



Centre for Disease
Prevention and Control
Republic of Latvia

Drug situation in Latvia: current trends

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Content

- 1. General situation** – results of wastewater analysis (SCORE project)
- 2. Drug injection** – data from used syringe analysis (ESCAPE project)
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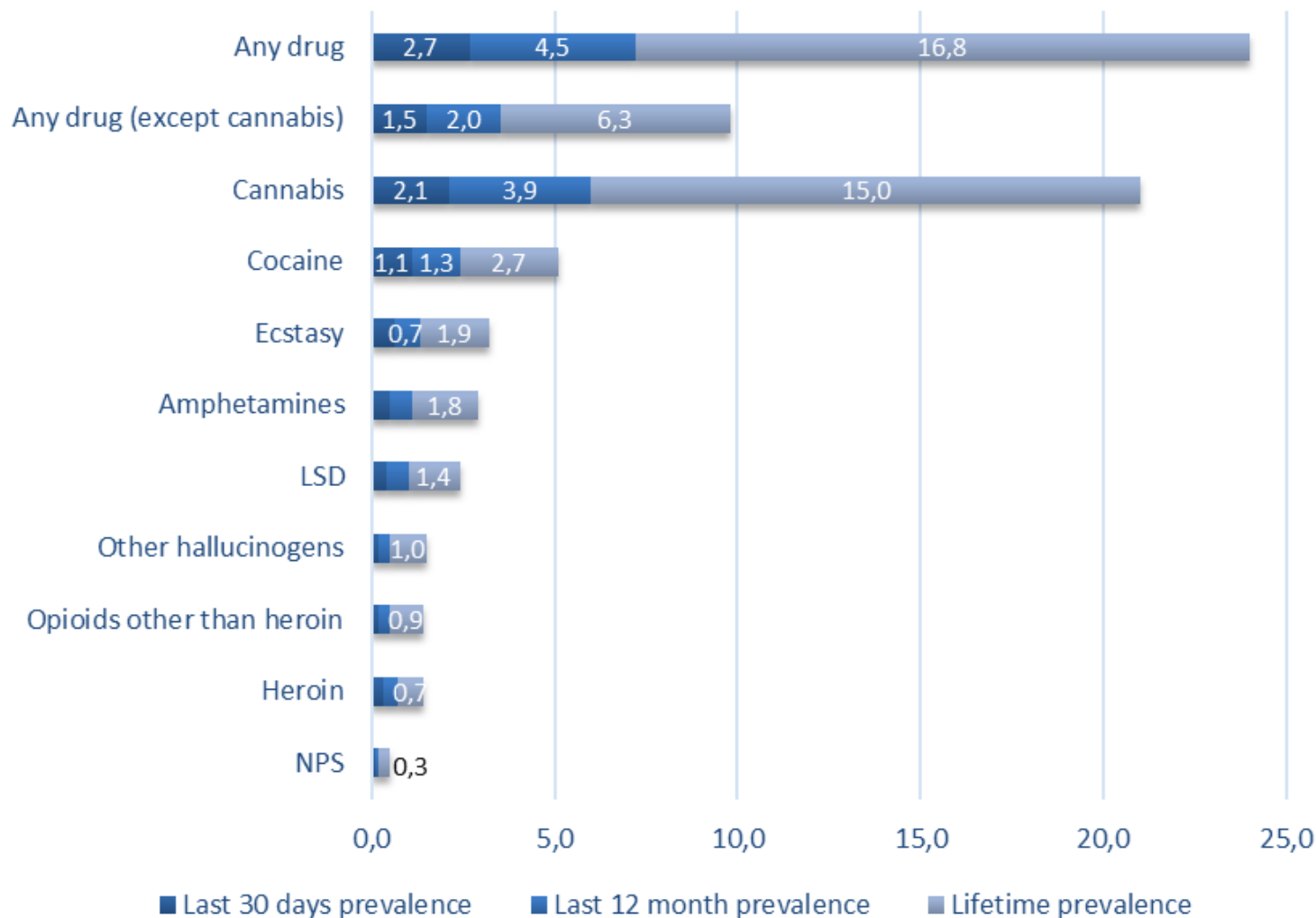


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General situation

General population survey on the use of addictive substances among residents aged 15–64 (year 2020)

Prevalence of various drug use



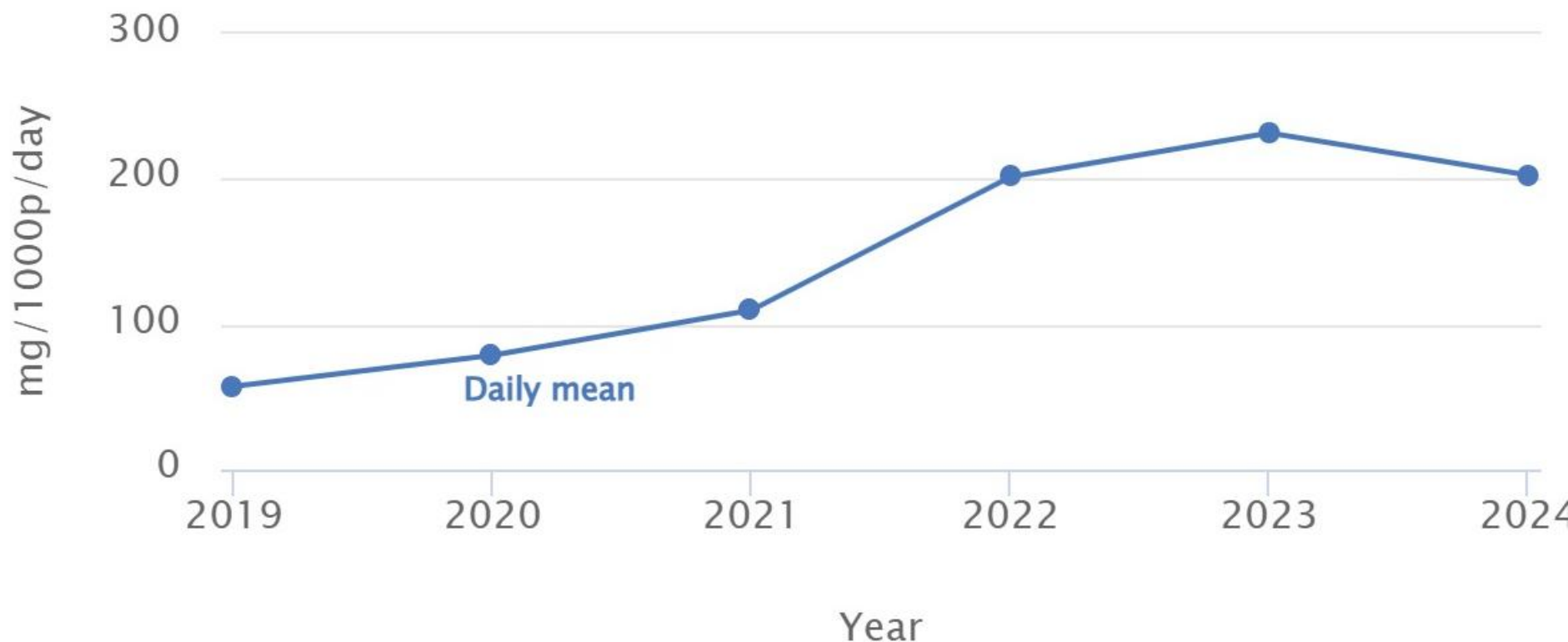


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General situation

Riga wastewater sample analysis (SCORE network)

Mean daily **cocaine** loads 2019 - 2024



Data source: EUDA Wastewater analysis and drugs data, 2025

https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/html/pods/waste-water-analysis_en

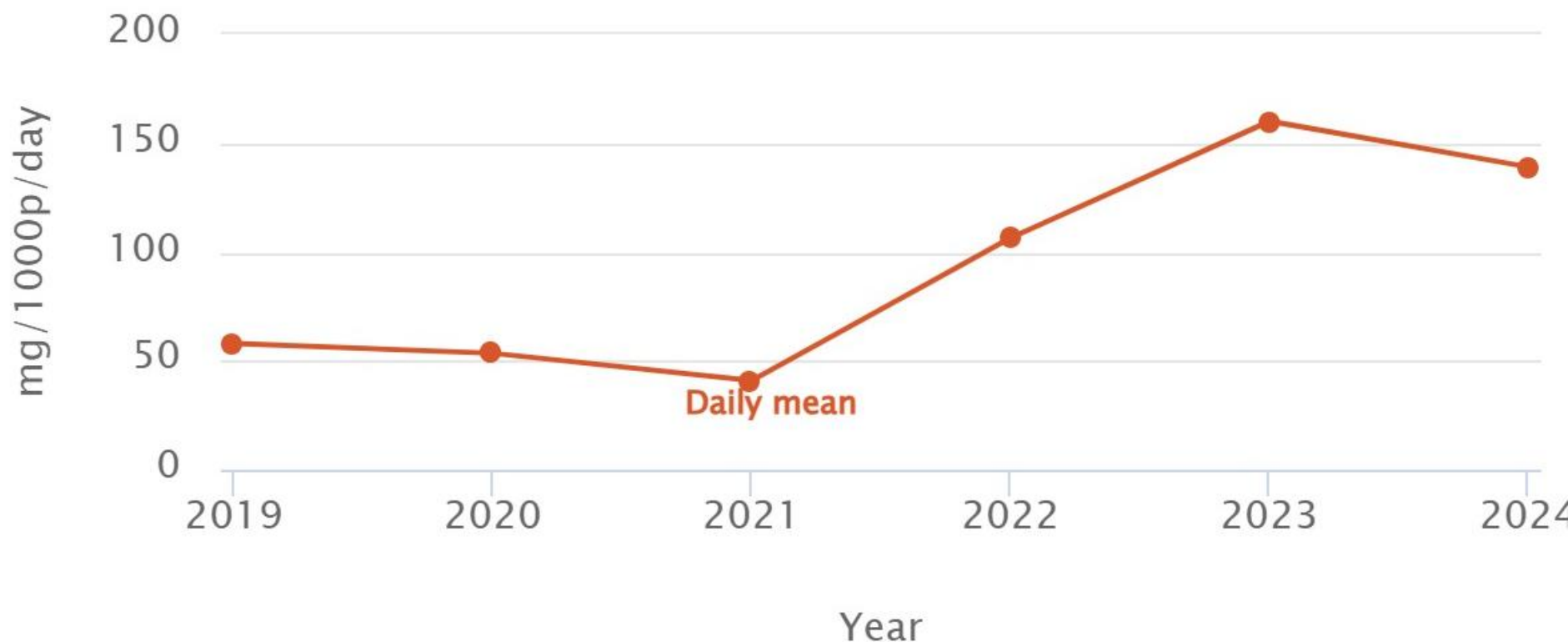


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General situation

Riga wastewater sample analysis (SCORE network)

Mean daily **amphetamine** loads 2019 - 2024



Data source: EUDA Wastewater analysis and drugs data, 2025

https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/html/pods/waste-water-analysis_en

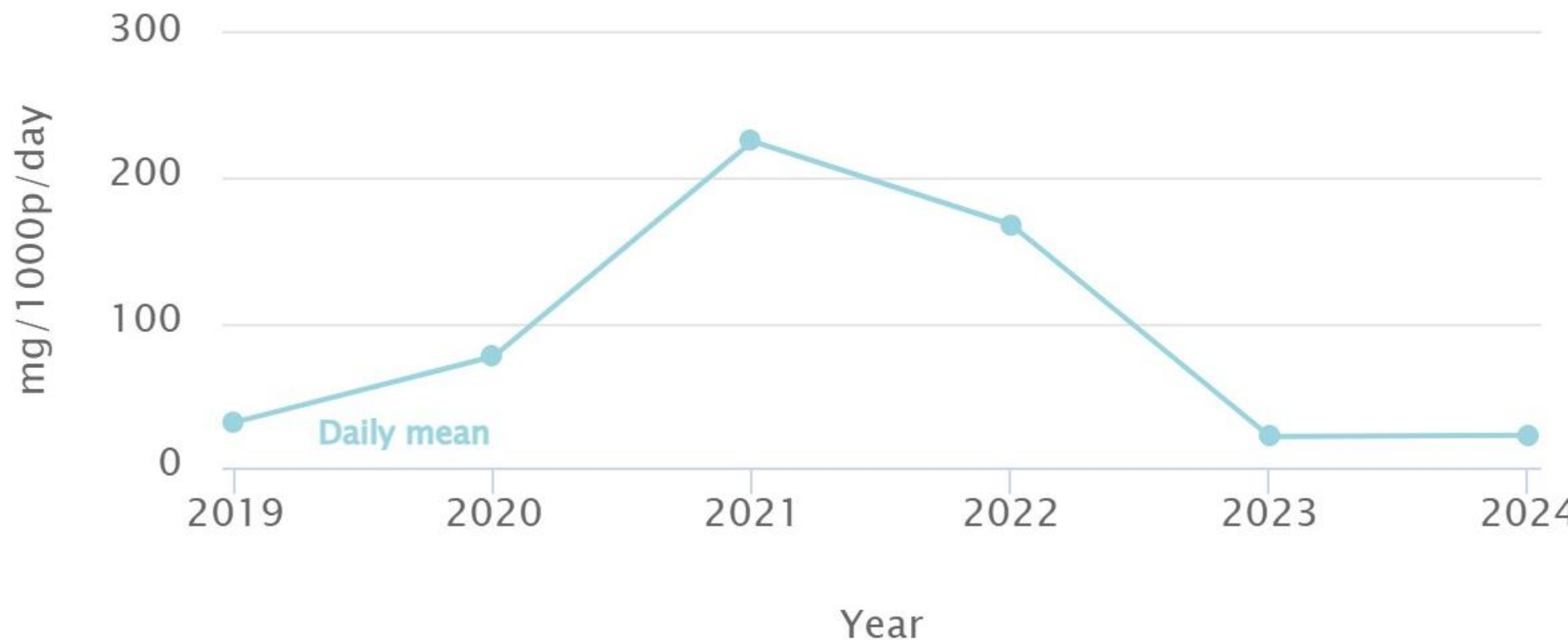


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General situation

Riga wastewater sample analysis (SCORE network)

Mean daily **methamphetamine** loads 2019 - 2024



Data source: EUDA Wastewater analysis and drugs data, 2025

https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/html/pods/waste-water-analysis_en



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General situation

Riga wastewater sample analysis (SCORE network)

Mean daily MDMA loads 2019 - 2024



Data source: EUDA Wastewater analysis and drugs data, 2025

https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/html/pods/waste-water-analysis_en

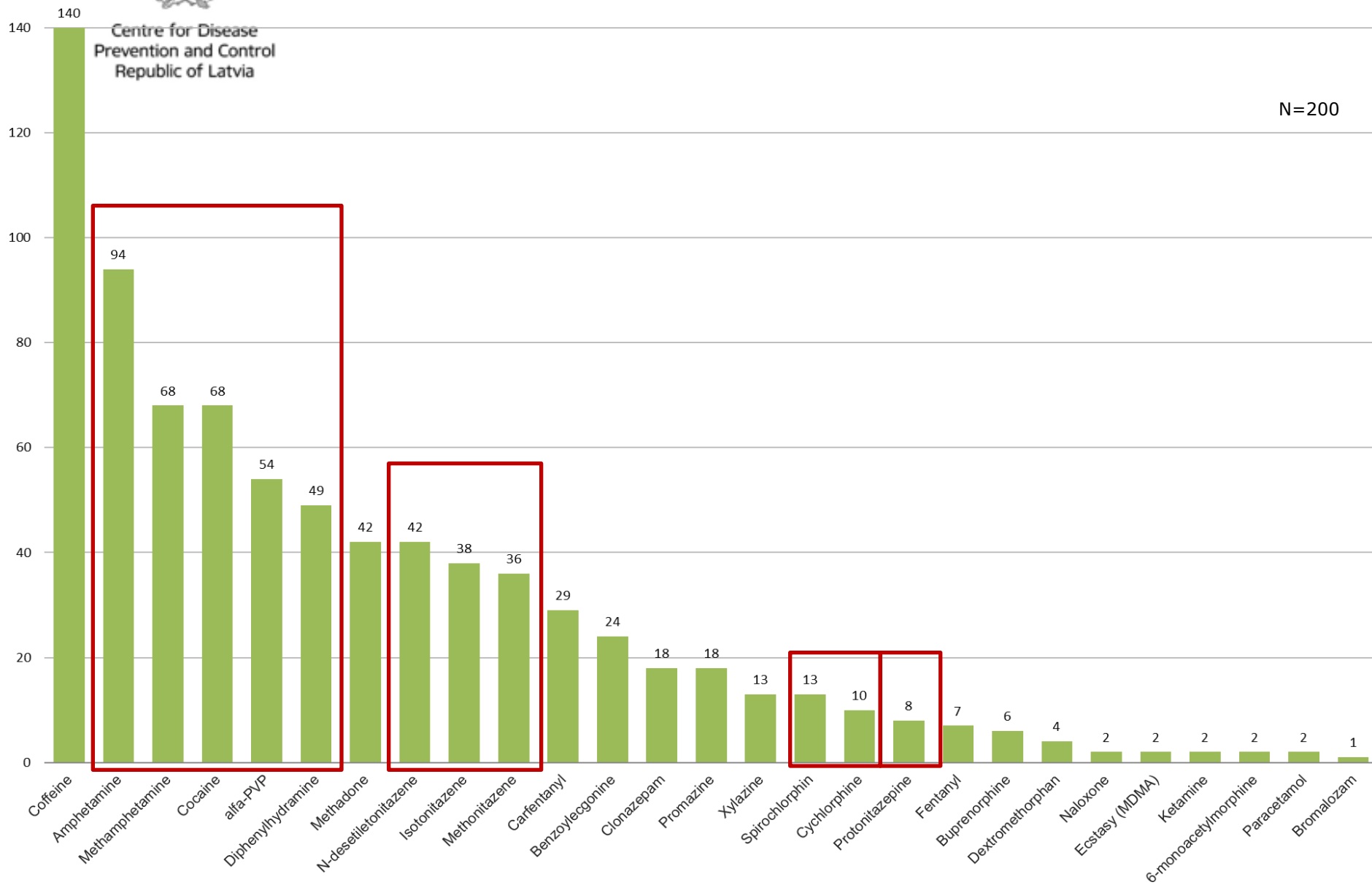


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Drug injection

Substances detected in 2024, in absolute numbers (ESCAPE project)

N=200

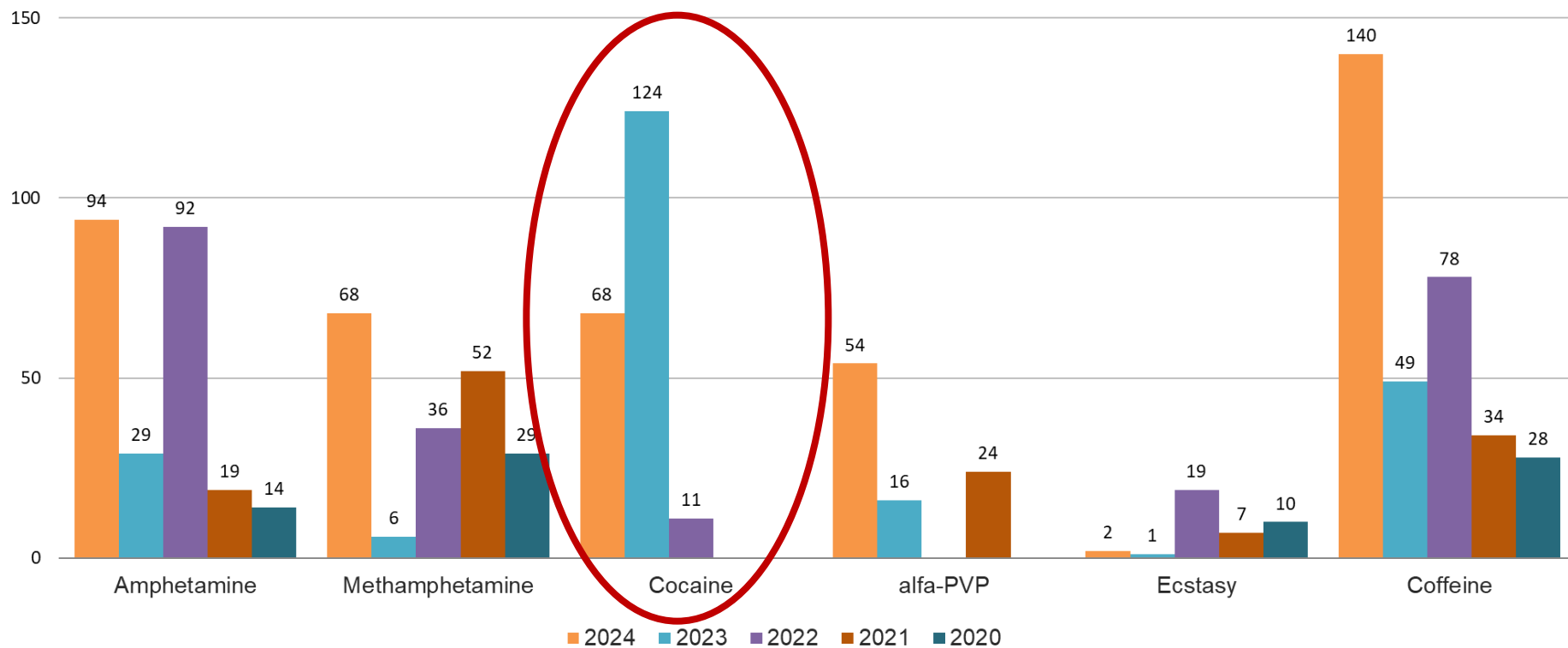




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Drug injection - ESCAPE

Trends in **stimulant drugs** identified in used syringes, absolute numbers

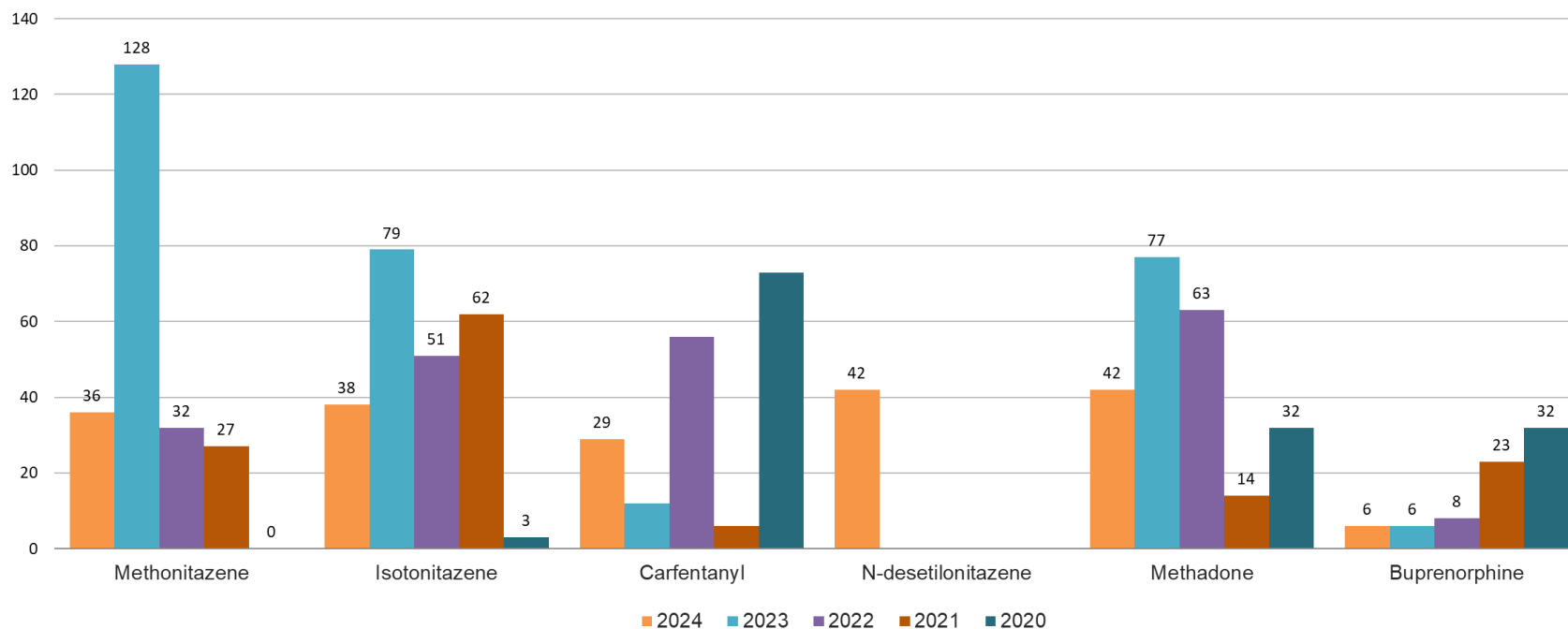




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Drug injection - ESCAPE

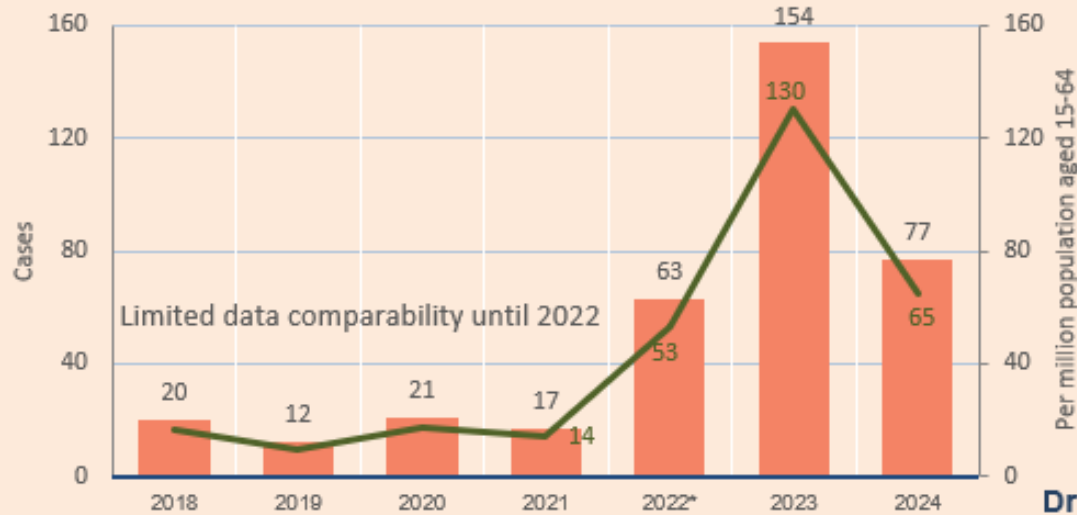
Trends in **opioid drugs** identified in used syringes, absolute numbers



Characteristics of fatal overdose cases in Latvia in 2024



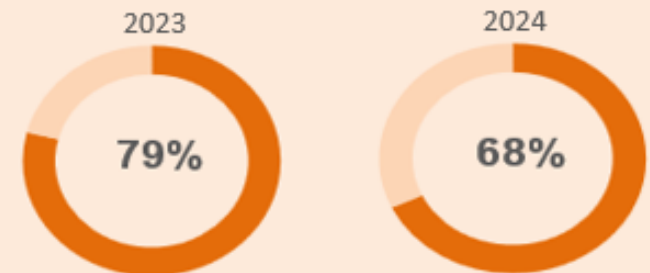
Trends and rate of fatal drug overdoses in Latvia



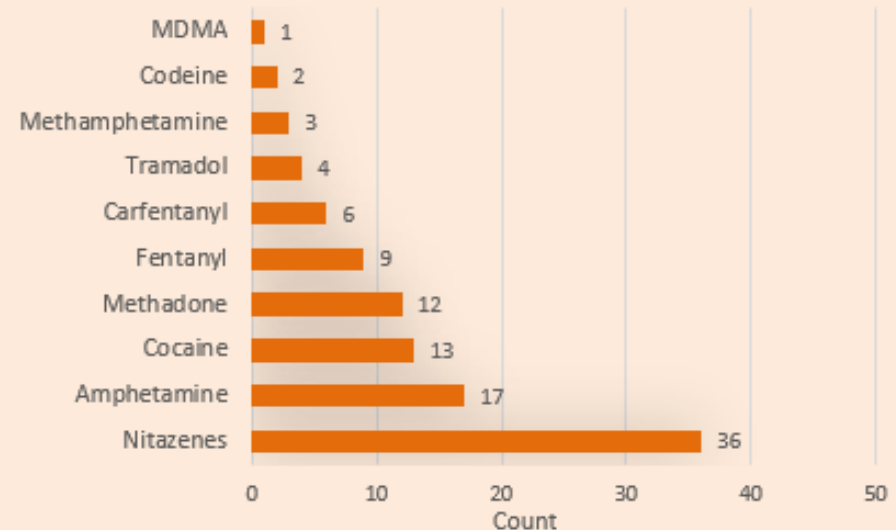
* Since 2022, technical capabilities for detecting substances in biological materials of deceased persons have improved - the State Forensic Medical Expertise Center has started using new equipment with special sensitivity and specificity. The detection of new synthetic nitazene group opioids has been started since December 2022.

Toxicology

Overdose cases with opioids (+any drug), %



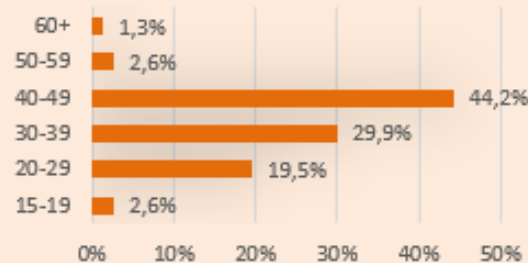
Drugs detected (mentions)



Sex



Age distribution





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Drug situation in Latvia

Conclusion

- Cannabis (marijuana) is the most commonly used illicit substance among the general population, with the use of other illicit drugs being less common
- Men generally report using illegal drugs more often than women
- Increasing trend in the prevalence of stimulant drugs (in the general population - cocaine and ecstasy, among problem drug users - amphetamines)
- A significant challenge - changes in the opioid market: heroin → fentanyl → carfentanil → **nitazenes** → ?
- Increasing trend in polysubstance use (*polysubstance use*)



Thank you for attention!

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Republic of Latvia

Drug demand reduction activities in Latvia

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13.11.2025.



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Republic of Latvia

Presentation Outline

Available health care services for adults with substance abuse

Legislative changes to encourage people with drug dependence seek for help

Available health care services for children with substance abuse

Existing problems and future initiatives

Other existing and planned addiction prevention and support services

Naloxone in Latvia



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Available health care services for adults with substance abuse



Outpatient consultations with a narcologist or addiction psychiatrist.



The Minnesota 28-day psychotherapy program for adult patients



Inpatient drug treatment services



Long-term pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence



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Available health care services for adults with substance abuse (I)

Since January 1, 2025, addiction treatment services have become more accessible to adults.



Patients undergoing treatment for substance use disorders, including drug dependence, are exempt from co-payment obligations.



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Legislative changes to encourage people with drug dependence to seek help

- As of 4 July 2024, an amendment to Section 254 of the Criminal Code has entered into force.
- The regulation provides that individuals assisting or arranging aid during an overdose, thereby mitigating life or health risks, are not criminally liable for the use, possession, acquisition, transport, or transfer of the substances involved.



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Available free-of-charge healthcare services for children with substance use issues



Outpatient services, including consultations with narcologists and addiction psychiatrists, are available in Latvia.



Inpatient drug treatment services are available in most hospitals, including detoxification and the treatment of acute conditions for children.



Collaborative Approach to Reintegration of Substance-Affected Minors.




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Existing problems and future initiatives



High demand for addiction treatment services for children



Outpatient services for minors with excessive and harmful substance use are insufficiently developed



There is a lack of accessible follow-up social rehabilitation services



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Other existing and planned addiction

"The Good Behaviour Game"

"Unplugged"

Engagement of non-governmental organizations

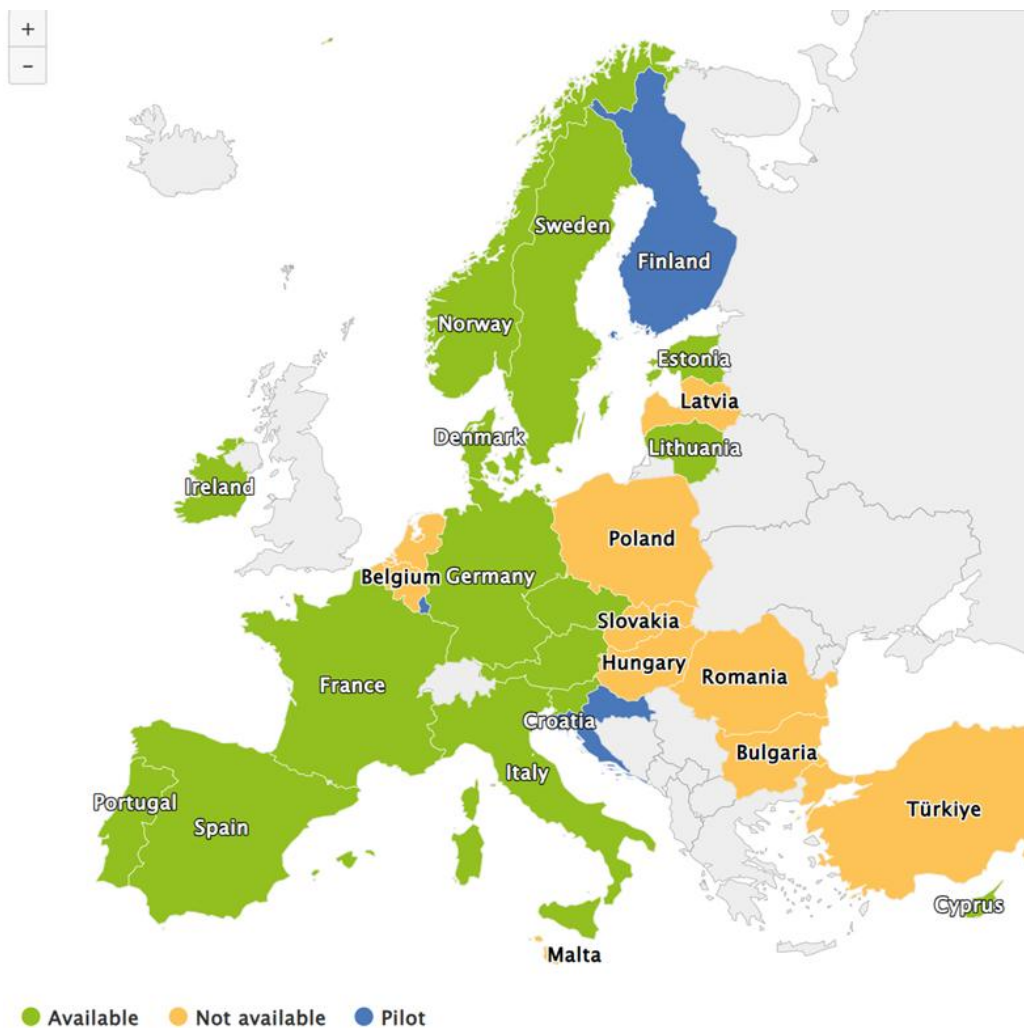
Implementation of public information campaigns





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Ensuring and Enhancing the Availability of Naloxone in Latvia



Availability of take-home naloxone, available formulations, number of persons trained and of kits given out, in Europe



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Thank you!

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