

CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE DURING THE CURRENT DETENTION

RESULTS FROM PRISON SURVEYS IN 4 EU COUNTRIES

Els Plettinckx

Unit Illicit drugs
Epidemiology and Public
Health of Sciensano

Reitox Member

The Belgian focal point for
the EMCDDA and member
of the European Information
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Objective

Prevalence
of drug use
in prison
>
General
population

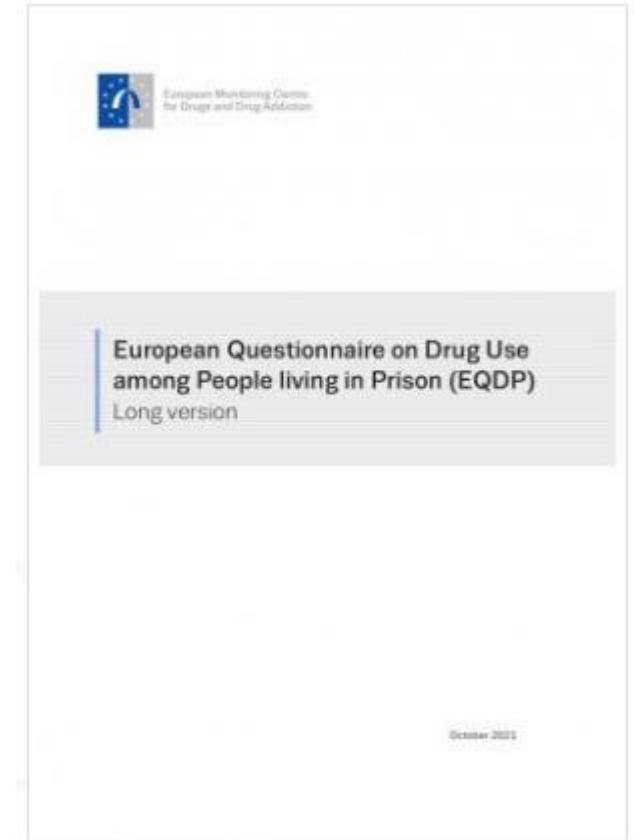
- People who use drugs
- People who don't use drugs

Different
characteristics
to identify
using the
EQDP?

EQDP

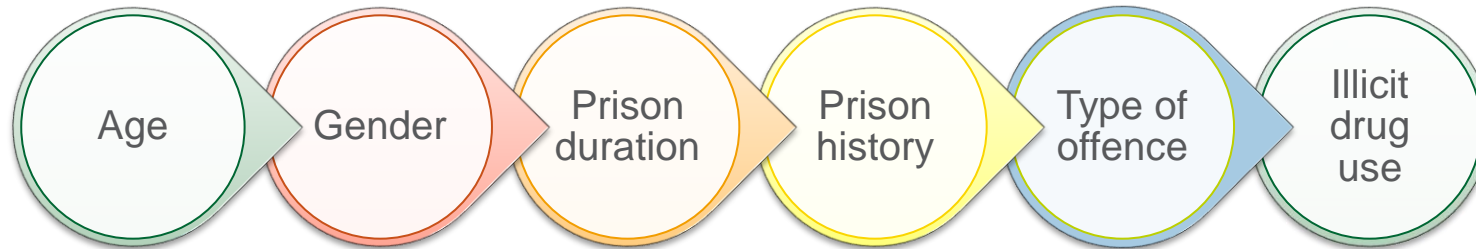
European Questionnaire on Drug use among people in prison

- ✓ Standardised data collection instrument in Europe
- ✓ Drug use, drug use related problems and interventions targeting people who use drugs in prison settings
- ✓ Identification of the needs
- ✓ 2014-2018: implementation in 7 countries



Methods

Selected variables:



Selected countries:

Czechia

2018
Simple random
sampling
35/35 prisons
Sample = 8,4%

Latvia

2018
Convenience
sampling
9/12 prisons
Sample = 8,4%

Lithuania

2017
Simple random
sampling
10/11 prisons
Sample = 16,3%

Slovenia

2015
Convenience
sampling
11/13 prisons
Sample = 17,6%

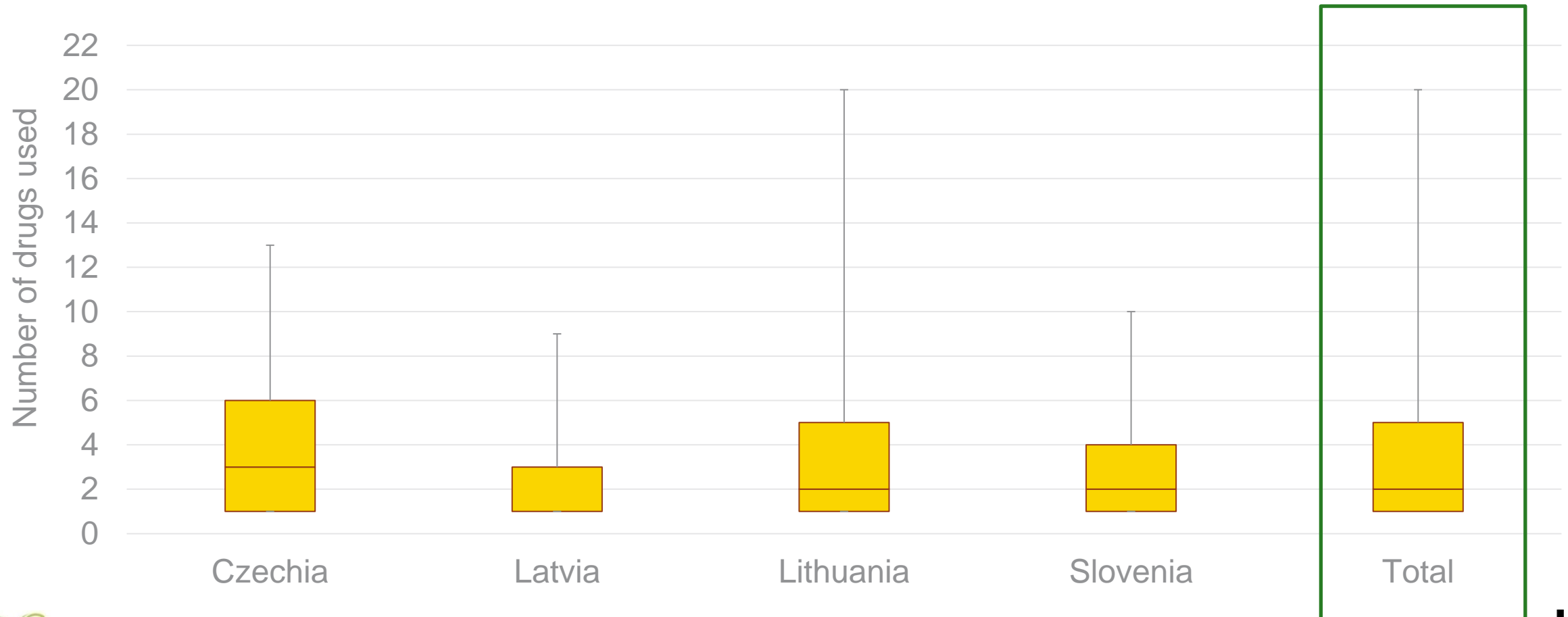
Results

Description of the population

Characteristics	Total (N= 4494)	Czechia (N=1695)	Latvia (N=1017)	Lithuania (N=1094)	Slovenia (N=688)
Mean age (+-sd)	36,1 (+-10,7)	36,2 (+-9,9)	36,3 (+-10,6)	34,4 (+-10,4)	38,5 (+-11,9)
Gender: male	91,6	89,5	90,7	95,5	94,0
Commitment of drug related offence	38,3	32,8	39,7	44,3	32,7
Mean prisonstay (years,+sd)	3,3 (+-3,9)	4,3 (+-3,9)	2,1 (+-3,0)	3,5 (+-4,5)	2,1 (+-2,9)
Mean times in prison (+-sd)	2,3 (+-1,2)	2,3 (+-1,2)	2,3 (+-1,3)	2,5 (+-1,2)	1,8 (+-1,1)
Lifetime illicit drug use, before prison	63,2	70,0	69,4	56,5	33,6
Illicit drug use during current detention	30,0	55,6	17,4	22,5	26,9

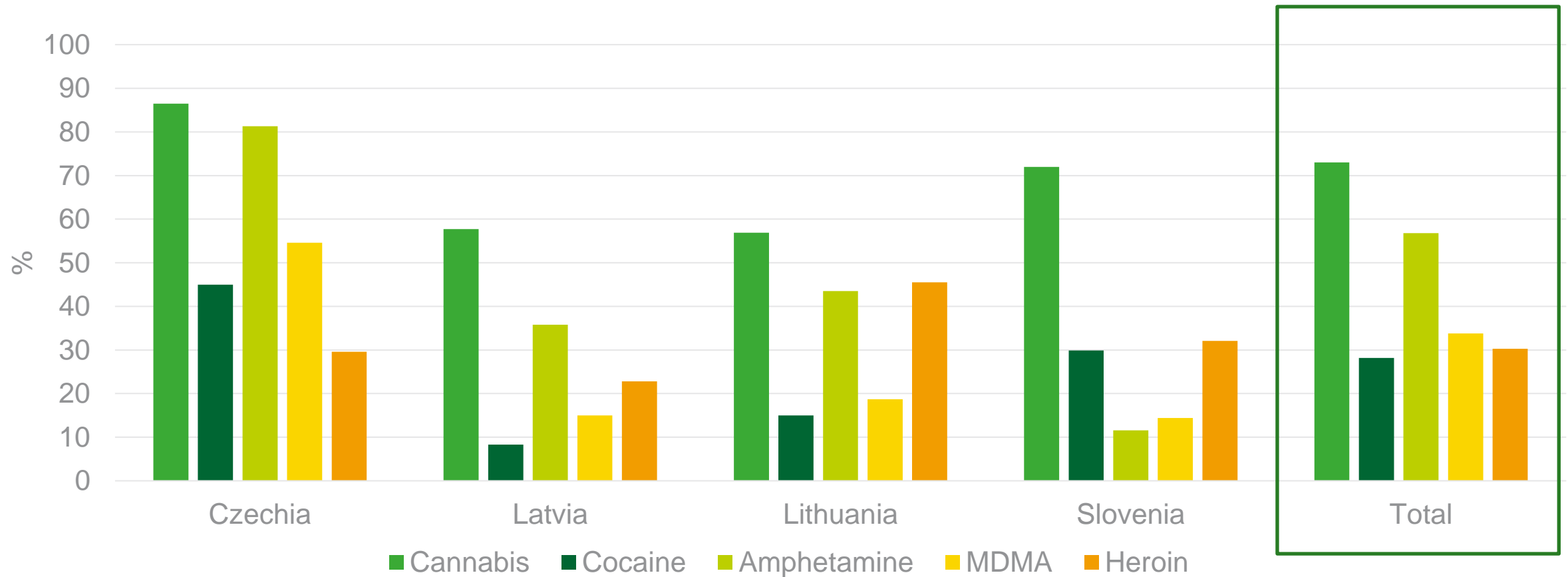
Results

Number of used drugs during current imprisonment among PWUD in prison



Results

Type of substances used during current imprisonment among PWUD in prison



Results

Bivariate analysis	Drug use in prison			
	Total	No drug use	Drug use	p value
Sex: male	91,6	91,5	91,9	0,5707
Age: 15-34	49,6	46,2	58,6	<.0001
Drug offence	38,3	34,9	47,8	<.0001
Number of imprisonments: first time	41,8	45,8	32,4	<.0001
Duration: >1 year	66,8	60,2	81,9	<.0001
Illicit drug use outside prison (ever)	63,2	49,1	93,3	<.0001

Multivariate analysis	Estimate	Standard error	OR	Pr > ChiSq
Sex: female	-0,4035	0,1826	0,668	0,0271*
Age: 15-34	0,4662	0,0893	1,594	<.0001**
No drug offence	-0,0889	0,0889	0,915	0,3169***
Number of imprisonments: first time	-0,4906	0,0906	0,612	<.0001***
Duration: <1 month	-1,8179	0,2822	0,162	<.0001***
No illicit drug use outside prison (ever)	-2,3950	0,1434	0,091	<.0001

* Latvia; ** Lithuania; *** Czechia

Limitations

- Structural limitations of prison architecture and setup may limit the ideal research conditions
- Some slight differences still exists between countries implementing EQDP, e.g.:
 - Differences in type of substances included in the questionnaires
 - In Poland only male people in prison where included in the study
- Possibility of bias because of:
 - Socially desirable answers
 - Participants' understanding of the questions
 - Recall bias

Conclusion

Common data analysis in order to have global results, which are coherent with previous research:

- Lifetime prevalence of illicit drug use before imprisonment is about 60%
- Illicit drug use during the detention period is estimated between 20-45%
- Besides cannabis, amphetamine is the overall most used drug within prison
- Illicit drug use before imprisonment is associated with illicit drug use within prison

Importance of country specific context to support the European policy, strategies and action plans in the drug field, including in the prison setting

Thank you for your attention!

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Contact

Els.Plettinckx@sciensano.be

T + 32 2 642 57 72