

SPECTO 2018

Multidisciplinary perspectives in the quasi-coercive treatment of offenders

Groups with special needs in community measures

Round Table 2 Community and its "Lenses" in Justice: Therapeutic Justice

Psycho-Social Impact of Drugs' Use among Romanian Youth from a Comparative Perspective

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Drug - definition

- any (i)licit substance which consumed either for medical or for any other reasons generates addiction phenomena, leads to the progressive increase of the consumed dosage, and makes interrupting consumption very difficult.

Summary

- The paper includes the analysis and measurement of the psychological-social and economic impact of drug consumption and traffic on the population, especially in Romania

Content

- Psychological – social effects of drug consumption in Romania
- Other effects of drug consumption in Romania
- Conclusions

Figure I The estimated number of deaths due to drugs' consumption and mortality rate in the year 2015

Source World Drug Report 2017, <http://www.unodc.org>

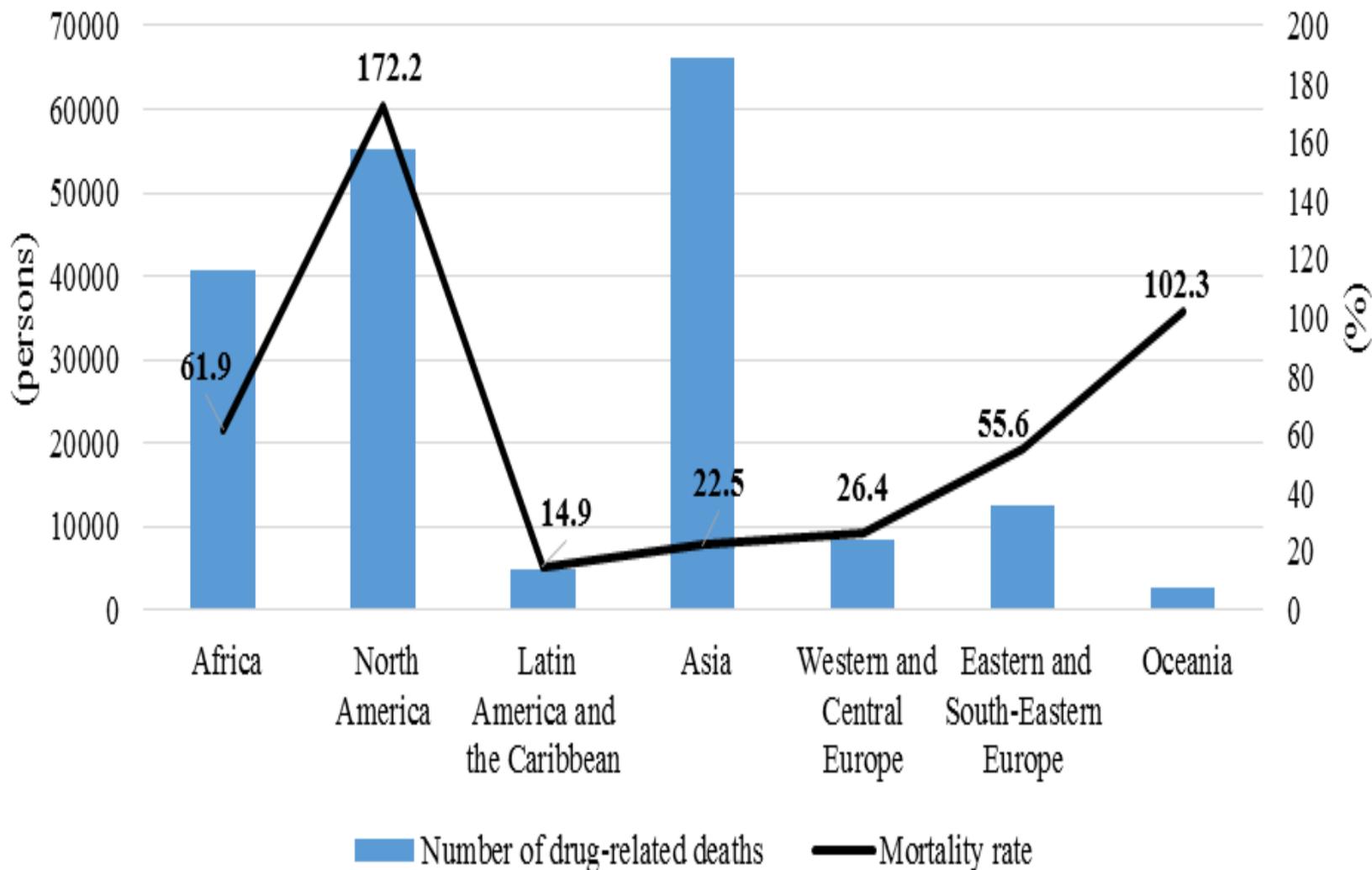


Figure 2: HVB, HVC and HIV prevalence among drug addicts admitted to specialized treatment services in Romania, compared to 2004-2016, (%)

Source: National Antidrug Agency, Report 2017

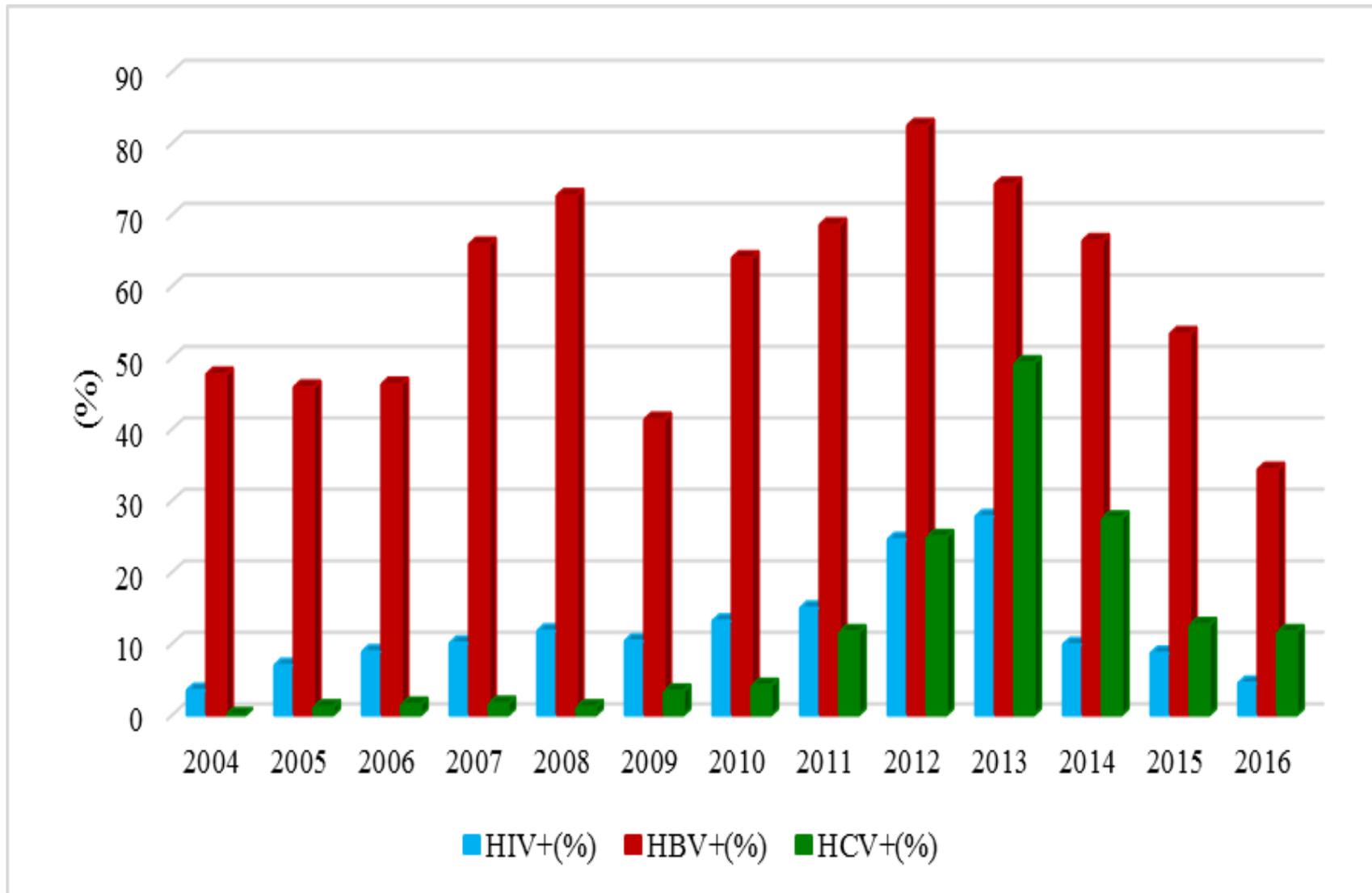


Figure 3: The distribution of deaths and the evolution of the average age in the case of drug-related deaths by type of death (direct and indirect)
 Source: National Antidrug Agency, Report 2017

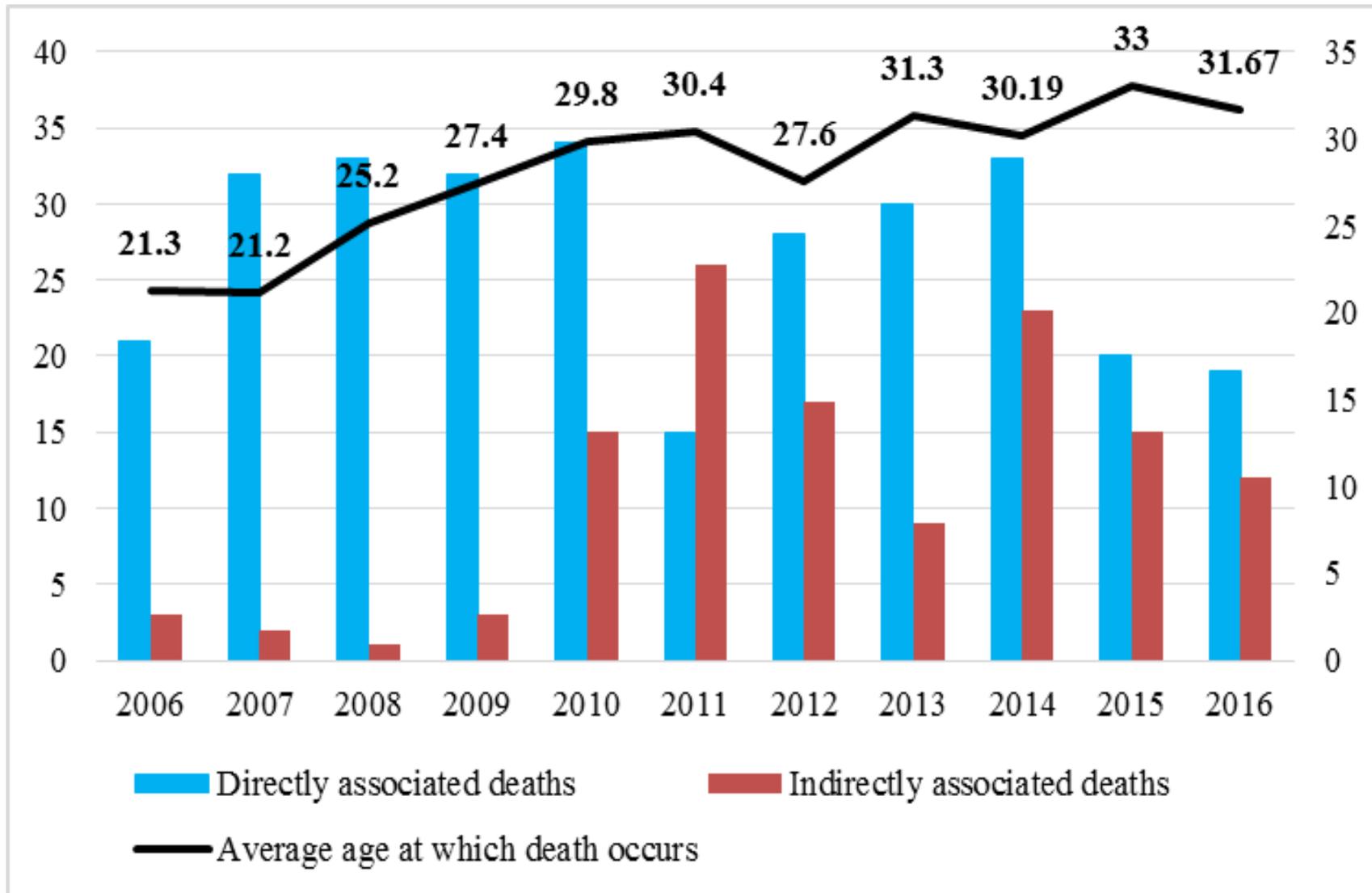


Figure 4: Distribution of medical emergencies as a result of the consumption of psychoactive substances in 2016 by Romania's development regions

Source: National Antidrug Agency, Report 2017

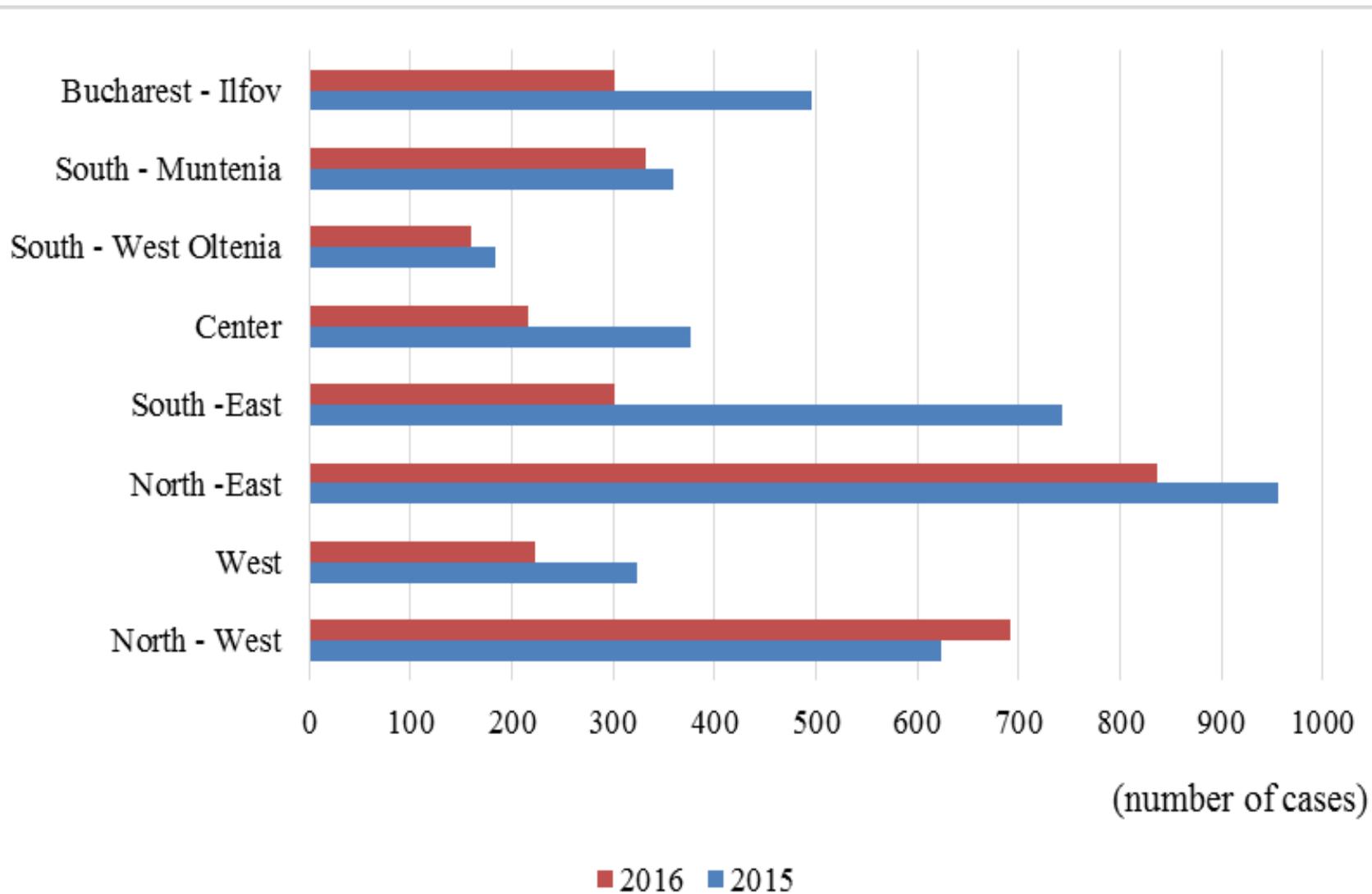
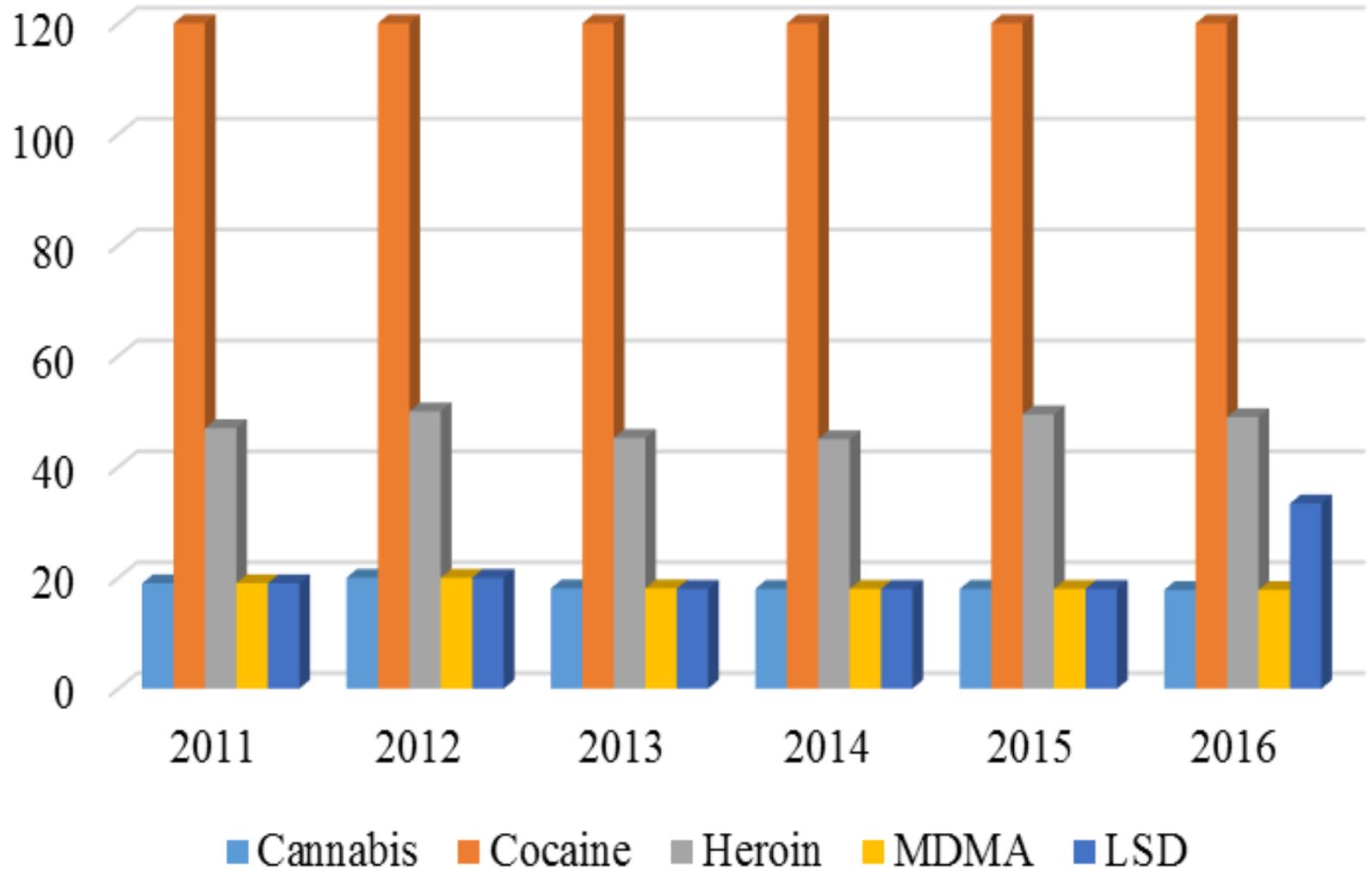


Figure 5: Maximum retail price (in Euro/ gram, tablet or per dose)
Source: National Antidrug Agency, Report 2017



Psychological – social effects of drug consumption in Romania

- Psychological effects are
- memory disorders, attention and logoneurosis (stammering), psycho-pathologic disorders (paranoia, marked state of depression, hallucinations), behavioural changes, panic, exacerbated suicide attempts, increased aggressiveness, decreases in self-esteem, psychic dependence.
- The effects of drug consumption might be unforeseen and unwanted Gilles Ferreol

Psychological effects

- The foreseen ones are happiness, the feeling of psychic tension, psychological excitement, but also violent reactions generated by the stimuli substances, relaxation, sleepiness, psychical calm generated by sedatives and changes of perception due to hallucinogens. The unwanted effects are addiction, negative effects on the central nervous system, on the heart and other vital body organs.

Socio effects

- The social effects of drug consumption must be debated on in relation to each socialisation environment: school, group of friends, neighbourhood and the society as a whole. The addicted consumer is marginalised, stigmatized by the other members of society who exclude him/her from their circles. The consumer becomes passive against the social duties, violent, and less interested in school, while work is disregarded and he/she no longer integrates in the own family, etc.

Socio effects

- The society tolerates consumers of legal drugs (alcohol and tobacco), however, it shows no understanding for the users of “white powder”.
- The socio-cultural environment in which the individual lives is of extreme importance, as it might support the individual in the fight against the ‘death substances’ or, to the contrary condemn the individual to addiction.

Other effects

- These are not only severe physical, social, and economic consequences for the individual, but they mean also high costs for the society.
- People might take drugs as a form of revolt, of escaping, or for being able to cope or survive, etc.
- The global increase in drug consumption is related to changes within the society, including the broken links with the family and society cohesion, the increase in unemployment and heightened feelings of alienation.

International context

- Drugs circulate at international level from less developed areas to the developed countries with high drug consumption. For the last years, just as for the increase in legitimate global business, the globalisation of financial systems and market relations facilitated also the development of illegitimate businesses, the drug producers, and dealers taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the changing macroeconomic environment. Their adjustment and the 'last hour' high-tech made easier trade expansion and industrial secrets' protection.

International context

- Drug dealers have now the possibility to whitewash illicit profits by electronic money transfer in the entire world, with only few controls at national level. Sometimes, they are aided by policies aiming to encourage trade and investments, and other times by governments and poor legislation against money laundering, fraud or organised crime.

Other effects

- Students taking drugs very often suffer from short-term memory losses and deterioration of other intellectual faculties, losses of their capacity to pursue a line of thought, of sensory and perceptive functions, are concerned about procuring the drugs, and have a negative emotional and social development.

Other effects

- As result, their entire performance is affected. The diminished cognitive efficiency leads to poor academic performance and to decreases in self-esteem. Education is one of the main means of preventing drug consumption. It should be noticed, however, that preventative education is a process that will generate results only on long-term, especially based on the strong cooperation of parents.

Conclusions

- Psychologically, drug consumption leads to emotional and mental problems (anxiety, memory disorders, insulation, decrease in self-esteem, etc.) and deviant behaviour of the addicted person: psychotic, suicidal, aggressive, paranoid, and often tending to become vagrant.
- Also high costs for the society

Conclusions

- At national level, drug trafficking takes place mostly based on the activity of selling the drugs, as Romania is considered rather a transit country for many of the large drug dealers. In the case of heroin trafficking, in Romania is found a type of relative maintenance of the drug trafficking. These aspects are related a lot also to the geographic position of Romania, the territory of our country being used by criminal groups in transporting heroin from their production areas in Afghanistan to Western Europe, especially to the Netherlands and Great Britain.

Conclusions

- In Romania, the most spread, and seized drug is cannabis, the demand for this drug being due largely to the decrease in the availability of the new psychoactive substances on the drugs' market, but also by the false belief of many consumers that this drug does not create addiction and is not dangerous (nothing could be more false than this).

Conclusions

- the development of some consumption methods is not directly proportional to the power of these factors.
- Risk factors are circumstances preceding the beginning of consumption, abuse, or problematic drug consumption.
- These are variable characteristics contributing, while acting in the life of a person, to increasing the probability for the respective person of developing a behavioural issue, as compared with any other person selected randomly from the general population.

Conclusions

- Thus, economic and social deprivation, disorganisation in the social environment, the lack of affective family links, permissive attitudes, and behaviour against drug consumption, educational dysfunctions of the family, entourage, and school failure are all such contributing factors.

Conclusions

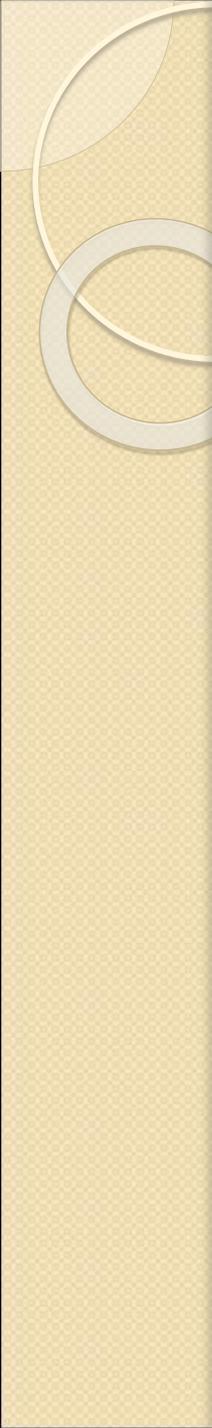
- The phenomenon linked to drug consumption has major implications, both at psychological-social level, and at the economic one, giving birth to numerous other issues related directly to drug consumption.
- Drug consumption and trafficking are of major national interest as these aspects affect a large part of the population, even individuals who are not consumers.

Conclusions

- The results are relevant for explaining and understanding the drug consumption and trafficking phenomenon, of the reasons leading to its emergence and of the effects generated in any society.

Conclusions

- The Romanian state is involved in the fight against and prevention of drug consumption and trafficking by means of the bodies constituted to this end.



Thank you
for your attention!

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