

Social determinants, health service contacts and incarceration among all those dying from an accidental overdose 2010-2018 in Norway

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Lisbon Addictions

24.11.2022

Thanks to: Alexi Hamina, Ingvild Odsbu, Svetlana Skurtveit

Not published. Please do not reference or cite

Background: who gets incarcerated

Laws illegal drugs

- The Medicinal Products Act

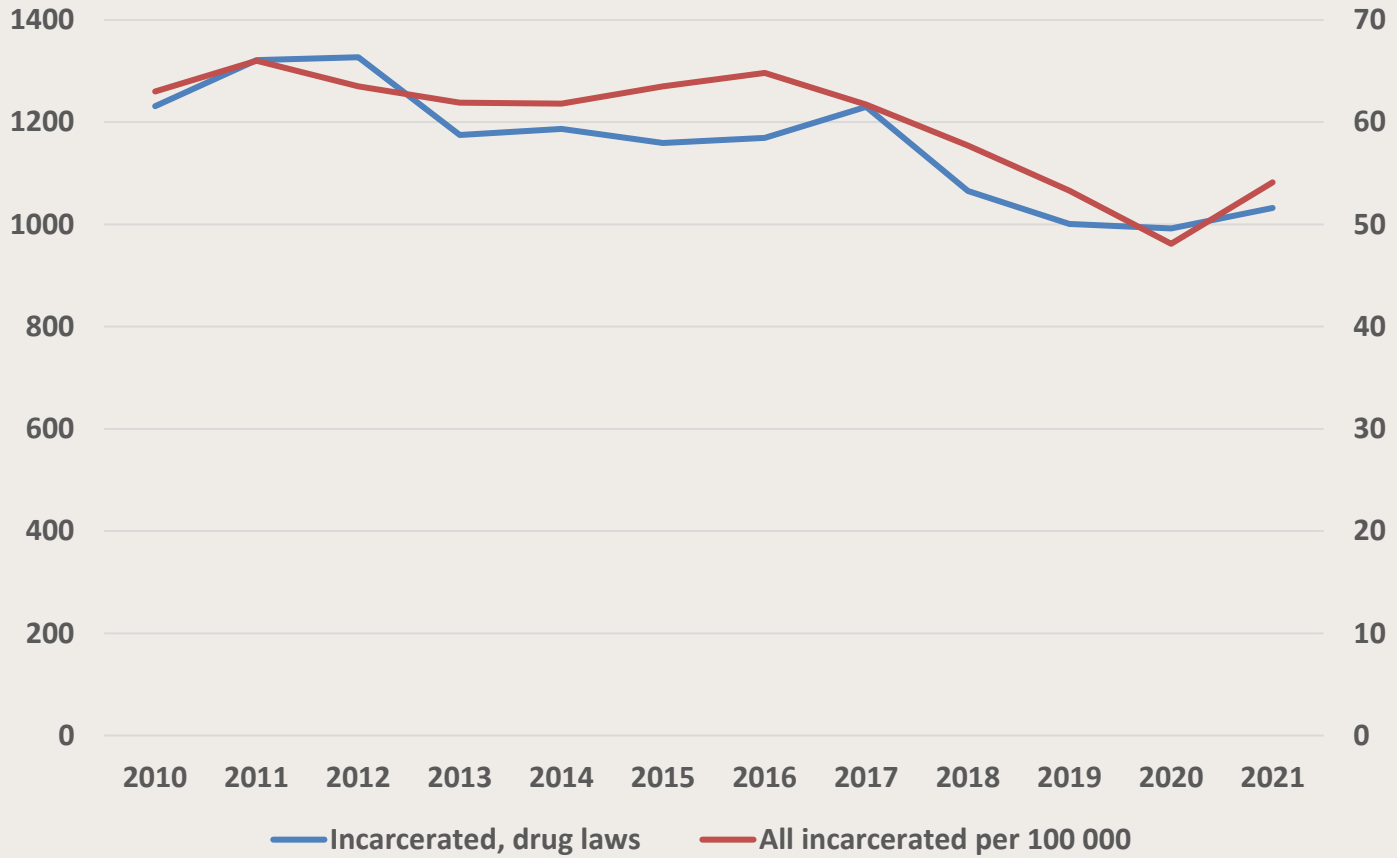
- Use and possession of small amounts for own use. Incarceration up to six months.
- Usually fines, hardly any in prison for single offences, while short incarcerations for not paying fines occur

- The General Civil Penal Code

- A: Drug offence. Incarceration up to 2 years Almost 20 % of those in prison convicted by drug laws (source criminal statistics)
- B: Aggravated drug offence. Incarceration up to 8/21 years. Ca. 80 % of those in prison convicted by drug laws (source criminal statistics)

Inmates 15 years and over 2010-2021

By drug laws and all, by January 1



Aims

- This study examines associations between 1) charges, social determinants and use of health services and 2) incarceration among all those dying from an accidental overdose 2010-2018
- Dying of an accidental overdose can be seen as an indicator of high-risk drug use

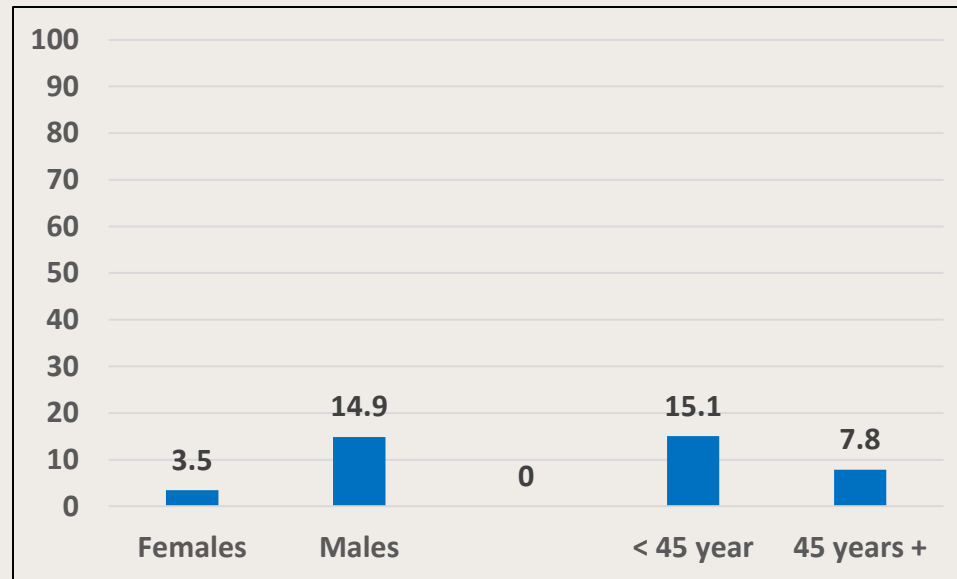
Data

- All accidental fatal poisonings 2010-2018. N = 1838
- Register data
- Variable incarceration: At least one incarceration during 12 months prior to accidental overdose
- More an indicator of marginalization than direct effect of incarceration

Comparisons of incarcerated and non-incarcerated with accidental fatal poisoning

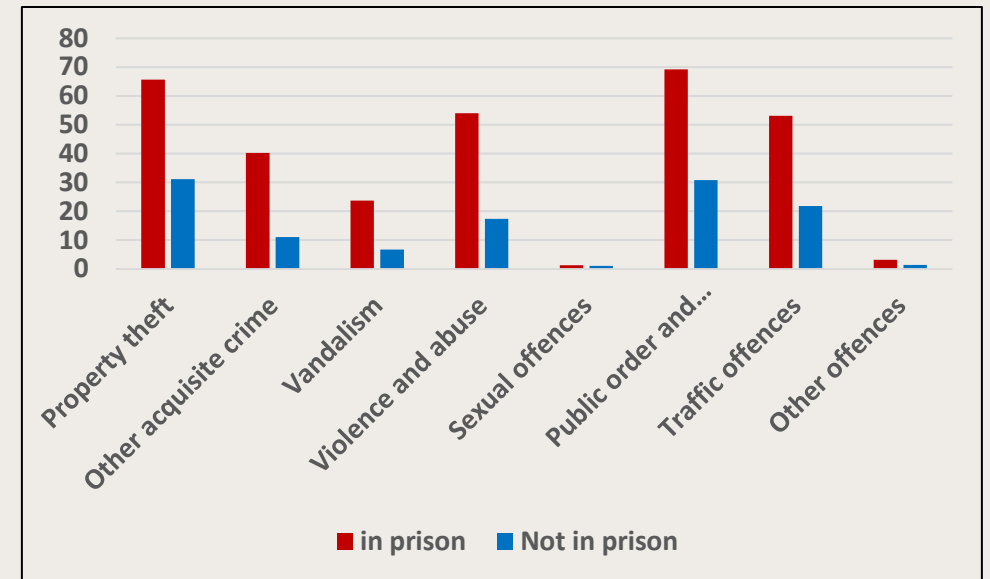
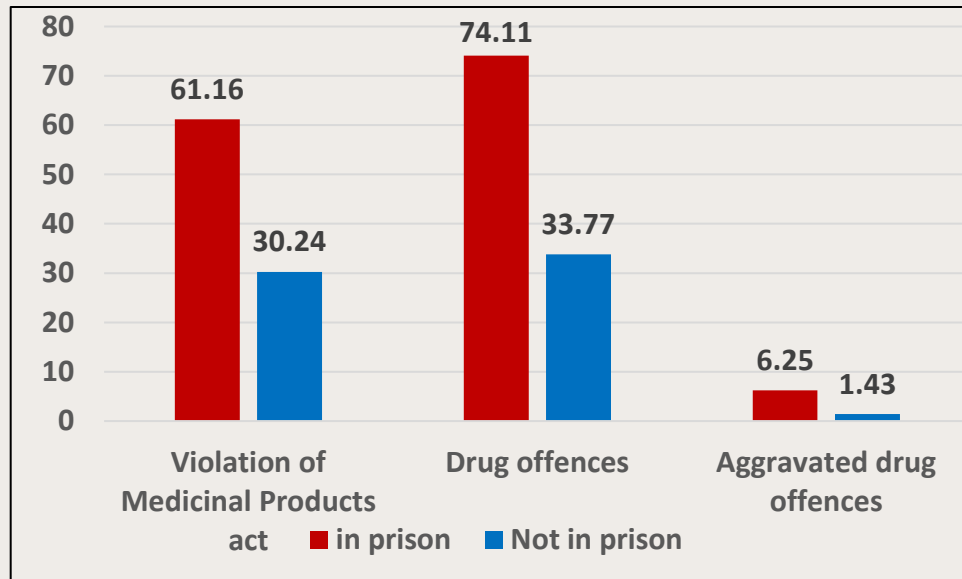
- Gender and age
- Charges five years prior to death
- Sociodemographic correlates at time of death
- Health service contacts 12 months prior to death
- Substance abuse and psychological disorder diagnoses in primary health care 12 months prior to death
- Prescribed pharmaceuticals 12 months prior to death

Incarceration by gender and age. Per cent



Highest level of incarceration 25-29 years

Charges five years prior to death in our data. Per cent



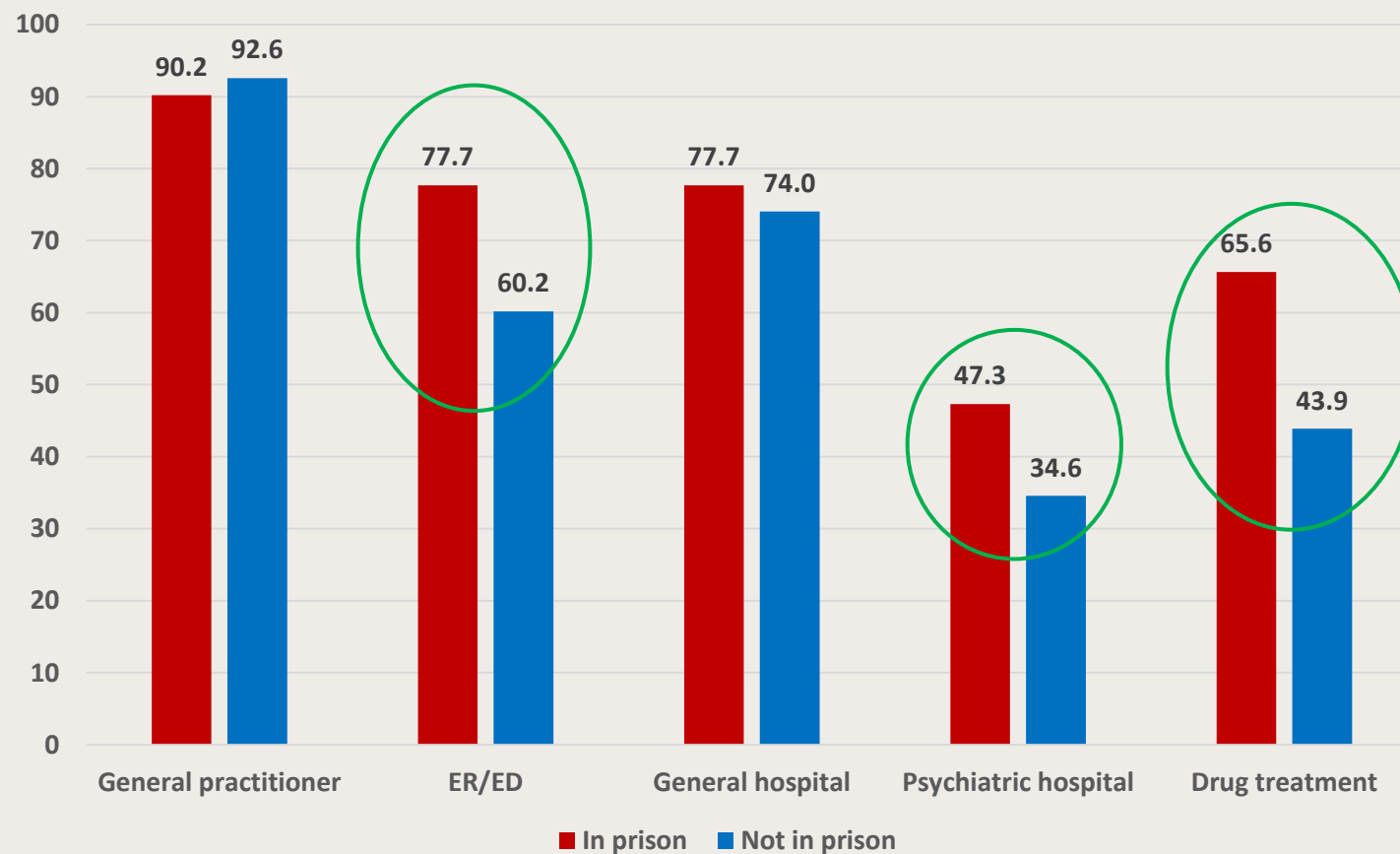
Sociodemographic correlates and incarceration

- Those incarcerated had a higher level of social welfare benefits and lower level of education

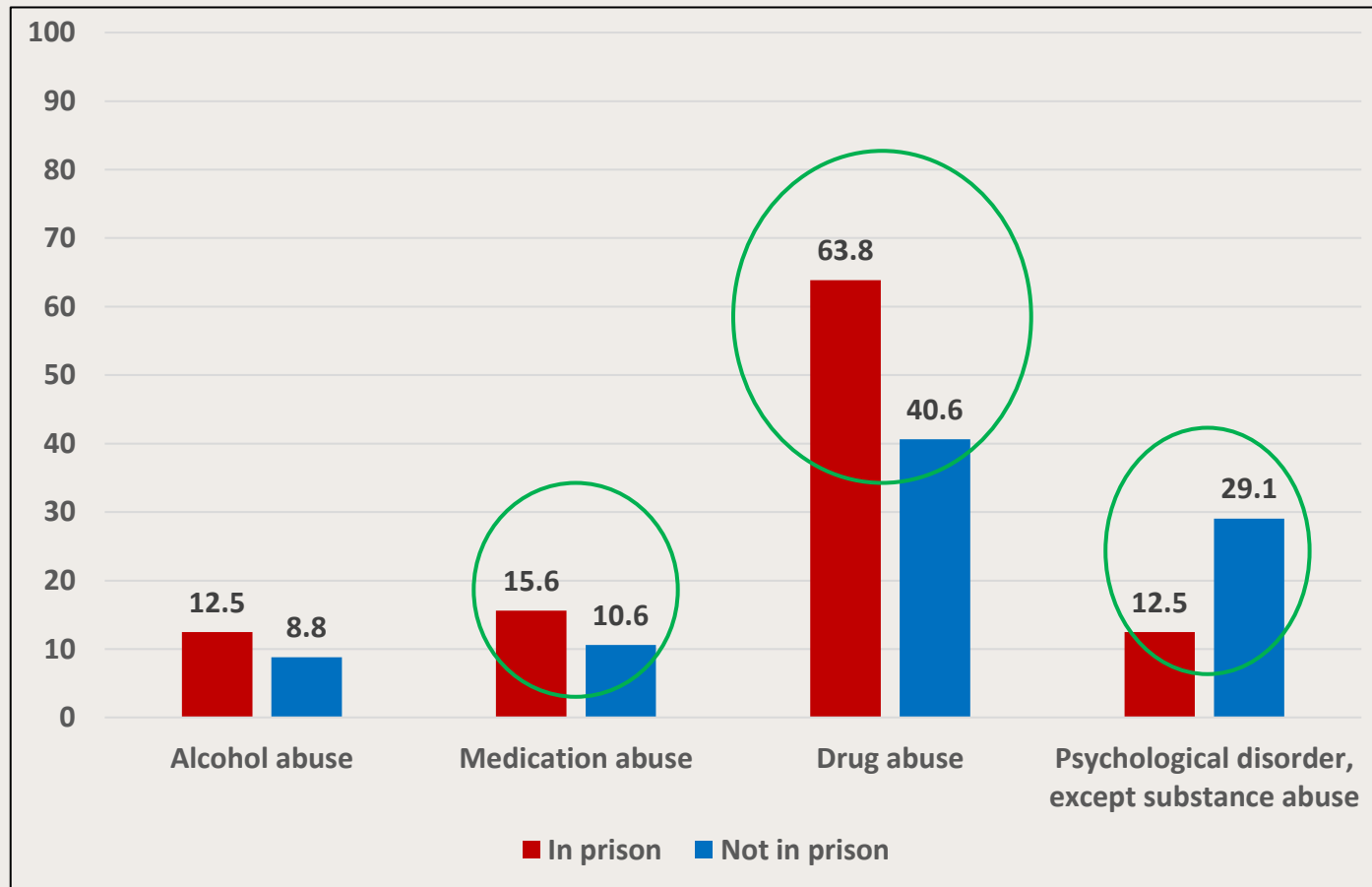
Otherwise no difference regarding

- in paid work
- income
- assets
- living in 'big' city
- work assessment clarification
- being a disability pensioner
- one-person household
- living with children less than six years of age
- being an immigrant (two foreign born parents)

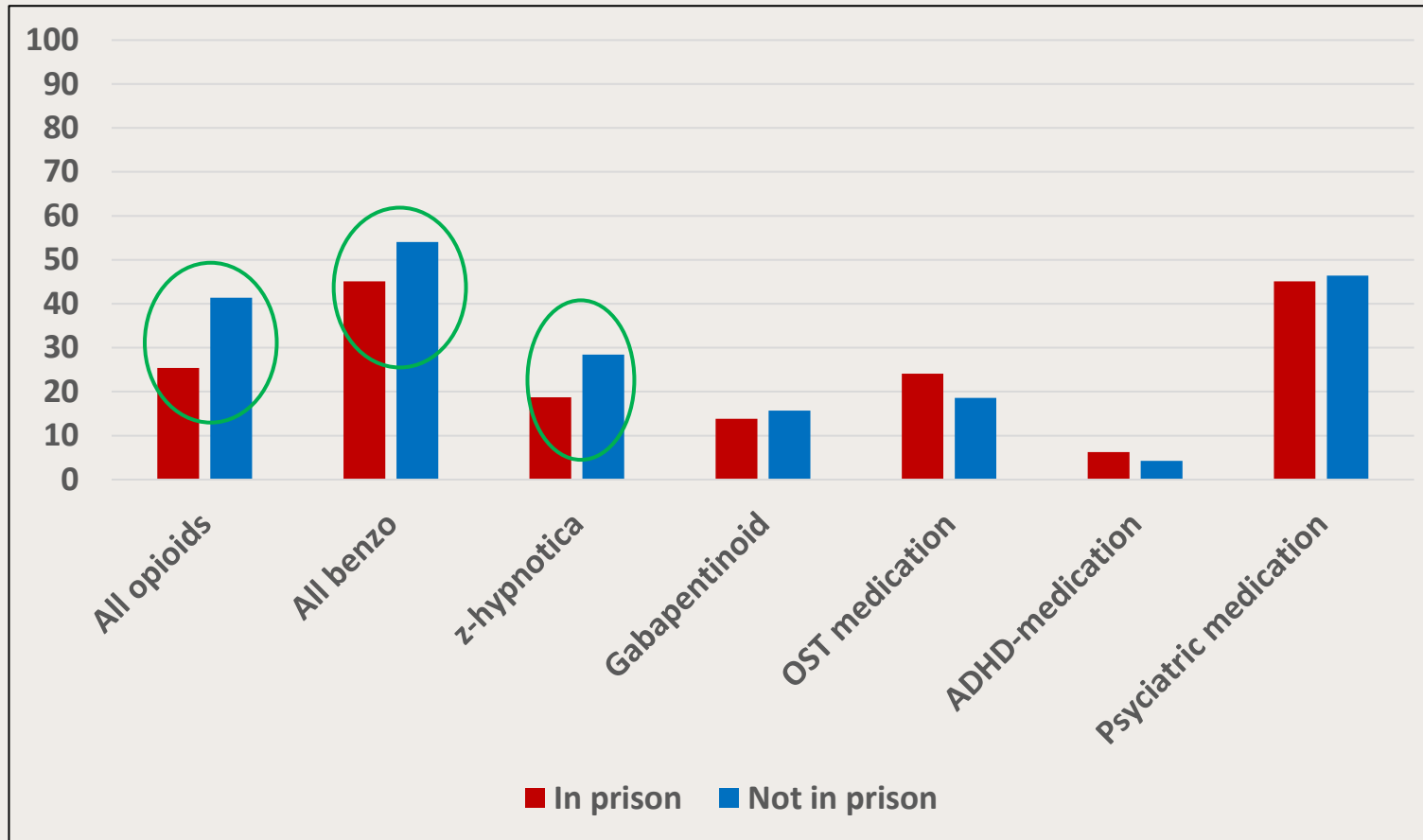
Health service contacts and incarceration. Per cent



Substance use diagnoses in primary health care and incarceration. Per cent



Filled prescriptions and incarceration. Per cent



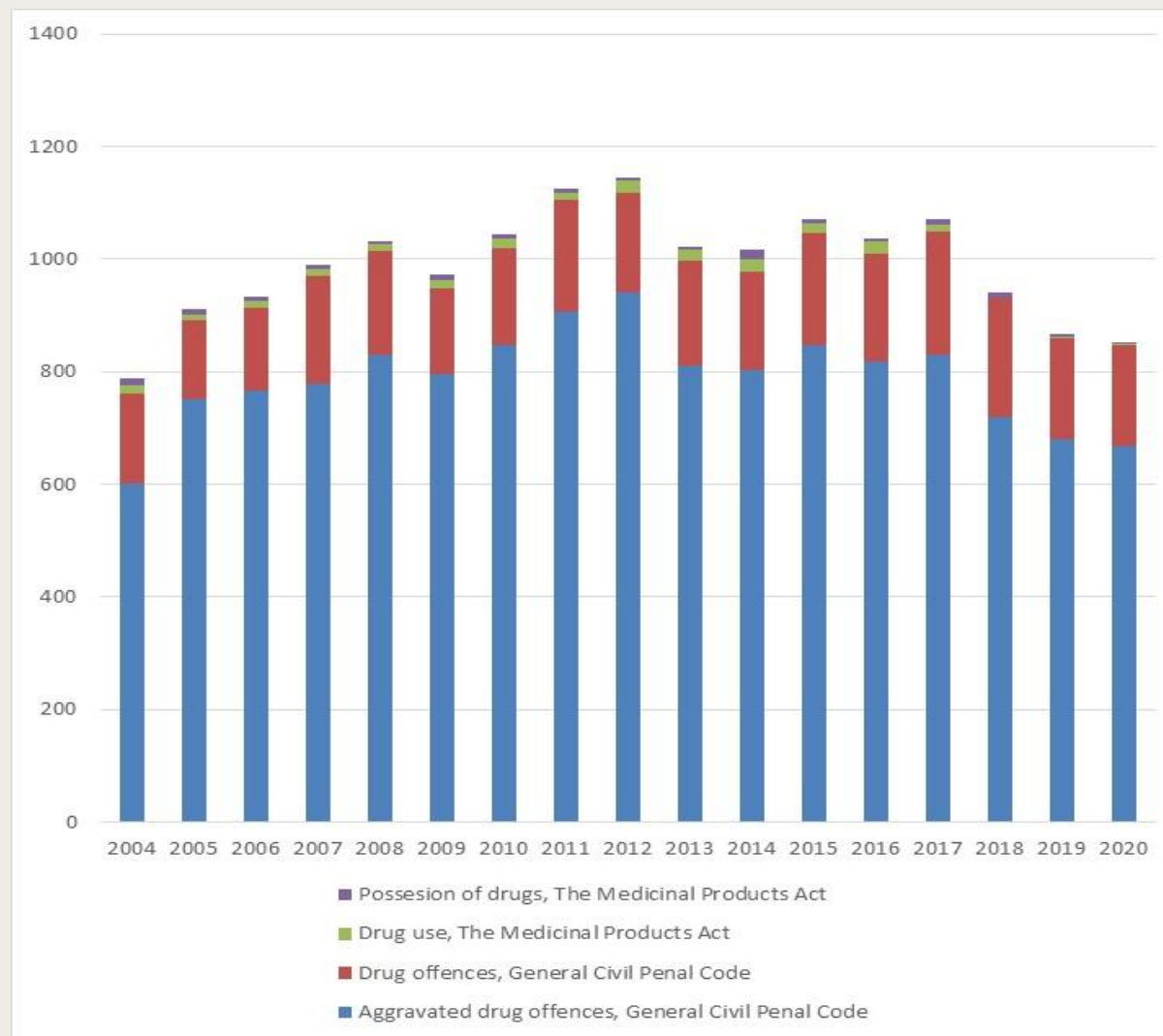
Summary incarceration for accidental fatal overdose

- Very few women were incarcerated
- Persons incarcerated for an aggravated drug offence had a much lower risk of accidental fatal overdose (high-risk drug use) than others charged for drug offences
- Few differences in sociodemographic correlates for incarcerated and not incarcerated (while risk of death was associated with each of these correlates)
- Incarcerated more often in contact with ER/ED, psychiatric and drug specialized treatment
- Incarcerated more often had medication or drug abuse diagnoses, less often psychological disorder
- Incarcerated were less often prescribed opioids, benzodiazepines and z-hypnotica

Thank you!

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Extra: Number of inmates (January 1st), various drug offences, 2004-2020



From
EMCDDA
prison
workbook
2021. Norway