

Estimates of people who injected drugs within the past 12 months in France

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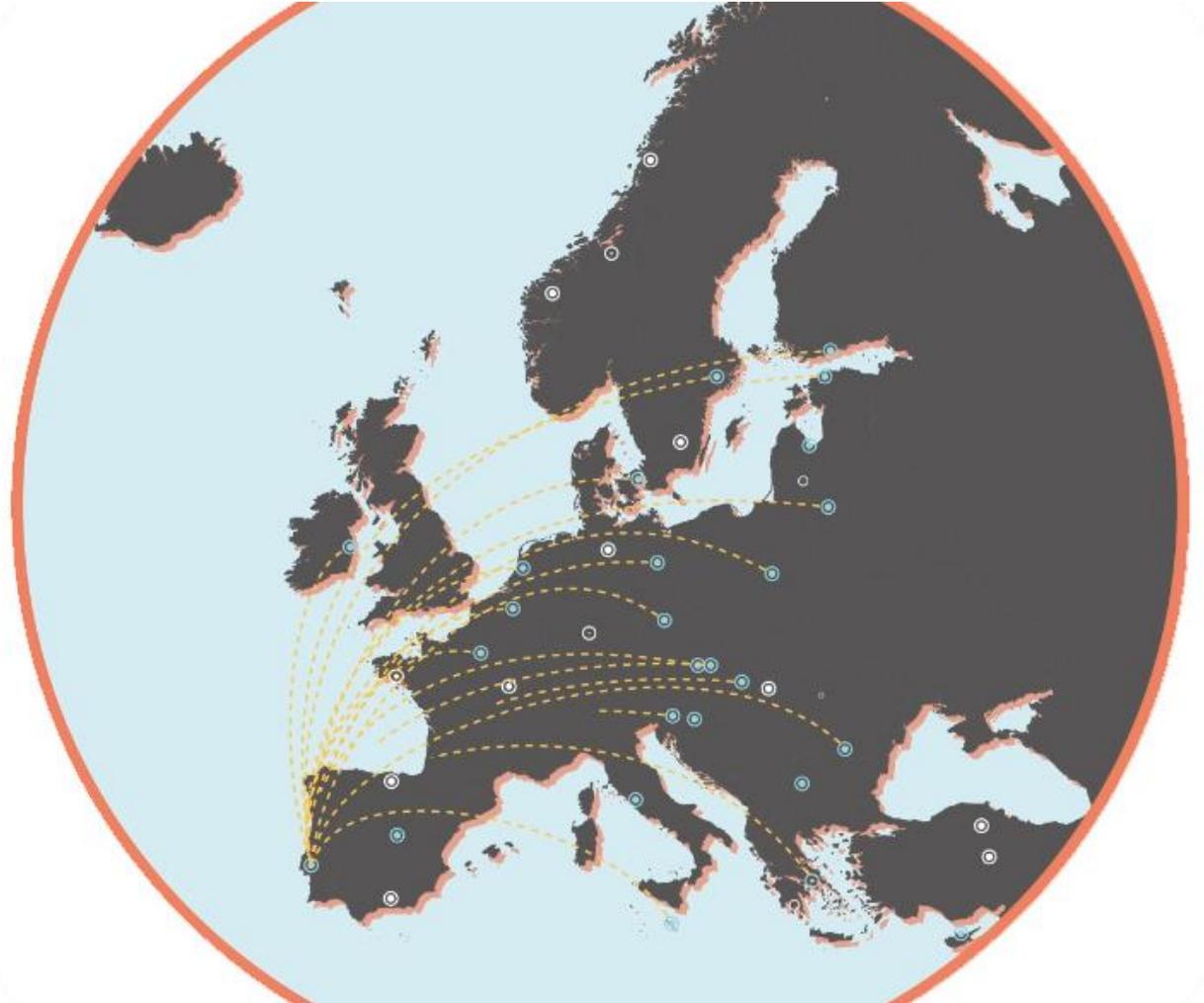
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REITOX member

OFDT is the French focal point for the EMCDDA.

OFDT is a member of the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (REITOX).



Some background



In the beginning

Scant information

Multiplier method, conducted in 2006

No estimates of 12 months PWID, only past 30 days ($n^*=80000$)

No CL, no detailed information on injectors' profiles

Some background

1 **Single-source capture-recapture**

Single source CR overcome the flaw of separate methodologies in data collection (differences in case definition, in time span...) likely to yield biased estimates

Legal restrictions protecting the anonymity of illicit substance users in France. Impedes data linkage

2 **Data source**

All treatment centres in France are requested to fulfil a standardised questionnaire: substance use, route, demographics...

Question on past 12 months injection introduced in 2014

Updated on a yearly basis

Some background

3 Multilevel modelling

To provide nation-wide estimates

2-level: patients nested in treatment centers (3-level does not improve the models fit)

To account for cluster-to-cluster variability

Both fixed and random effects included in predictions

Method to calculate narrower CL (variance partitioning)

4 Accounting for extra heterogeneity

Classical estimators (Chao's, Zelterman's) know to be robust in case of low to mild heterogeneity. Lower bound

Field studies suggest high heterogeneity: severely downward biased/unrealistic estimates

Heterogeneity refers here to new substances, profiles and behaviours

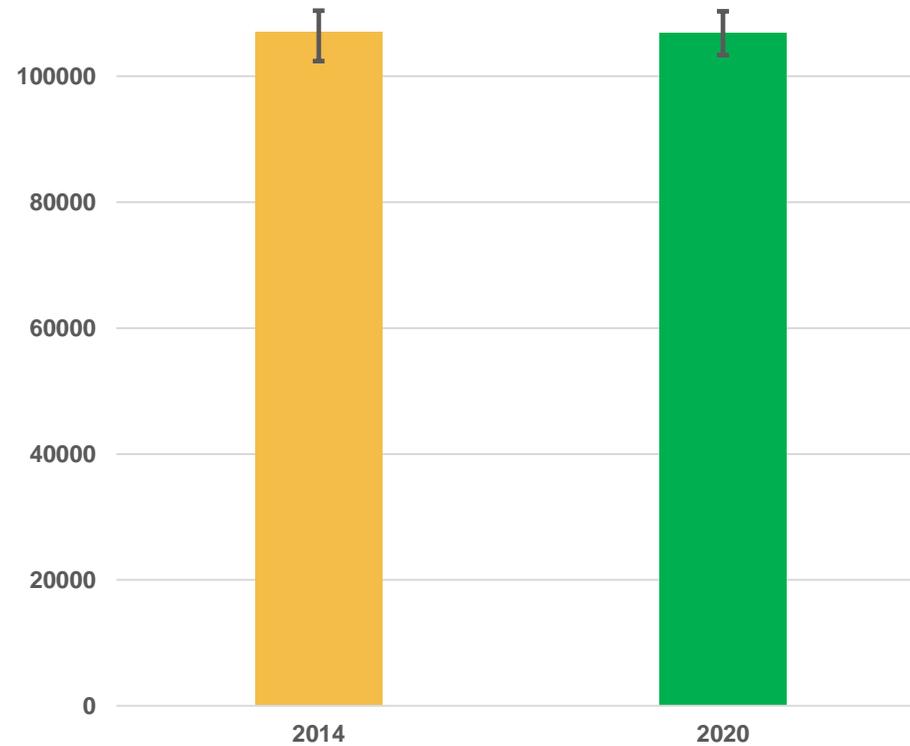
New estimator based on the geometric distribution. Relies on logistic regression (Janssen et al., 2020)

Some results

**Estimated numbers of PWID
(last 12 months) in France,
2014 and 2020**

107000 in 2014

106000 in 2020



Some results

Taking advantage of decomposability:

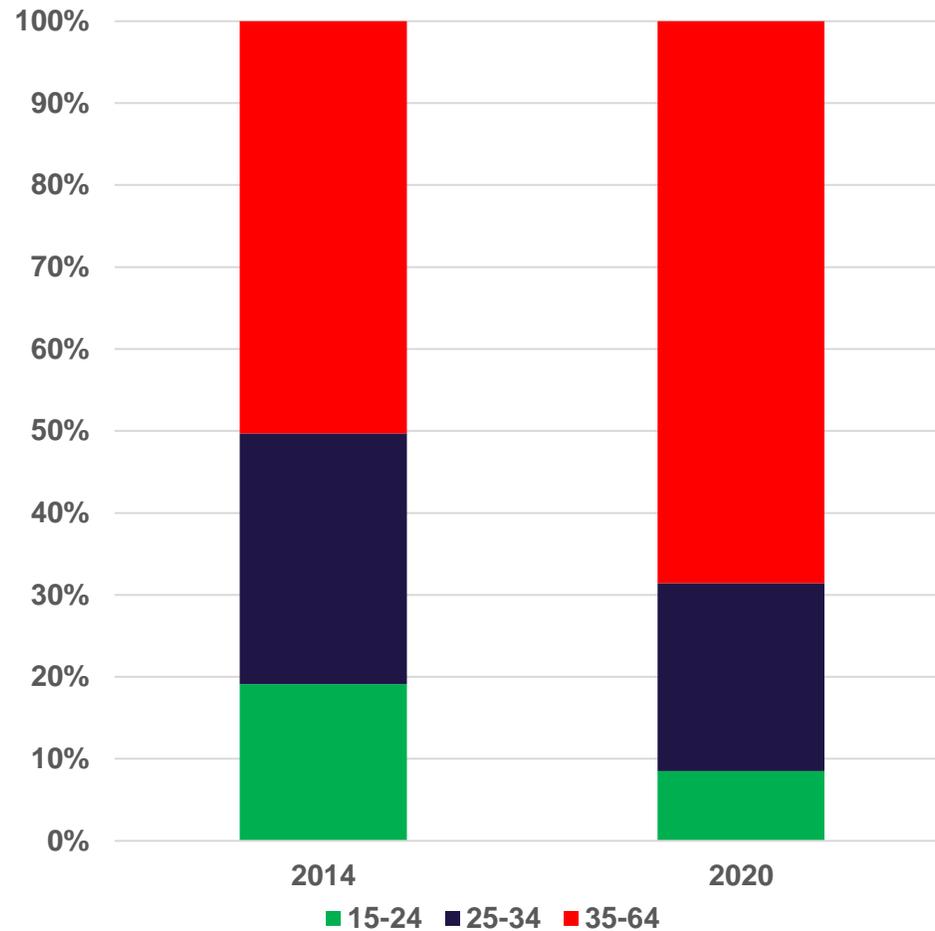
Estimates broken down by gender



Some results

Taking advantage of decomposability:

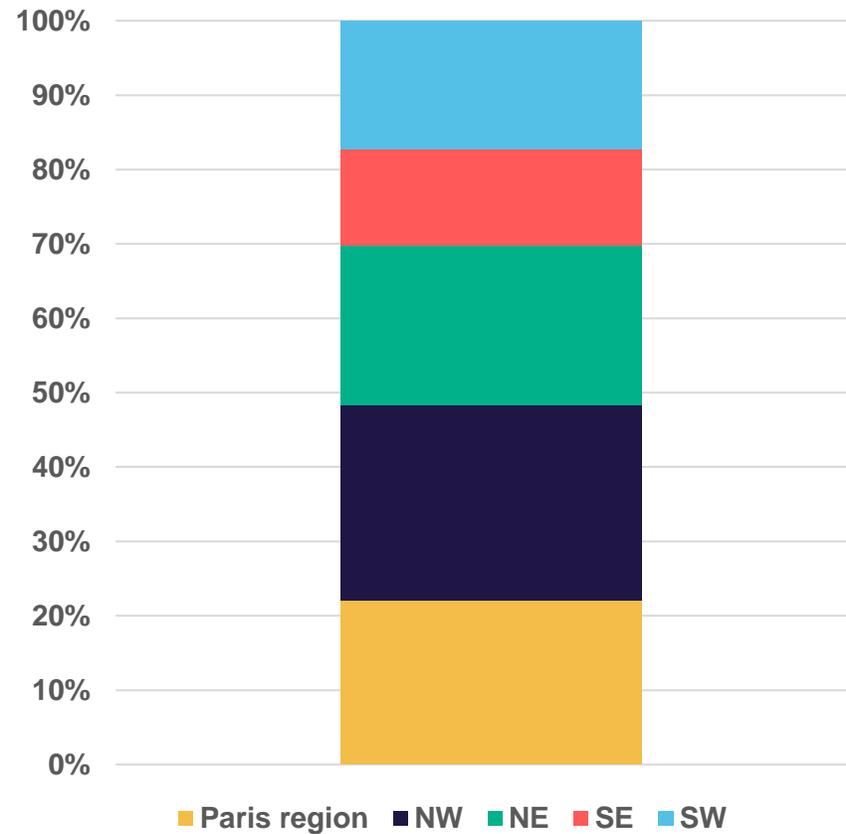
Estimates broken down by age groups



Some results

Taking advantage of decomposability:

Estimates broken down by geographic location (2020)



Main findings

1 • The estimated numbers of 12-months PWID have remained stable over the past years

2 • Prevalence 15-64 y.o.=2.7‰ (2.6-2.8), within European average

3 • Ageing population, similar to other European countries

4 • Increasing majority of males

Some more inputs...

- Injecting drug users known exposed to (extremely) adverse conditions of living and precarious health. What's new: migrants
- Injection still a vector of diffusion of blood-borne viruses: in 2019, 28% of last month PWID shared their material; 60% reused their syringe
- According to a national survey conducted among harm reduction facilities, the use of stimulants as main injected substance is on the rise (cocaine, MDMA, amphetamines). OST. Injection as third route only for heroin.
- Changes: field studies suggest injection as primary route (early initiators) and solitary route (Janssen et al., 2019)

RÉFÉRENCES ET REMERCIEMENTS

References

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Thank-you

To all respondents and health professionals supporting the survey on a yearly basis

The author has no conflict of interest to disclose

Thank you for your attention

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