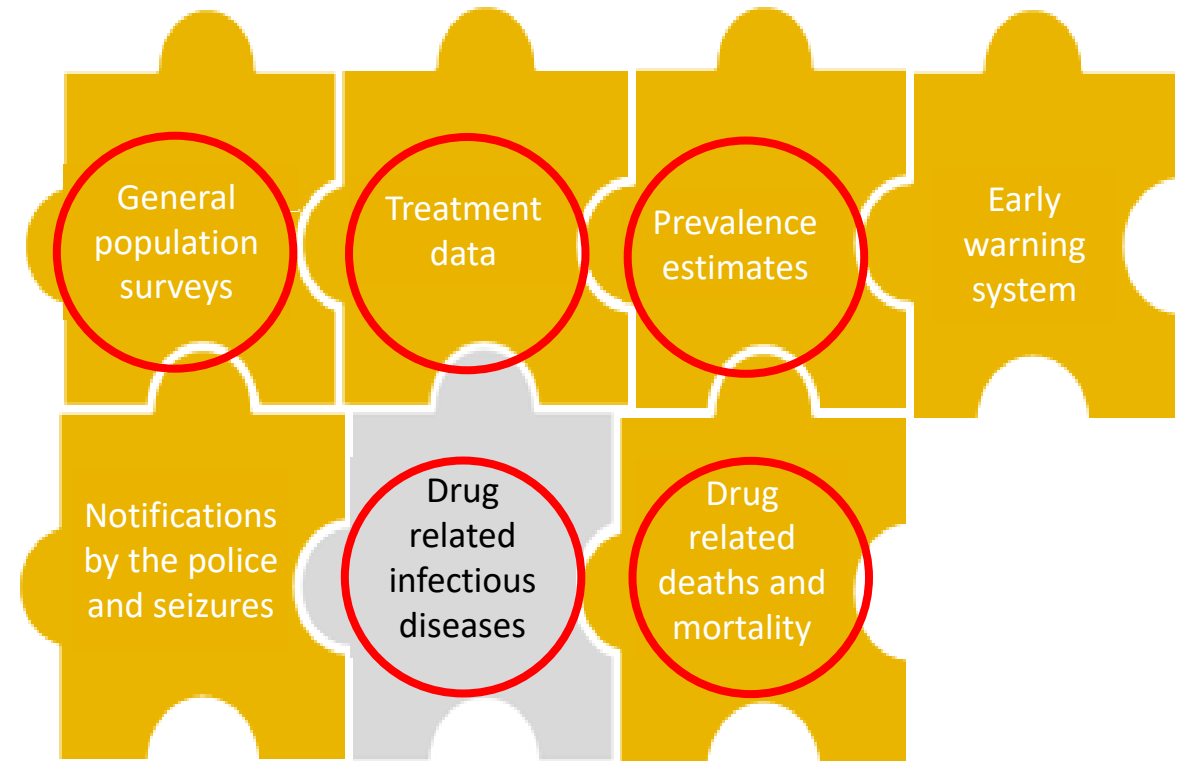
Conflict of interests

There are no conflict of interests



What are indicators? – model of good practice from the field of illegal drugs

- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) defined 5 epidemiological key indicators.
- In co-operation with experts from all EU-countries (REITOX network) key definitions and guidelines for data collection have been elaborated.
- For each key indicator there exists a national as well as an EU working group discussing new developments.



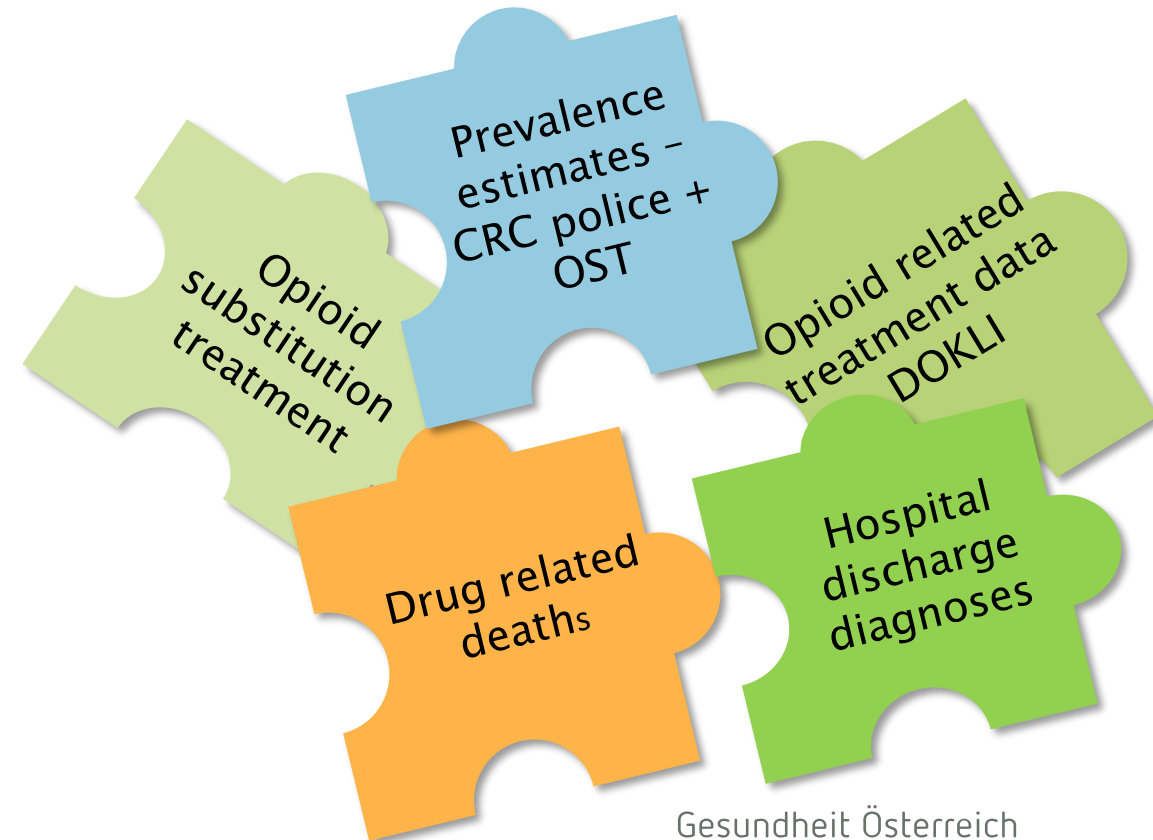
- well implemented in Austria
- still a lot of work to do in Austria

Putting together the puzzle

Cross indicator analysis – an example

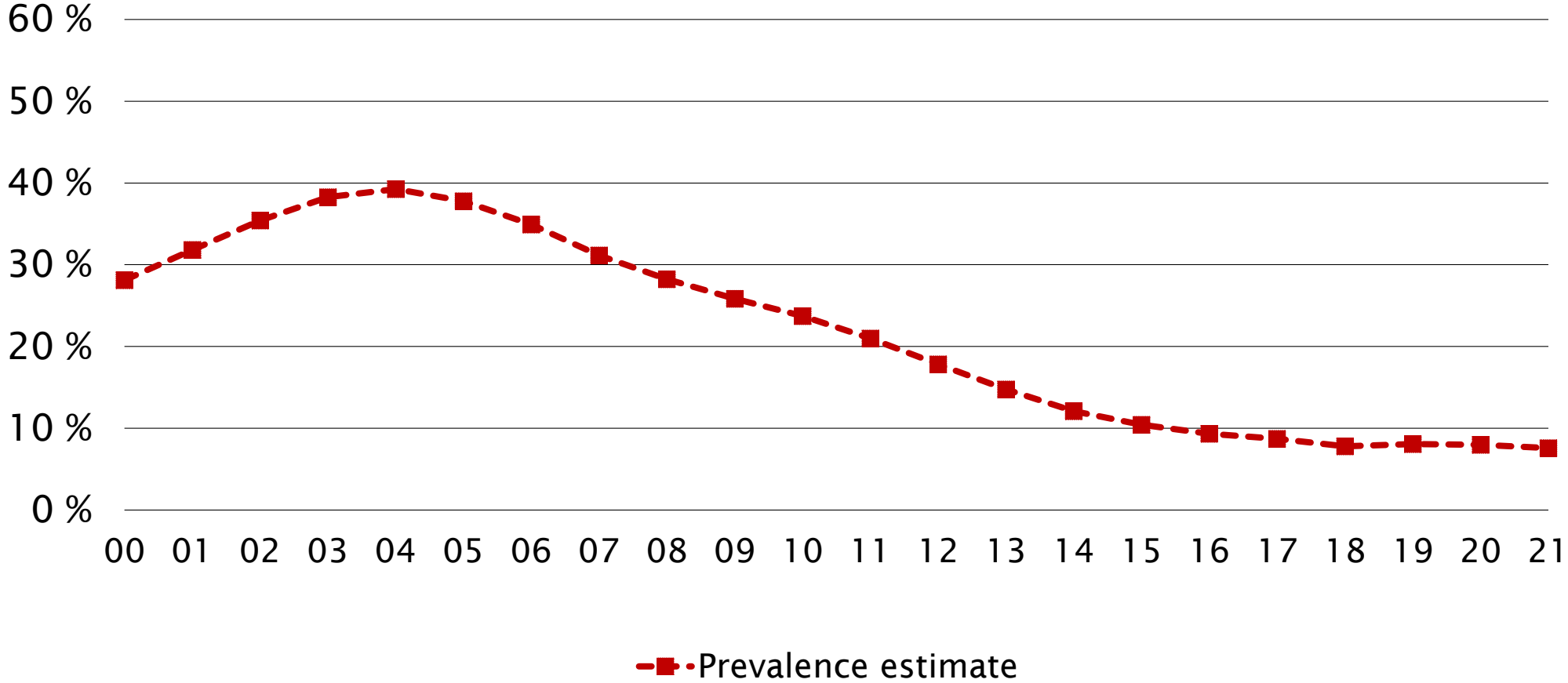
- Incidence of problematic drug use happens mostly in younger age (< 25 years).
- The percentage of this age group in the indicators is a good indicator for incidence of problem drug use.

What is available for the question of incidence?



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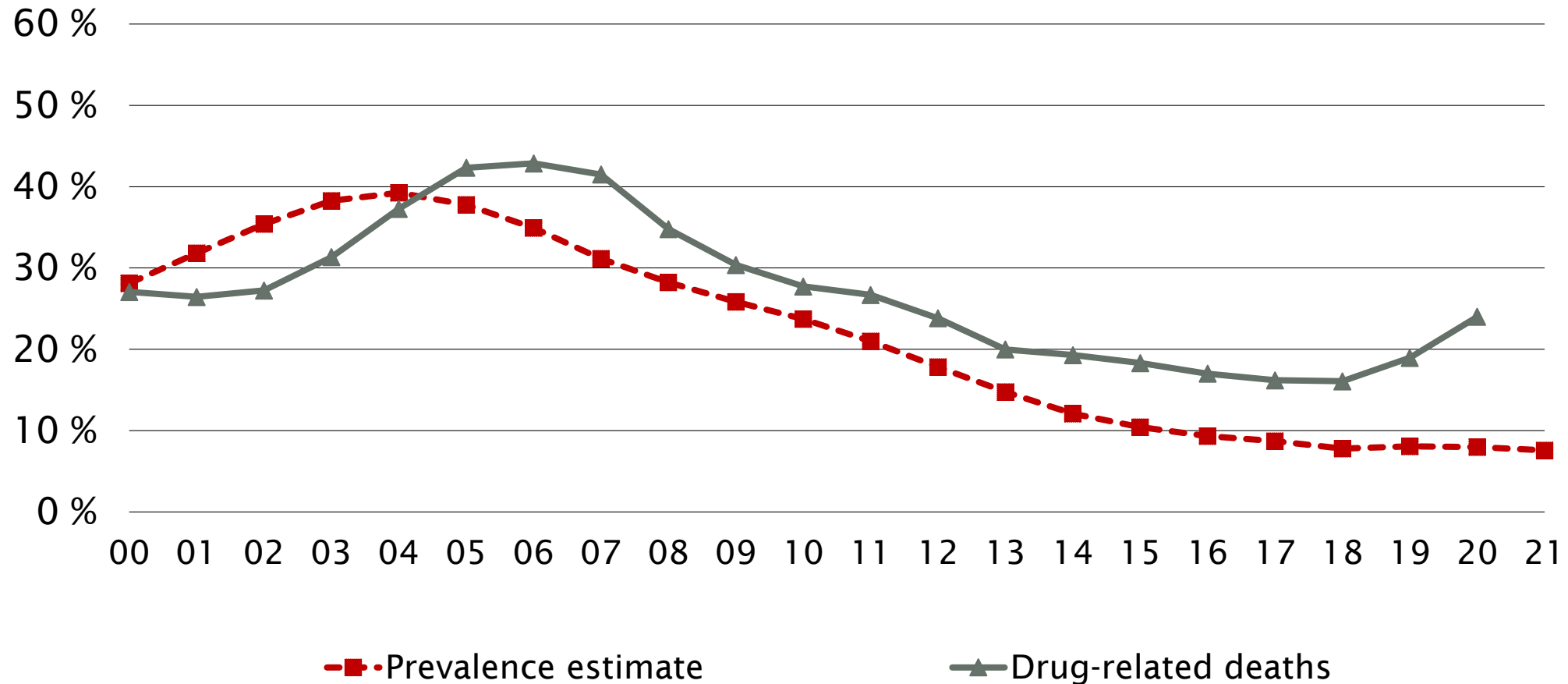
Percentage of people aged < 25



Source: Epidemiologiebericht Sucht 2022

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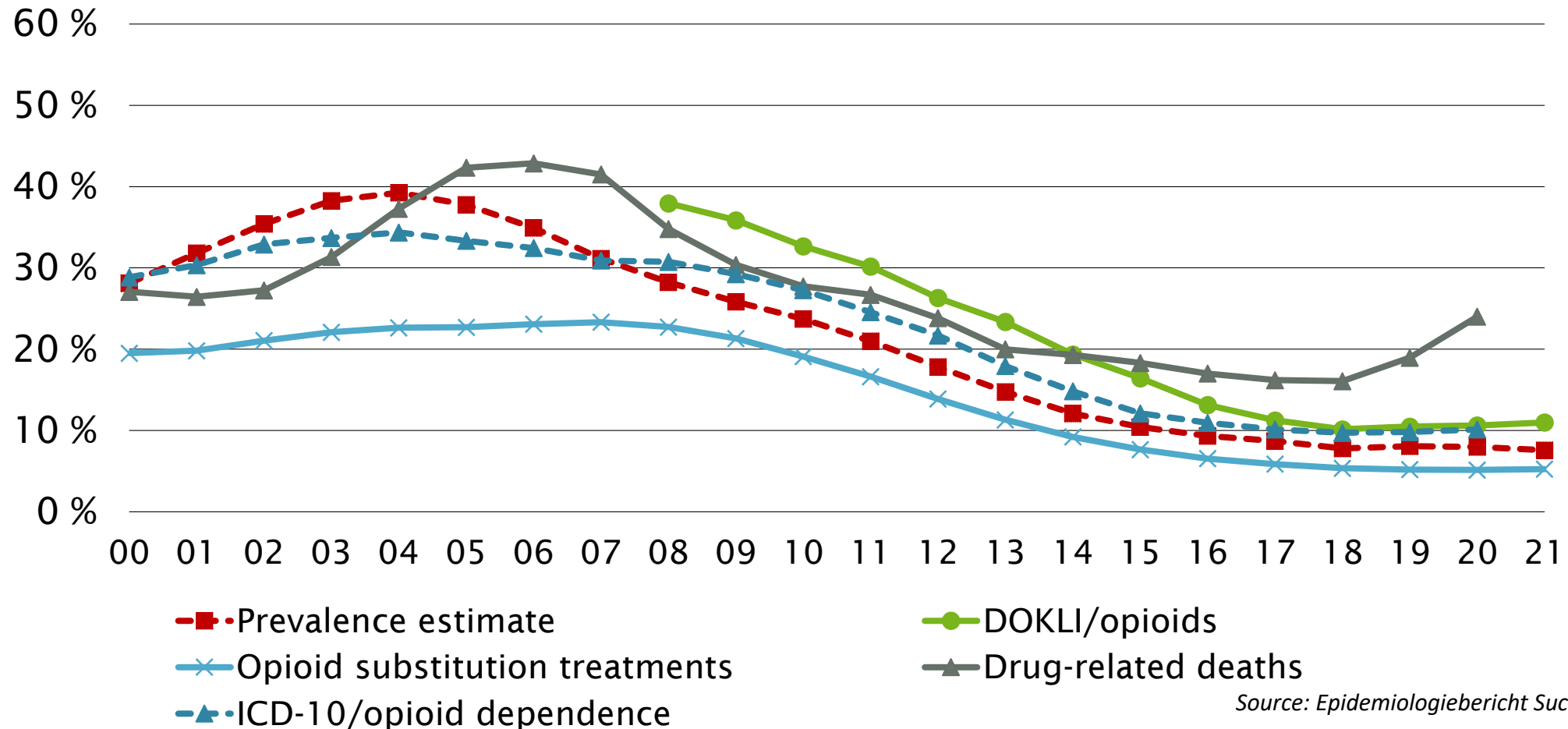
Percentage of people aged < 25



Source: Epidemiologiebericht Sucht 2022

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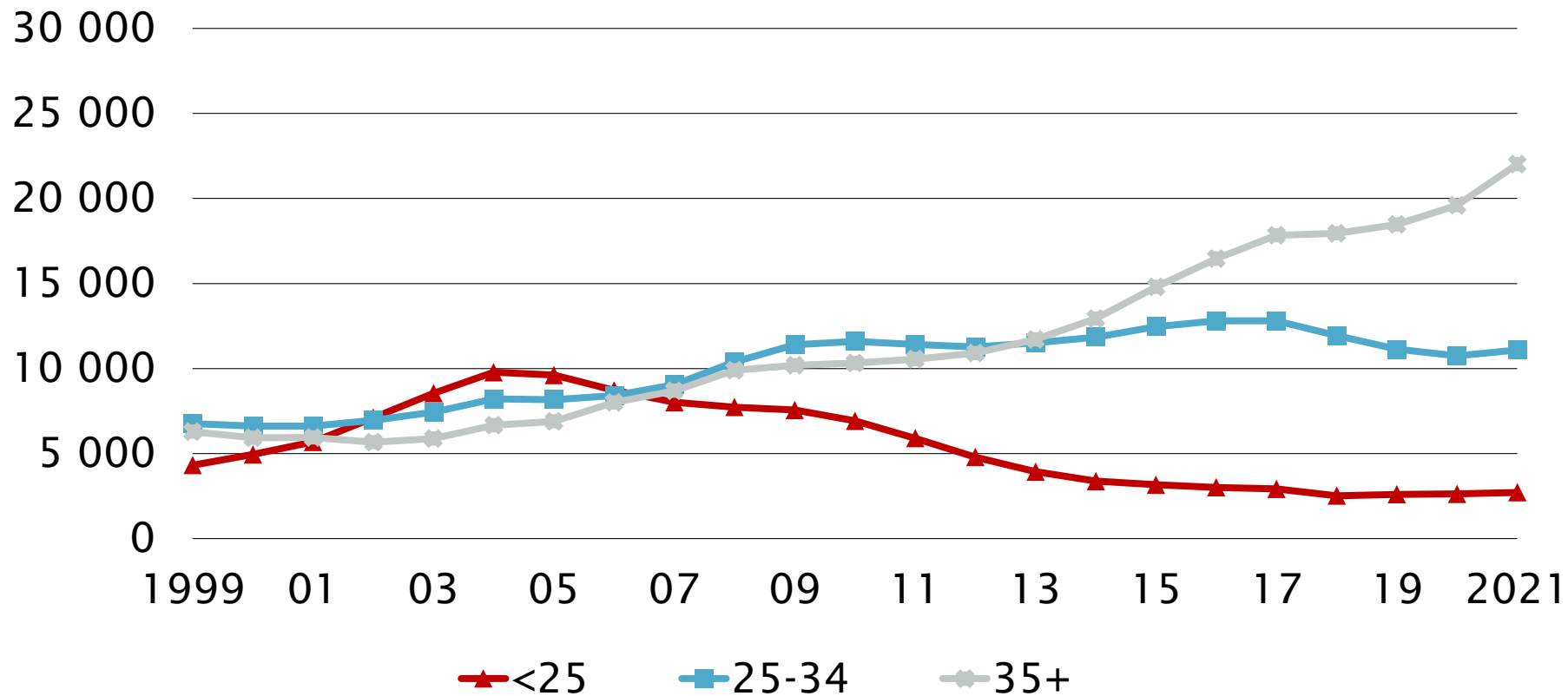
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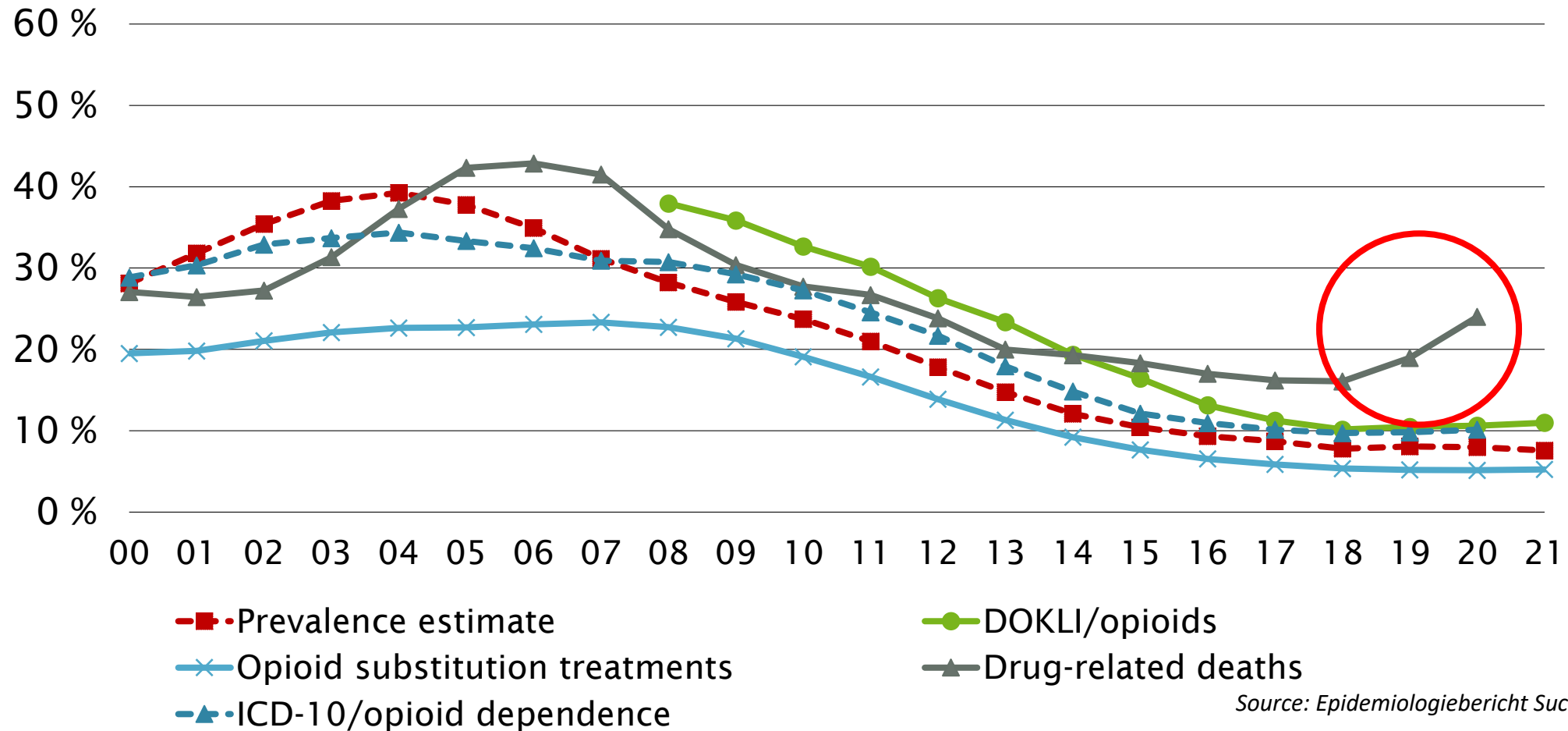
Prevalence estimates stratified by age



Source: Epidemiologiebericht Sucht 2022

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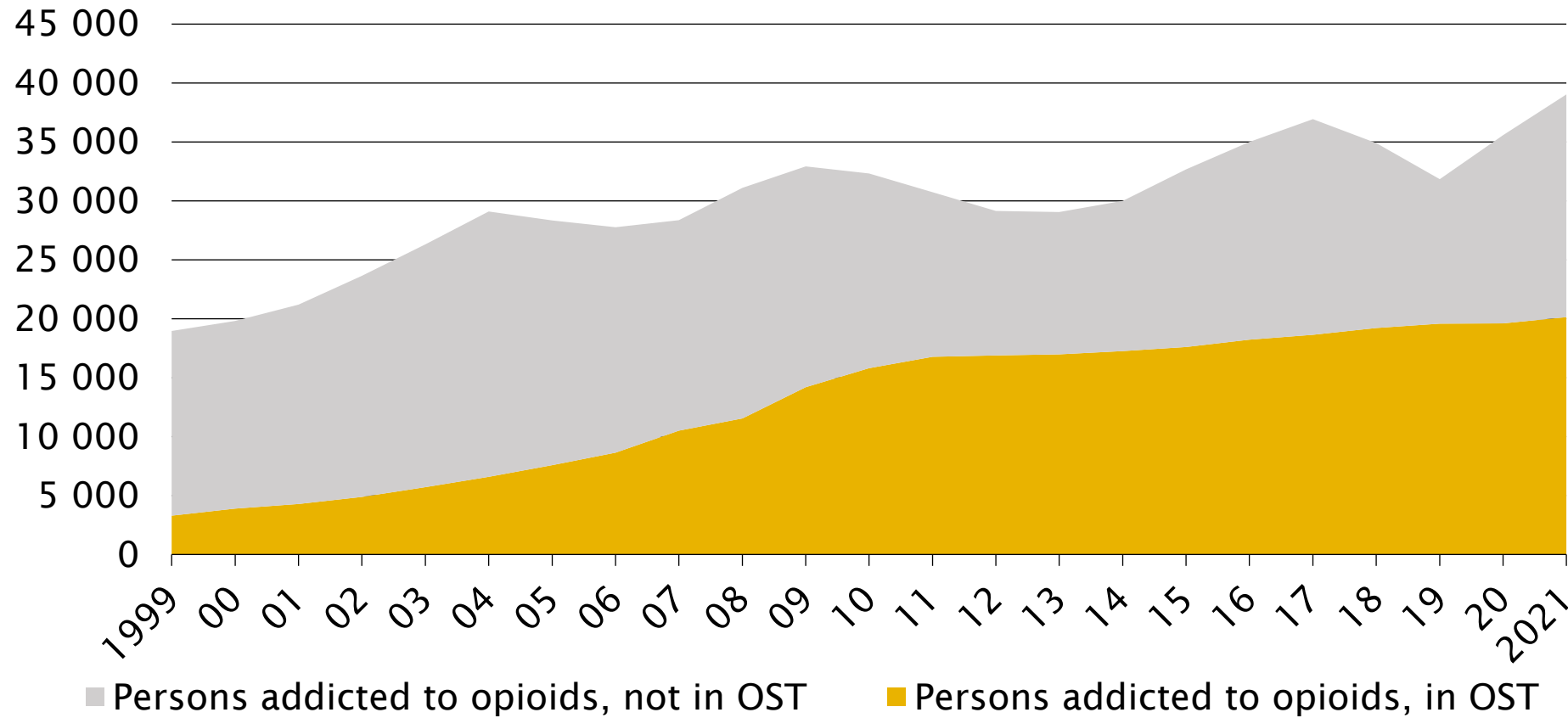
Percentage of people aged < 25



Source: Epidemiologiebericht Sucht 2022

Putting together the puzzle

In-treatment rate



Source: Epidemiologiebericht Sucht 2022

We know a lot about the actual drug situation in Austria!

- If the pieces fit together each piece of the puzzle validates the others.
- If the pieces do not fit together, we have to discuss the question why?



Possible indicators in the field of gambling addiction

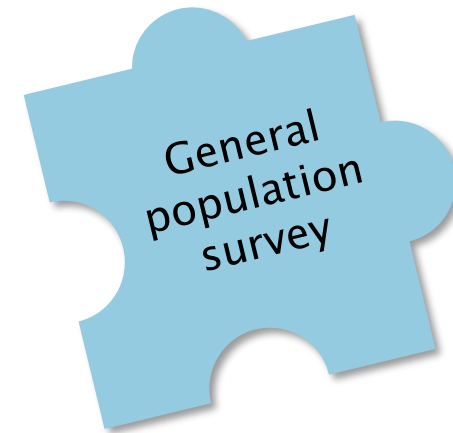
- There is no European agency to define key indicators.
- There are no common definitions or guidelines how to collect data.
- There is a risk that everyone „invents the wheel“ a little bit different which restricts comparability.



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Sorry, there is no puzzle to put together for gambling addiction at the moment 😞

- There is even no common definition of gambling addiction for general population surveys – just different screening tools.
- In 2021 a general population survey showed that 1,5 % of the Austrian population older than 15 years fulfilled at least 4 out of 9 DSM V criteria for gambling addiction.
- This means: around 115,000 Austrians with gambling problems in relation to 35,000 to 40,000 opioid problem drug users.



What do we need?

1. Definition of common indicators to describe gambling addiction
2. Elaboration of common definitions and guidelines for data collection
3. Lobbying for implementation of these indicators, building on which already exists (e. g. treatment data)
4. Preventing everyone from “reinventing the wheel” (a little bit different)

Conclusions

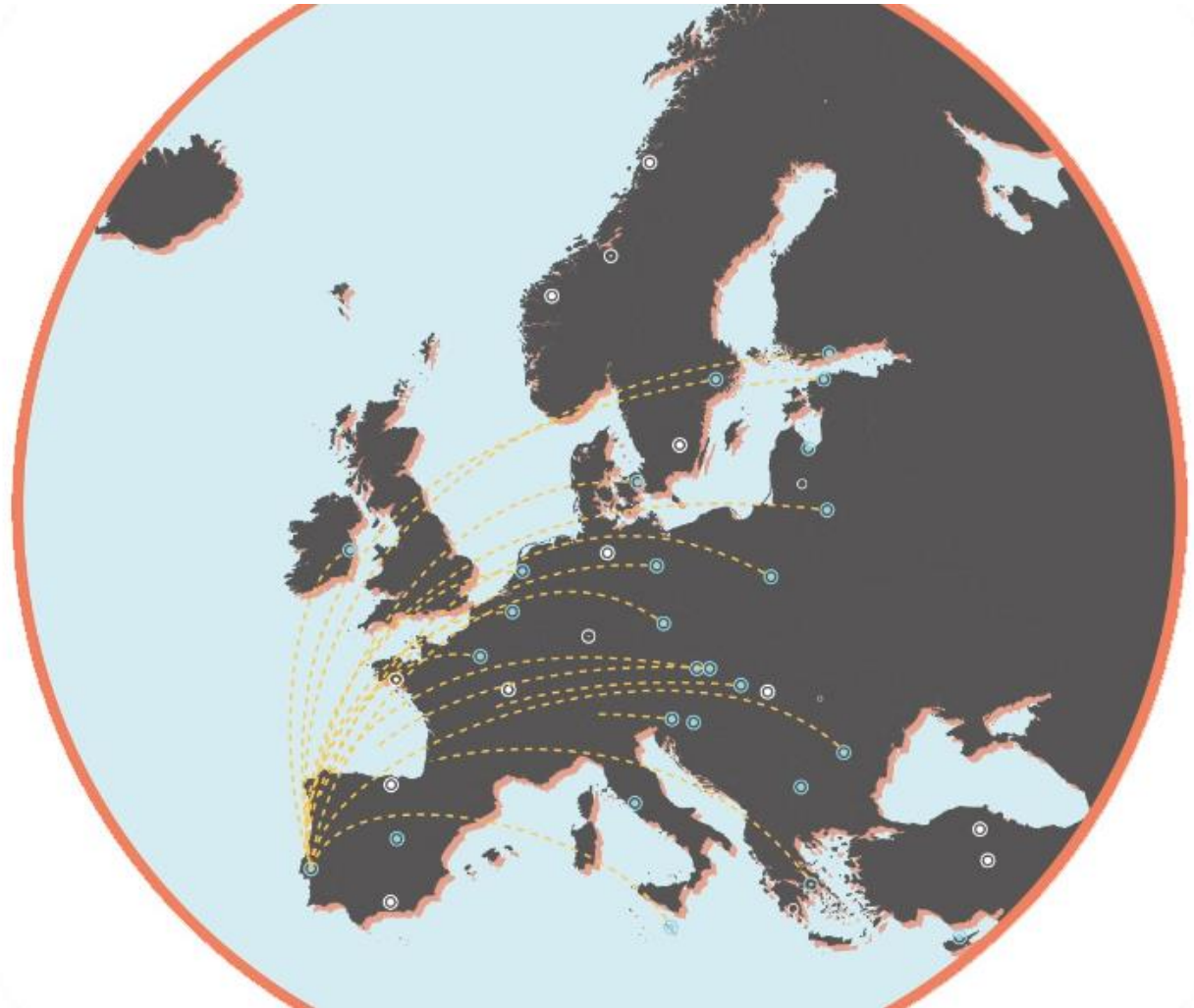
1. Feasible indicators to describe gambling addiction exist.
2. To improve international comparability and use of resources, harmonisation of data collection would make sense.
3. Ways for international co-operation in this field should be found.
4. The already existing REITOX-Network has the potential of a good starting point for this issue. 14 REITOX-Focal Points already have a national mandate to collect data on gambling addiction and collect data or are in the process of building up a monitoring system.

REITOX member

The Addiction Competence Centre of the Austrian National Public Health Institute is the Austrian focal point for the EMCDDA.

The Austrian National Public Health Institute is a member of the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (REITOX).

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Thank you for your attention

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