

Substance abuse: the hidden killer of people and its burden in global health

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Iranian National Center
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WHO Collaborating Center
on Substance Use Disorders
and Mental Health

Illegal drug use at the global level (derived from UNODC, 2019)

Number of people who inject drugs
aged 15-64 years :

11 million

Number of "problem drug users"
aged 15-64 years :

30.1 million

Number of people who have used drugs
at least once in the past year aged
15-64 years :

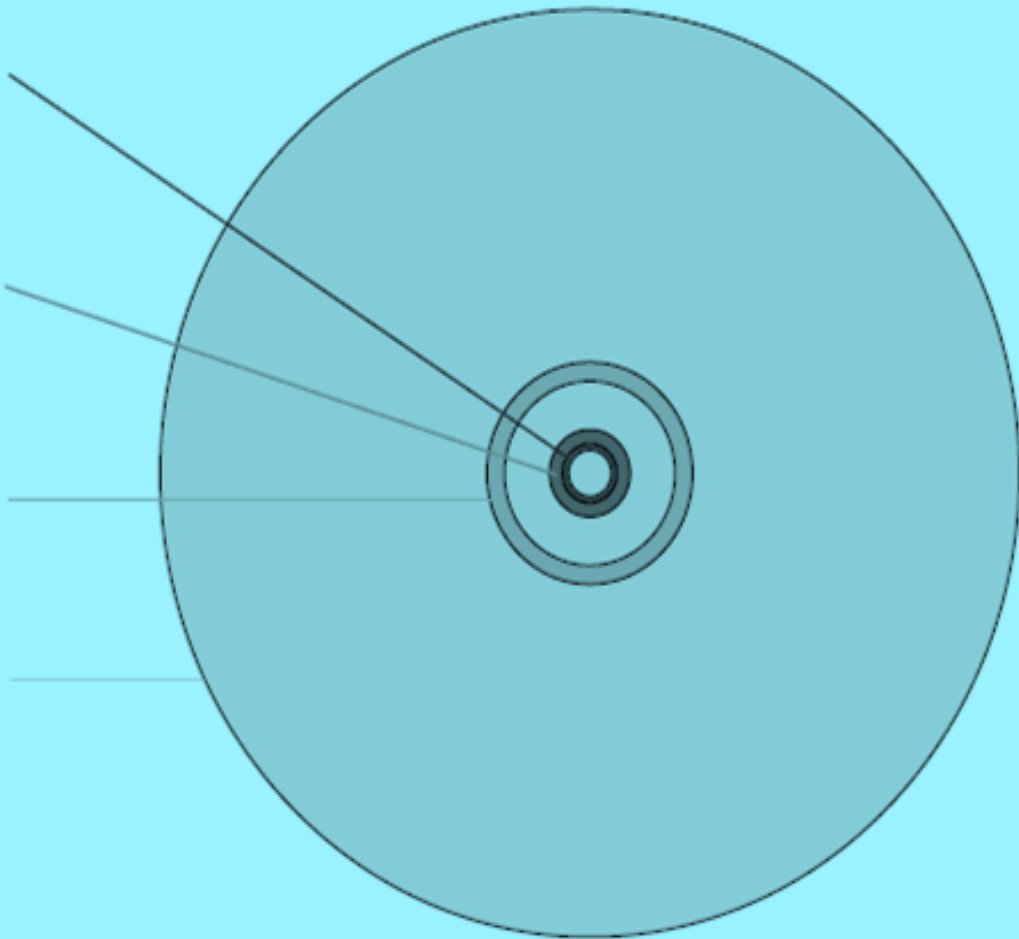
275 million

Total number of people aged 15-64 years

4,900 million

Alcohol users: 2000 million

Tobacco: 1000 million



Burden of drug use

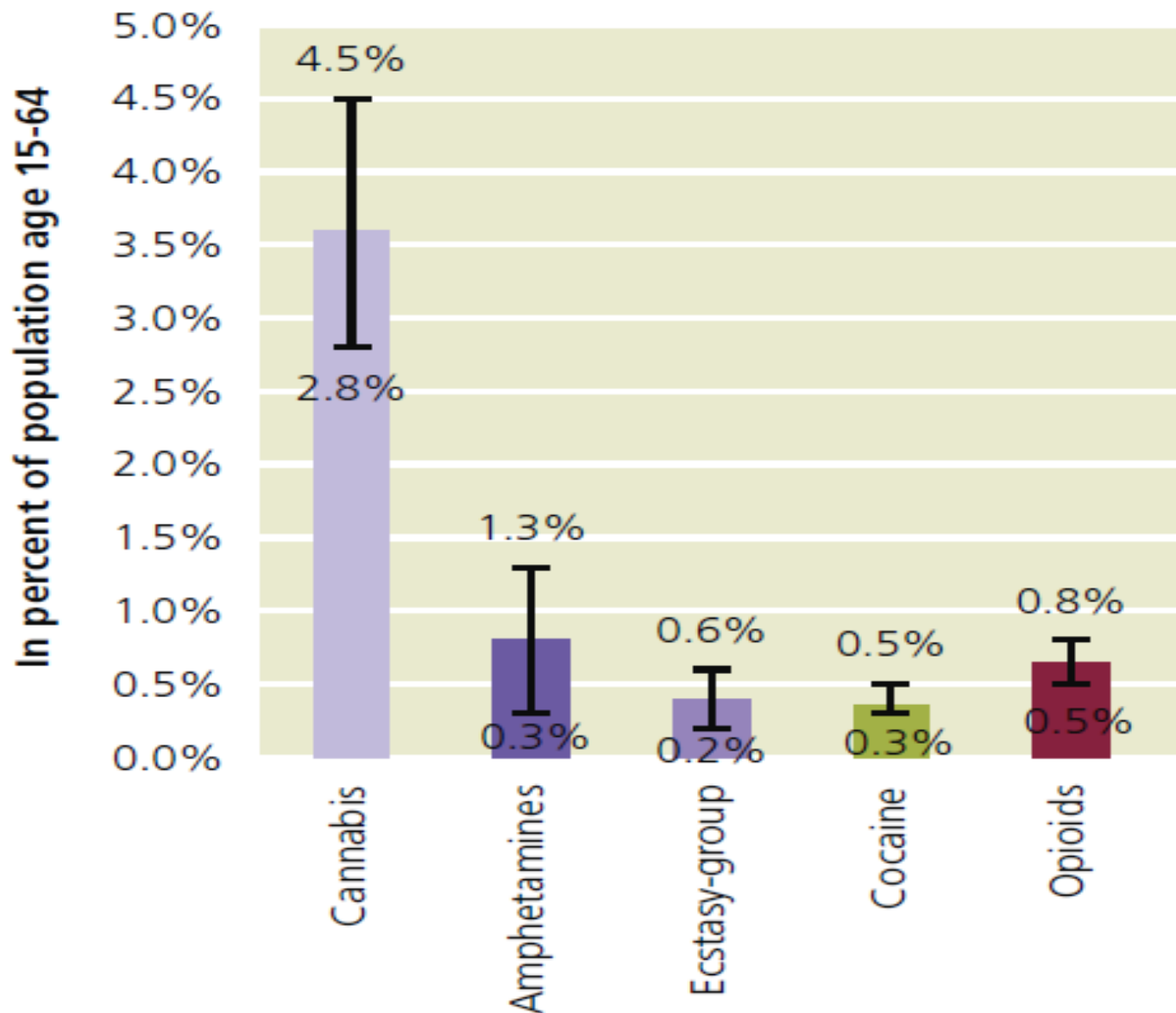
Global Burden of Disease Study 2017:

- 585,000 deaths
- 42 million “health” years of life lost

Most resulted from overdose, HCV and HIV.

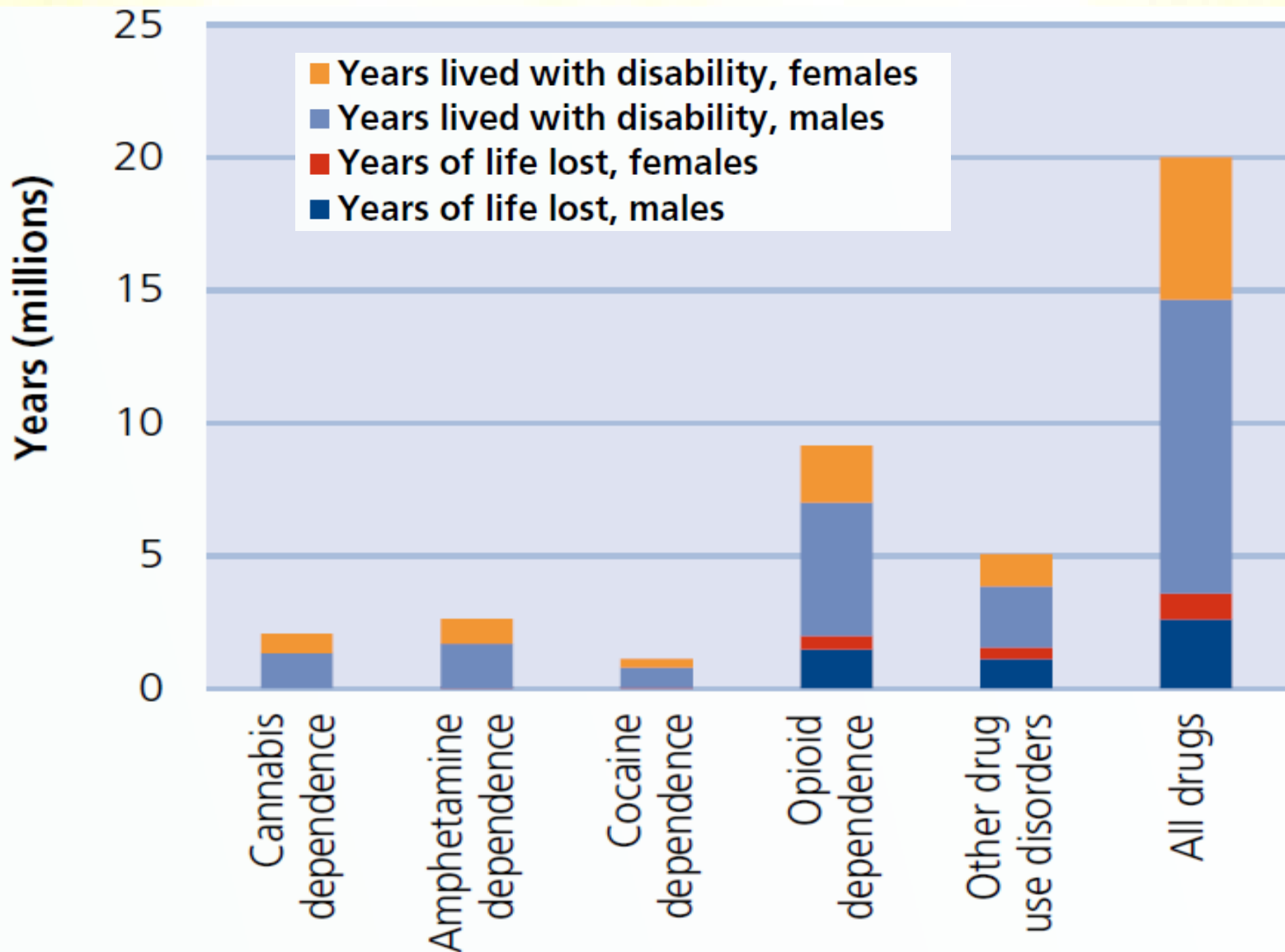
Over the past three decades, the number of deaths and DALYs attributed to the use of drugs have approximately **doubled**.

Annual prevalence of drug use at the global level (UNODC, 2017)



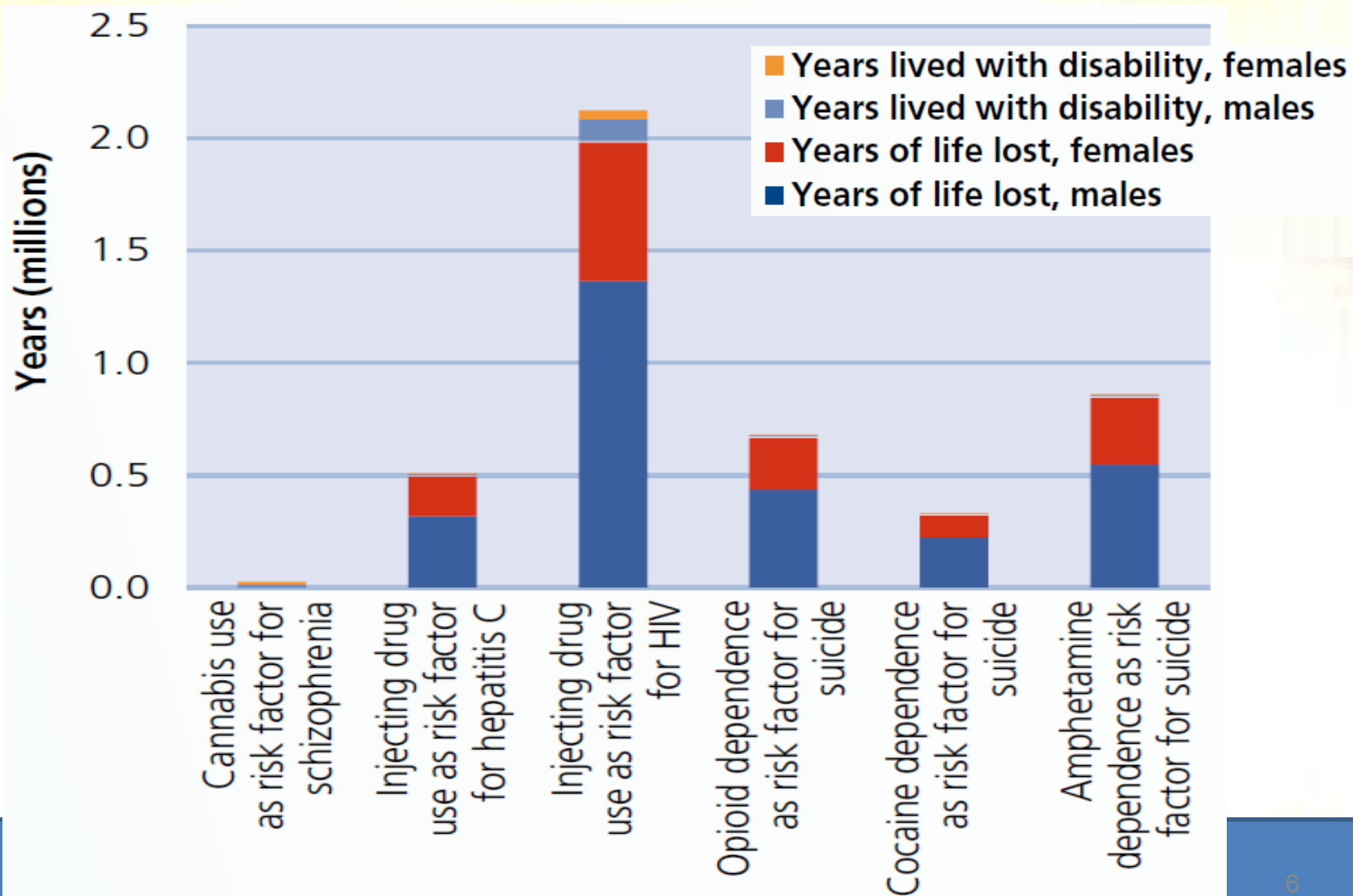
Estimated YLD and YLL, 2010

(derived from Degenhardt et al., 2013)

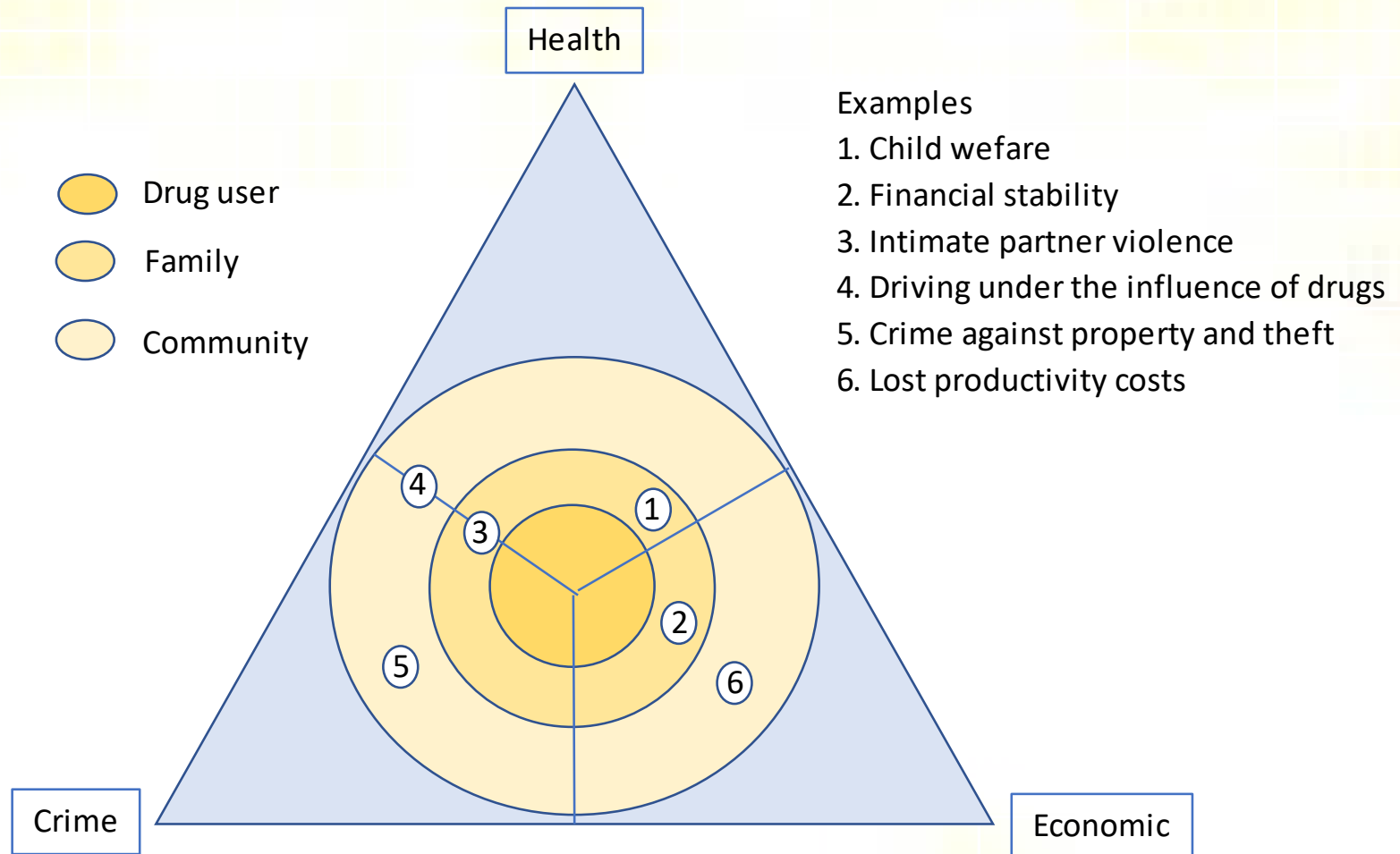


Estimated YLD and YLL, attributable to illicit drug use as a risk factor for other health outcomes

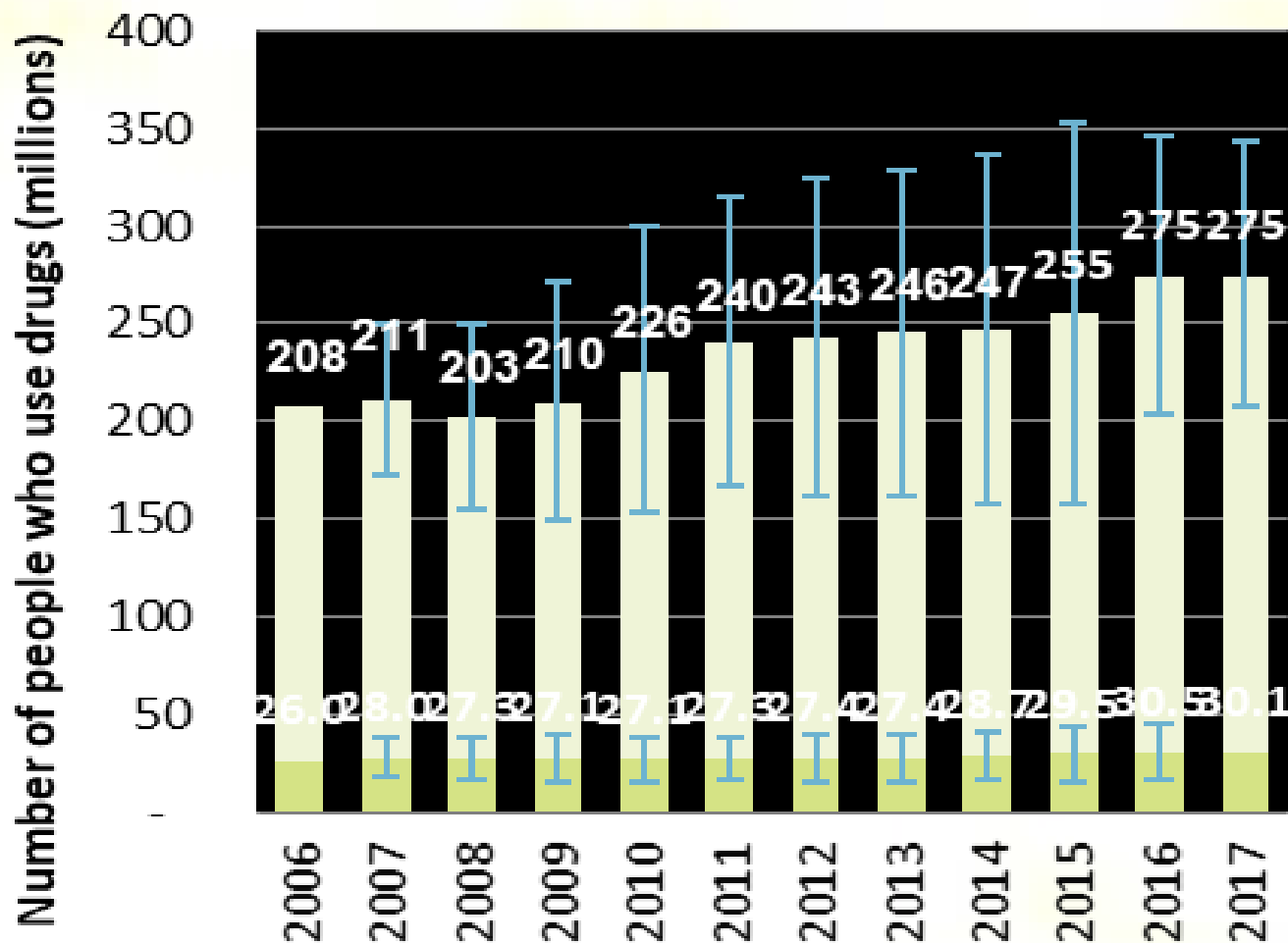
(derived from Degenhardt et al., 2013)



Harm to others resulting from drug use

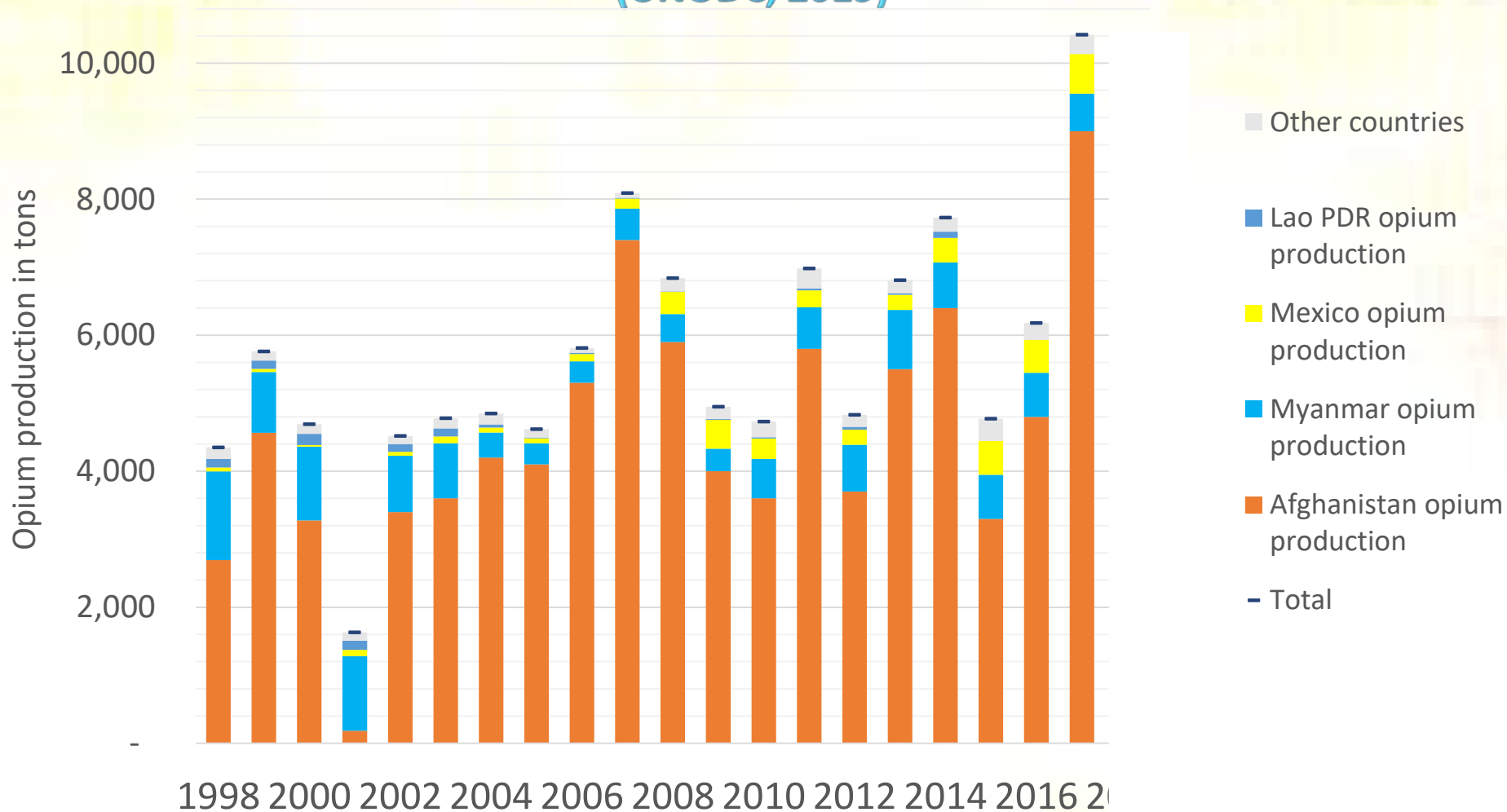


Global trends in estimated number of people who use drugs and those with drug use disorders, 2006–2017 (UNODC, 2019)



Opium poppy cultivation and production of opium

(UNODC, 2019)



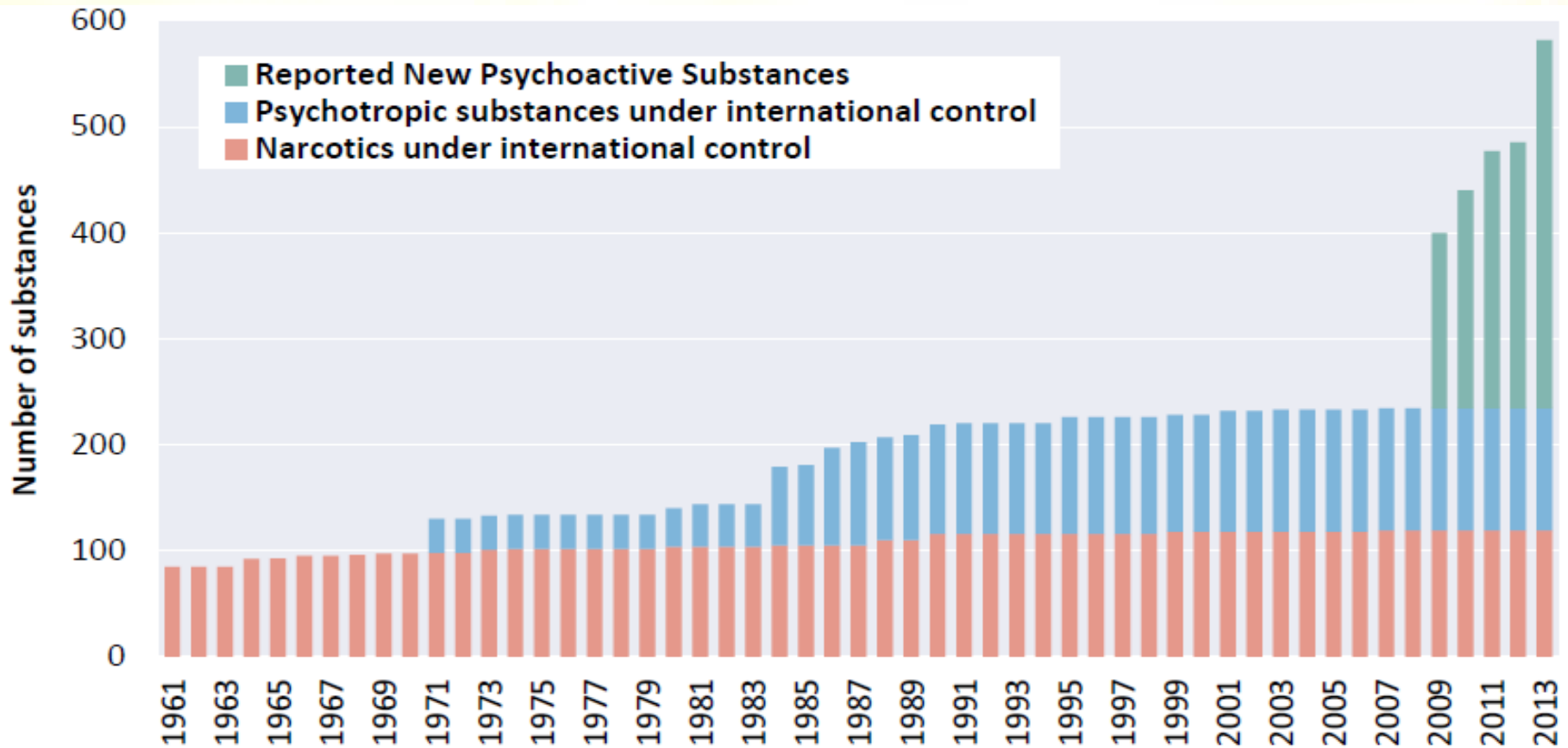
Traditional opium smoking



A Mixed Drug Scene



Number of reported new psychoactive substances (Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment, 2014)



Changes in problem drugs

Opium

Heroin

Opium

Heroin
Methamphetamine

Prescription opioids

Opium

Heroin
Methamphetamine

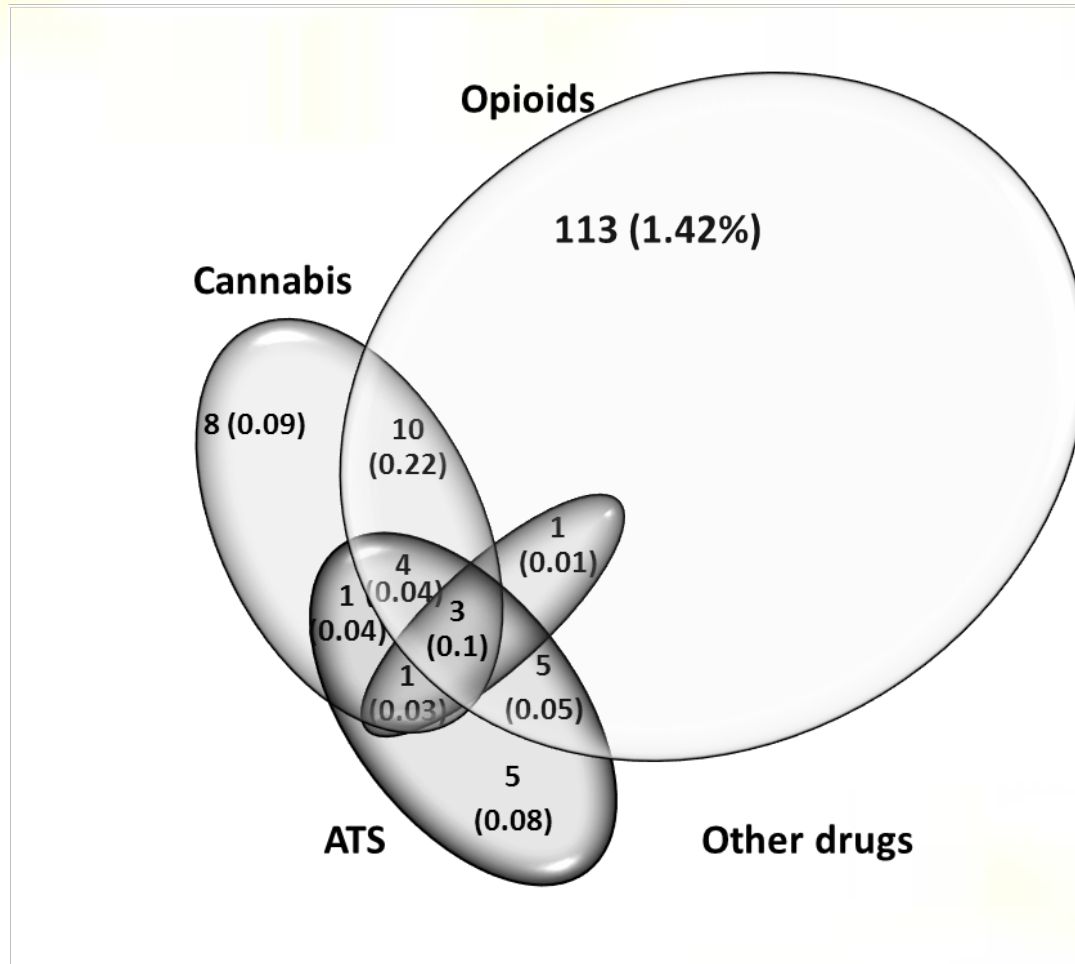
Prescription opioids
Cannabis

1998

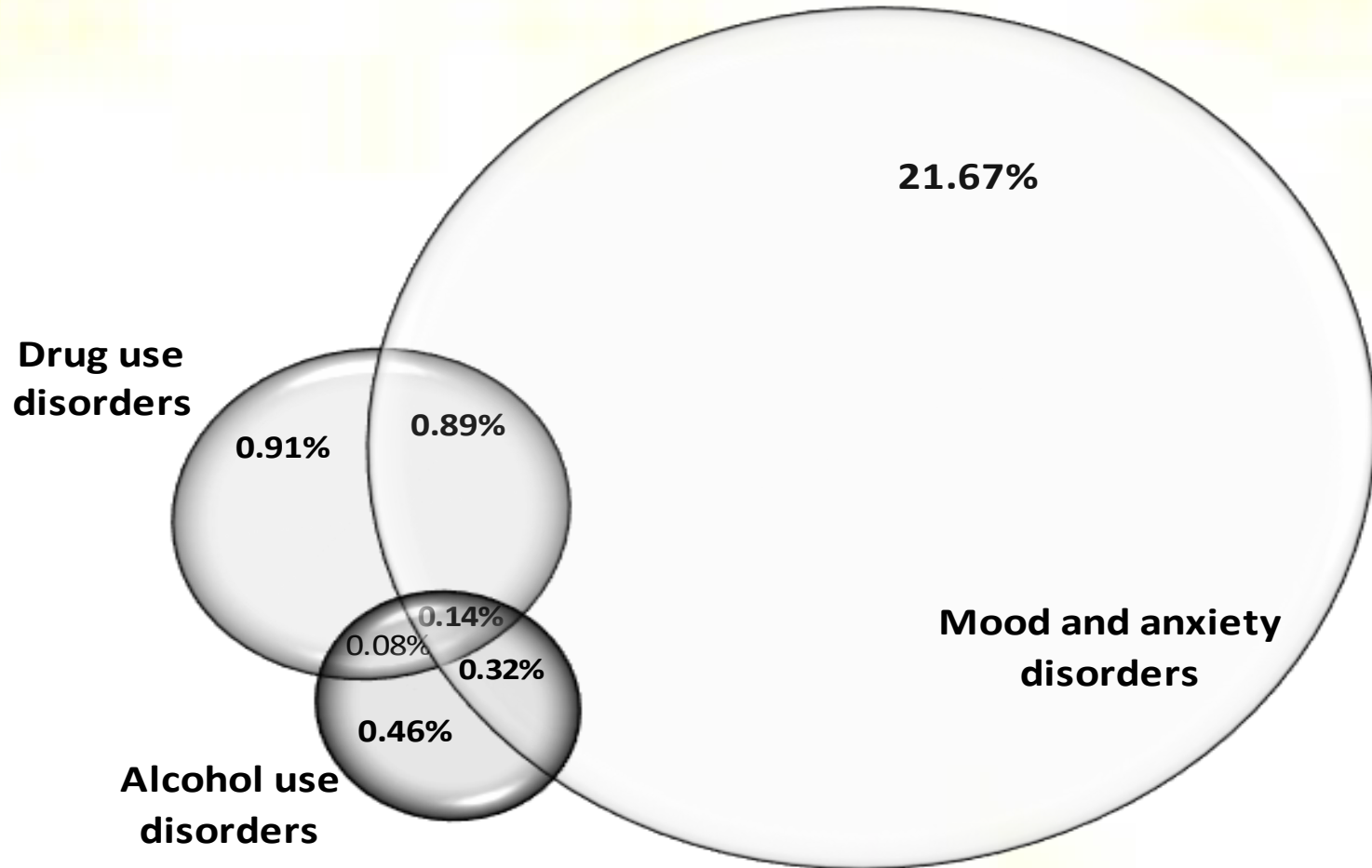
2008

2018

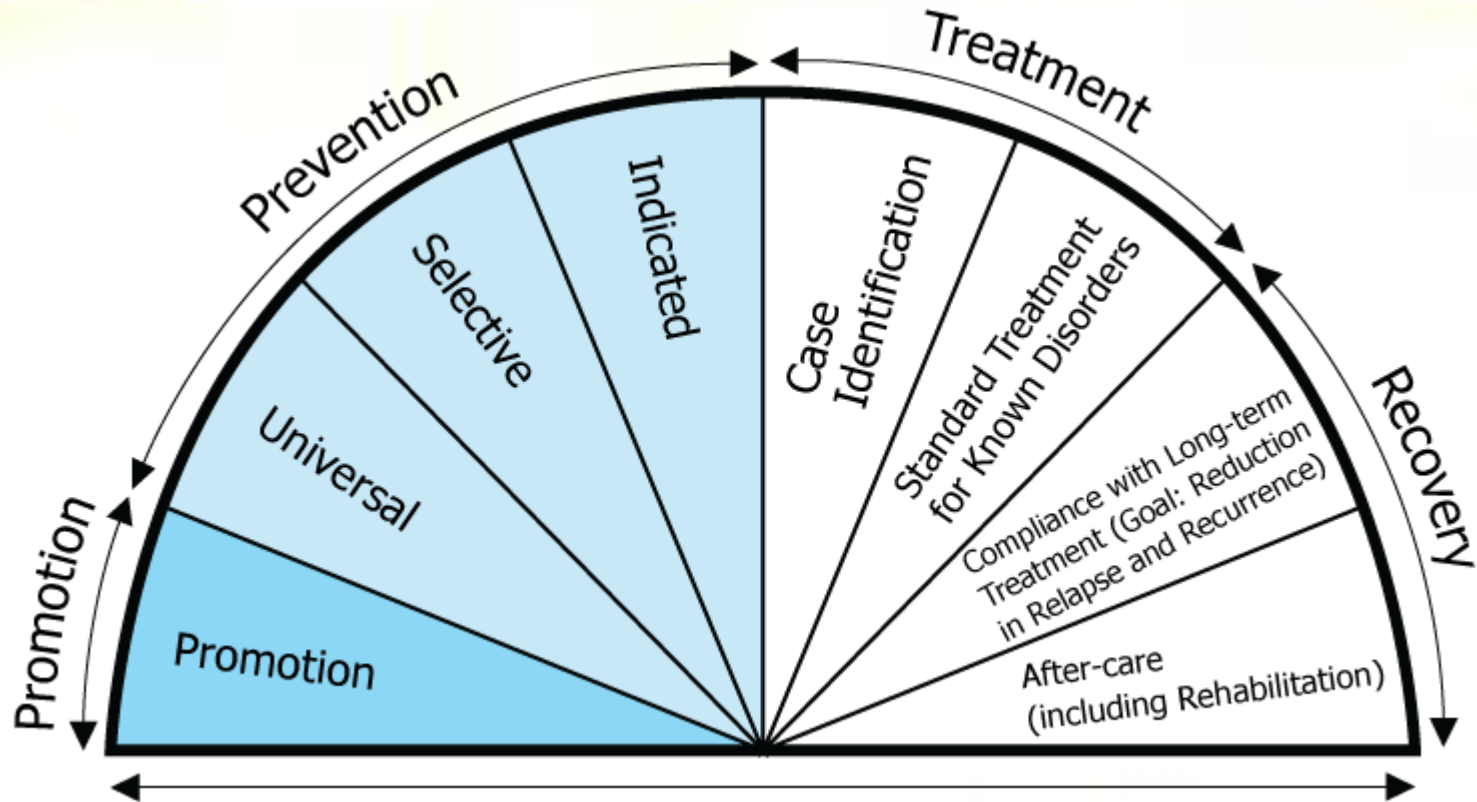
The Venn diagram of single or multiple drug use disorders



The Venn diagram of overlap in 12-month alcohol use disorders and other psychiatric disorders

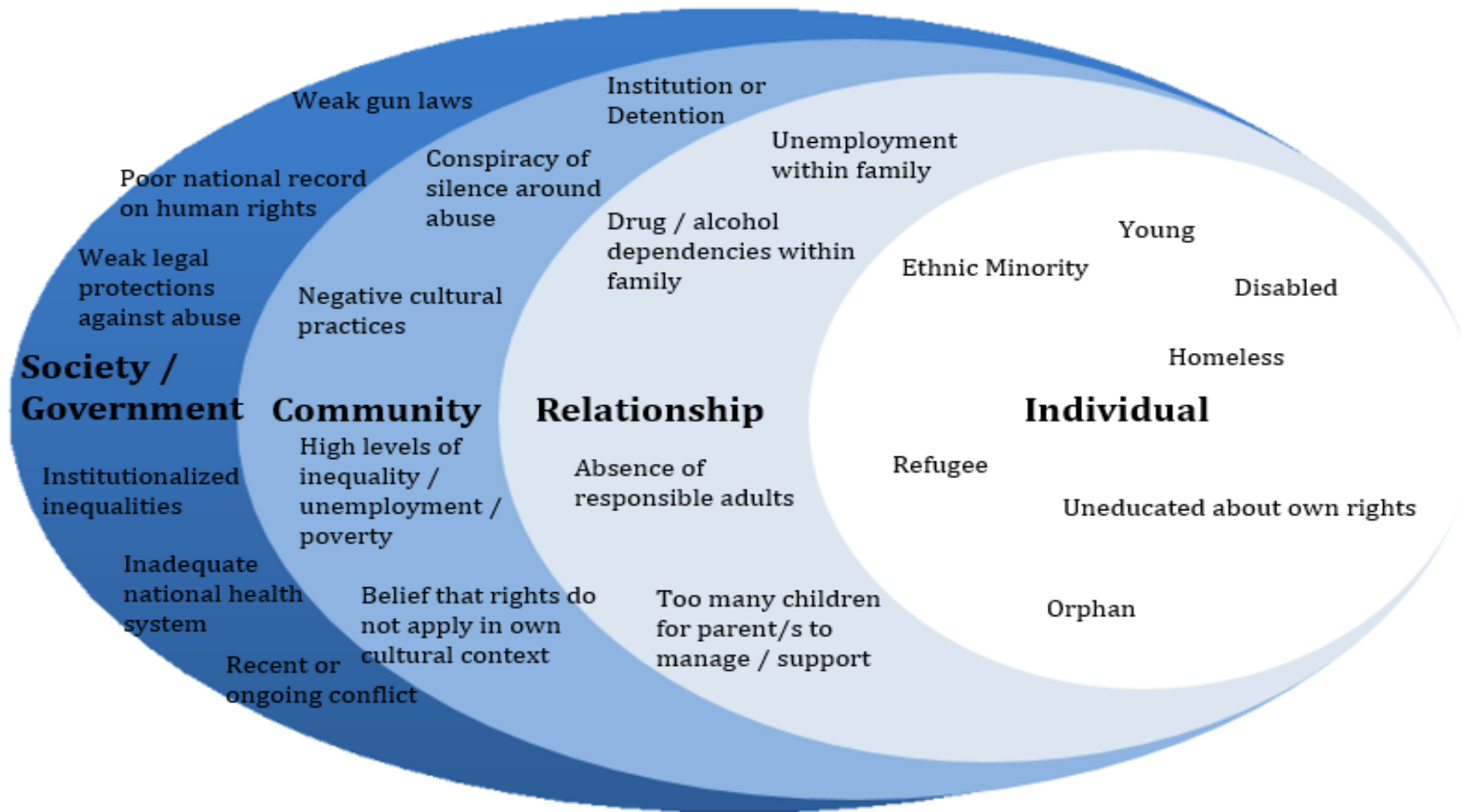


Mental Health Intervention Spectrum



SOURCE: Adapted from Institute of Medicine (1994, p

Micro- to Macro-level factors



Lifespan

Developmental Stages



Infancy & early childhood

Middle childhood

Early adolescence

Adolescence & adulthood

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Preventive interventions

Infancy and early childhood	Middle childhood	Early adolescence	Adolescence	Early adulthood	Adulthood
(0-5 years old)	(6-10 years old)	(11-14 years old)	(15-19 years old)	(20-25 years old)	(>25 years old)

Family	Prenatal & infancy visitation (Selective & indicated)	Parental skills (Universal & selective)			
School	Early childhood education (Selective)	Personal & social skills education (universal & selective)	Personal & social skills education (universal & selective)		
		Classroom management (Universal)	School policies (Universal & selective)		
	Policies to keep children at school (Selective)				
	Addressing individual psychological vulnerabilities (Indicated)				
Community	Community-based multi-component initiatives (universal & selective)				
	Media campaigns (universal & selective)				
	Mentoring (Selective)				
Workplace	Workplace prevention (universal, selective & indicated)				
Health sector	Brief intervention (Indicated)				

Treatment

- **Long term** treatment and supportive care is needed.
- Use of **medications**, such as methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone, significantly improve opioid use disorder outcomes.
- The effectiveness of treatment is limited by problems at all levels of the **care cascade**, including diagnosis, entry into treatment, and retention in treatment.
- **Training** of health-care professionals in the treatment and prevention of drug use disorder,
- **Research** for development of alternative medications and new models of care to expand capabilities for personalised interventions.

SDG and addiction

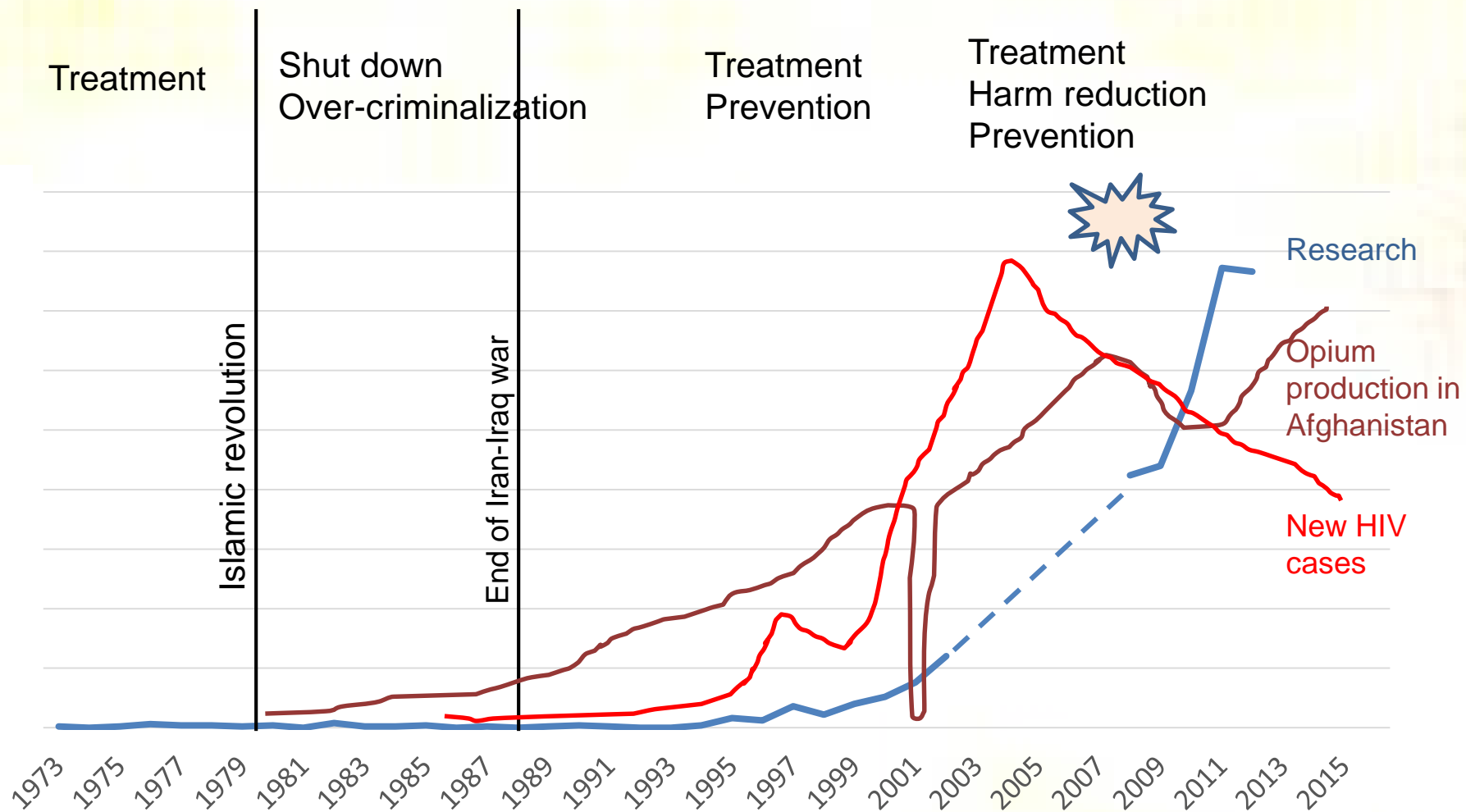
- Target 3.5: **Strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse**
 - Balance between prohibition with prevention and treatment
 - Wide access to prevention and treatment
- Target 3.3: **Ending epidemics of AIDS, hepatitis and tuberculosis**
 - Harm reduction interventions
 - Anti-retroviral treatment for PWID with HIV/AIDS
- Target 3.8: **Achieving universal health coverage, access to safe, effective, quality and affordable services and essential medicines for all**
 - Adequate amount of funds available
 - Integration of the services in the PHC
 - Pain medications available to those in need

Available services for drug users in Iran, 2016

(DCHQs, 2016)

Available Services for drug users	No. of centers	No. of drug users received services
All services	6341	764,500
Drug treatment centers	5263	530,091
Methadone maintenance treatment	-	399,508
Buprenorphine maintenance treatment	-	65,182
Outpatient detoxification	-	63,375
Inpatient detoxification	-	2,026
DICs	209	65,714
Outreach team	347	26,702
Shelter	42	5,946
Therapeutic Community	20	2,107
Residential drug treatment Centers	807	133,940

Drug-related trends

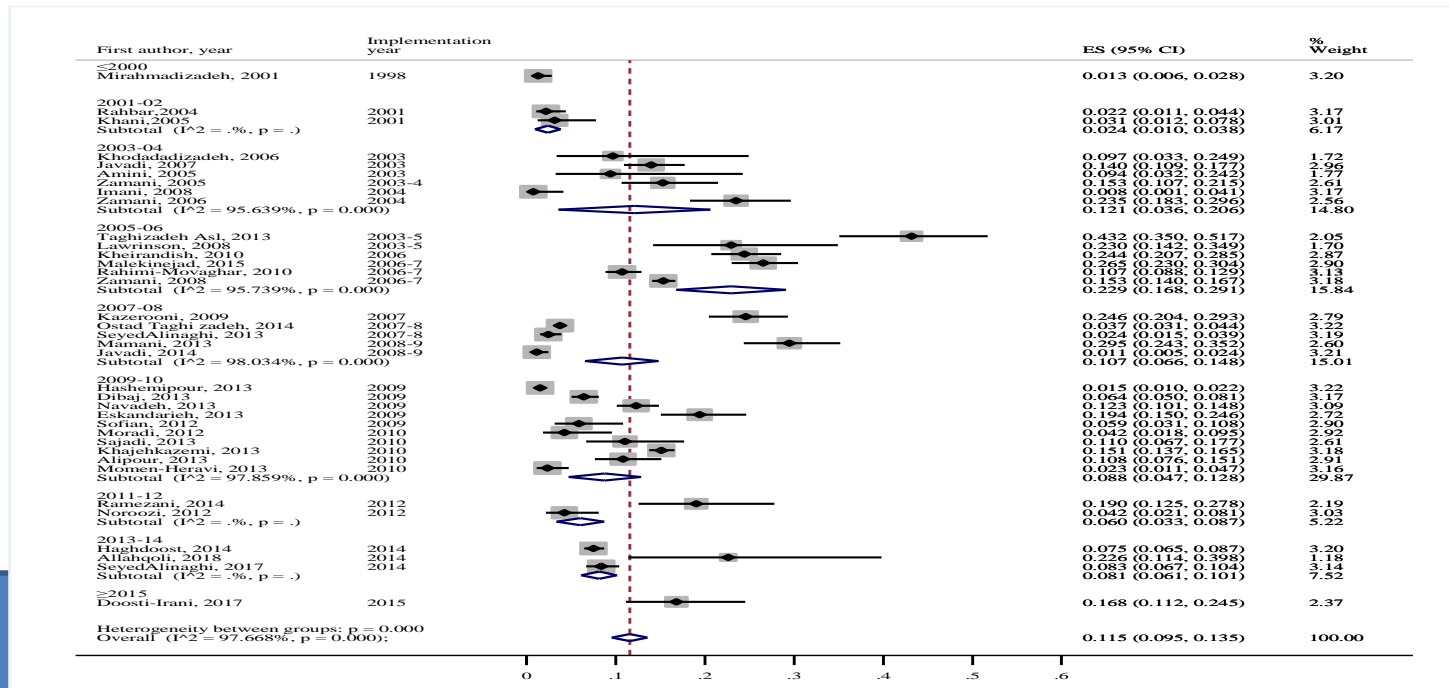


SR on HIV among IDUs

(Rahimi et al, In Print)

The prevalence of HIV was 14.6% (95% CI: 11.2-18.0) in 2005-2018 among PWID.

Assessment of the trend over time did not show an increase in the HIV prevalence.



Top 10 countries in the numbers of papers published on **opioids** in years 2010-2014

Scopus

