



# COLLOQUE ATHS BIARRITZ

Colloque International Addictions Toxicomanies Hépatites SIDA



# Risks Reduction, the history of a success: **CONSUMPTION ROOMS & PREVENTION OF OVERDOSE** **THE LAST KEY TOOLS**

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*Director of the Programme on Substance Abuse*



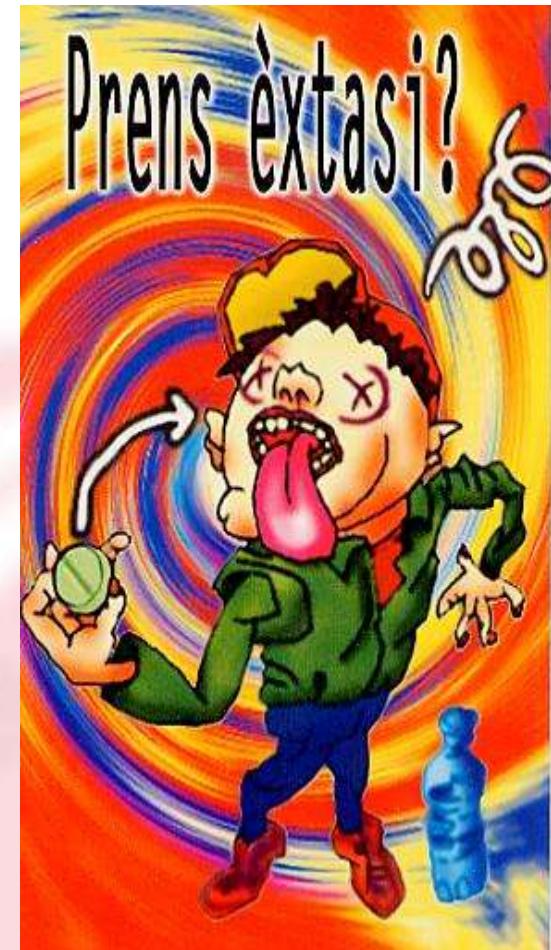
Generalitat de Catalunya  
Public Health Agency of Catalonia  
Programme on Substance Abuse

# Harm Reduction

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## General objectives

- Increase contact and retention
- Reduce morbidity and mortality
- Provide information about associated risks
- Reduce marginalization and social unrest
- Abstinence



# Harm Reduction

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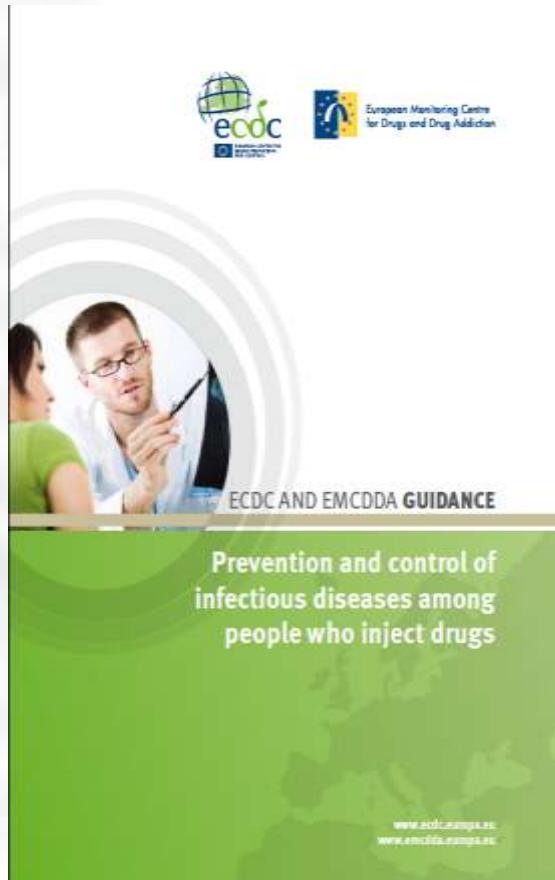
## Specific objectives

- Help prevent progression to intravenous use.
- Prevention of Hepatitis C and HIV infections.
- Preventing overdose.
- Expand strategies: hygienic drug consumption rooms, crisis centers, etc.
- Global actuation plans in social exclusion areas (with traffic and consumption of drugs).
- Establish interventions addressed to marginal and long term drug addicts: heroin test.
- Promote networking among the affected people and its participation.



# 7 Key interventions

**ECDC & EMCDDA GUIDANCE. Prevention and control of infectious diseases among people who inject drugs. October 2011**



- 1. Access to syringes and injecting material**
- 2. Treatment for drug addiction: Opiates substitution treatment**
3. Vaccinations
4. Screening of infections
5. Treatment of Infectious diseases
6. Health Education: safer injection, safer sex, BBV prevention, ....
7. Combined interventions adapted to drug users and to the local conditions: outreach work, drop in centres, **drug consumption rooms**,...



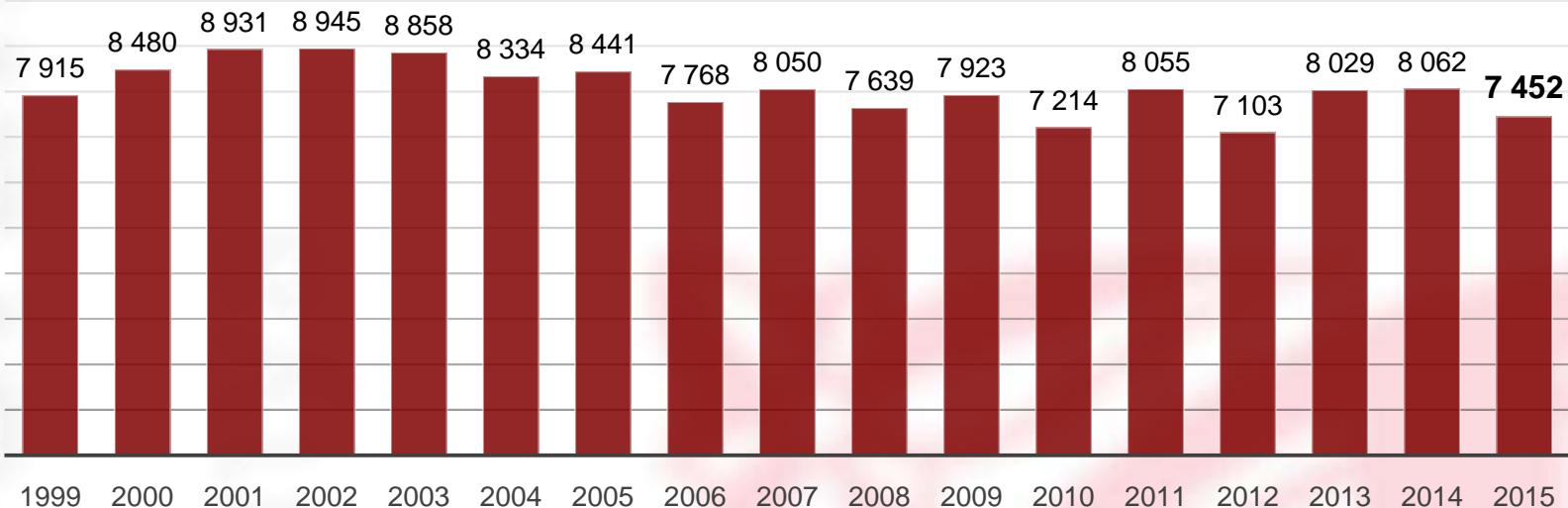
# Harm Reduction interventions in Catalonia

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- 1 Opioid substitution programme: 8.000 people
- 2 Syringe exchange programme (also in prisons): 800.000 syringes/year
- 3 Outreach work: Street work, Mobile units, Peer involvement,...
- 4 Low threshold centres (drop in) with social and health care.
- 5 Blood Borned Viruses tests & counselling (rapid tests) + HBV/HVA vaccinations.  
**Access to HIV and Hepatitis treatment**
- 6 Supervised drug consumption rooms: 100.000 syringes/year
- 7 Training in a more hygienic consumption, safer sex ...
- 8 Action plan in drug trafficking and consumption areas
- 9 Access to Health care system for all drug users
- 10 Heroin trial
- 11 Overdose Prevention Programme  
1.273 professionals trained 6.031 users trained and 5.864 naloxone vials distributed.
- 12 Promotion and support of drug users and patient organisations

# Opioid Sustitution Therapy Programme (OST)

## People in OST Programme



Source: Subdirecció General de Drogodependències. Departament de Salut

## Where?



Drug treatment centres



Primary care centers



Mental Health care centers



Harm Reduction centers



Hospitals



Community pharmacies



Therapeutic communities



Prisons



# Opioid Substitution Therapy Programme (OST)

## WHO recommendations

Opiate users who are in OST	Coverage
<20%	Low
20-40%	Medium
>40%	High

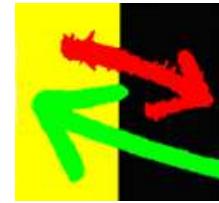
OST =  
High Coverage  
(60%)

## Effectiveness of OST Programme

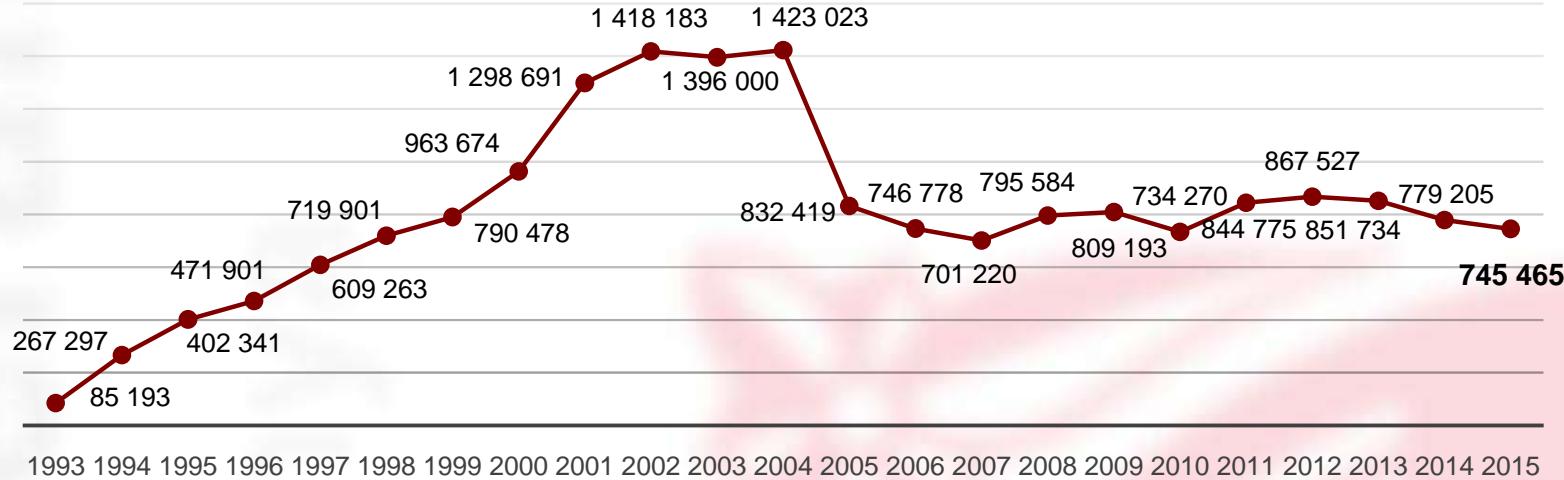
- Mortality by overdose**
- ↓ Consumption of illegal opioids (does > 60 mg./Day)
- ↑ Retention in treatment
- ↓ Risk behaviours
- ↓ Criminality
- ↑ Quality of life



# Syringe Exchange Programme



## Evolution of the amount of distributed syringes



## Where?



Drug treatment centres



Primary care centers



Harm Reduction centers



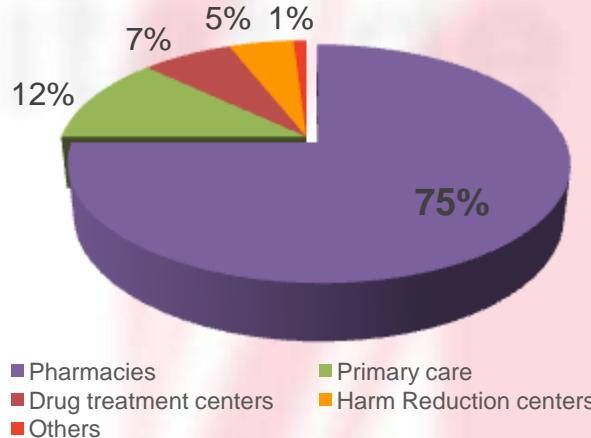
Hospitals



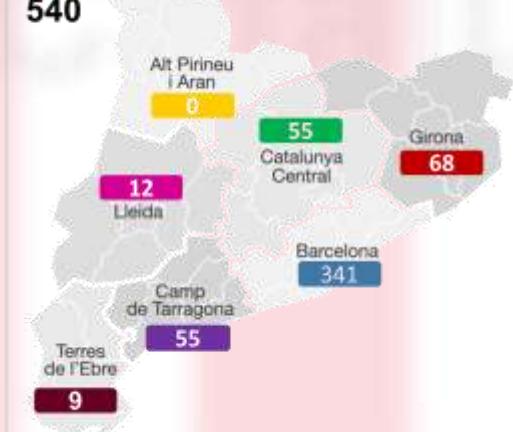
Community pharmacies



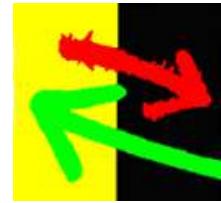
Prisons



PIX  
540



# Syringe Exchange Programme



## WHO recommendations

Syringe/year per user	Coverage
<100	Low
100-200	Medium
>200	High

Syringe Exchange  
Programme =  
**Medium Coverage**



## Effectiveness of Syringe Exchange Programme

- ⬇ HIV infection and reinfection
- ⬆ Consumer practices without risk
- ⬆ Contact with professionals and access to treatment
- ⬇ Less cost than HIV & HCV treatments
- ⬇ Material of consumption already used abandoned in the street



# Outreach work: Street work

Professionals, mainly social workers, that work outdoors, in areas of consumption and socially deprived.

- **11 Street work teams** working *in situ* with active drug users who don't go to harm reduction resources.
- **Actions:**
  - ✓ Dynamise the project "Snowball".
  - ✓ Pickup of injection material in public spaces.
  - ✓ Coordination and referral to social and health resources.
  - ✓ Health education.



# Outreach work: Mobile units

**Main objective:** bring the social health services closer to the consumption areas and with high risk exclusion.

- **6 Mobile Units (3 with Drug Consumption Room)**
- **Actions:** multiple actions and plans
  - ✓ Opioid substitution therapy (OST)
  - ✓ Consumption rooms
  - ✓ Exchange syringes programme (PIJ)
  - ✓ Place for health care
  - ✓ Socio-educational care
  - ✓ Monitoring the HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis treatment
  - ✓ Preventing overdose by opioids and/or psychostimulants

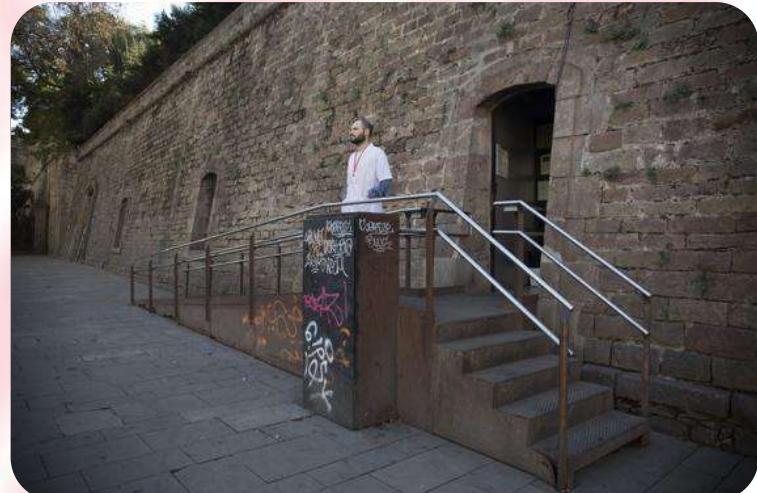


# Low threshold centres (drop in) with social and health care

Social and health services for active drug users

**Main objective:** minimize the damages and risks related to drug use

- **16 centres**
- **Actions:**
  - ✓ Social care
  - ✓ Consumption room
  - ✓ Syringe exchange programmes
  - ✓ Opioid substitution therapy
  - ✓ HIV, TBC and HC screening
  - ✓ Health education
  - ✓ Prevention of opiate and psychostimulants overdoses



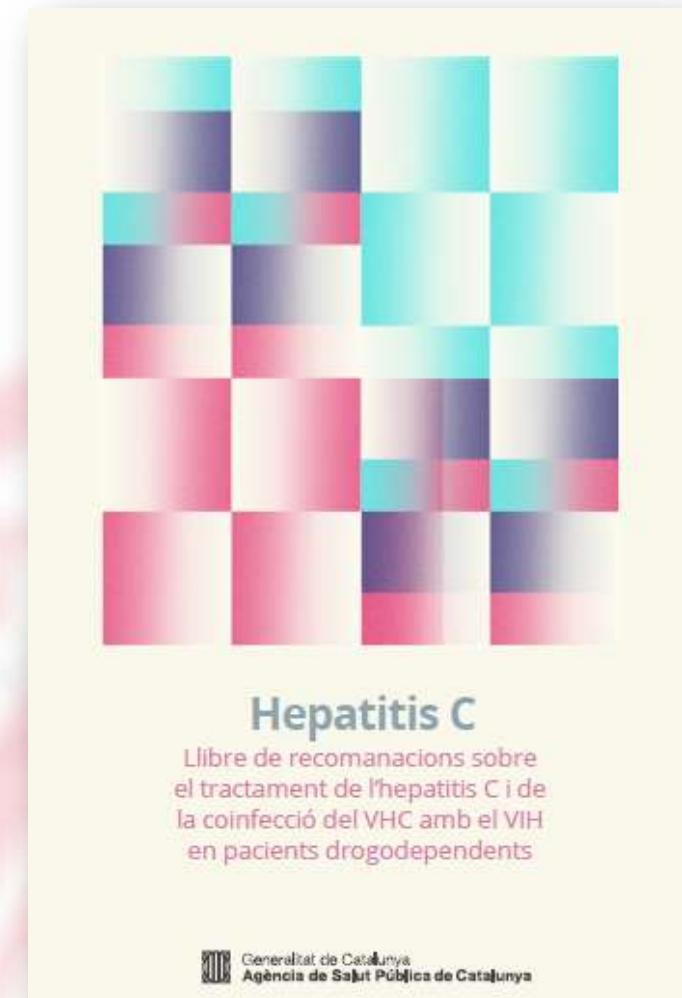


# Access to HIV and hepatitis treatment

**Main objective:** Prevent, diagnose and facilitate the access to the treatment to those drug users infected by HIV and HCV.

- **Actions:**

- ✓ Training to professionals and users
- ✓ Edition of professional guides and awareness materials aimed at drug users.
- ✓ Awareness campaigns aimed to the general public.
- ✓ Monitoring of prevalence
- ✓ Early diagnosis (quick tests)



*Guidelines to increase access to Hepatitis C treatment for drug users*

# Training: Health care workshops for active drug users



**6 teams** provide health prevention trainings:

- ✓ Overdose prevention
- ✓ Safer sex
- ✓ Safe injecting

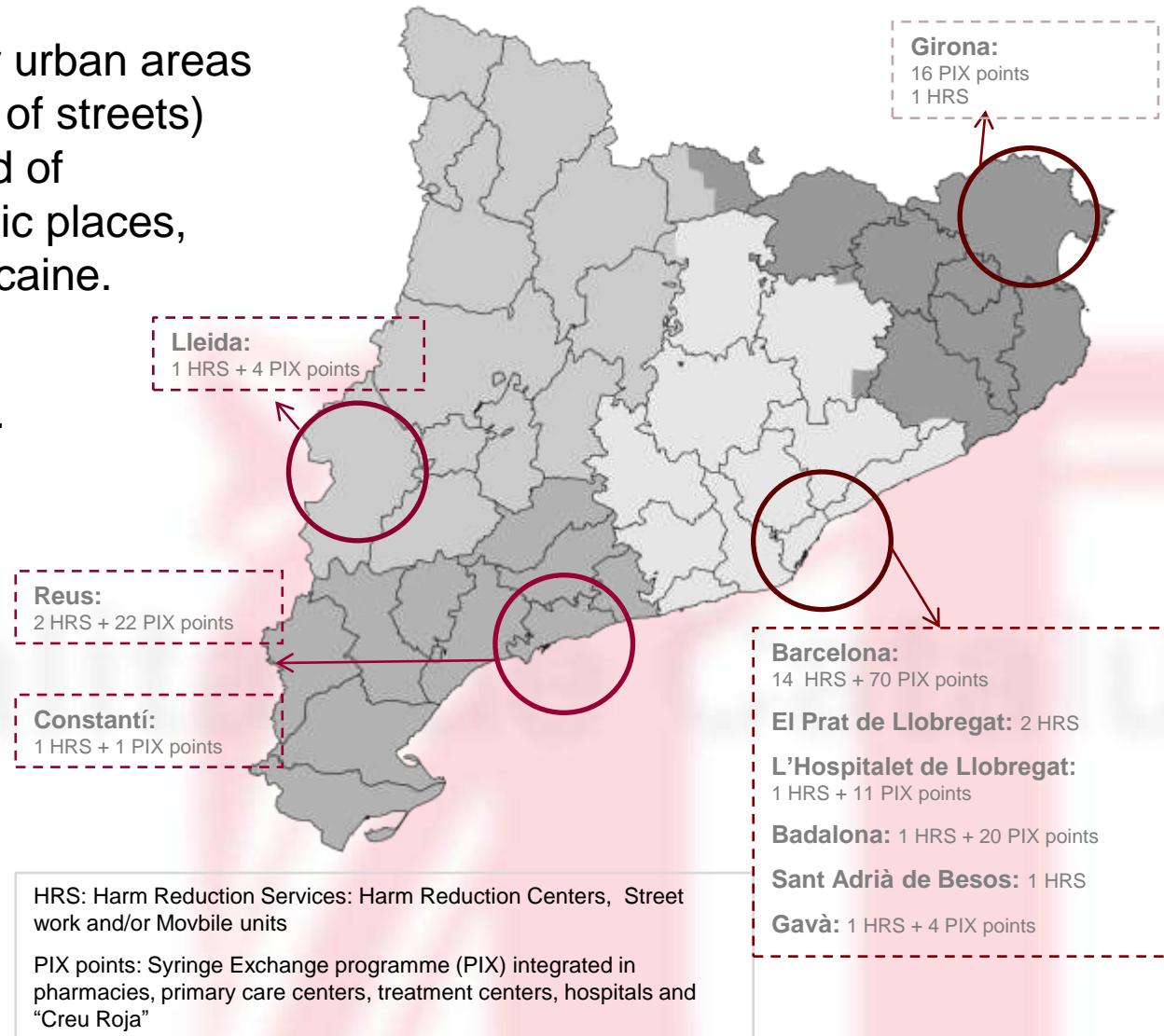
- ✓ 55 sessions/year
- ✓ More than 200 different users/year



# Action plan in drug trafficking and consumption areas

Demarcated areas or urban areas (neighborhood or set of streets) where there is all kind of consumptions in public places, mainly heroin and cocaine.

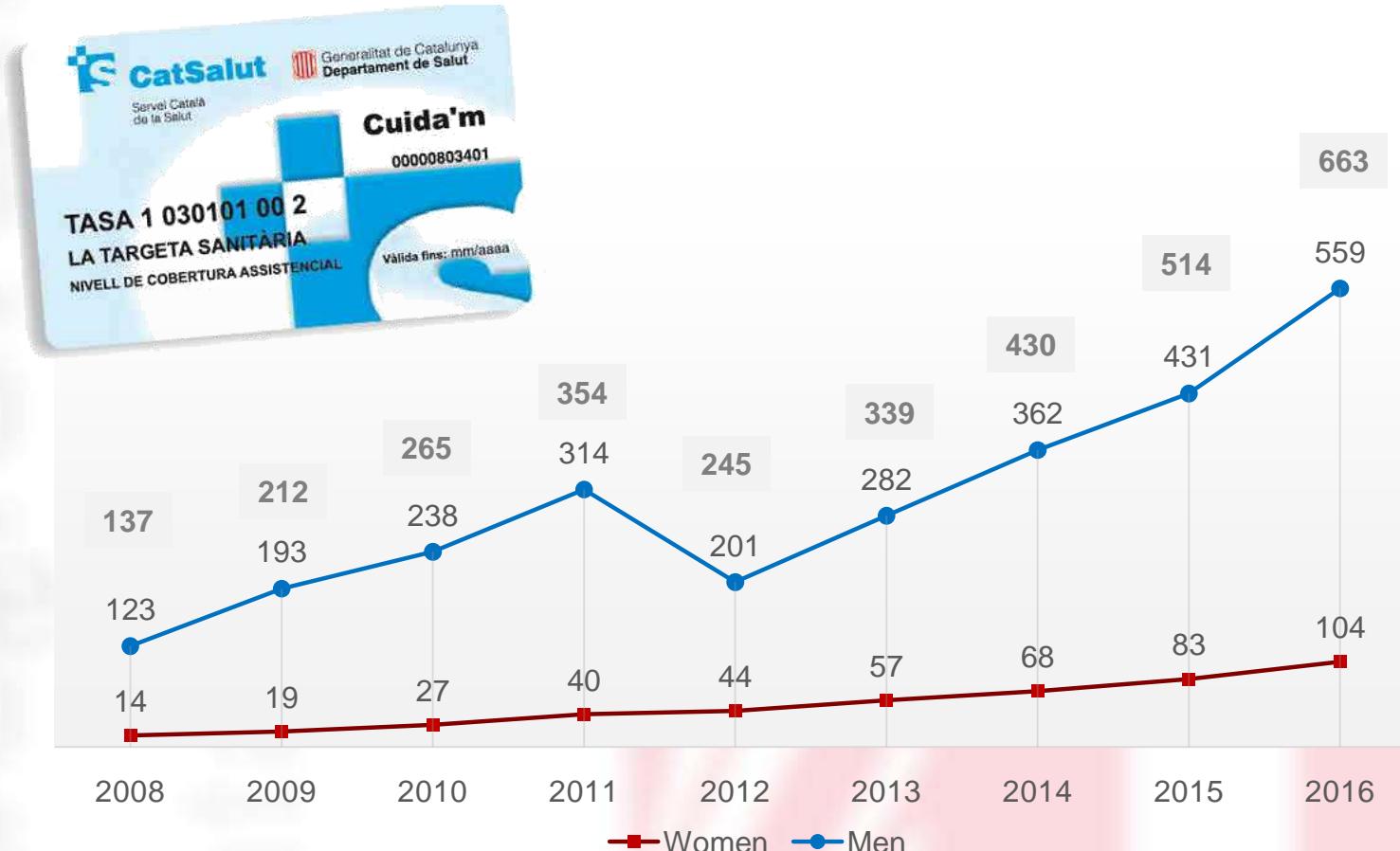
Often these areas are near traffic areas.



# Access to Health System for all drug users.

## Immigrants without documentation.

Guarantees access to public health and resources to treat drug addiction.



Active drug users by sex (2008-16)

# Heroin Trial

## Research Report

European  
Addiction  
Research

Eur Addict Res 2012;18:279–287  
DOI: 10.1159/000336849

Received: September 26, 2011  
Accepted: January 25, 2012  
Published online: July 31, 2012

### Feasibility of Double-Blind Clinical Trials with Oral Diacetylmorphine: A Randomized Controlled Phase II Study in an Inpatient Setting

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Miquel del Río<sup>e</sup> Carlos Roncero<sup>b,c,h</sup> Xavier Castells<sup>b,f,g</sup> Sergi Valero<sup>b,c,h</sup>  
Francisco José Eiroa-Orosa<sup>b,c,h</sup> Francisca Batlle<sup>c,d</sup> Joan Trujols<sup>d,h</sup>  
on behalf of the Catalan Oral Heroin Study Group

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# Supervised drug Consumption Rooms

Installations where people can consume with some privacy and under supervision of one or more professionals, who can help if necessary.

## Objectives:

- ✓ Preventing contagious diseases among its users.
- ✓ **Preventing overdose.**
- ✓ Facilitate the contact and the work with active drug dependence
- ✓ Facilitate the access to the treatment.

- **Total: 13**

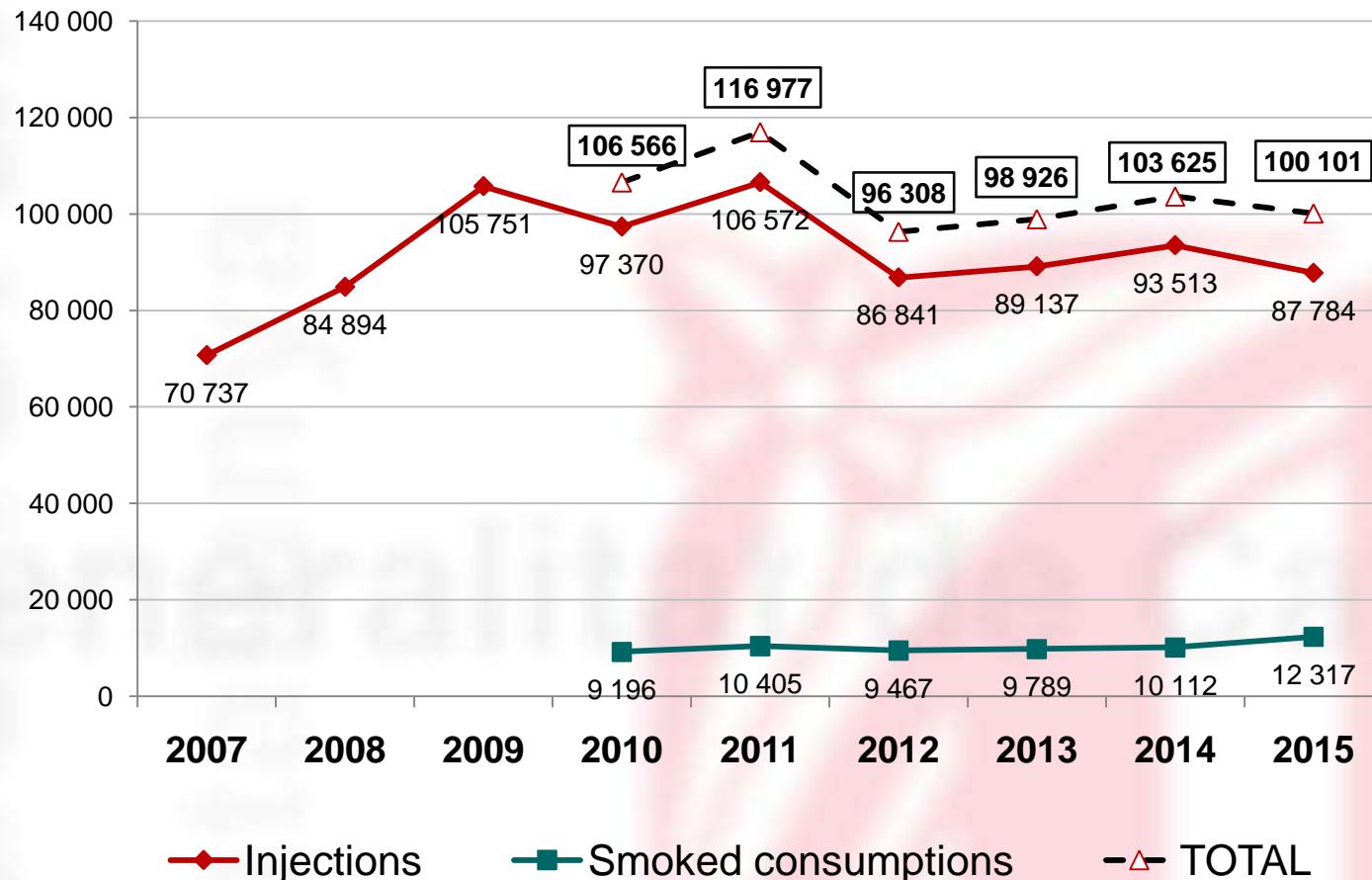
**10 in fix installations** (2 with smoking room)

**+ 3 in mobile units**



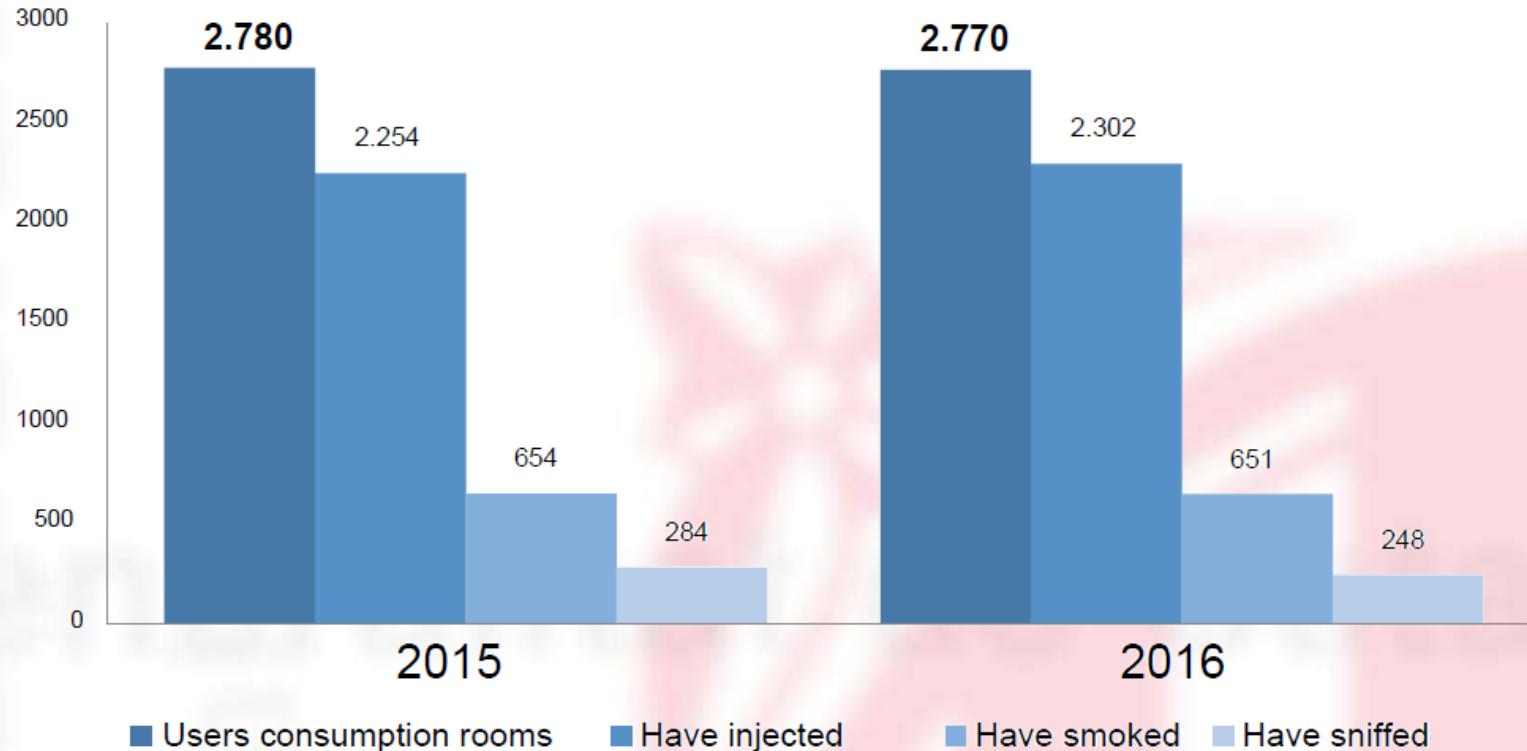
# Supervised drug Consumption Rooms

## Evolution of CONSUMPTIONS



# Supervised drug Consumption Rooms

## Number of CONSUMERS



# Supervised drug Consumption Rooms

## 13 Supervised drug



### Criteria to access:

- Legal age (+18)
- Injecting drug users
- Smoking drug users (smoking room)
- Not being intoxicated
- Pregnant???



Spaces for assisted venipuncture



Spaces for smoking



# Supervised drug Consumption Rooms

**Material procured for the supervised consumption:**



- Sterile syringe
- Distilled water
  - Cup
  - Filter
  - Smart
- Alcohol pads



## Actions during consumption process

**BEFORE**

- Evaluation of risk and advice
- Education for Overdose prevention
- Facilitation of equipment for hygienic consumption

**DURING**

- Advice, support and education for hygienic consumption
- Supervision of consumption.

**AFTER**

- Treatment of adverse reactions or overdoses by opioids and/or psychostimulants.
- Safe disposal of used injection material
- Basic nursing cures
- Information on treatment of organic pathology.

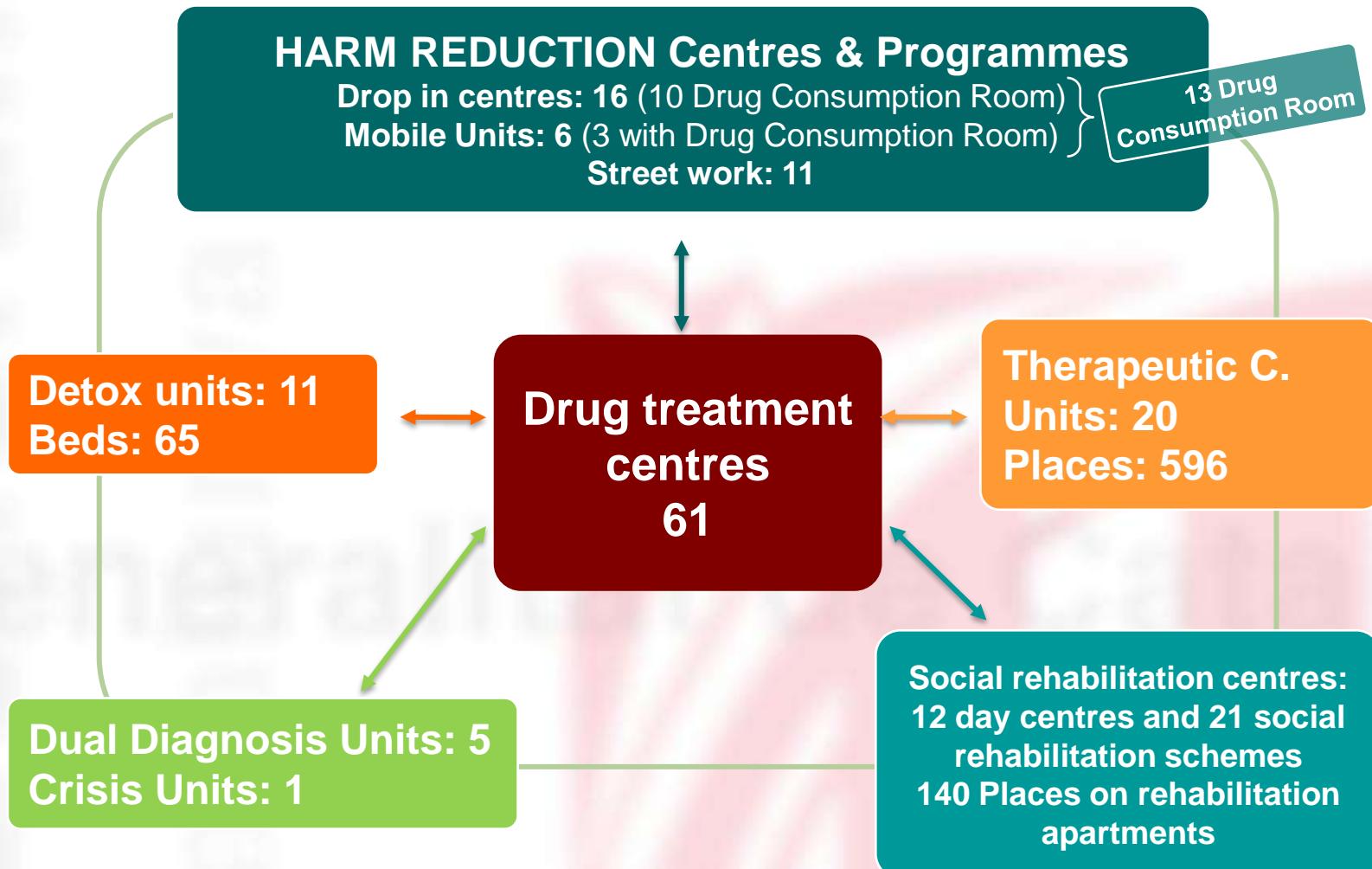
# Supervised drug Consumption Rooms

## Difficulties in its opening

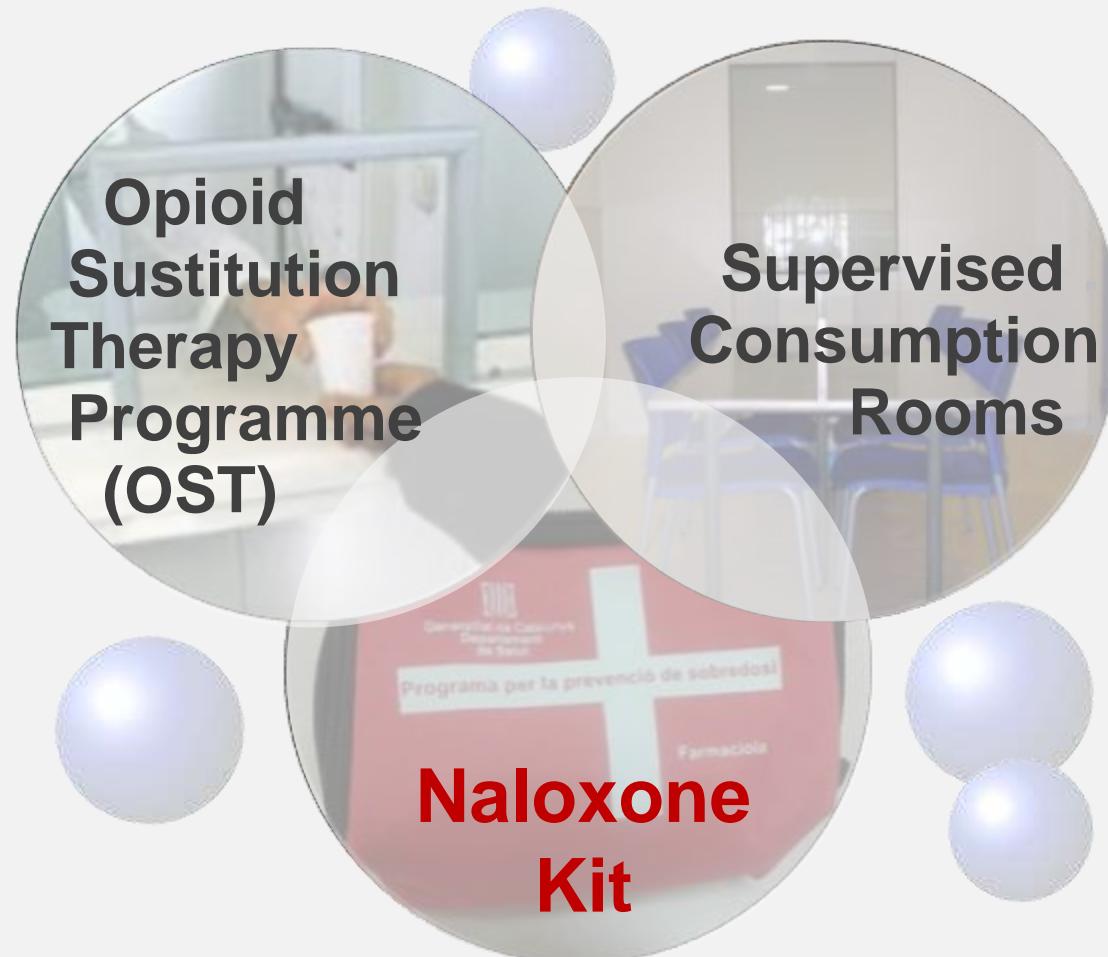


First room consumption  
in Catalonia in 2001

# Drug addiction care and treatment Network (XAD)



# Overdose prevention programme



# Overdose prevention programme



- Mortality among opiate consumer: > 2 per 100 persons/year.
- Overdose mortality: 1 per 100 persons/year.
- Overdose → Main cause of death among drug users.
- Preventable accidents. In case of opiate overdoses there is enough time to act (death is between 1 and 3 hours after consumption).
- It is possible to reverse an opiate overdoses with simple measures.
- There are more tools for act in case of opiate overdoses.

# Overdose prevention programme



## Risk factors of overdose

- Loss of tolerance
- Consumption intravenously: 14 times more likely to death
- Mixture of substances
  - Heroin/Methadone + Alcohol
  - Heroin/Methadone + Hipno-sedatives
  - Cocaine + Amphetamines
  - Cocaine + Ecsatsy
- Consuming alone
- Consumption of methadone without being in treatment





# Overdose prevention programme

## Annual evolution of the main causes of mortality Barcelona 1999-2008

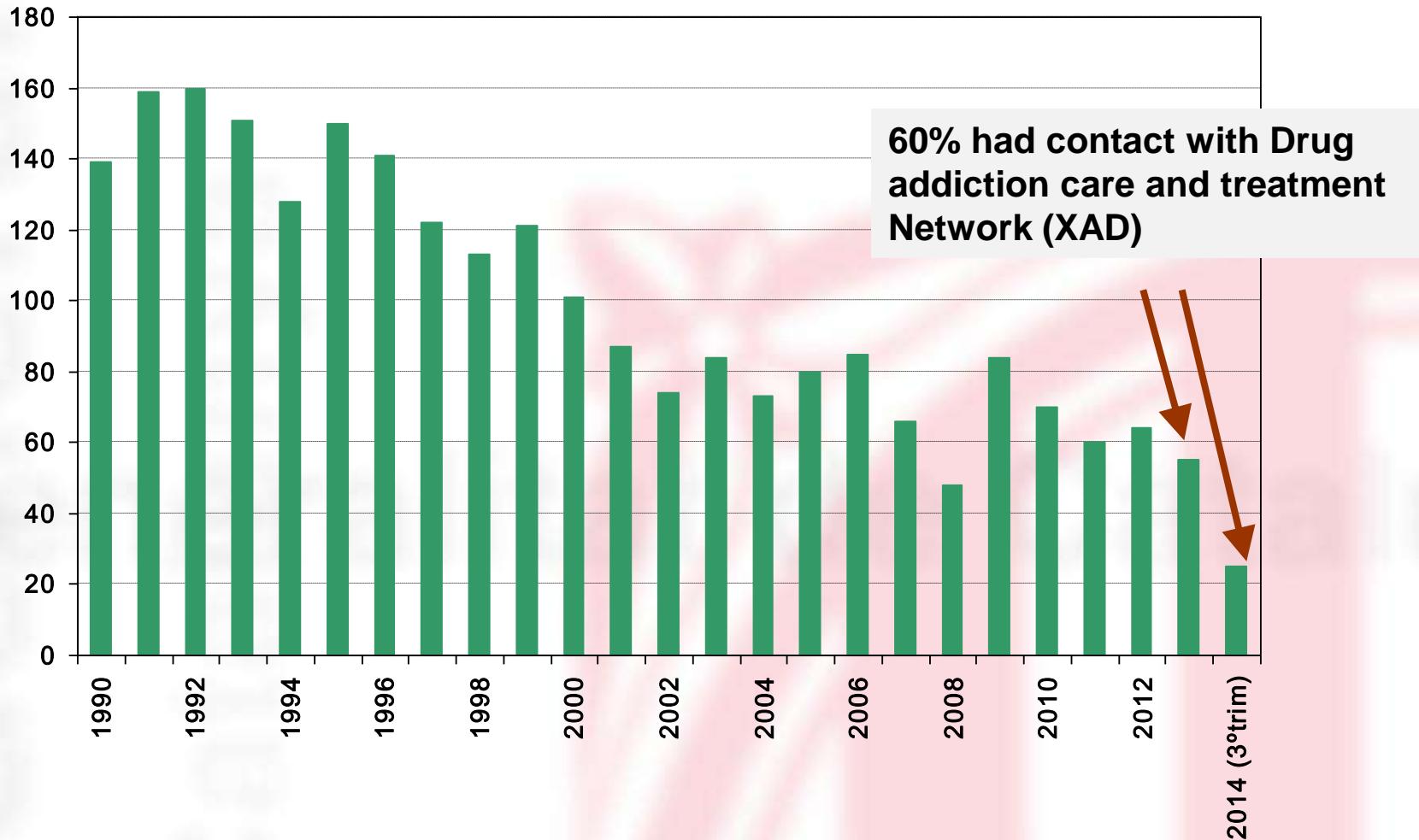
Standardized rates per 100 inhabitants aged 15 to 44 years

MEN	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Traffic accidents	18,3	13,0	15,0	14,3	14,6	7,5	11,1	7,1	8,6	5,2
Overdose	16,5	14,0	14,2	11,3	14,0	10,2	12,4	10,3	7,4	3,7
Suicide	8,7	9,3	10,0	10,1	8,1	11,5	10,3	6,5	7,4	6,7
Aids	14,0	16,6	13,7	14,0	8,6	6,9	7,5	5,8	4,7	3,5
All causes	146,8	131,6	121,9	115,5	114,4	89,8	96,6	80,7	78,5	66,5
WOMEN										
Breast cancer	5,6	4,7	4,4	6,1	2,6	4,0	4,4	3,0	4,7	3,6
Suicide	2,8	3,0	5,0	3,1	4,5	3,3	4,0	3,6	3,6	1,9
Traffic accidents	4,1	3,5	5,5	3,4	4,2	1,6	1,8	0,7	2,8	1,9
Overdose	3,9	4,3	3,0	2,1	3,3	2,1	3,4	3,0	2,2	0,7
Aids	3,8	3,5	6,7	4,8	4,2	1,8	2,8	2,0	2,0	1,5
All causes	54,7	51,1	64,1	59,2	49,4	37,5	44,7	39,3	40,6	35,7

# Overdose prevention programme



## Evolution of overdose deaths in Barcelona 1990-2014 (ASPB)



# Overdose prevention programme: Naloxone Kit



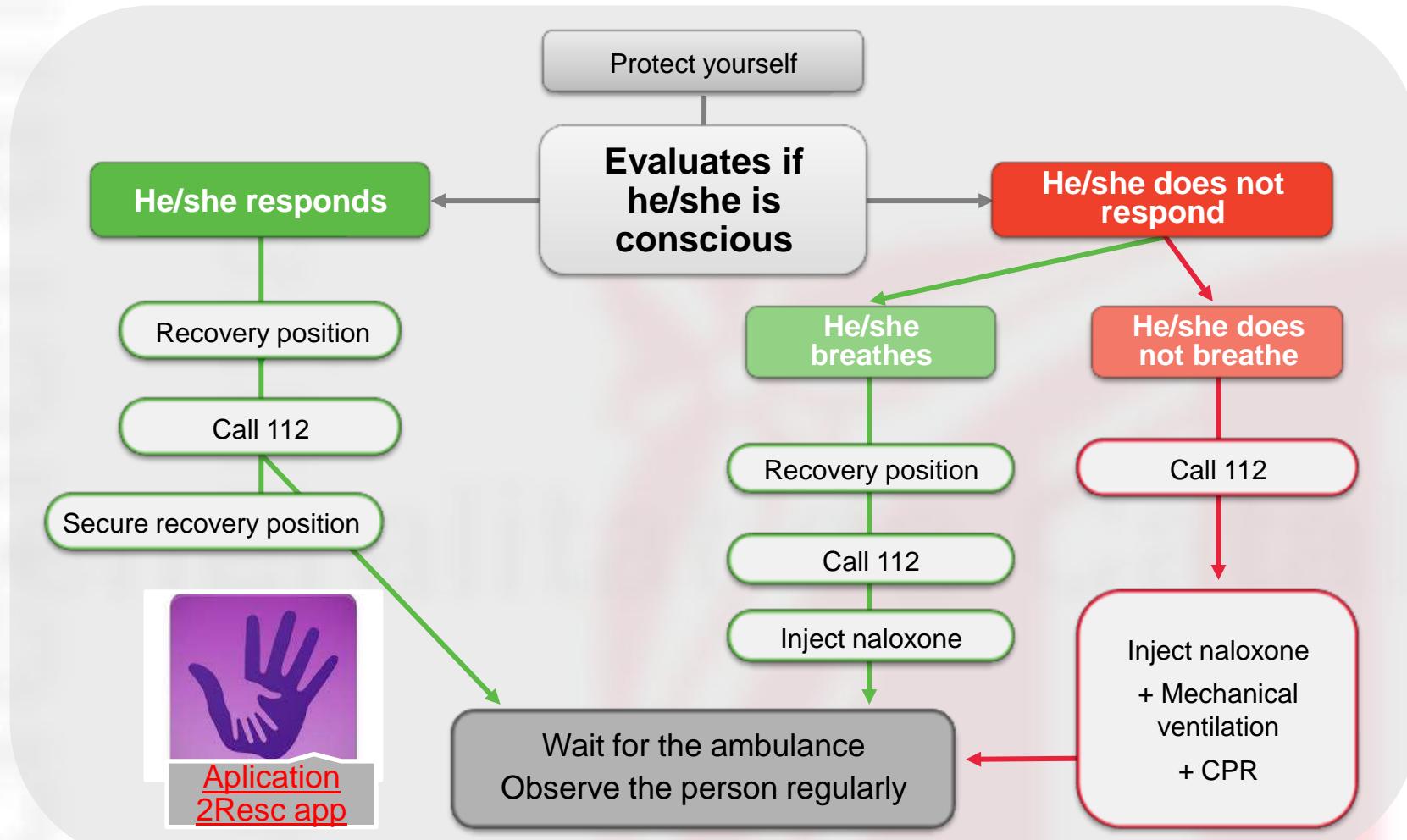
- Programme to train drug users on overdose prevention and response.
- Drug users are trained by professionals in Drug Care Centres.
- Once trained, they are provided with a kit with naloxone.
- Since 2008:
  - 1.273 professionals trained
  - 6.031 users trained.
  - 5.864 naloxone vials distributed.



# Overdose prevention programme: Naloxone Kit



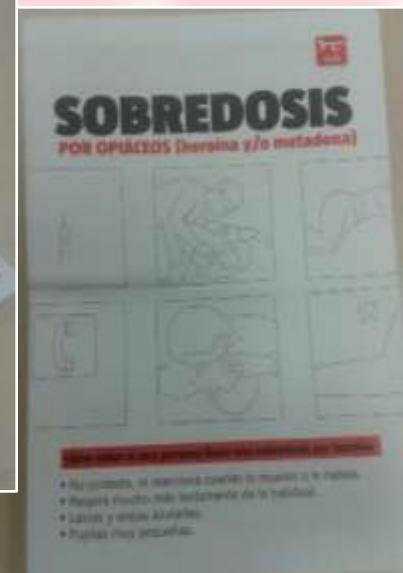
## TRAINNING: What to do in case of HEROIN overdose?



# Overdose prevention programme: Naloxone Kit



## Kit





# Overdose prevention programme

## Educational materials to support drug users

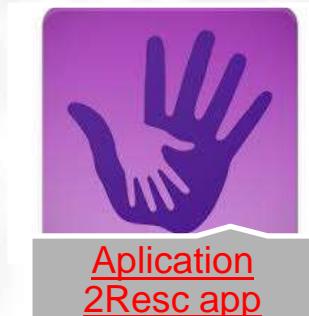
### Video



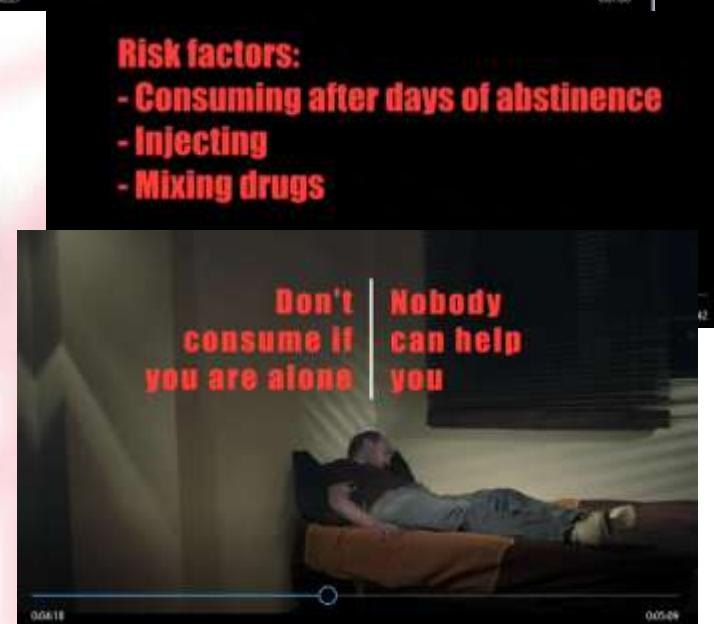
#### Risk factors:

- Consuming after days of abstinence
- Injecting
- Mixing drugs

### Platform - APP



Application  
2Resc app



# Overdose prevention programme



## Educational materials to support drug users

### Guides



#### Programa de Prevenció de Sobreddosis



El Departament de Salut ha engagat un programa en el qual els consumidors d'opiacis es formen per prevenir i actuar davant d'una sobreddosi.

Un component d'aquests programa es la dispensació de naloxones als propis afectats un cop formats.



Moltes gràcies per la vostra col·laboració!

Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Salut

Si voleu més informació escriviu a: projecte.sobreddosi@gecet.cat

### Posters



# Overdose prevention programme



## Educational materials to support drug users

### Cards on overdose

**Compte amb la sobredosi**



Controla les dosis...

- » Si fa dies que no consumeixes. Si fa poc que has sortit de la presó, fica't-ho en dues tandes, serà el millor.
- » Si has consumit alcohol o pastilles.
- » Si no controls la substància o el camell que te l'ha passat, tastà-ho en dues tandes.
- » Si ets propens a patir sobredosis.

**PER UN CONSUM MÉS HIGIÈNIC I MÉS SEGUR**  
Si estàs pensant en fer tractament, posa't en contacte amb el teu cas o truca a la línia verda: 900 900 540

Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Salut

grup i gia

**Cuida les teves venes**



**Utiliza et tot material nou sense utilitzar**



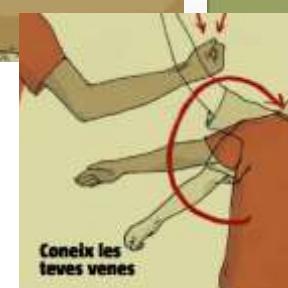
**Cuida les teves venes**



**Cuida les teves venes**



**Coneix les teves venes**



**Utiliza poc àcid cítric**



**Cuida les teves venes**



**Cuida l'entorn**



**Ben utilitzada, t'ajudarà**

- » Per buscar la vena usa la gamma llançar per aplicar pressió en les extremitats.
- » No usés cinturons o altres cabells ja que no aconsegueixen poder afusar-los dípid.
- » Estira-la però no excessivament, i si tensa a trobar-la la vena treu-la i comença de nou en uns minuts.
- » Recorda sempre utilitzar-la abans d'injectar-te, evitant problemes greus.

« INJECTA I MÉS SECUREU »

**Tens les mans netes?**

- » Abans d'injectar-te cal que si n'hi tens una antisèptica: si no, utilitzar unes salses desinfectants.
- » Recalcar les manes desinfectades al risc d'infeccions.

« ABANS D'INJECTAR TE, TENS LES MANES NETES? »

« INJECTA I MÉS SECUREU »

« TENS LES MANES NETES? »

« ABANS D'INJECTAR TE, TENS LES MANES NETES? »

# Overdose prevention programme



## Educational materials to support drug users

### Cards on overdose



### Puedes tener una sobredosis...

Después de unos pocos días sin consumir, si vuelves con tu dosis habitual, puedes tener una sobredosis:

Al abandonar o acabar un tratamiento (al salir de una comunidad terapéutica, al abandonar un tratamiento de abstinencia de drogas...).

Al salir de la prisión.

Si lo has dejado por tu cuenta unos días.

El consumo continuado de drogas hace que el cuerpo se adapte a dosis cada vez más altas (tolerancia). Al cabo de pocos días sin consumir se pierde esta adaptación. Si vuelves a consumir con las dosis habituales, puedes tener una sobredosis.

Generalitat de Catalunya Departament de Salut Agència de Salut Pública Uniautònoma 900 700 500

Si estás pensando en iniciar un tratamiento, contacta con tu CAS o llama al

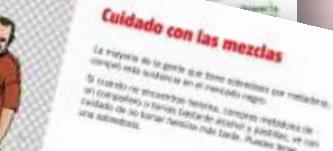


### Estando en tratamiento con metadona aún hay riesgos

Tener un tratamiento con metadona reduce mucha la probabilidad de sobredosis y se minimizan, pero todavía hay riesgos:

Si mezclas metadona con alcohol o con pastillas no prescritas por tu médico puedes tener una sobredosis.

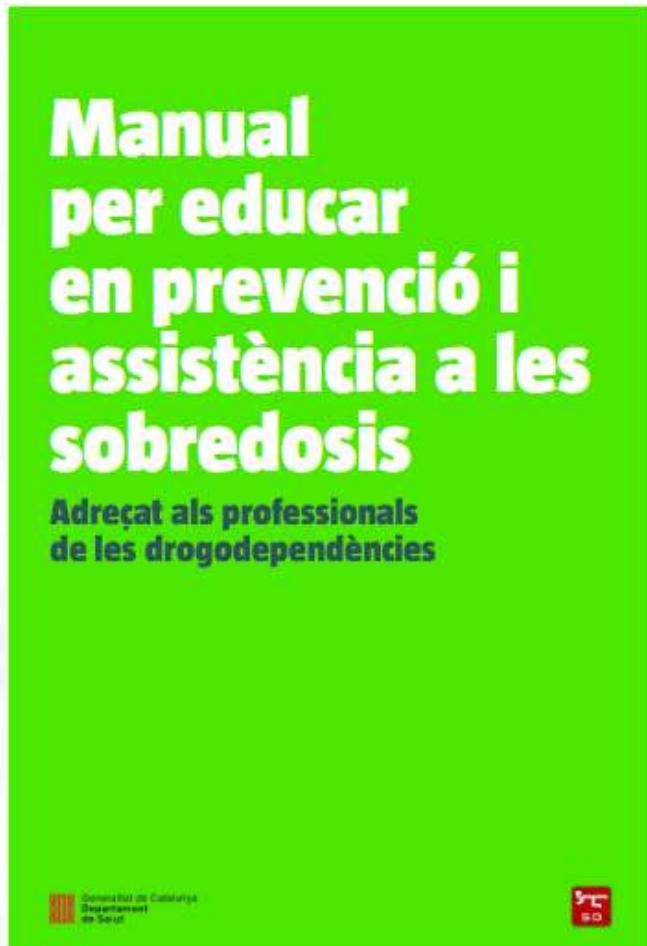
Las personas que abandonan el tratamiento con metadona tienen un mayor riesgo de sobredosis.



# Overdose prevention programme



## Materials to support professionals



- Espelt, A., Major, X., Parés-Badell, O., Carvajal, S., Gasulla, L., Bosque-Prous, M., & Brugal, M. (2015). [Implementation of Systematic Programs of Overdose Training at Drug Treatment and Prevention Centres in Catalonia, 2008-2013.](#) In: Dichtl, A. & Stöver, Heino (Eds.), Naloxon - Überlebenshilfe im Drogennotfall. Frankfurt: Fachhochschulverlag: 83-95
- [Preventing opioid overdose deaths with take-home naloxone](#), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), 2016

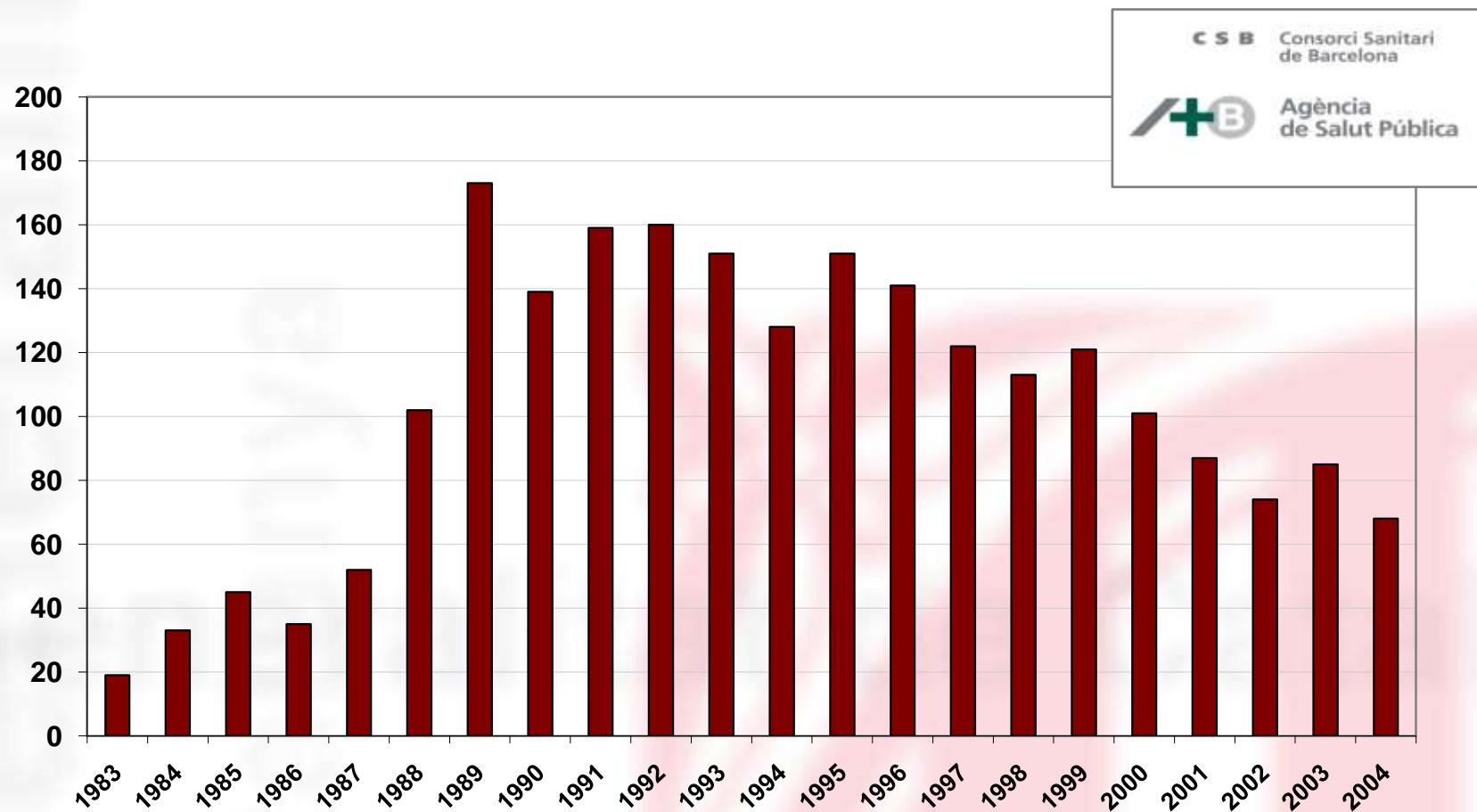
# Overdose prevention programme



## Some remarks

- During 2015 there were 123 cases of overdoses in supervised consumption rooms. None of these people died.
- Evaluation: shows an improvement in users' knowledge and skills on prevention measures and action in case of overdose.
- Highly effective programme.

# Mortality by acute adverse reaction to drugs. Barcelona



CSB

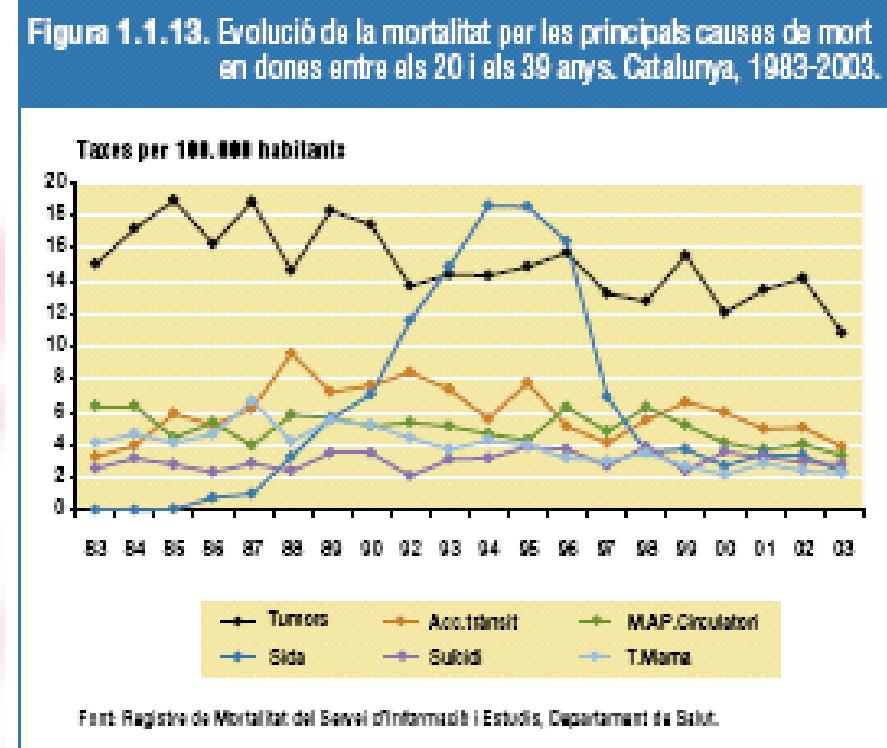
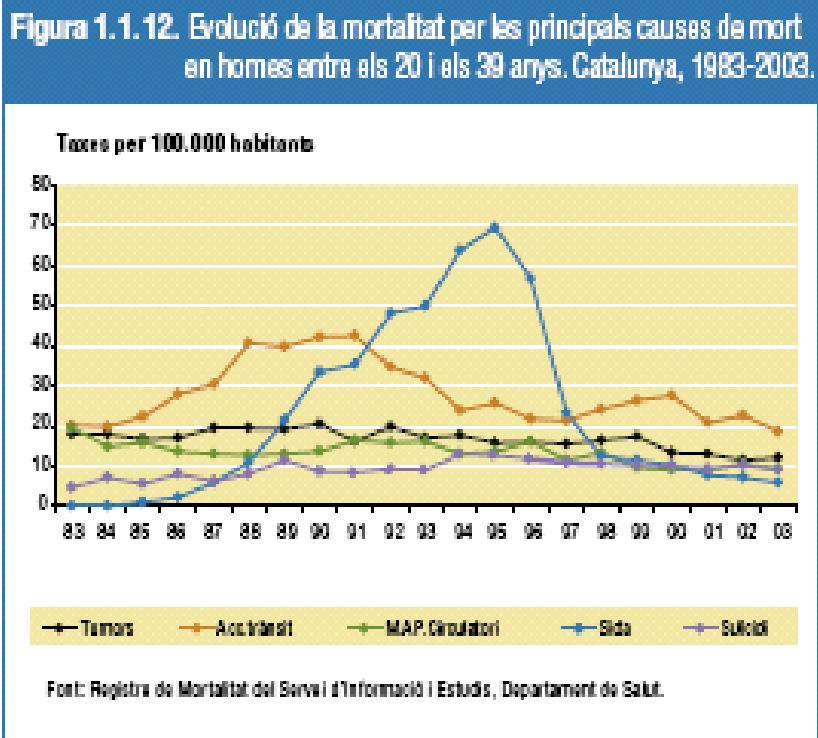
Consorci Sanitari  
de Barcelona



Agència  
de Salut Pública

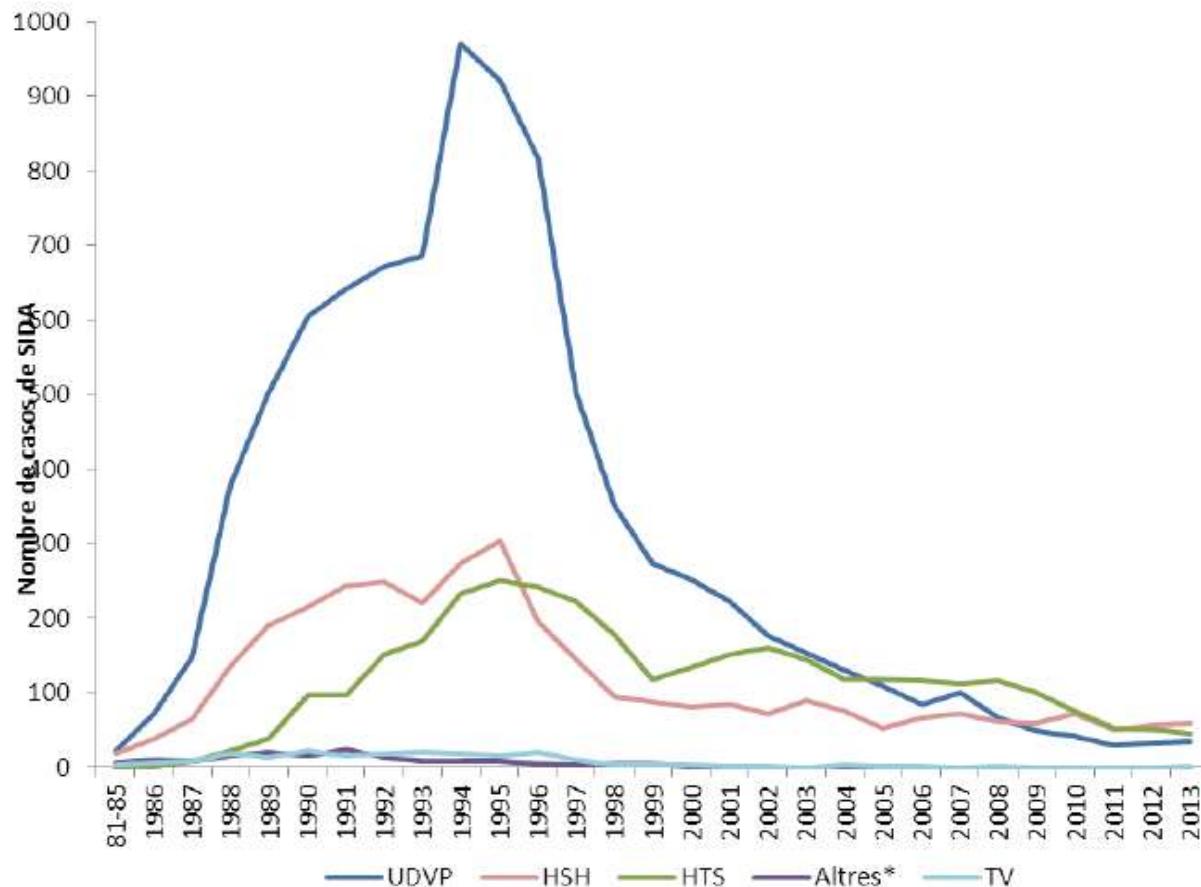
# Mortality evolution by cause in Catalonia, 1983-2003

## Men and women aged 29 to 39

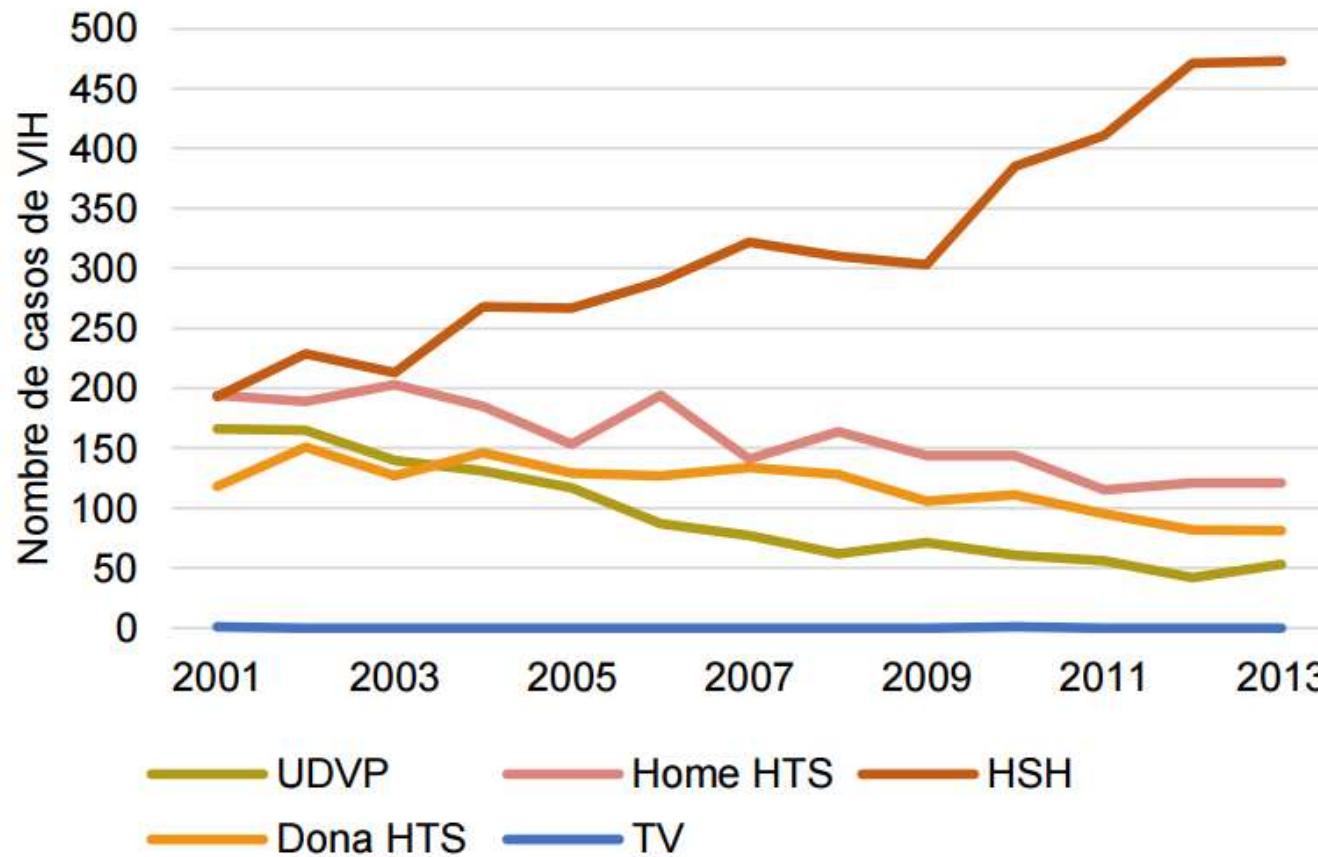


# AIDS cases by transmission groups

## Catalonia 1981-2013



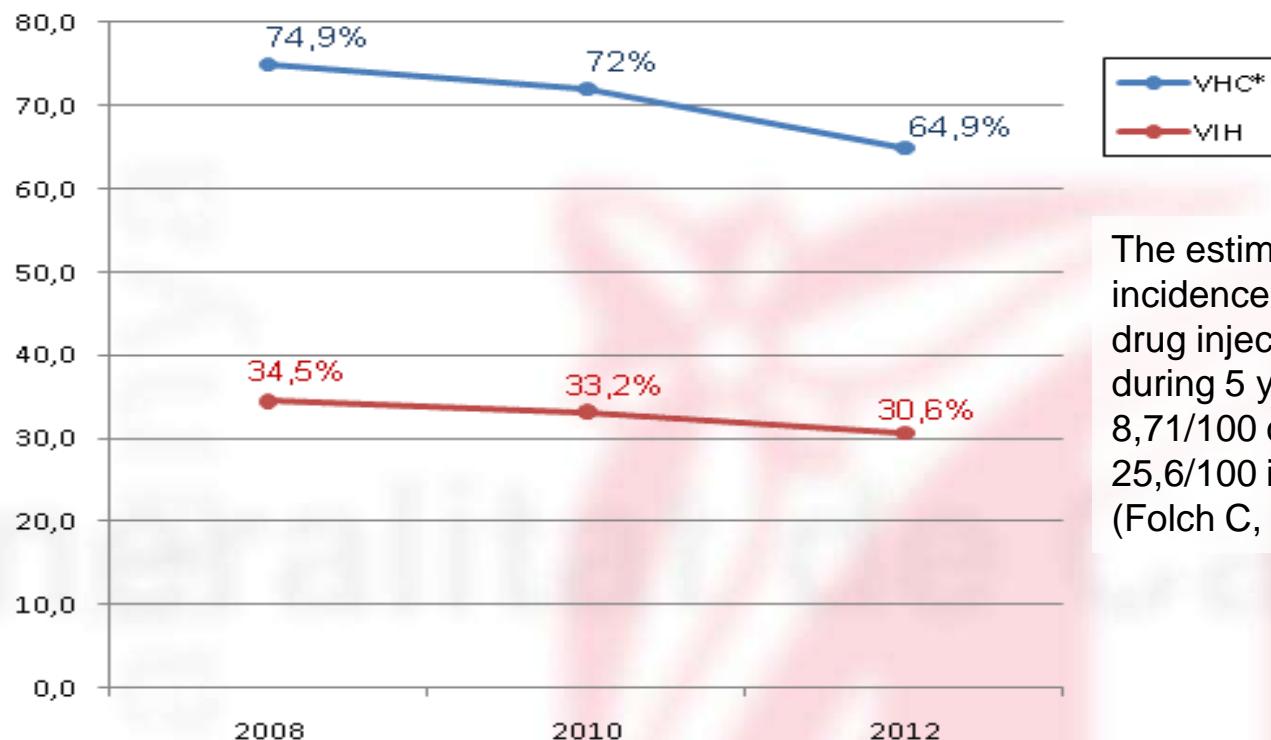
# HIV diagnoses by transmission groups. Catalonia 2001-2013



# Prevalence among IDU recruited from Harm Reduction Facilities

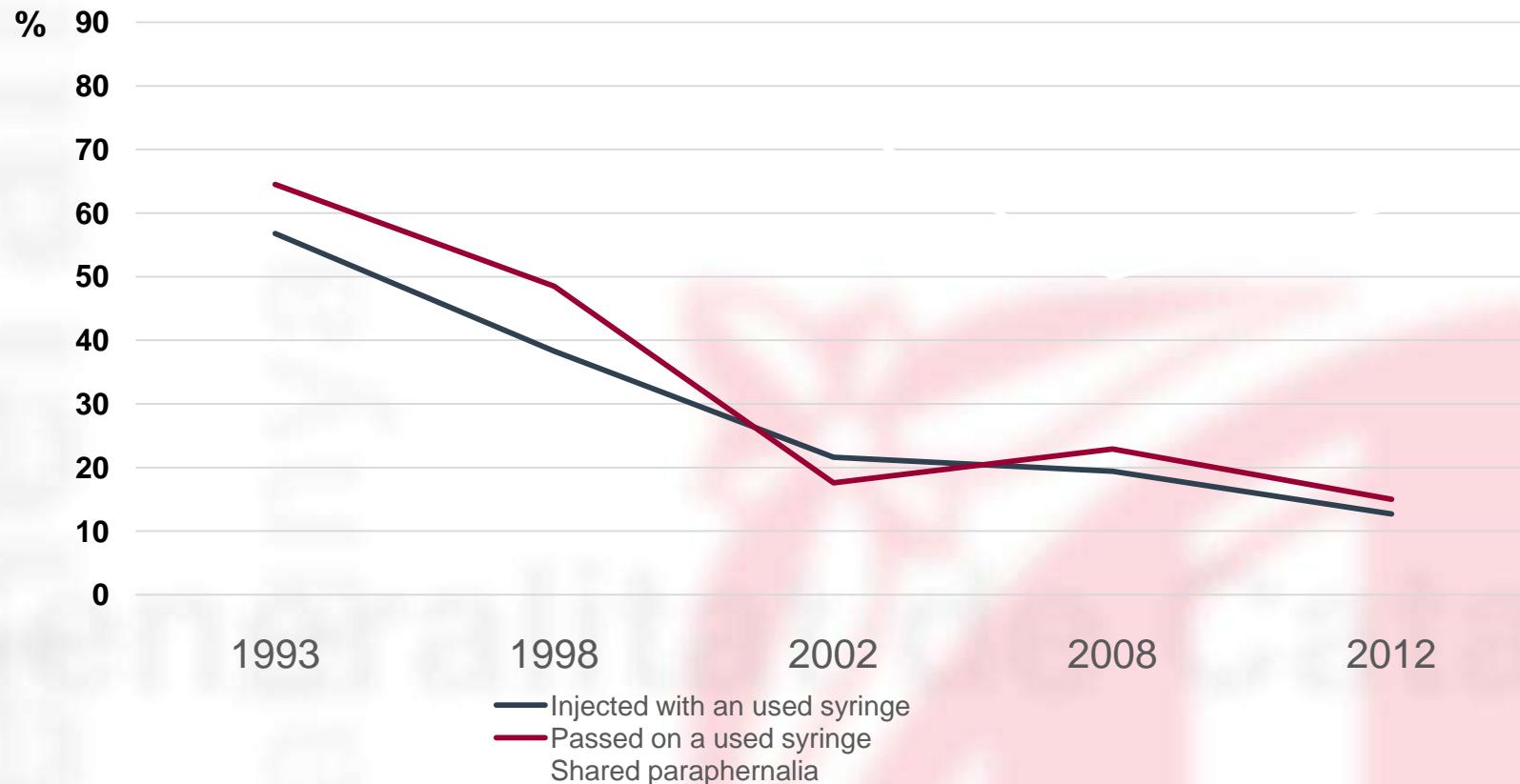
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## (antibody test – HIV & HCV)



The estimation of HIV incidence among new drug injectors (injecting during 5 years or less) is 8,71/100 cases/year and 25,6/100 in HCV cases (Folch C, 2012).

# Injecting risk Behaviors (last 6 months)



Injecting drug users attending Harm Reduction facilities

## Drugs

Home | Public | Professionals | News

drogues.gencat.cat



# Thank you

joan.colom@gencat.cat  
<http://drogues.gencat.cat/>

“What really matters is people,  
not substances”

Areas

What the  
Government is doing

The consumption in  
Catalonia

Drug assistance  
resources network

