



NordAN Network on Narcotic Drugs

Zoom meeting

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# Drug Policy Update from Iceland

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FRÆÐSLA  
& FORVARNIR

**Policy**

## **Iceland - policy on alcohol- and drug prevention adopted by the government in 2014**

### **Main topics**

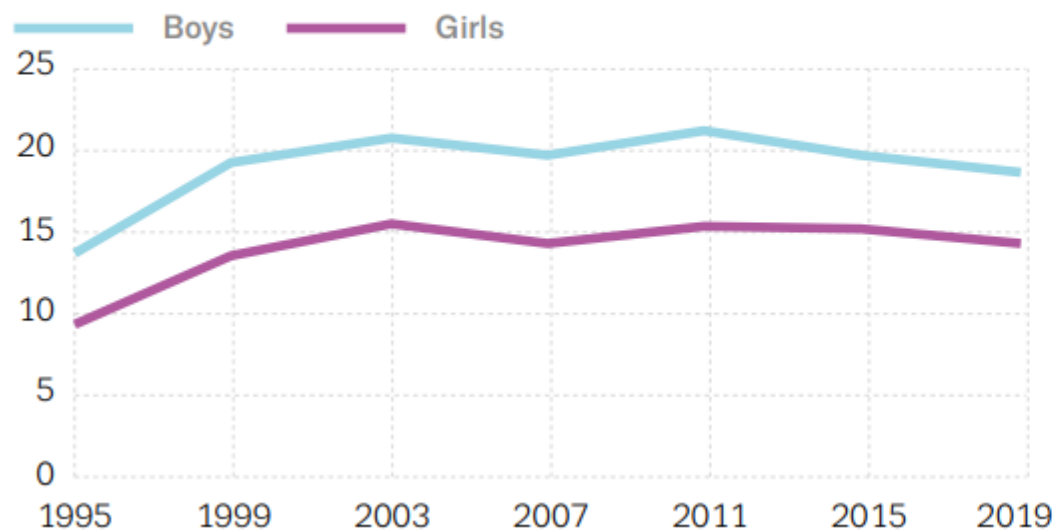
- **To limit access to alcohol and other drugs**
- **Protect vulnerable groups against negative influences caused by alcohol and other drugs**
- **Prevent young people from starting to use alcohol and other drugs**
- **Reduce number of those who develop harmful use of alcohol and other drugs**
- **To ensure integrated service based on best knowledge and quality for people with alcohol and drug problems**
- **To reduce number of deaths caused by alcohol and drugs**
- **The policy also emphasizes the necessity of public health perspectives when decisions are made concerning alcohol and drugs and the importance of activating the whole society in awareness and solidarity for actions taken regarding alcohol and drugs.**
- **Source: <http://www.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/rit-og-skyrslur-2014/Stefna-i-afengis--og-vimuvornum-desember-2013.pdf>**

# Cornerstones in alcohol and drug policy in Iceland

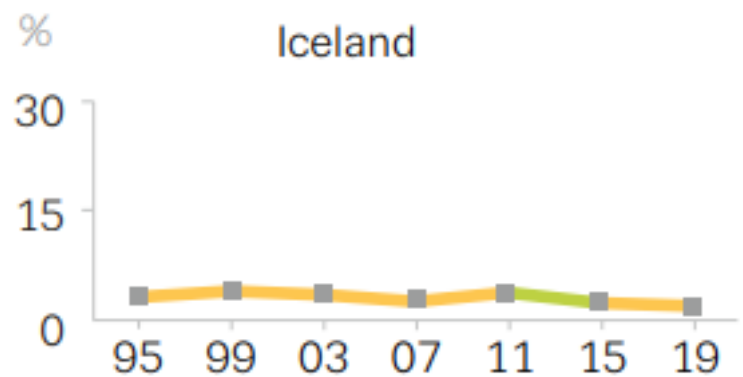
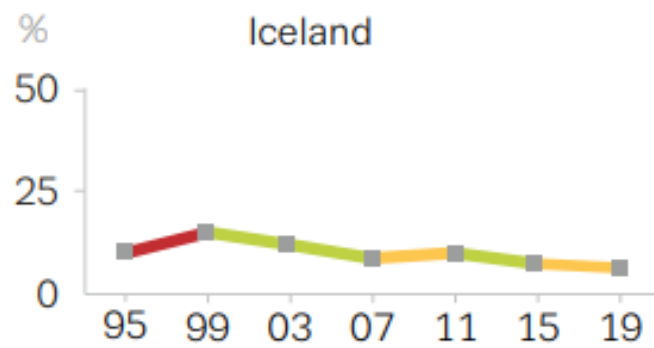
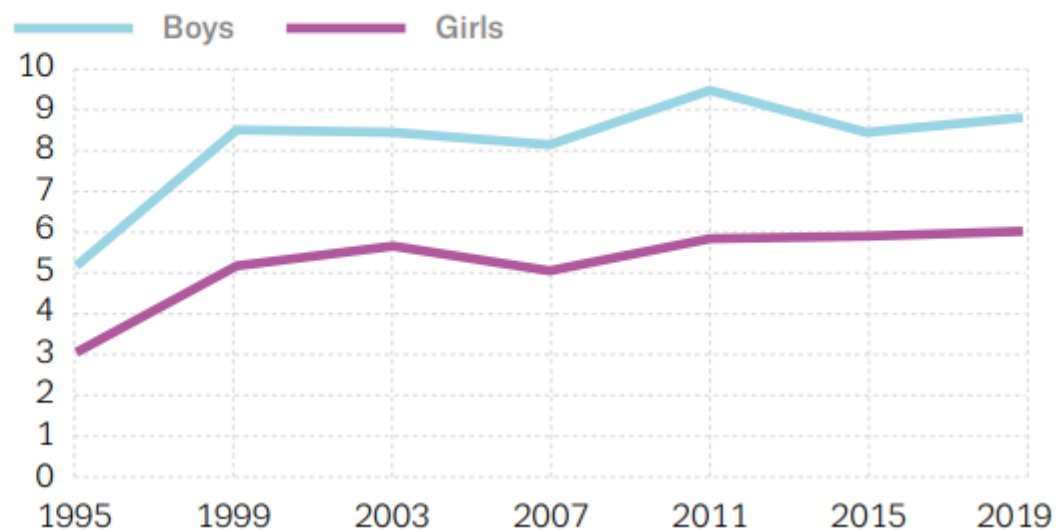
- **Monopoly for off-premise sales for strong beer, wine and spirits. Since 2022 permitted to sell alcohol (less than 12%) directly from producers. Online sale of alcohol left unchallenged. Although illegal**
- **20 years minimum legal age limits for on- and off-premise sales for beer / wine / spirits – 18 years for tobacco**
- **High alcohol tax**
- **Ban on alcohol and tobacco advertising**
- **Smoking in restaurants and bars is forbidden**
- **Maximum 0,02 promille legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) when driving a vehicle**
- **Importation, production and distribution of non-prescription drugs is forbidden**

**Use**

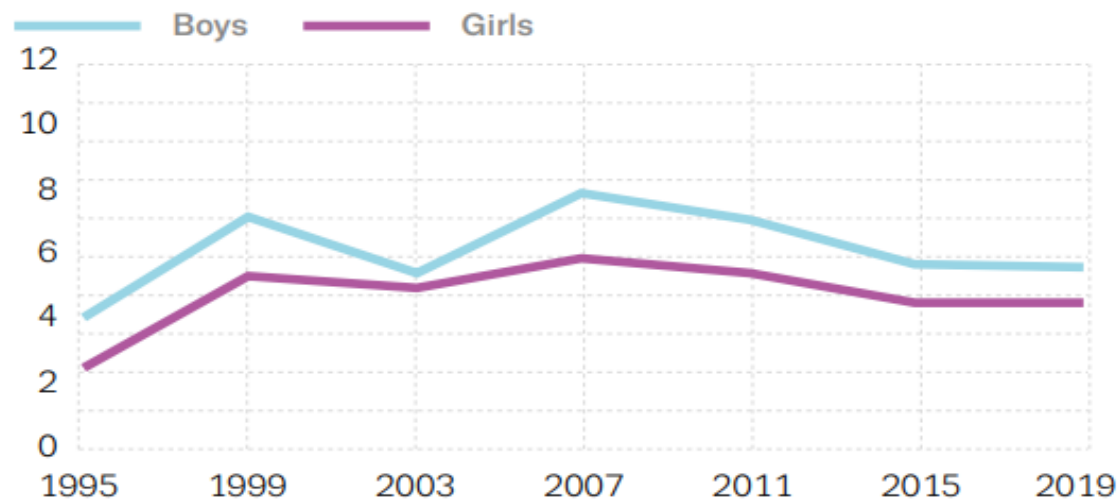
**Figure 22.** Lifetime use of cannabis by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage)



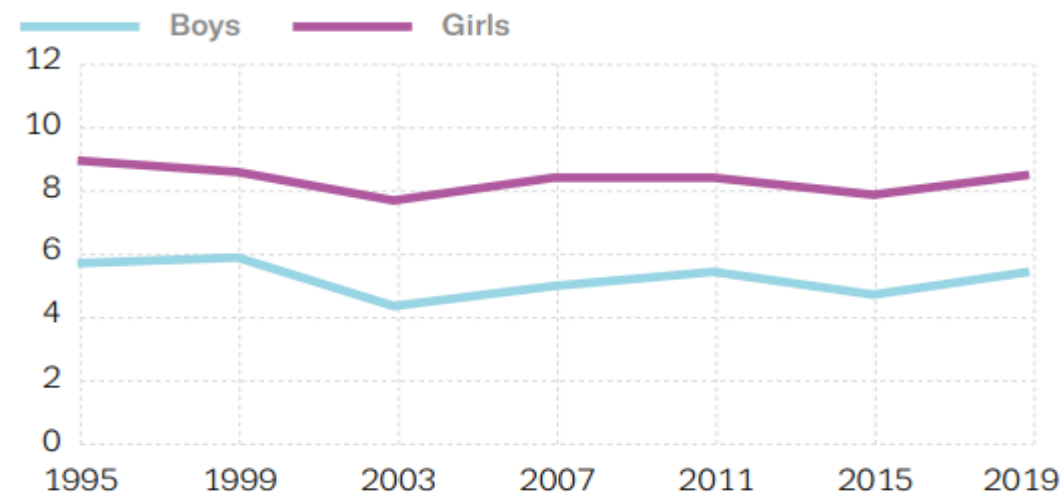
**Figure 23.** Cannabis use in the last 30 days by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage)



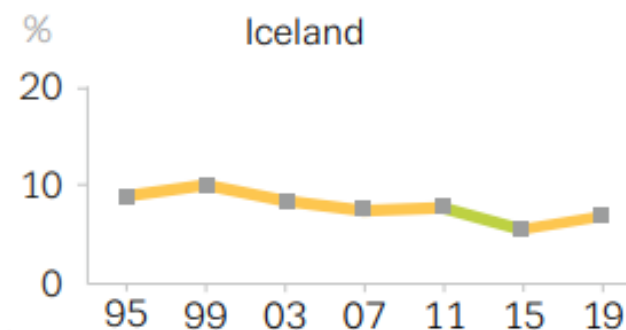
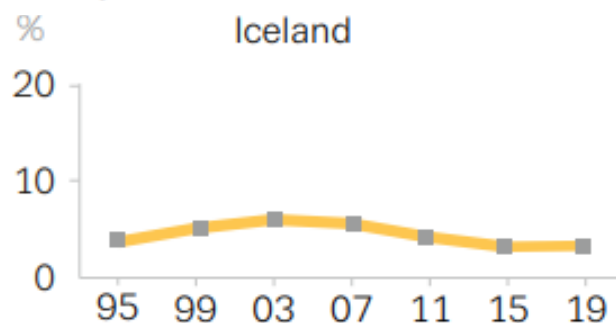
**Figure 24.** Lifetime use of illicit drugs (a) other than cannabis by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage)



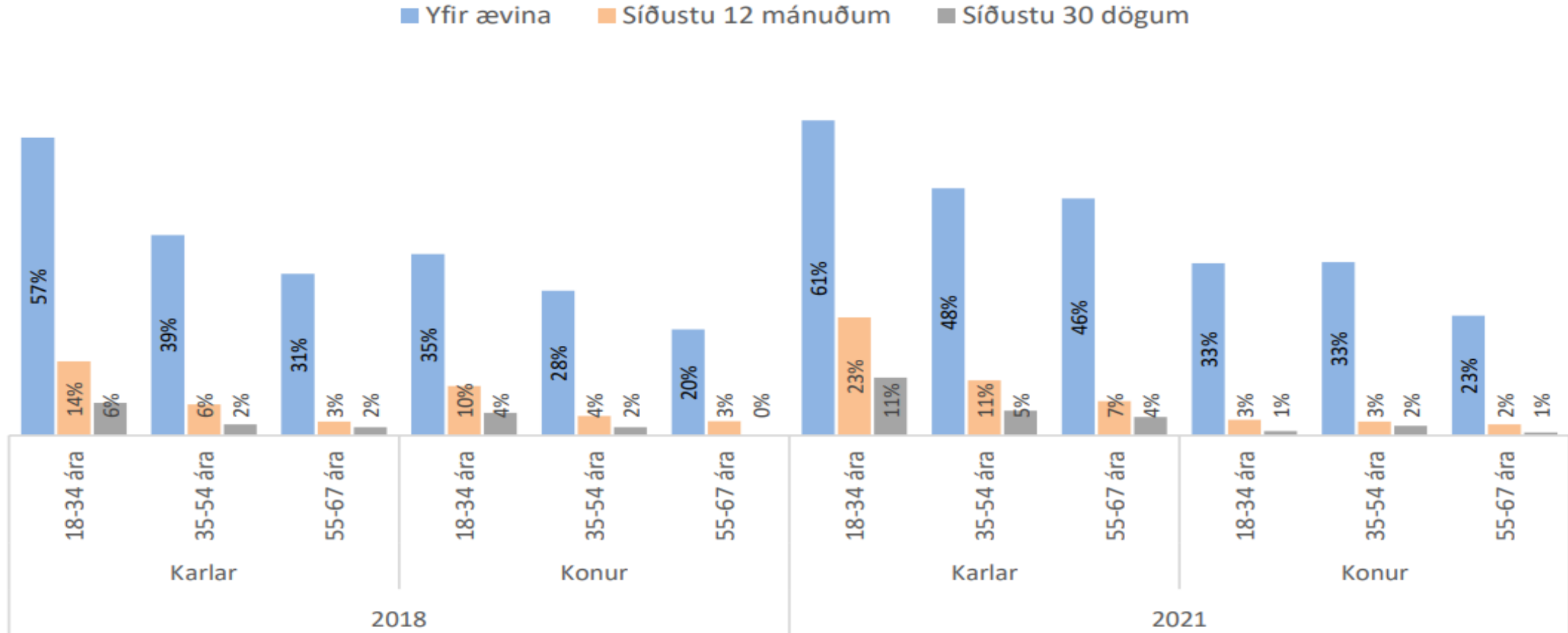
**Figure 26.** Lifetime use of tranquillisers or sedatives without a doctor's prescription by gender: 30-country trend 1995-2019 (percentage)



(a) Includes amphetamine, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, LSD or other hallucinogens, heroin and (since 2007) GHB. Amphetamines were not included in 1995 in Czechia. Crack and LSD or other hallucinogens were not included in 1999 in the Netherlands. Crack was not included in 2015 in Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Sweden and in 2019 in Finland, Latvia and Norway.



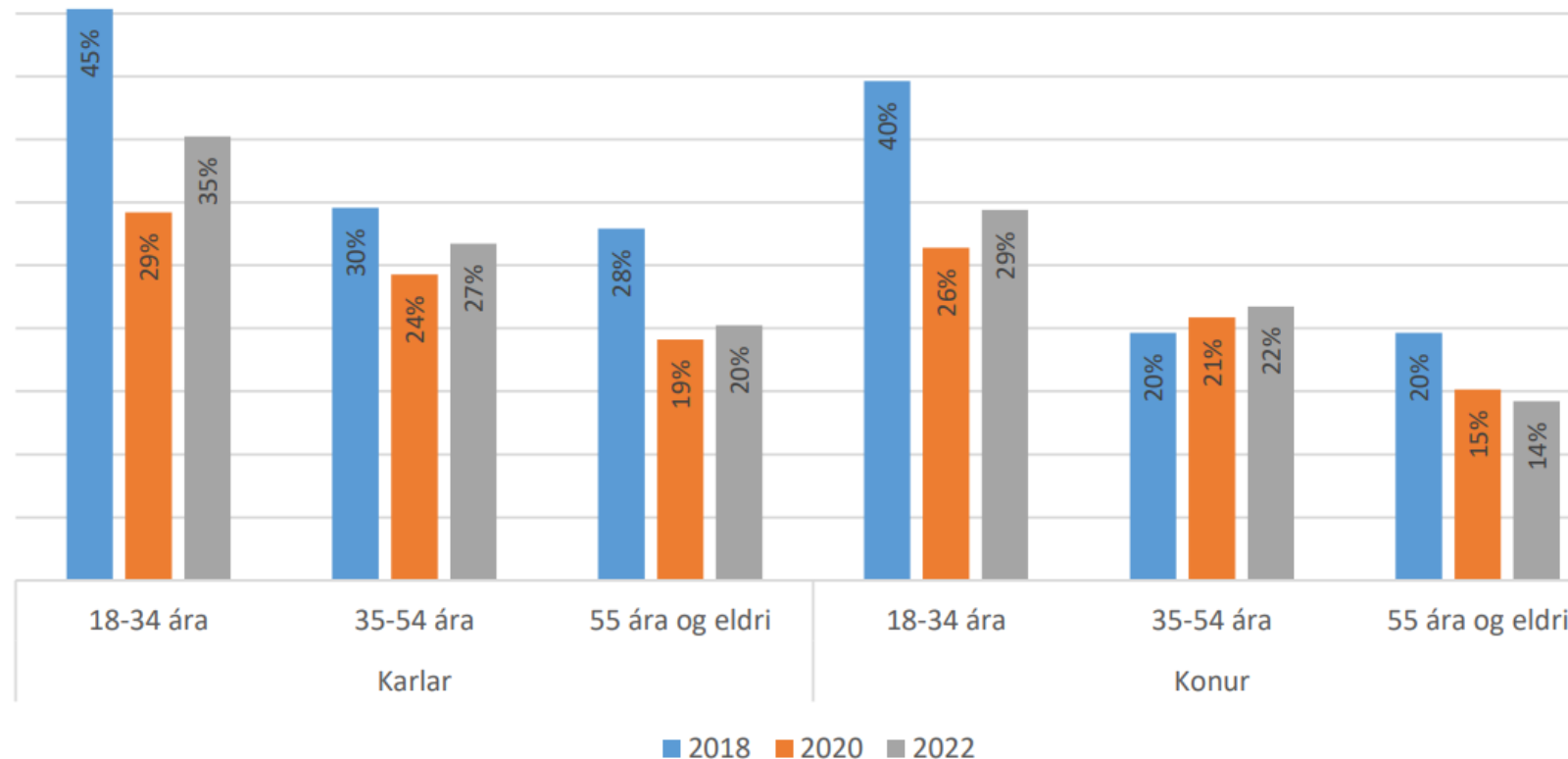
## Percentage of individuals who have used cannabis - by gender and age (18-67); 2018 and 2021



Mynd 4. Hlutfall einstaklinga sem hefur notað kannabisefni eftir kyni og aldurshópum, 2018 og 2021.

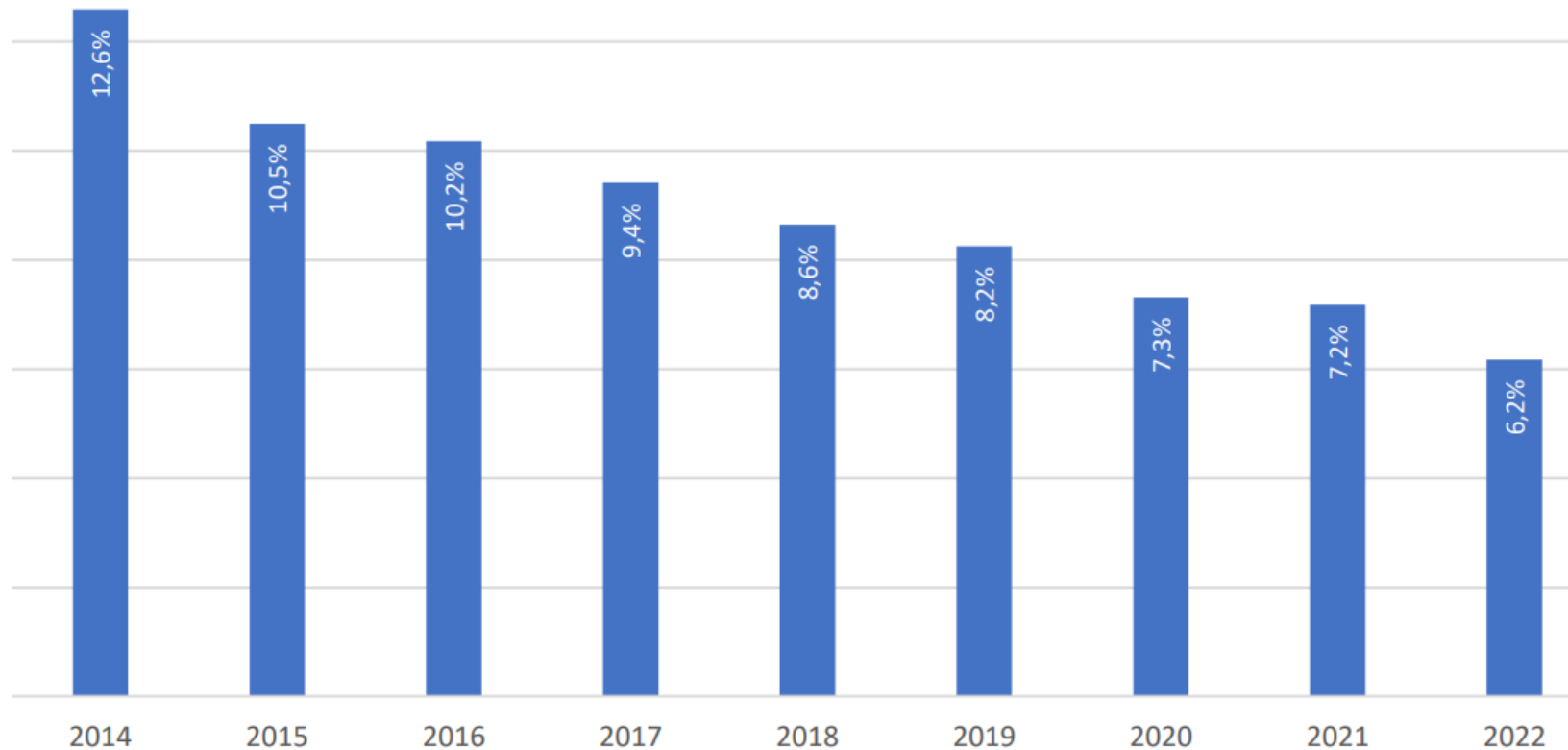


# Risk drinking, by sex and age (18 plus) - 2018/2020/2022



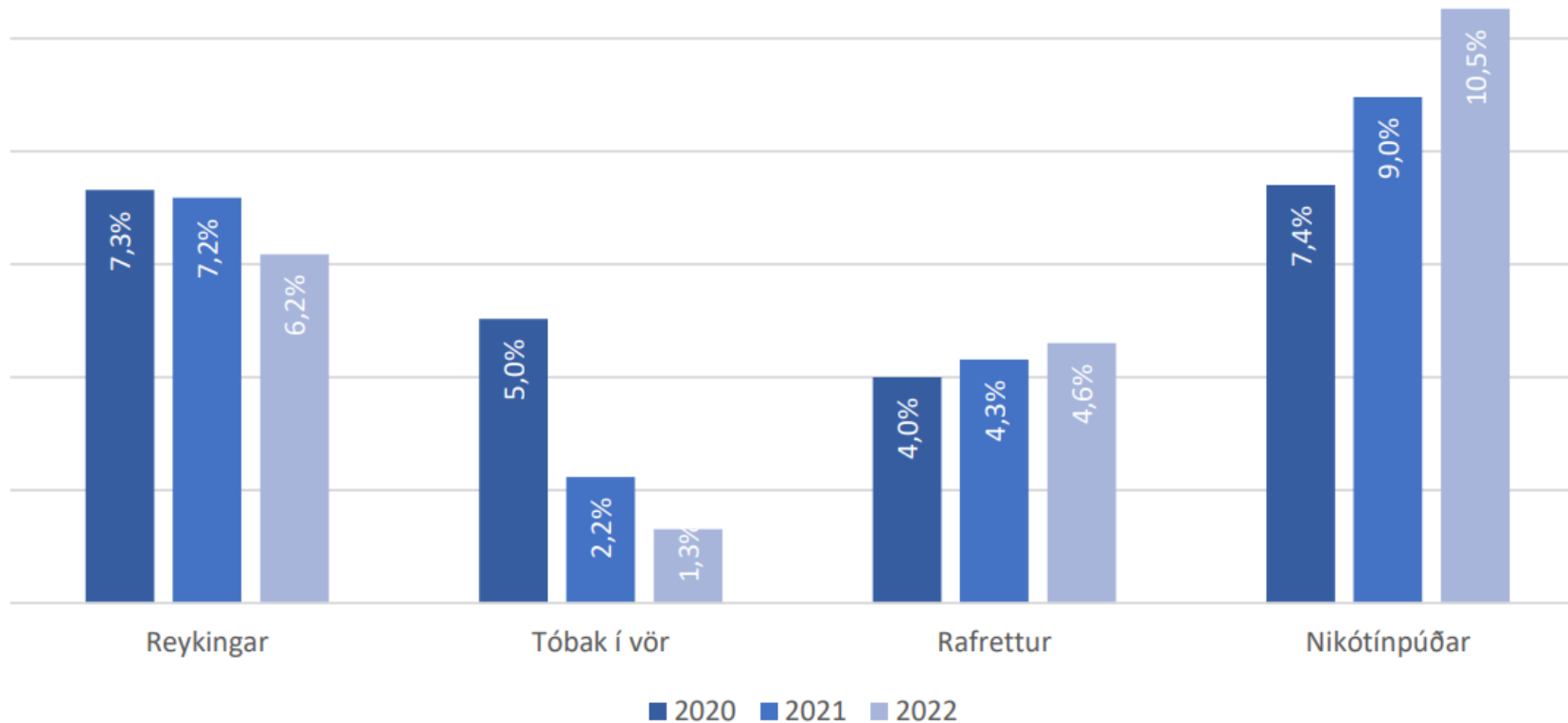
Mynd 1. Áhættudrykkja, greint eftir kyni og aldurshópum, 2018-2022.

# Daily smoking – 18 - 67



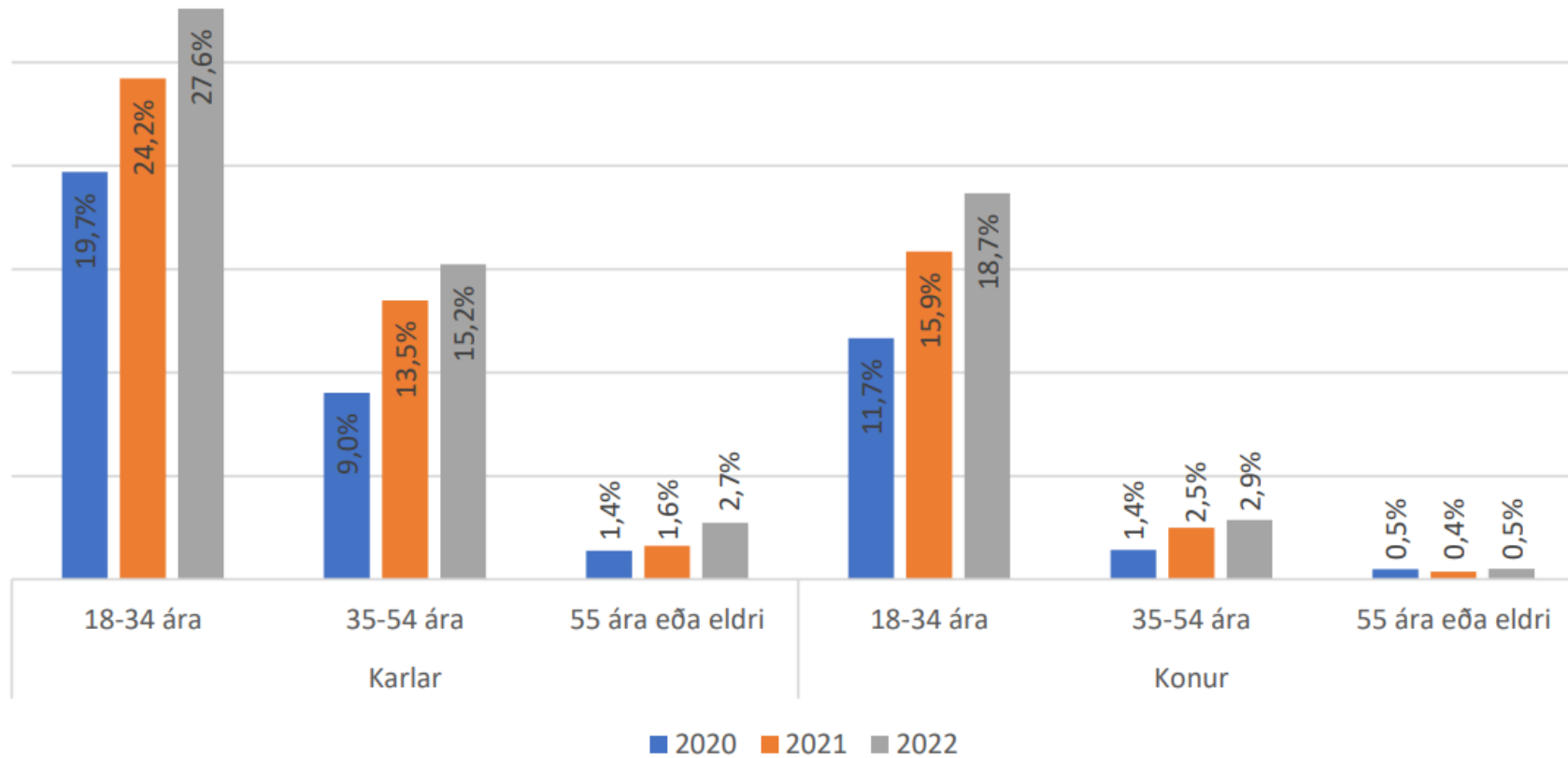
Mynd 3. Daglegar reykingar, 2014-2022.

# Daily use of nicotine products – 18-67

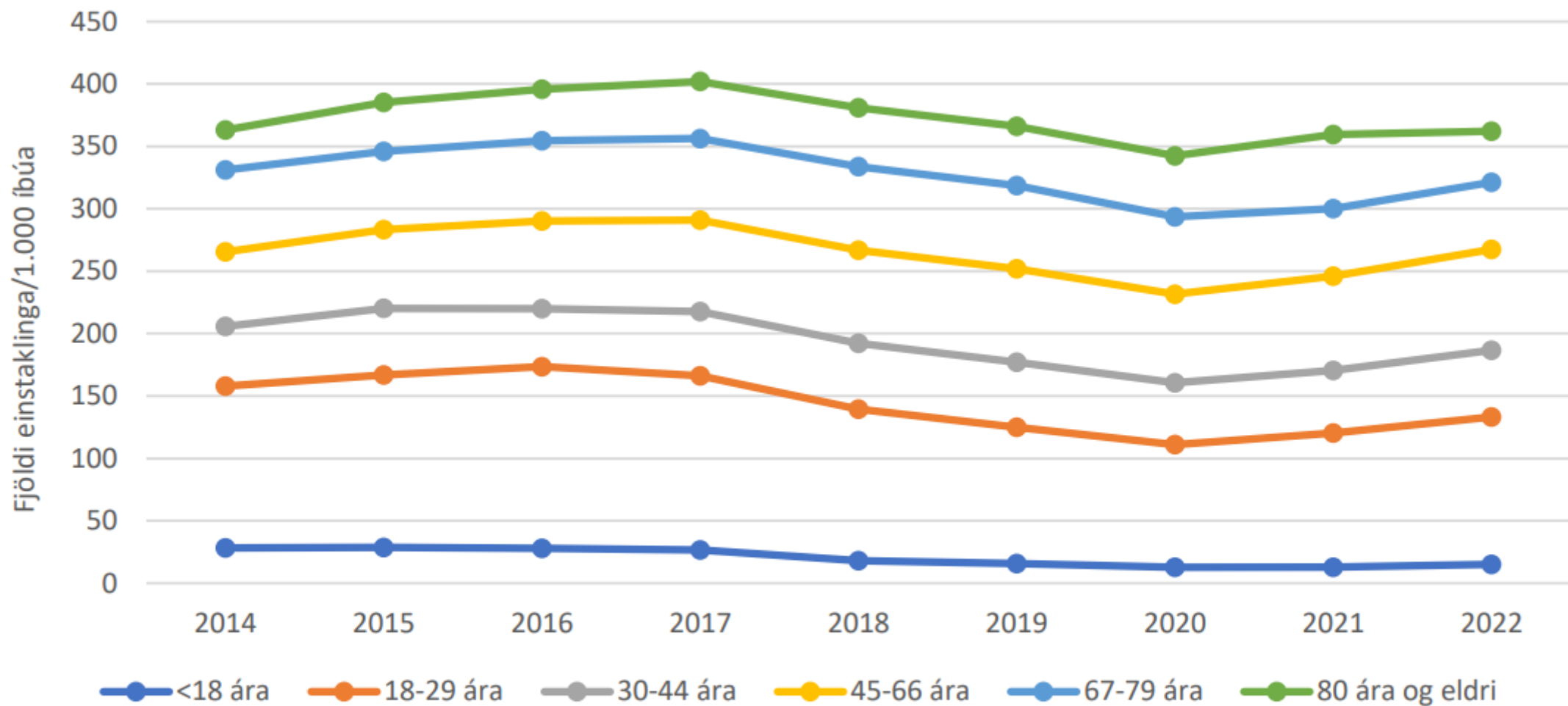


Mynd 4. Dagleg notkun á tóbaki og öðrum nikótínvörum, 2020-2022

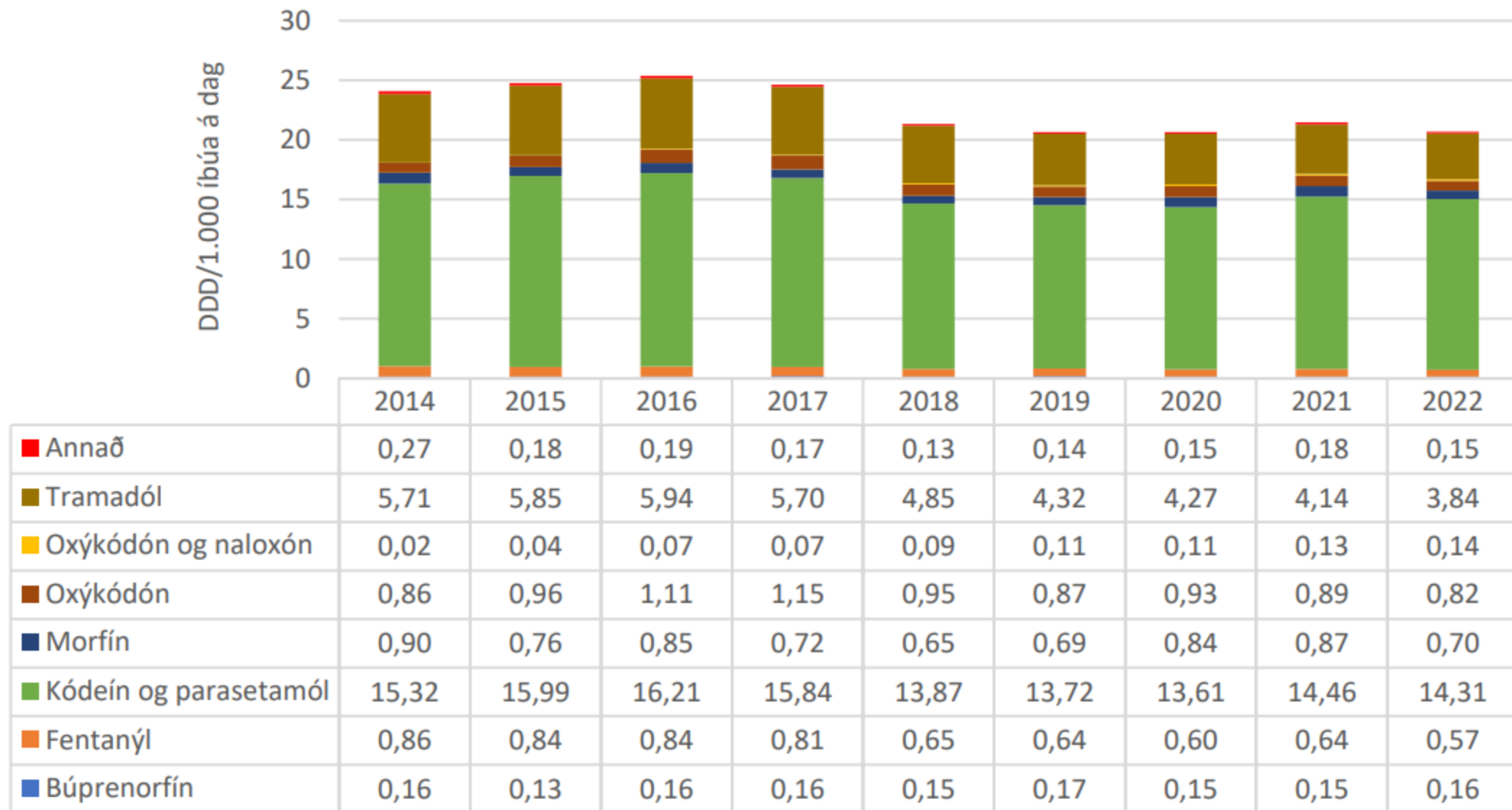
# Nicotine pads, daily use - age and sex



Mynd 5. Nikótínþúðar, dagleg notkun, aldur og kyn, 2020 - 2022

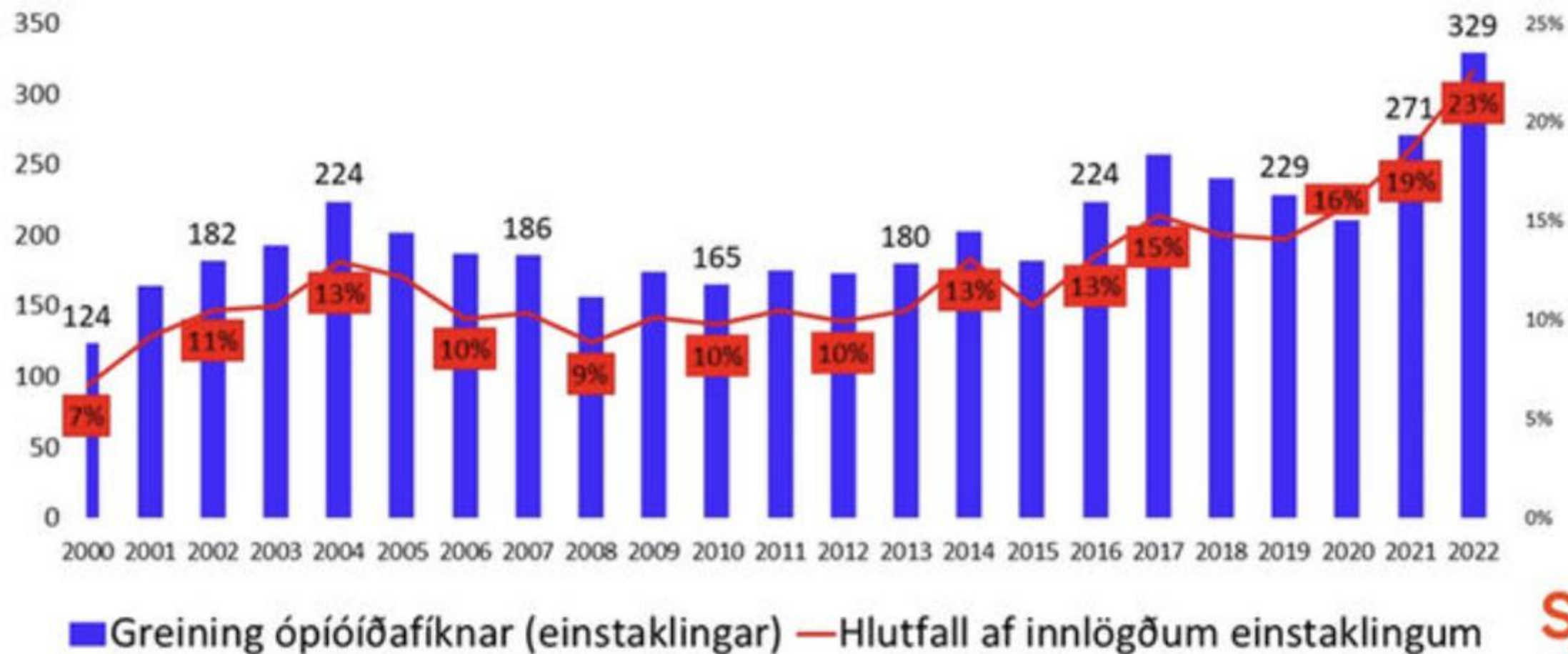


**Mynd 2.** Fjöldi einstaklinga af hverjum 1.000 íbúum sem leysti út  $\geq 1$  ávísun á ári af ópíóíðum (ATC flokkar N02A og R05DA20) greint eftir aldursflokkum, 2014-2022. Heimild: Lyfjagagnagrunnur og Hagstofa Íslands (meðalmannfjöldi).



**Mynd 3.** Afgreitt magn (DDD) ópííða á hverja 1.000 íbúa á dag (ATC flokkur N02A) greint eftir árum og undirflokkum ópííða, 2014-2022. Heimild: Lyfjagagnagrunnur og Hagstofa Íslands (meðalmannfjöldi).

# Greining ópíóíðafíknar á sjúkrahúsinu Vogu 2000-2022

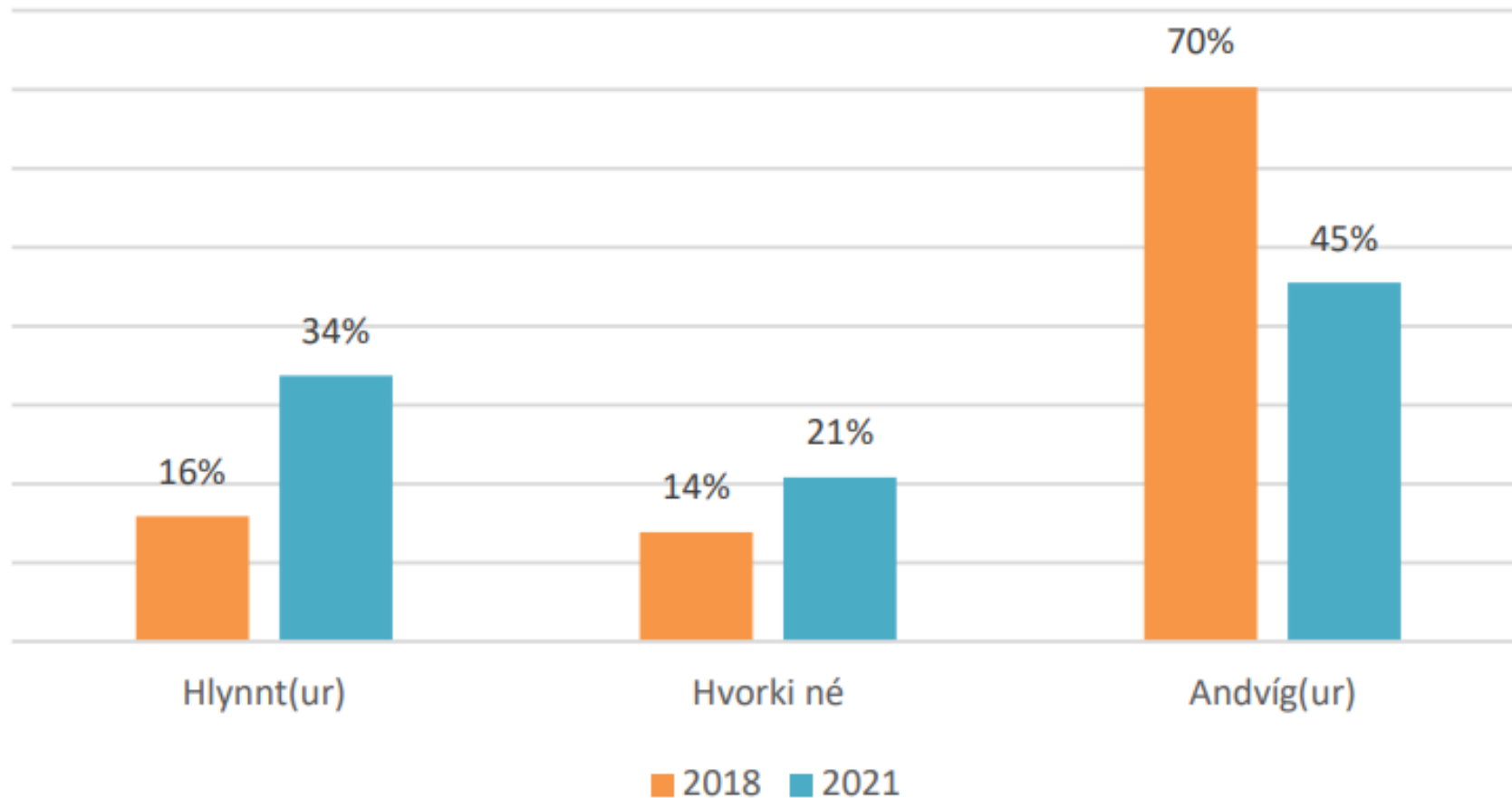


■ Greining ópíóíðafíknar (einstaklingar) — Hlutfall af innlögðum einstaklingum

**Opinion/Views**

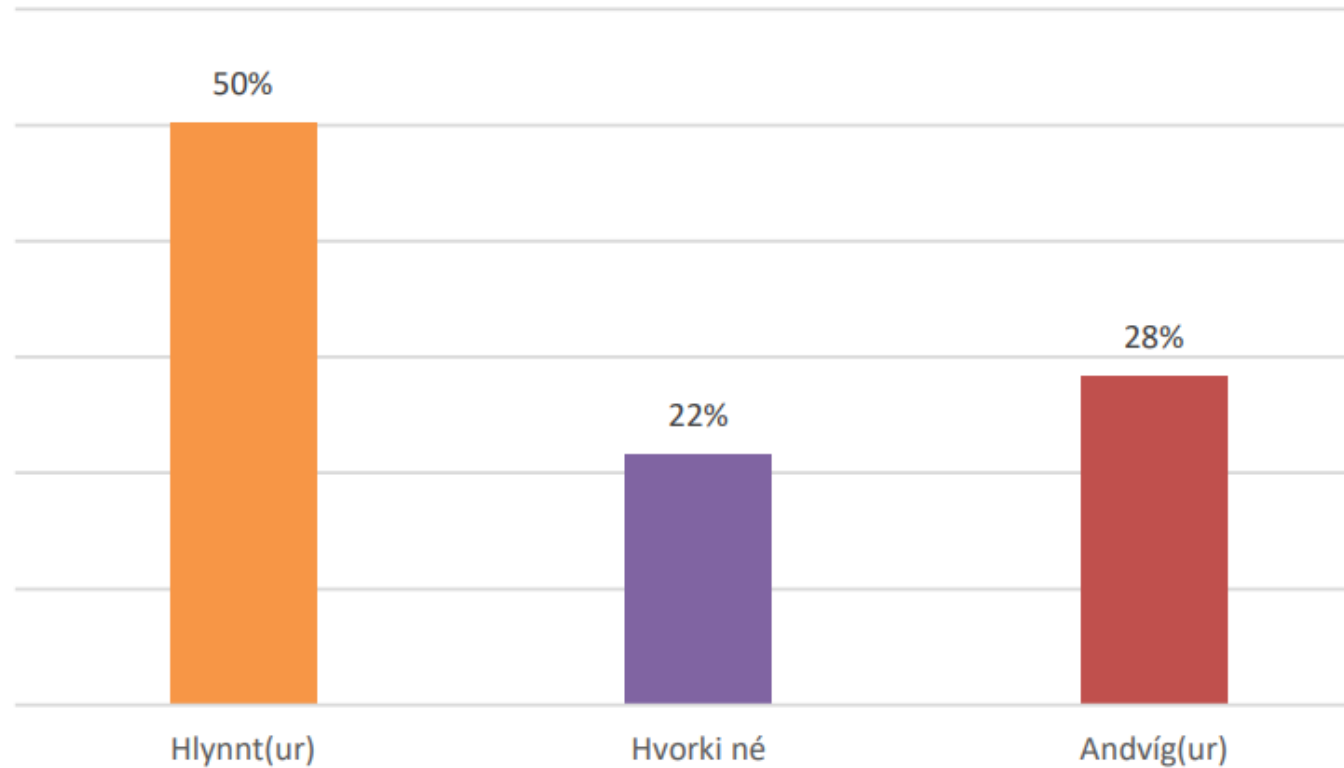


# Opinion towards legalization of cannabis – 18-67



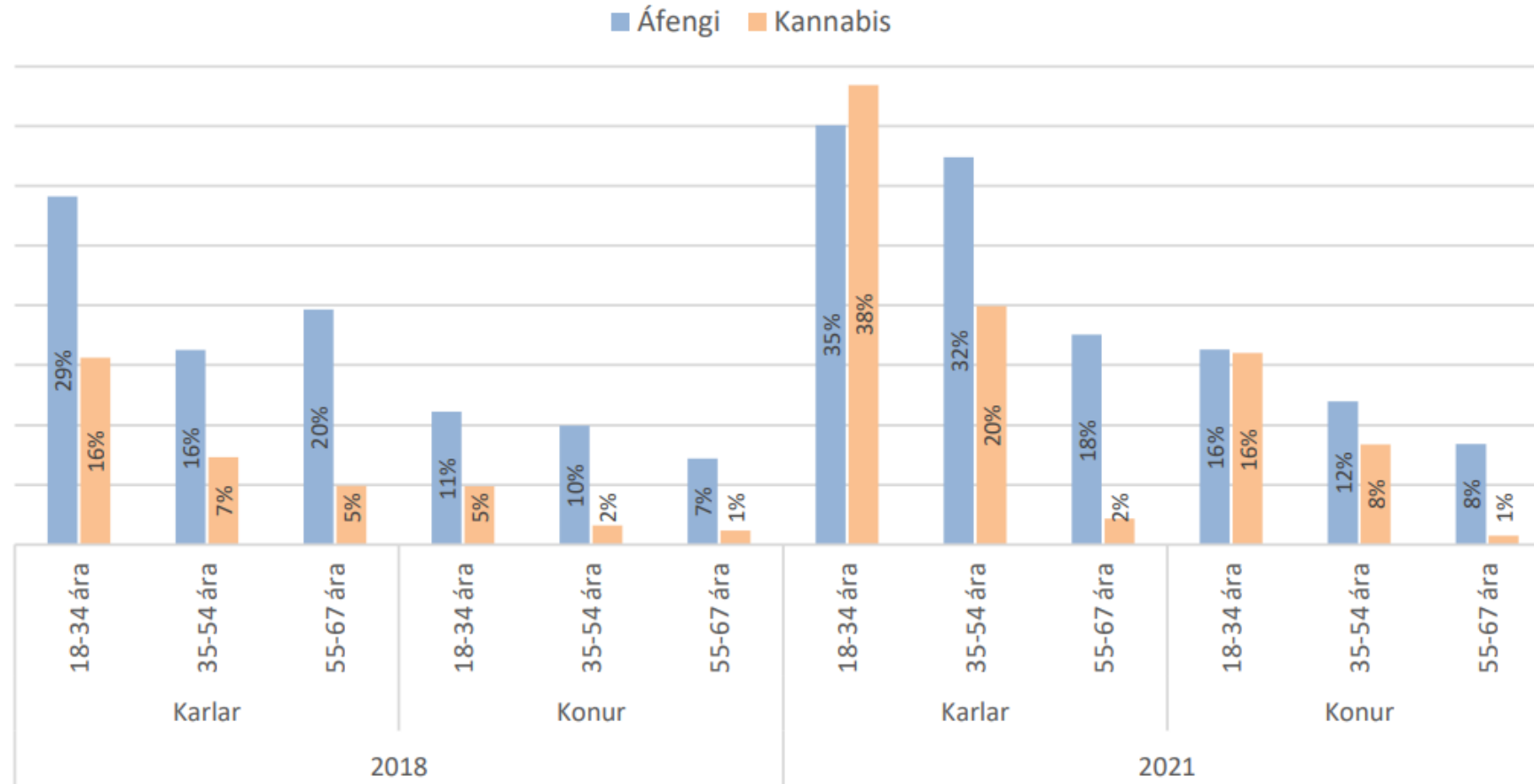
**Mynd 1.** Viðhorf til lögleiðingar á notkun á kannabisefna, 2018 og 2021.

# Opinion towards decriminalization/legalization of possession of drugs for personal use



Mynd 2. Viðhorf til afglæpavæðingar á vörslu neysluskammta vímuefna á Íslandi, 2021.

# Percentage of individuals who assess little or no risk associated with regular cannabis use or heavy drinking - by gender and age - 2018 and 2021



**Mynd 5.** Hlutfall einstaklinga sem mátu litla eða enga áhættu fylgja reglulegum kannabisreykingum eða ölvunardrykkju (5 drykki eða fleiri hverja helgi), greint eftir kyni og aldursflokkum, 2018 og 2021.

# What is the status of drug use, related harms, and policies in Iceland? Are there any recent developments, and if so, what motivates them?

- Opioids: Increased N of users and deaths. Not prescribed/black market.
- N of cannabis users among adults increasing. No clear signs of increased use among young people (10th grade) - but concerns from schools.
- Increased risk drinking among adults, 18-67 - after a decline between 2018 and 2020.
- Increased use of nicotine/nicotine pads. Daily smoking decreasing.
  
- Direct sale from manufacturers (2022); online sale of alcohol left unchallenged.
- Increased number of sales outlets of nicotine/wape and pads. Massive marketing.
- Increased political pressure to dismantel ÁTVR (the Alcohol Monopoly).
- Bill to lower the alcohol purchase age from 20 to 18.
- Repeated bills to legalize possession of drugs/doses for personal use. Five years in a row.
  
- Increasing number of people consider heavy drinking of alcohol and use of cannabis as a low risk behavior.
- Increased public support for legalizing cannabis.
- Increased focus/demand on treatment of young people/less on prevention.