What is going on in high risk opioid use in Austria?

Addiction Competence Center
REITOX–Focal Point Austria
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EMCDDA–Meeting on Problem Drug Use
Lisbon 19–20 June
2-sample capture-recapture based on notification by the police and opioid substitution treatment stratified by region

preliminary results – not for publication
2–Sample capture–recapture based on notification by the police and opioid substitution treatment by age

preliminary results – not for publication
Cross indicator analysis: Percentage of age group 15 to 24 in several opioid related data sources

- CRC prevalence estimate
- TDI opioids
- Opioid substitution treatment
- Drug related deaths
- Opioid related hospital diagnoses
- Opioid related health measures

Preliminary results – not for publication
Problem Opioid User (in Opioid Substitution Treatment)

preliminary results – not for publication

opioid addicts not in OST
opioid addicts in OST

1999 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 2017
Opioid addiction as a long term chronic disease

On 30.4.2013 still or again in OST

Percentag still or again in OST on 30.4.2013

Year of first treatment

Source: GÖG/ÖBIG: Epidemiologiebericht Drogen 2012/2013
Summary and Discussion

» The estimated number of high risk opioid users in Austria increased from 31,473 (95% CI: 30,339;32,554) in 2015 to 36,943 (95% CI: 35,764;38,192) in 2017.

» There is no increase in the age group 15 to 24; 2015: 2,898 (95% CI: 2,631;3,166), 2017: 2,869 (95% CI: 2,611;3,126).

» The percentage of the age group 15 to 24 is going down in almost all opioid related datasources.

» There is a slight decrease of OST in–treatment rate between 2015 and 2017.

» Is the increase of prevalence caused by the bathing tube effect? When most opioid addicts survive and stay in opioid addiction the prevalence has to increase even when incidence goes down or is stable?

» Is the increase of prevalence a methodical artefact caused by the effect that long term opioid substitution patients have a lower probability of notifications by the police?

» Do we have a reasonable number of late onset opioid users?

» What are the reasons for the decreasing in–treatment rate?

preliminary results – not for publication
Bathing Tube Effect

Incidence

People starting high risk opioid use per year

Prevalence

Number of high risk opioid users

People leaving high risk opioid use

Quitting or dying
Thank you for your attention