

*New Psychoactive Drug Trends in
Kazakhstan:
Results of the Epidemiologic Global
Fund Project*



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Outline:

NPS: Legal Responses

Social impact and local challenges of NPS

Epidemiological studies of drug-related problems in Kazakhstan

NPS and youth

NPS in clinical sample

Conclusions: implications for future NPS policies

NPS Media agenda – “synthetic epidemic”



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Нур-Султан: 1 °C USD 432.64 ↓

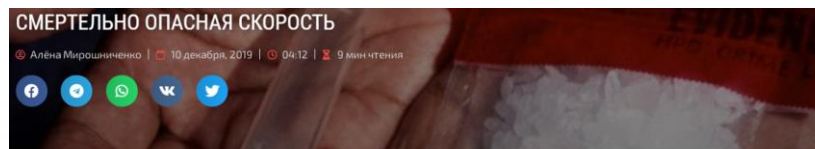
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Власть Госпрограммы Экономика Регионы Общество Спецпроекты

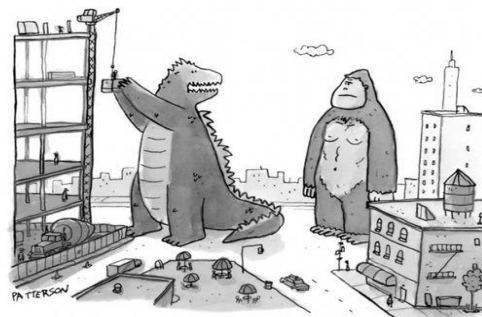
Свыше 145 кг синтетических наркотиков и 2,5 тонны прекурсоров изъято в этом году – КНБ РК

Около 40% рынка наркотиков в Казахстане захватили психоактивные вещества, убивающие человека за два-три года. Почему война с наркобизнесом превращается в борьбу Дон Кихотов с ветряными мельницами, рассказали в полиции Алматы

АЛМАТЫ, 11 янв — Sputnik. Психоактивные наркотики, купить которые сегодня проще простого через соцсети в интернете или с помощью мессенджеров, агрессивно захватывают Казахстан и в короткое время в буквальном смысле слова убивают сотни и тысячи их потребителей.



«СКОРОСТЬ», «СПИДЫ», «КРИСТАЛЛЫ» ИЛИ «СОЛИ» – ВСЕ ЭТО НАИМЕНОВАНИЯ ОДНОГО И ТОГО ЖЕ ОПАСНЕЙШЕГО ВЕЩЕСТВА: ОНО РАЗРУШАЕТ ПСИХИКУ И ПРИВОДИТ К ТРАГИЧЕСКИМ ПОСЛЕДСТВИЯМ. СЕГОДНЯ МЫ ПРЕДСТАВЛЯЕМ ВАМ РАССКАЗ ЧЕЛОВЕКА, КОТОРЫЙ КОГДА-ТО С ГЕРОИНА «ПЕРЕСЕЛ НА СИНТЕТИКУ», А ПОСЛЕ РЕШИЛ «ЗАВЯЗАТЬ» С НАРКОТИКАМИ НАВСЕГДА.



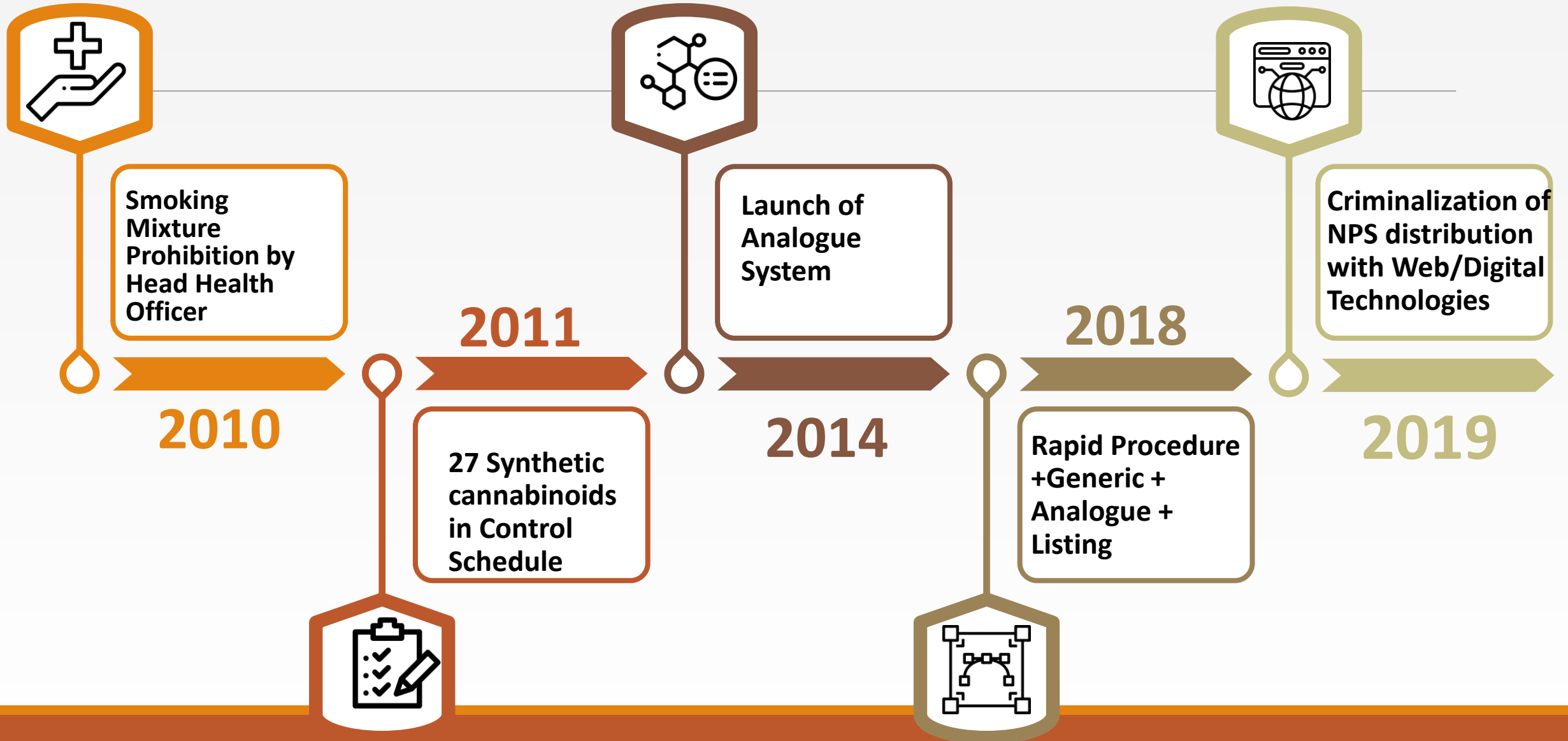
“That’s not who I am anymore.”



16 Февраля 2022 18:27

Ростом потребления синтетических наркотиков среди казахстанской молодежи обеспокоены депутаты

NPS: Legal Responses



Social impact and local challenges of NPS

First official reports on NPS appeared in 2010

By 2016, 58 NPS had been identified in Central Asia

2/3 of those substances were seized in Kazakhstan

Dramatic growth in a number of illegal vendors and marketplaces (including darkweb) was identified since 2018

The total revenue of the most popular dark marketplace soared from \$990K in 2018 to \$3M in 2019

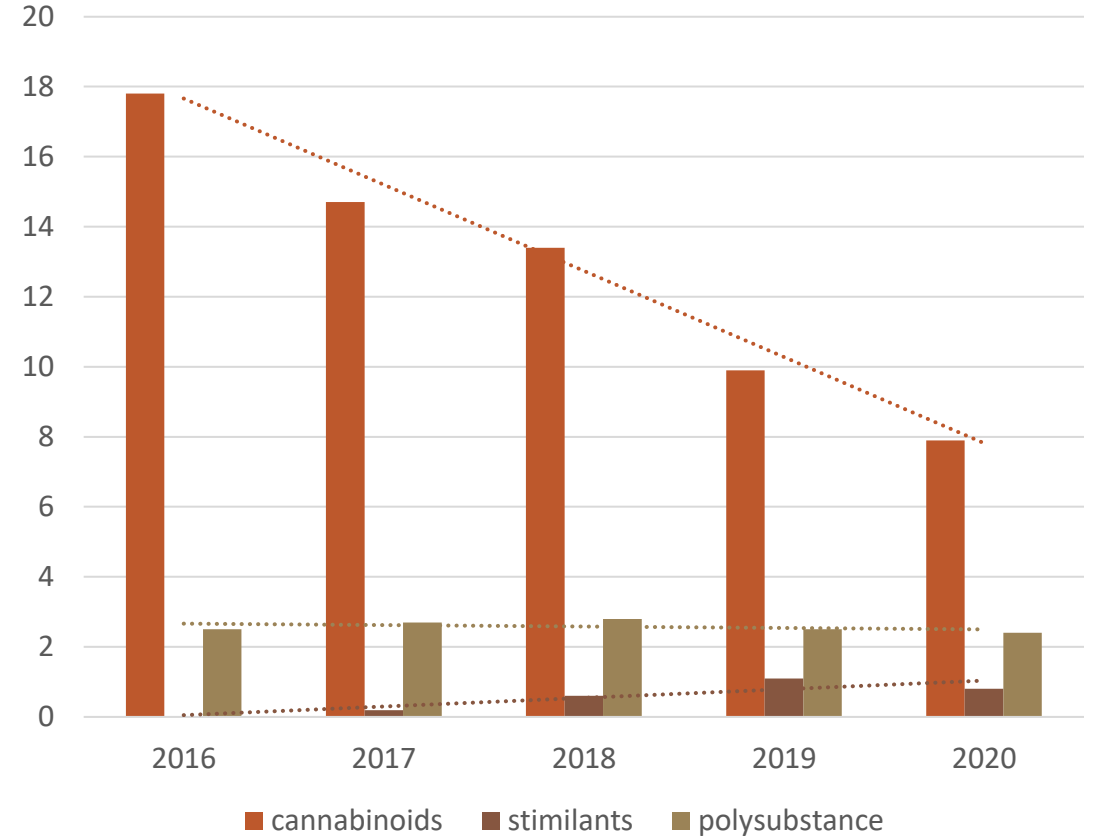
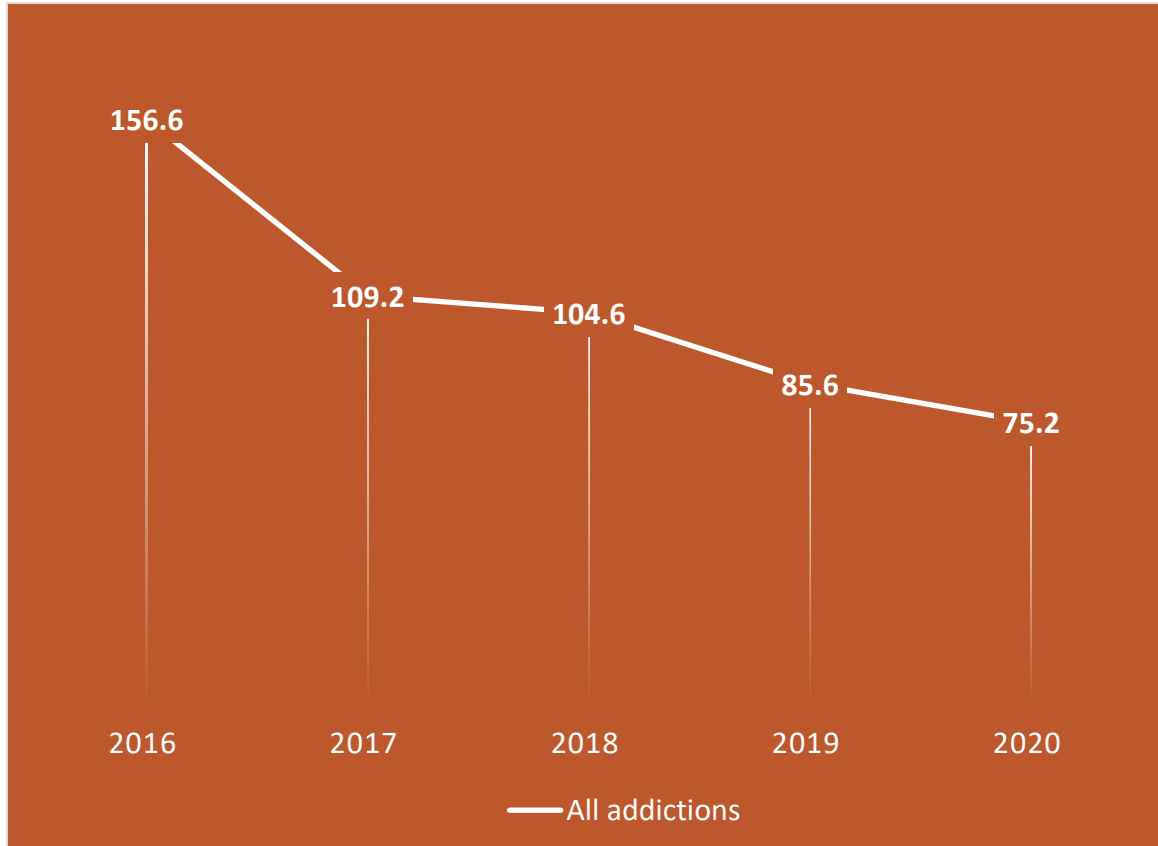
Synthetic cathinones prevail in seized samples according to the local police reports

Mephedrone and alpha-PVP are the most popular NPS sold in darkweb

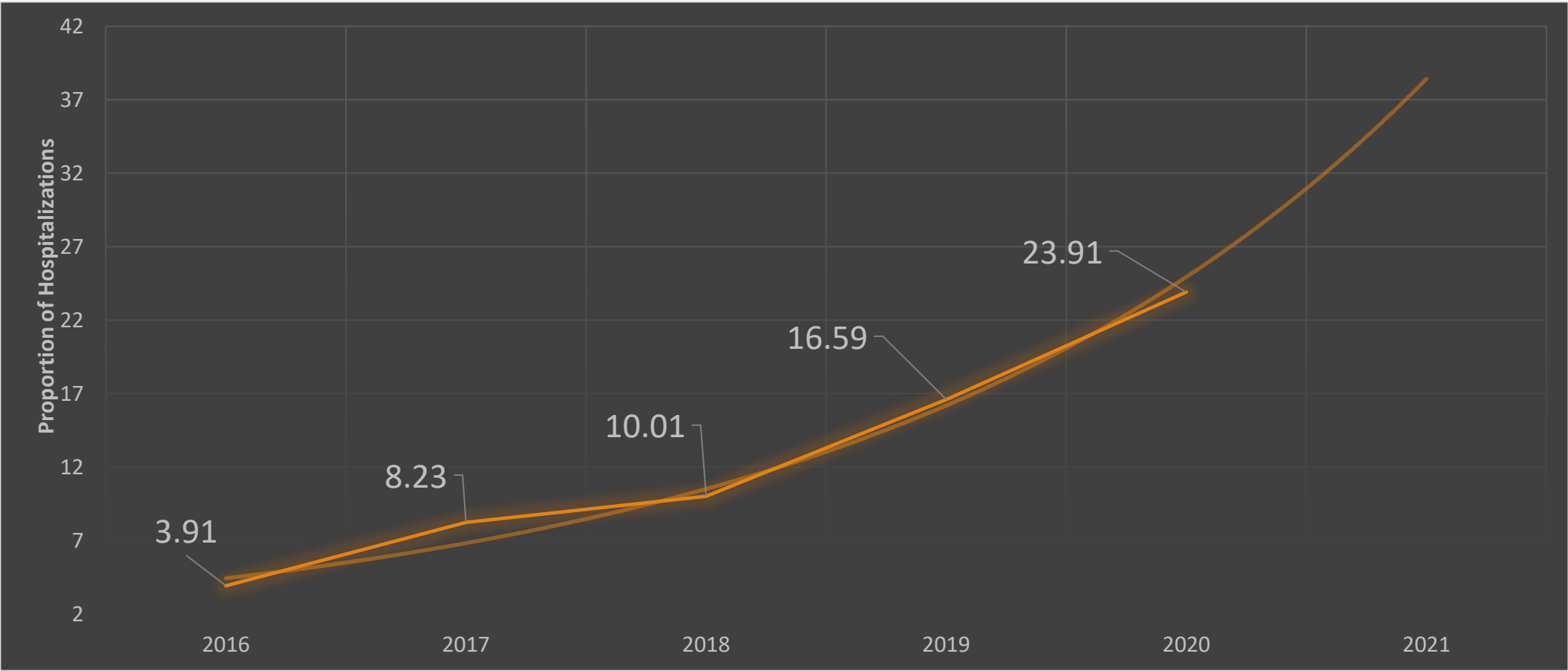
Drug injection places with NPS advertisements



Epidemiology: research versus routine monitoring



NPS Hospitalizations



Project Clinical and epidemiological study of the spread of new psychoactive substances in Kazakhstan



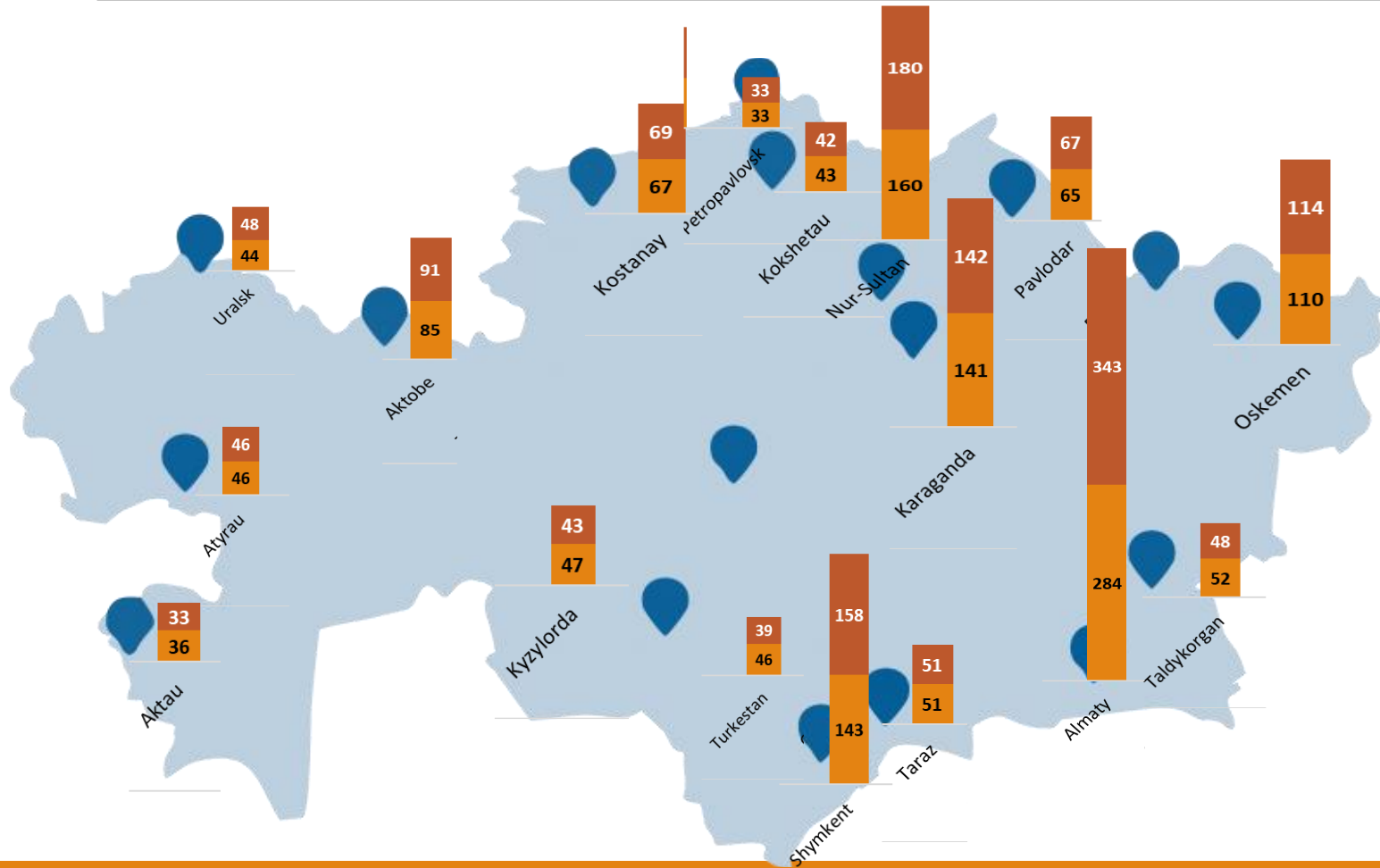
AIM:

Analysis of clinical and epidemiological characteristics of NPS abuse in Kazakhstan

TASKS:

- To analyze NPS addiction treatment cases in all Kazakhstan clinics (2019-2021)
- To undertake a street-intercepted survey in young people from all Kazakhstan regions on NPS awareness
- To develop recommendations for NPS policy in terms of prevention, treatment and harm reduction

NPS in YOUTH (task #2)



19 September – 26 October 2021

17 cities

99 interviewers

3008 respondents

1453 males

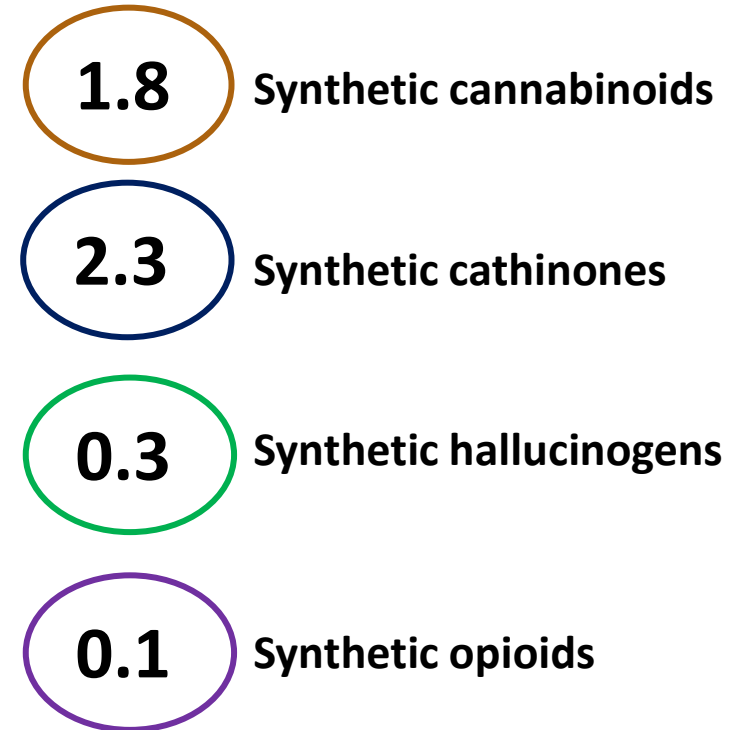
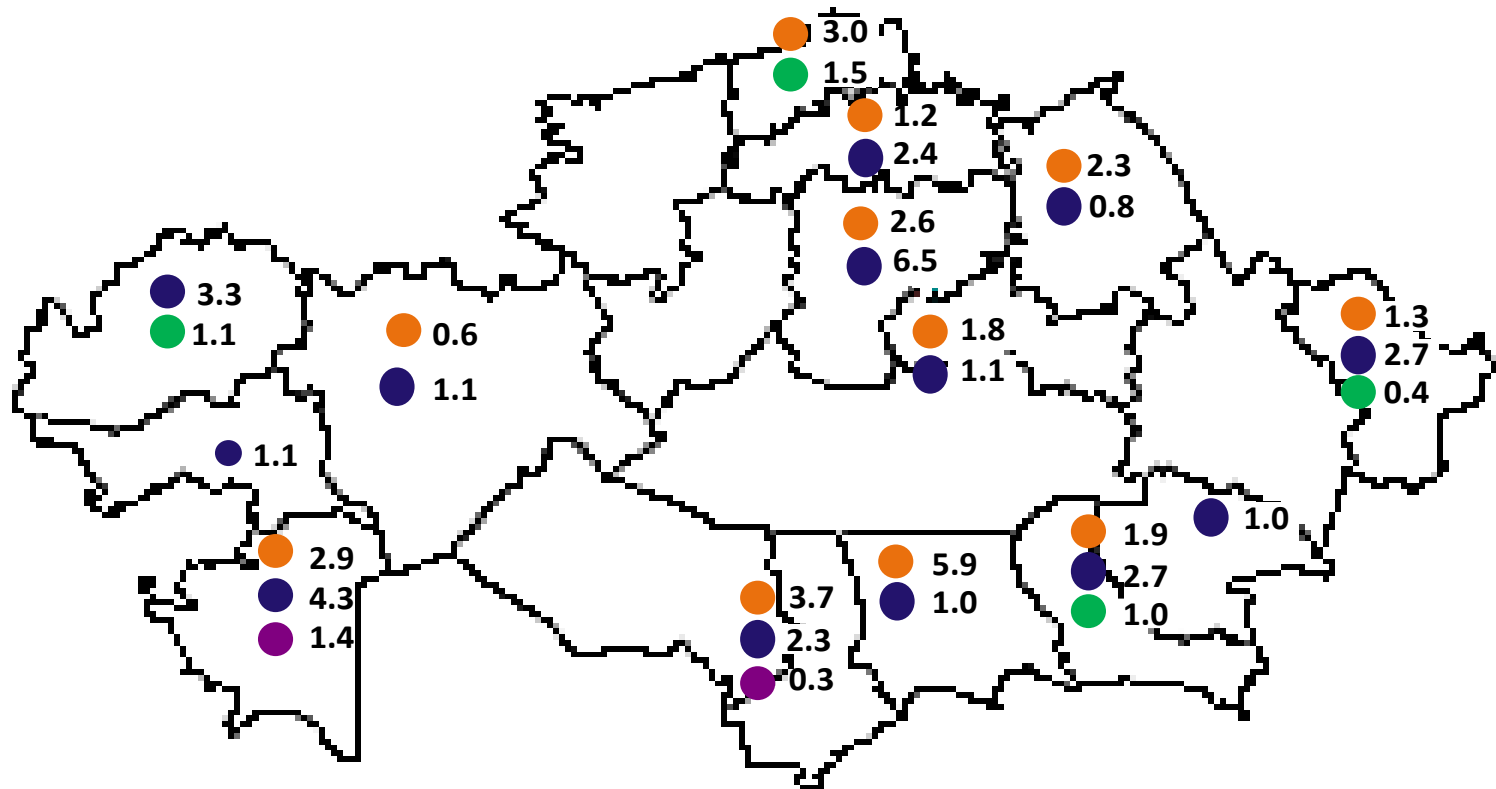
1547 females

Age group 18-34

Traditional vs. NPS

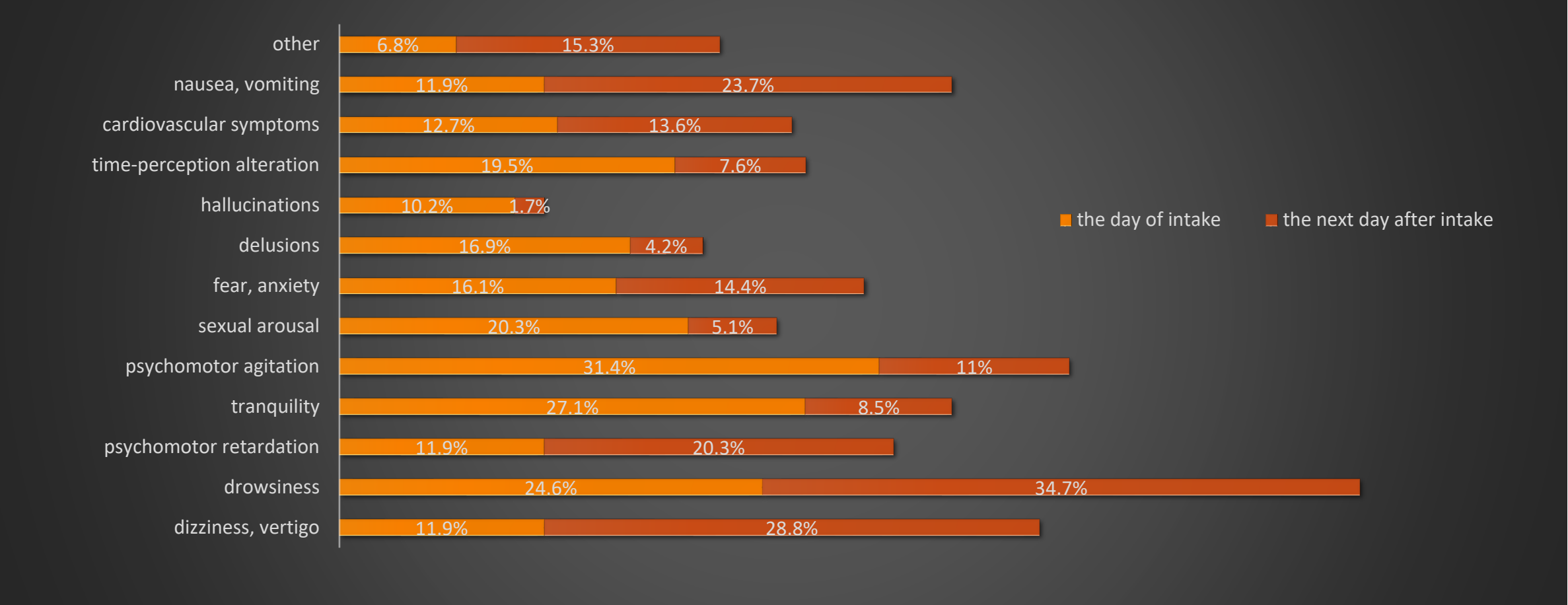
	Total		Gender		Age groups		
			Male (n=714)	Female (n=786)	18-24 (n=491)	25-29 (n=566)	30-34 (n=443)
	%	95 % CI	%	%	%	%	%
Marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, inhalants, sedatives or hypnotics, hallucinogens., opioids							
Life time	10.6	(9.6-11.8)	15.7	5.9	6.8	12.2	12.2
Last 12 months	2.9	(2.3-3.5)	5.0	0.8	2.2	3.6	2.6
Last 30 days	1.5	(1.1-1.9)	2.7	0.3	0.7	2.0	1.5
New psychoactive substances							
Life time	3.9	(3.3 – 4.7)	5.3	2.6	3.1	4.4	4.1
Last 12 months	1.1	(0.8– 1.6)	1.9	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.2
Last 30 days	0.6	(0.4 – 0.9)	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6

NPS Groups

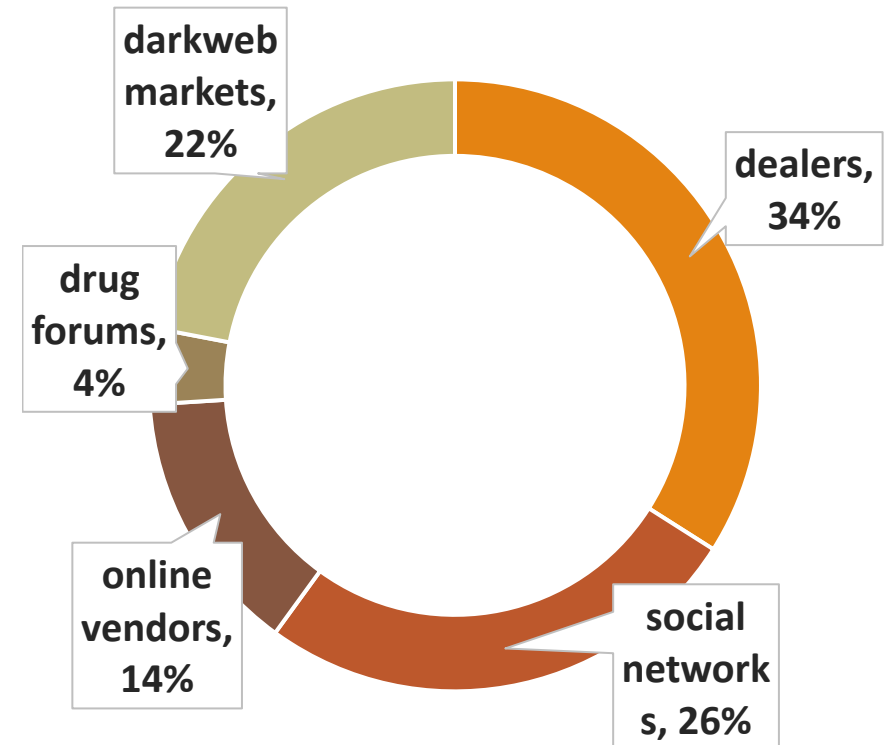
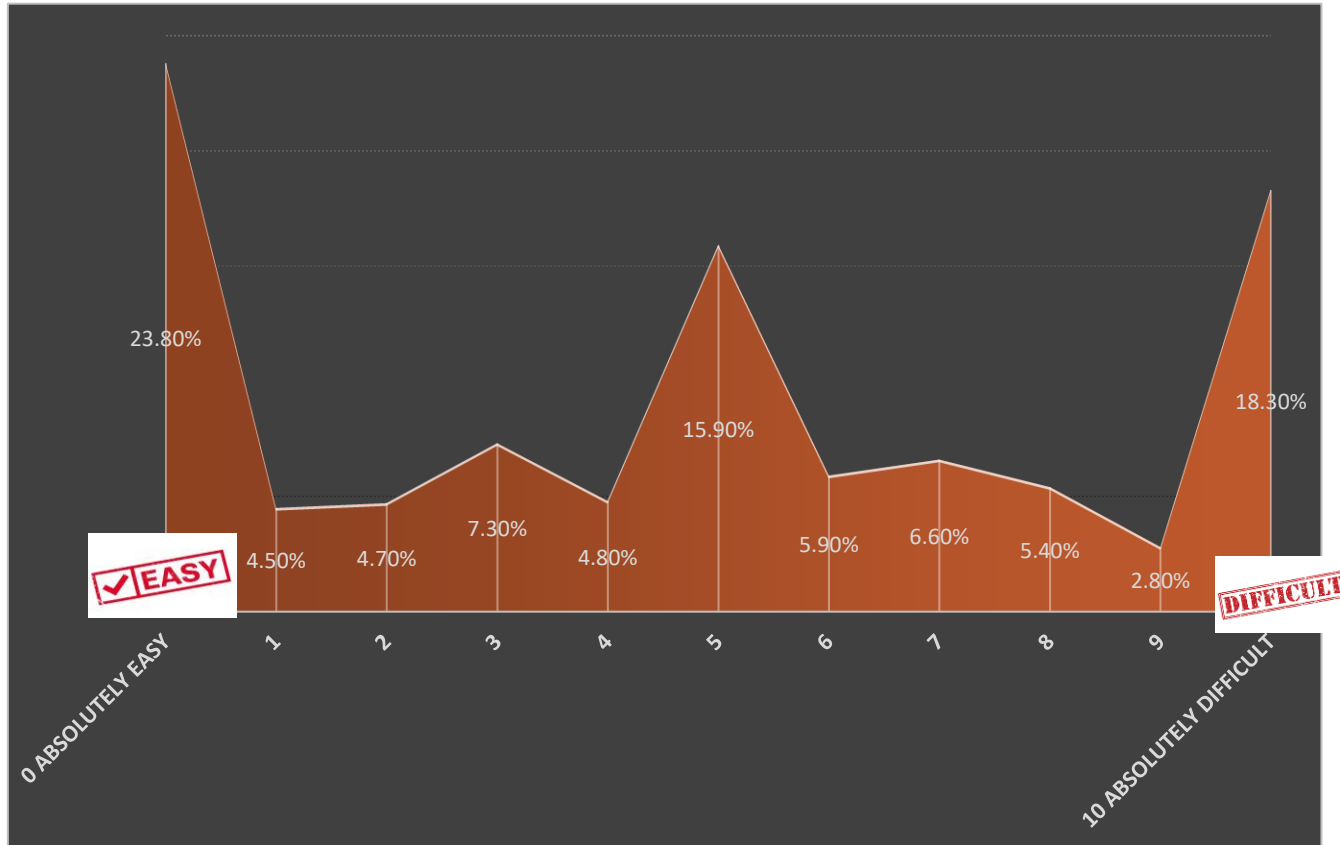


- Synthetic cannabinoids
- Synthetic hallucinogens
- Synthetic cathinones
- Synthetic opioids

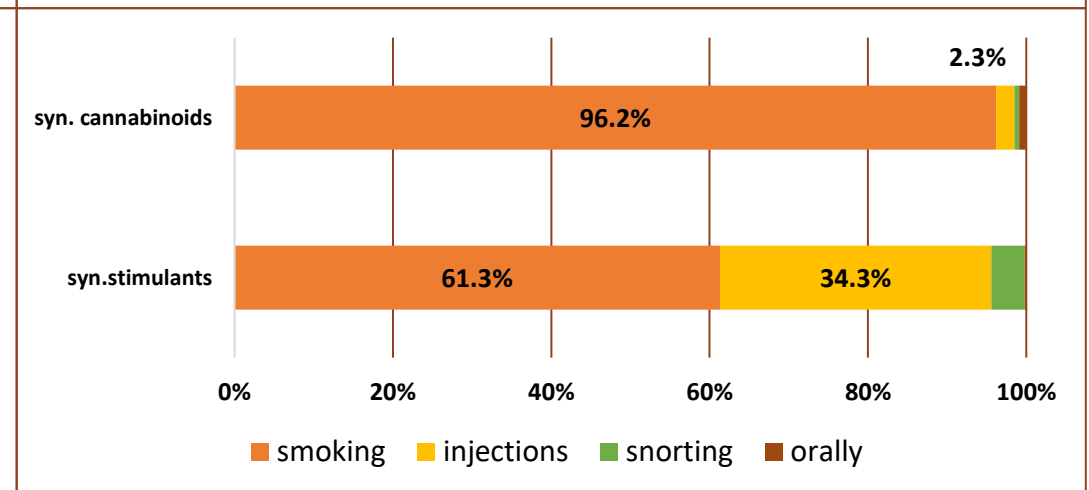
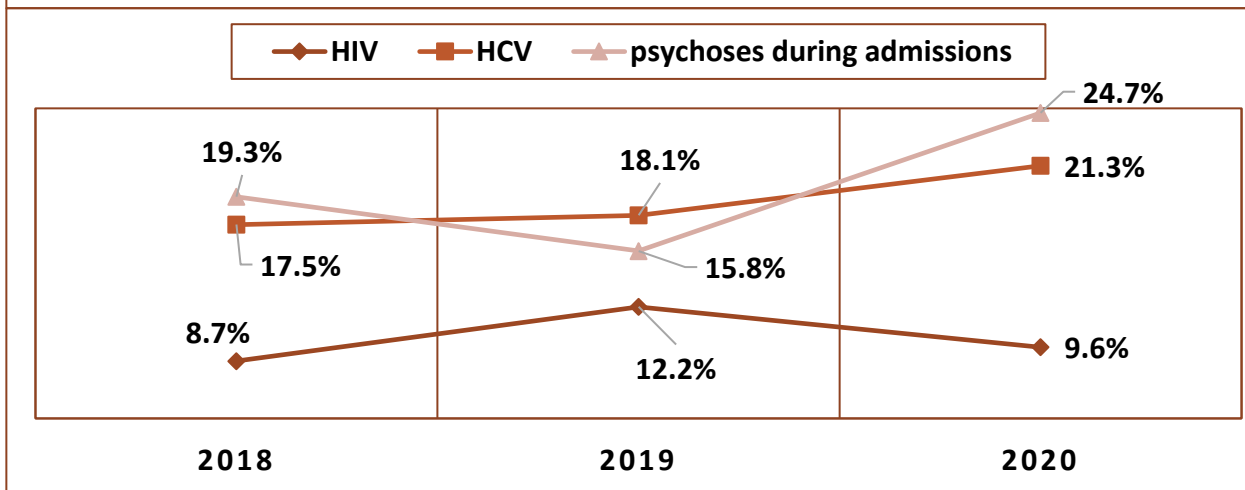
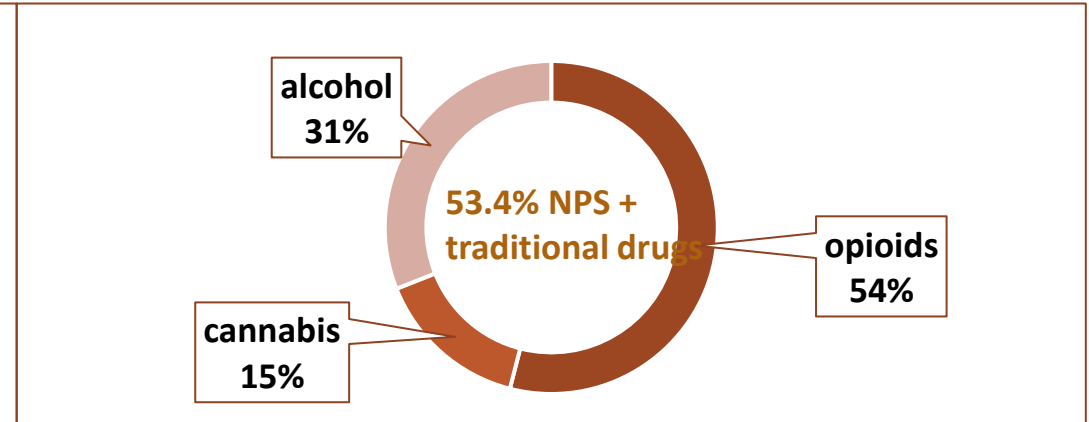
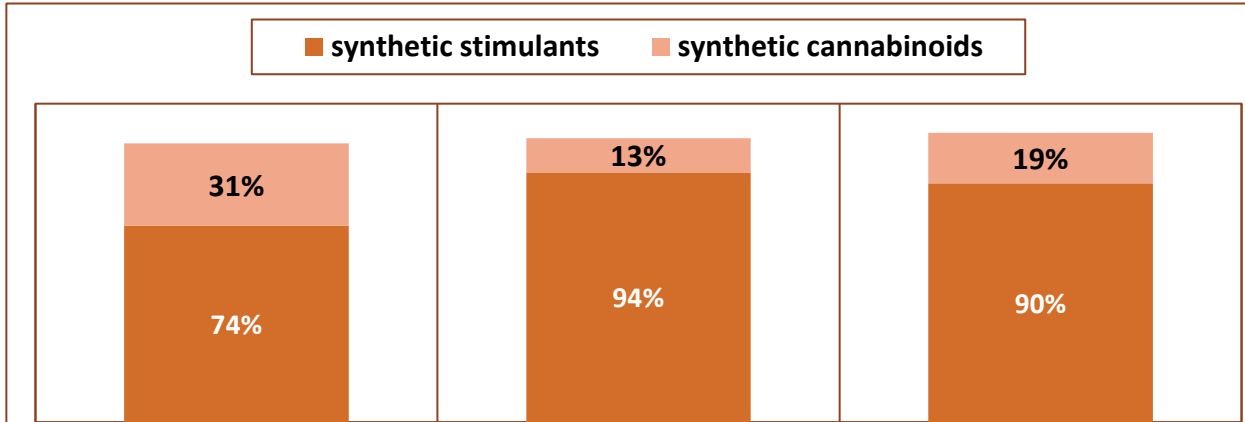
NPS Symptoms Profile



How easy is it to buy NPS?



Hospital-Based Sample



Gender Comparison

86%



Age: 32

<25 y.: 11%

Secondary education: 44%

Unemployed: 91%

Synthetic cannabinoids: 16%

Synthetic stimulants: 92%

Stimulant injections: 33%

HIV+ 9%

HCV+ 20%

14%



Age: 30

<25 y.: 24%

Secondary education: 43%

Unemployed: 92%

Synthetic cannabinoids: 7%

Synthetic stimulants: 98%

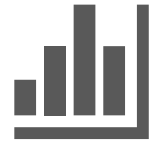
Stimulant injections: 40%

HIV+ 16%

HCV+ 27%

NPS policy – goals for KZ

Monitoring



Identification



Harm Reduction



Education



Main takeaways (1)

The trend of polysubstance use with opioid and NPS stimulant combinations is on the rise

Introduced as substitution for poor opioids on illegal markets, NPS stimulants are now challenging the dominance of opioids

Combinations of opioids and stimulants increase the risk of transmitting parenteral infections

The situation is aggravated by the stigma attached to opioid users switching to NPS stimulants

Lack of awareness and misconceptions about NPS stimulant use (e.g. HIV-transmission risks) reduce the quality of preventive programmes for those who go beyond the scope of exclusive opioid use

Main takeaways (2)

While the prevalence of life-time NPS use was as much as 3.9% in the whole country , the regional distribution of the indicator showed substantial disparity

Men were about 2.5 times as likely as are women to use NPS

Synthetic stimulants were more prevalent among other NPS groups in youth

2/3 of the NPS-using respondents bought NPS through Internet (online forums, darkweb markets, social networks)

Age was associated with probability of life-time NPS use

Various somatic and mental symptoms were reported to be experienced both within and after NPS intoxication episodes

Thank you for the attention



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