

Exploring recent trends in drug use in Scotland

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University for the Common Good

trend

/trɛnd/

noun

plural noun: **trends**

- 1. a general direction in which something is developing or changing.

Presentation outline

- Injecting drug use
 - Heroin
 - Cocaine
 - NPS
- ‘Street’ / ‘Designer’ benzodiazepines
- Anticonvulsant drugs

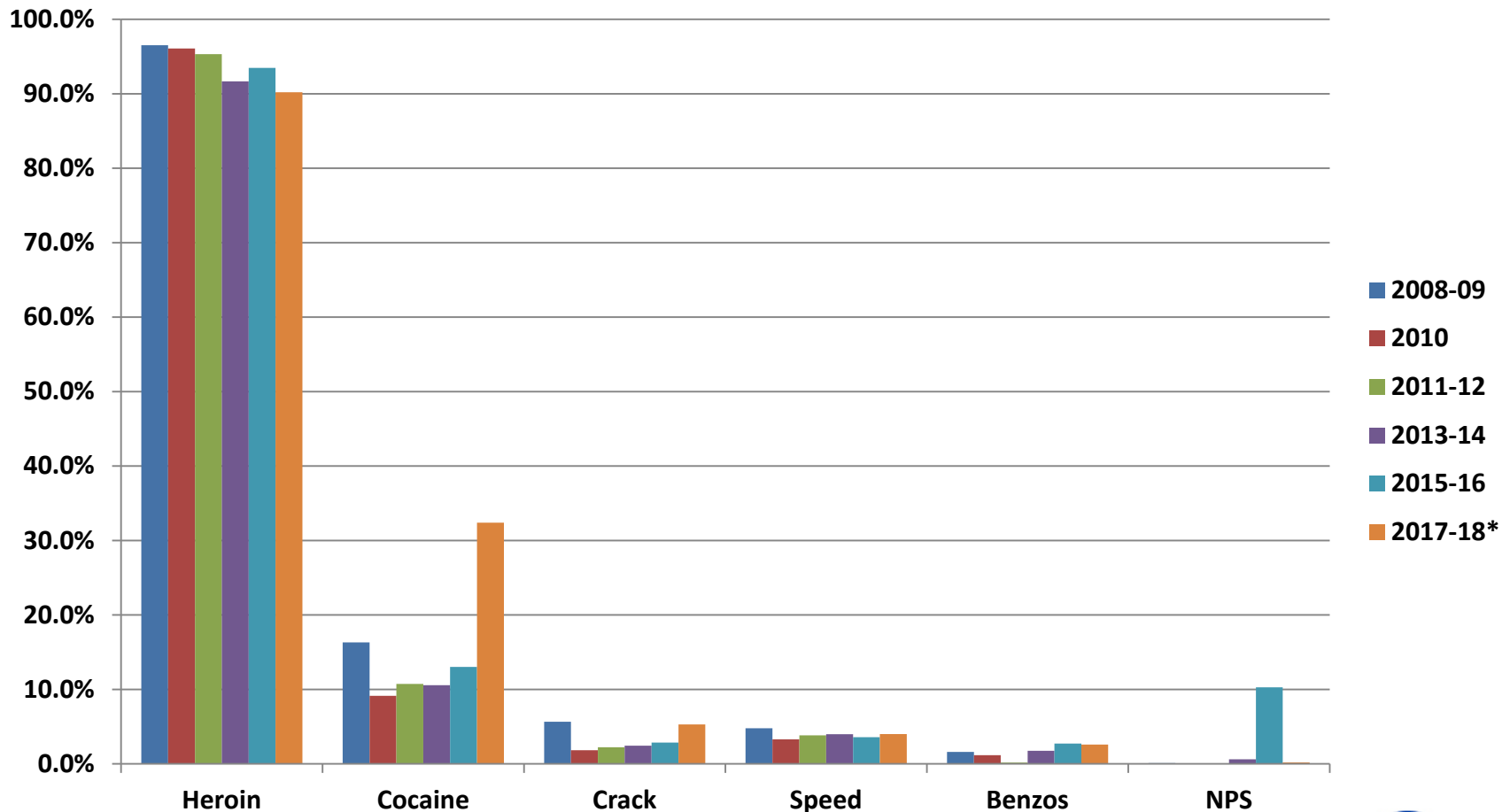
Warning: Lots of Data Ahead!



Injecting drug use....

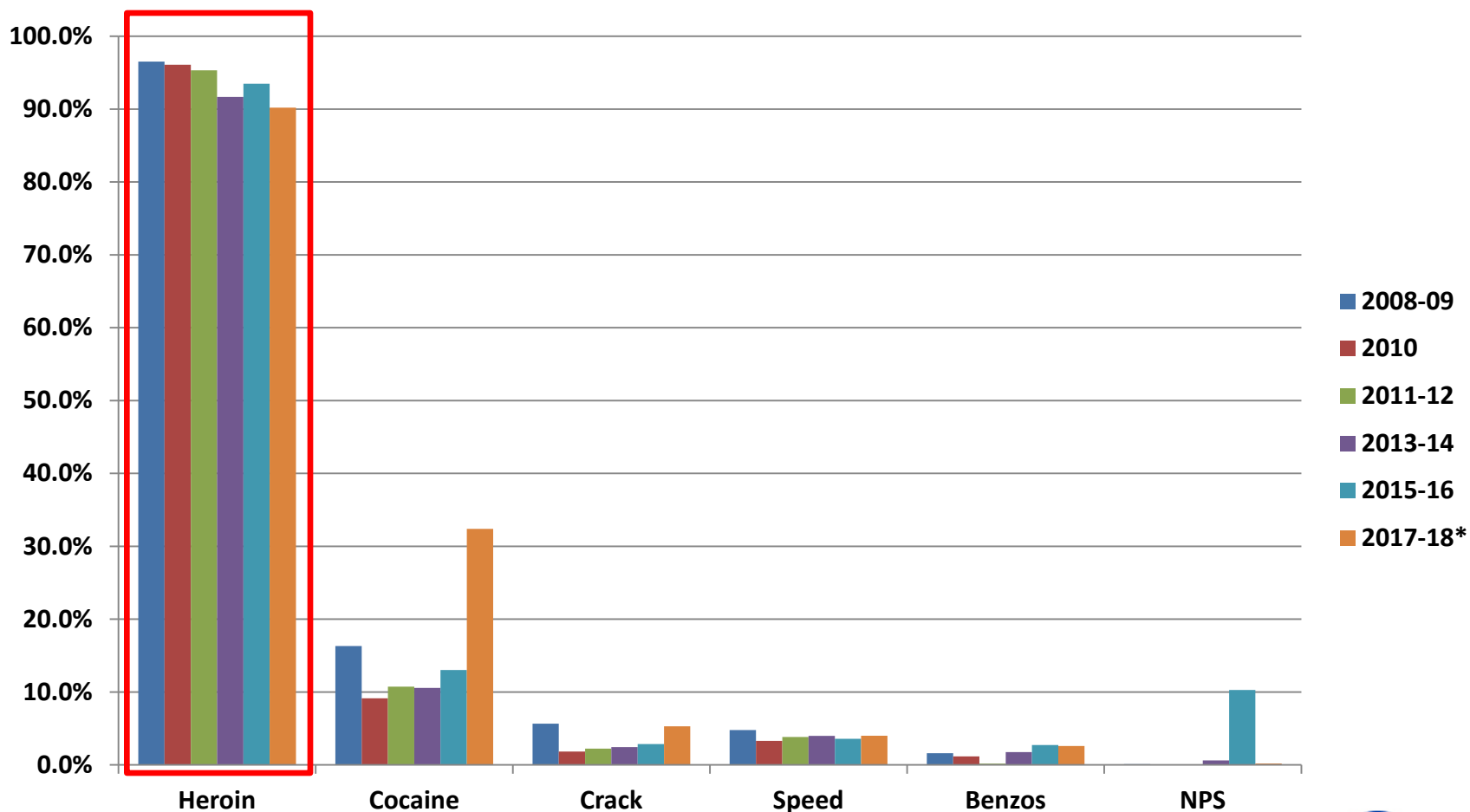
- Heroin
- Cocaine

Drugs injected in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2018



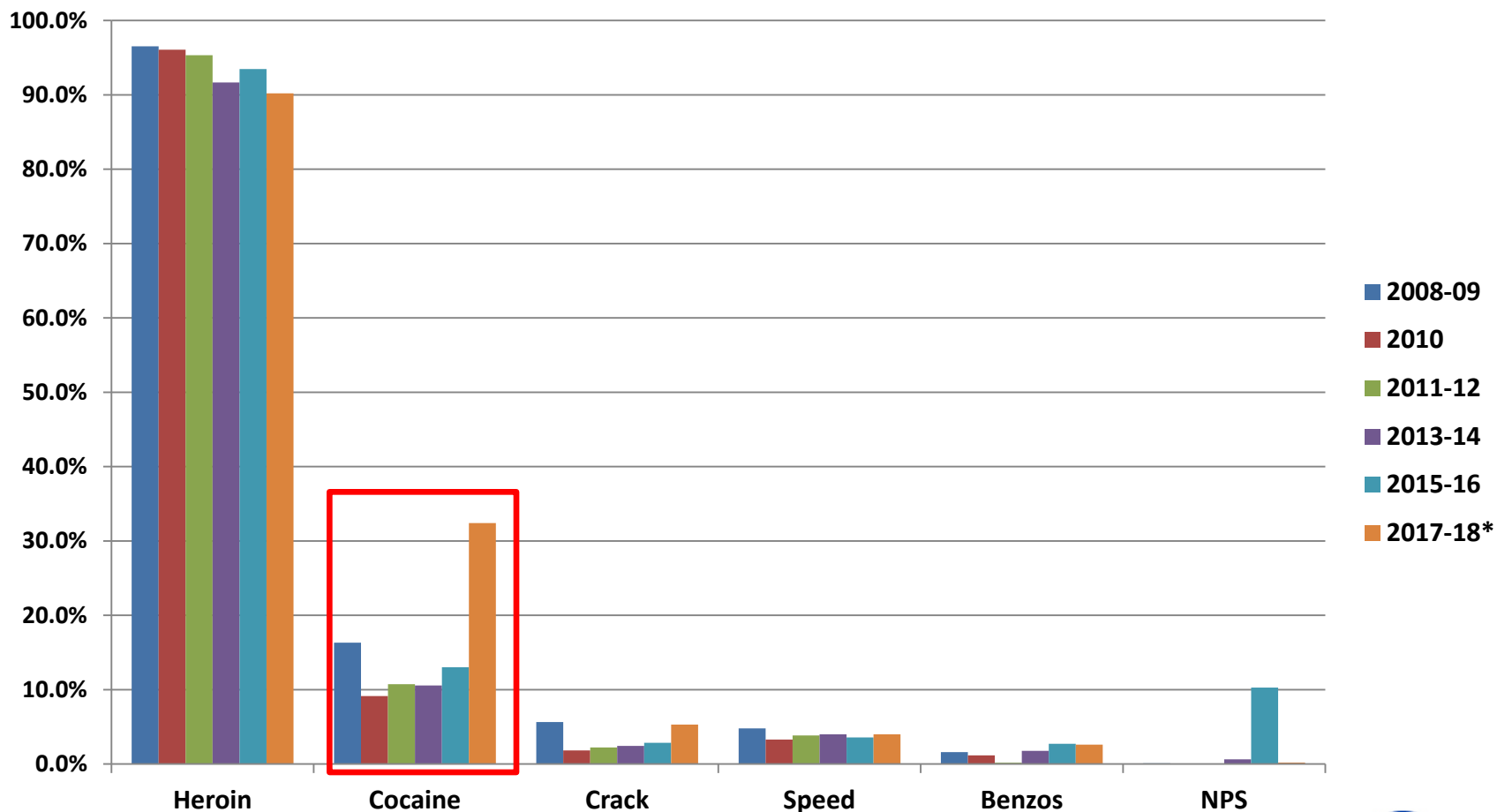
Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Drugs injected in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2018



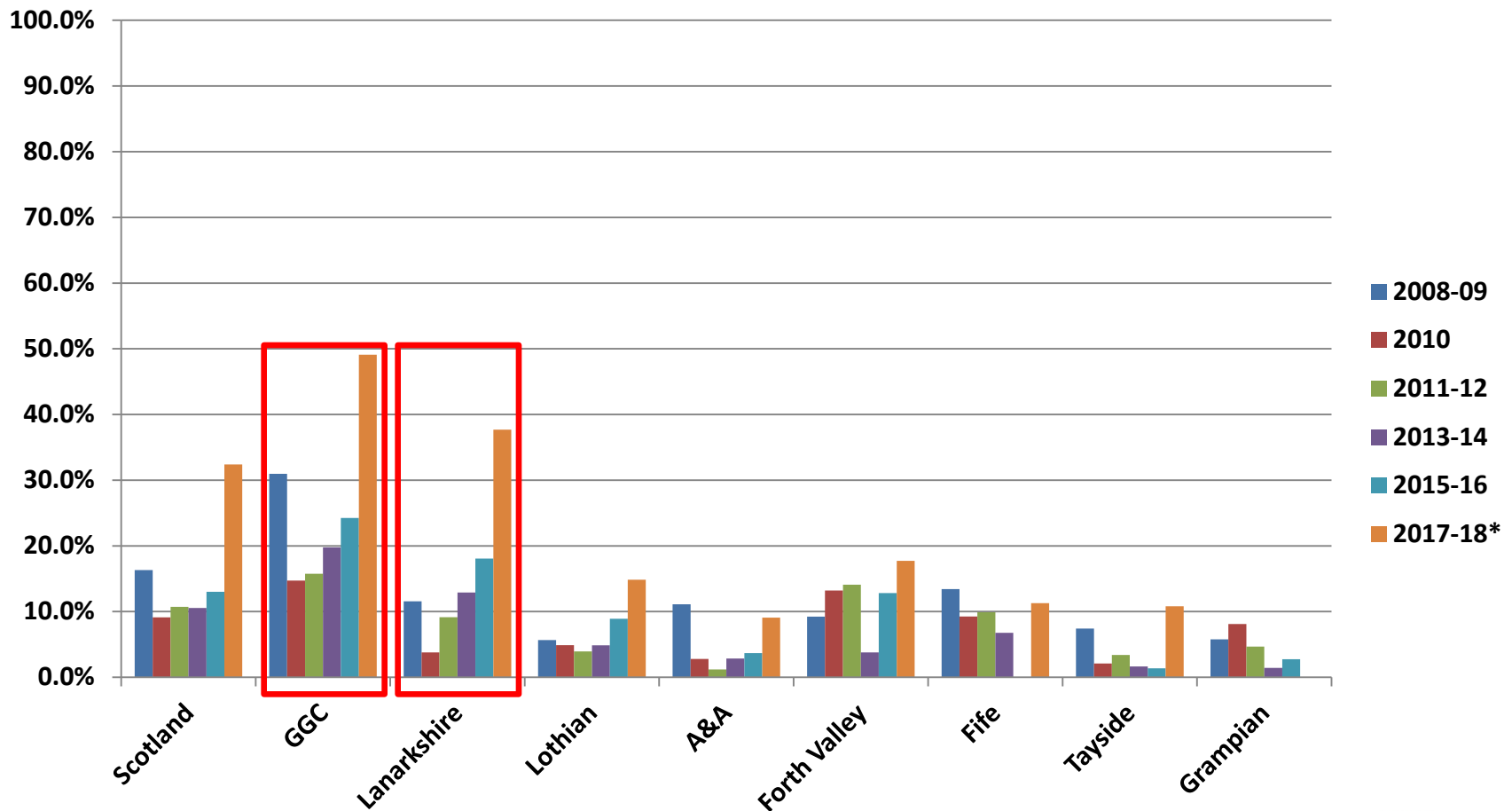
Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Drugs injected in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2018



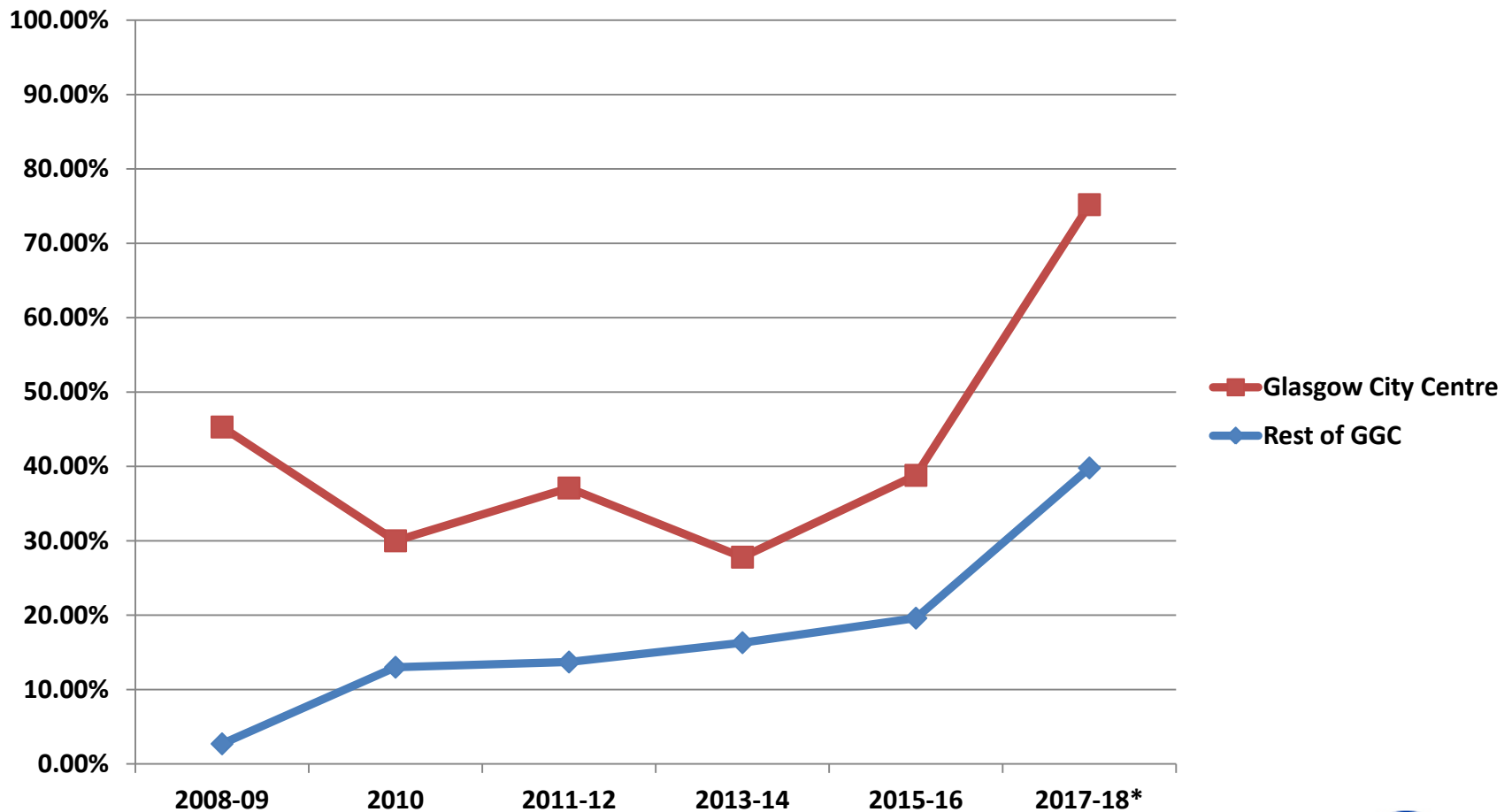
Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Cocaine injecting in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2018



Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Cocaine injecting in the last six months among PWID in GGC, 2008-2018

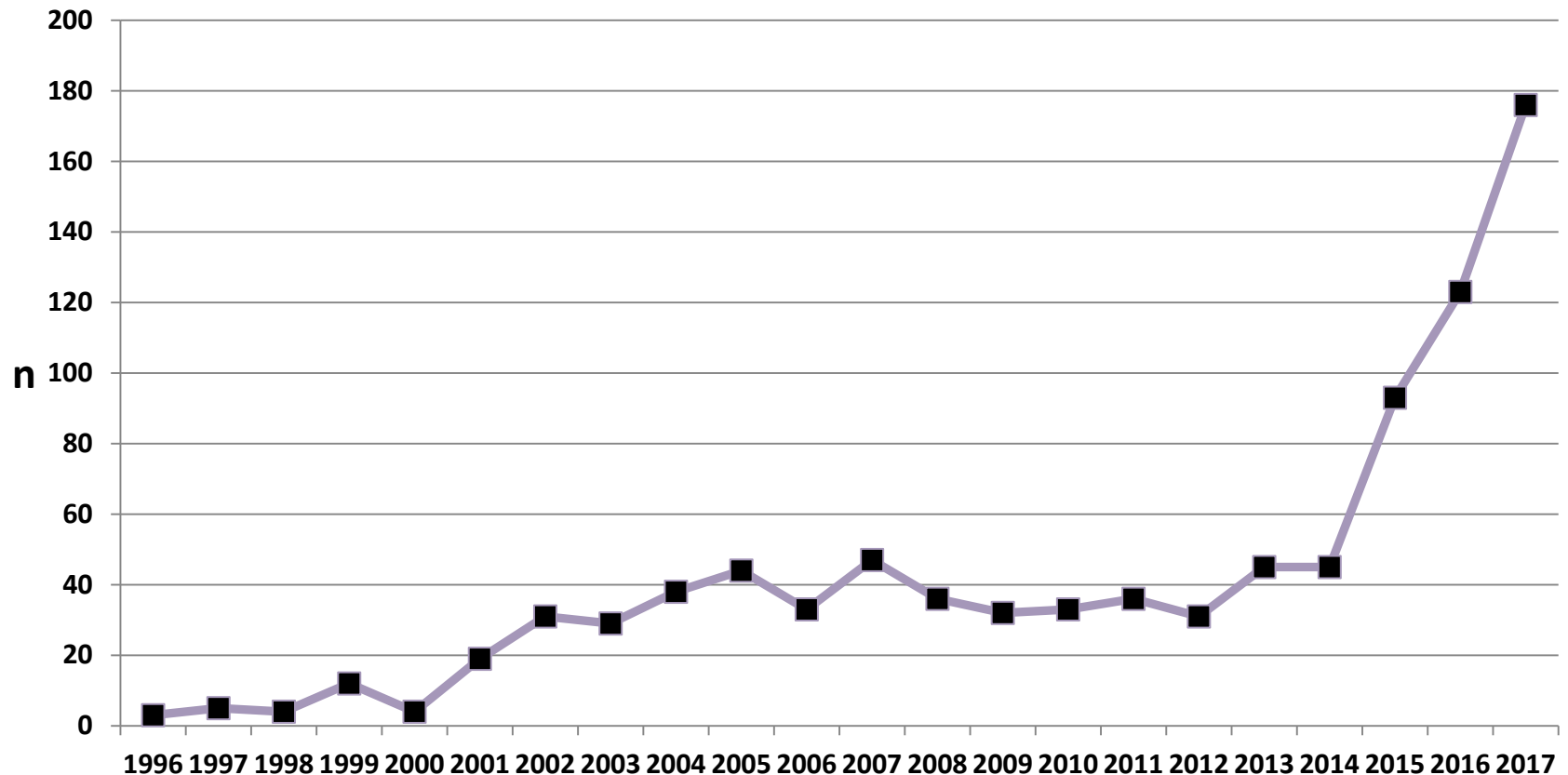


Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Why cocaine matters...

- Increases polydrug toxicity → *Increased risk of overdose*
- Known to be associated with:
 - Increased frequency of injecting
 - Increased risk of n/s sharing
 - Increased risk of n/s re-use
 - Increased libido→ *Increased risk of BBV*
- Impacts treatment outcomes → *Poorer OST retention*

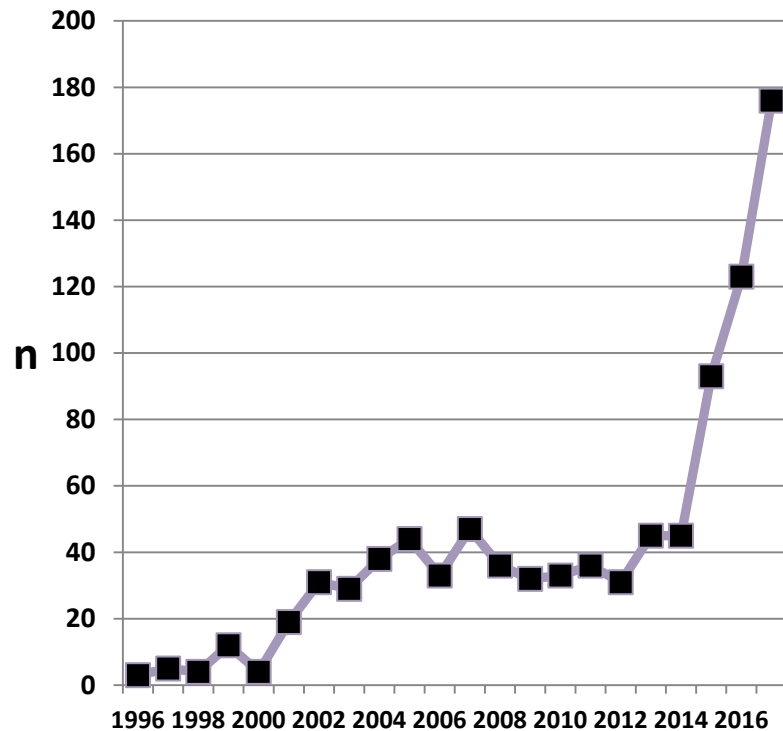
Cocaine-related deaths, Scotland, 1996-2017



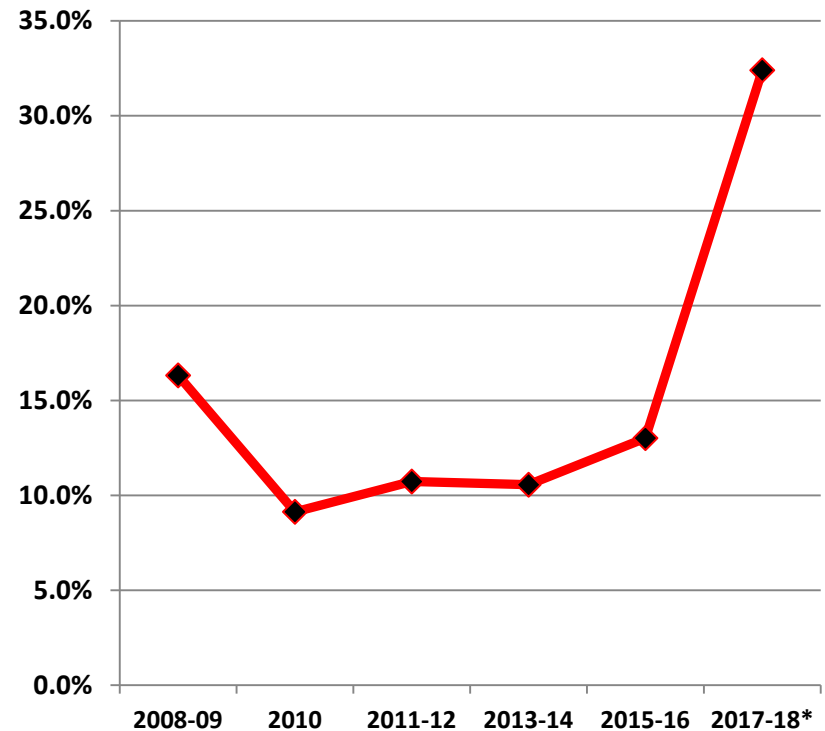
Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Why cocaine matters...

Cocaine-related deaths, Scotland, 1996-2017



Prevalence of cocaine injecting, Scotland, 2008-2018

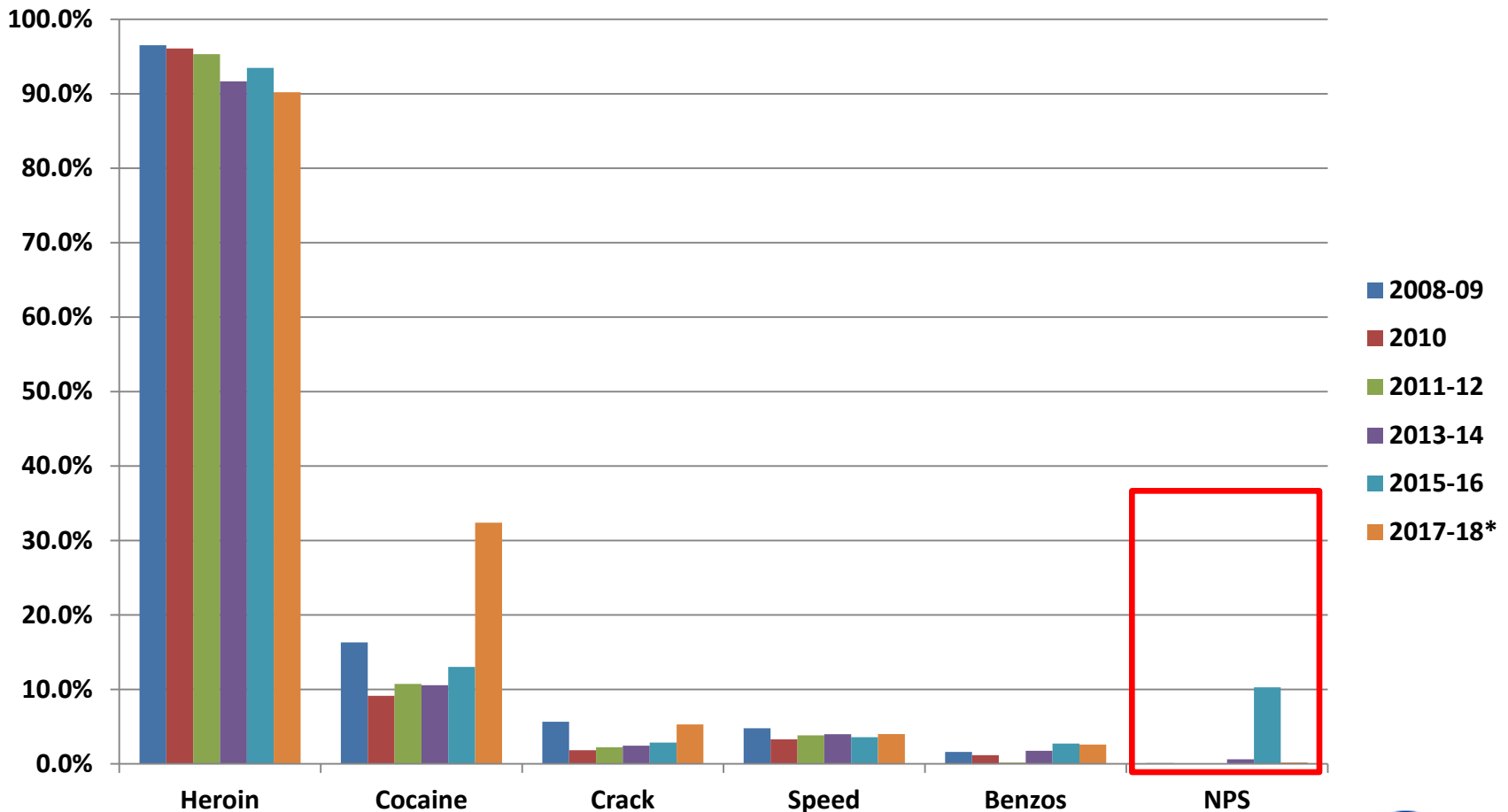


Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS) / Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Injecting drug use....

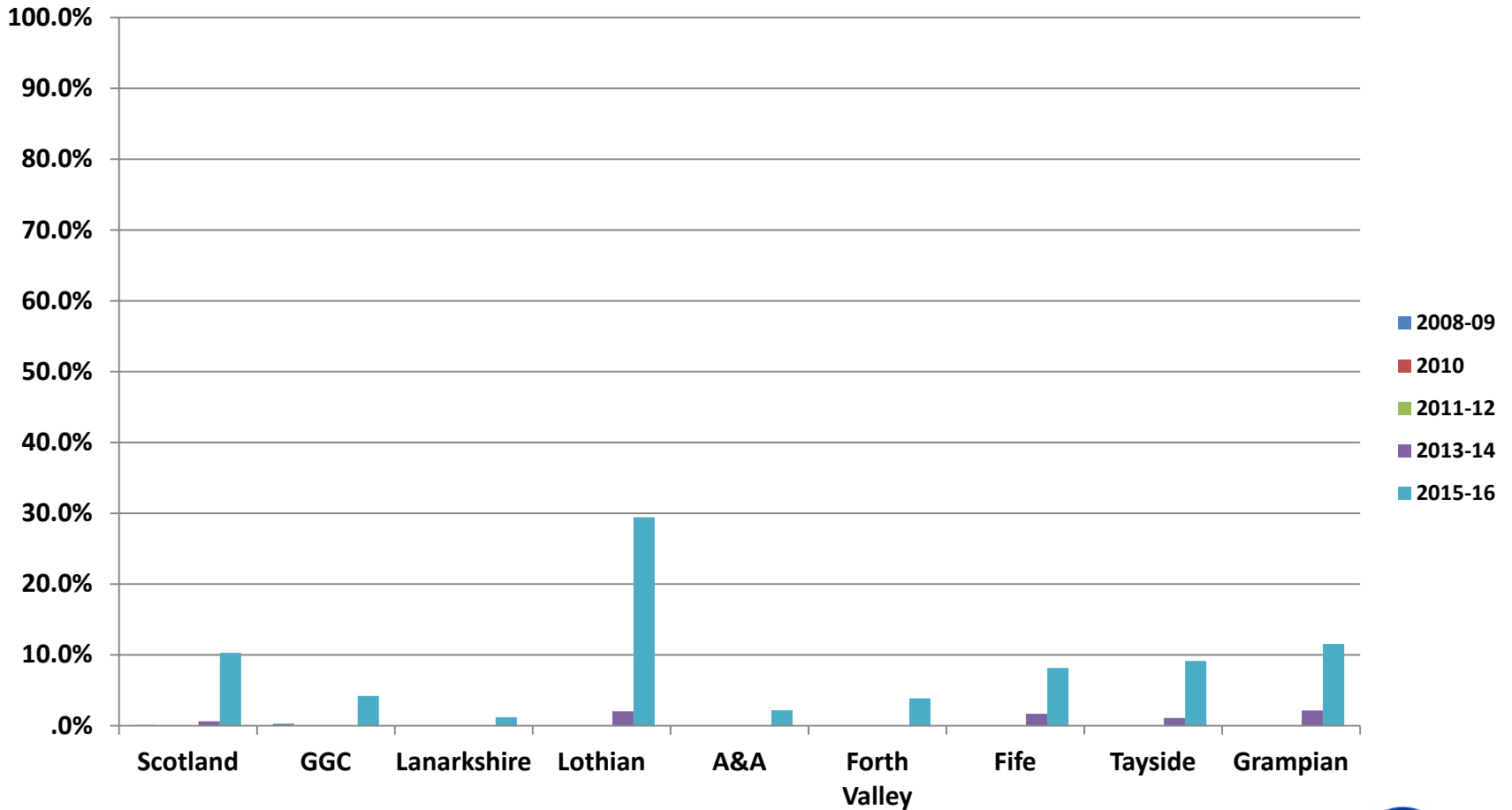
- NPS

Drugs injected in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2018



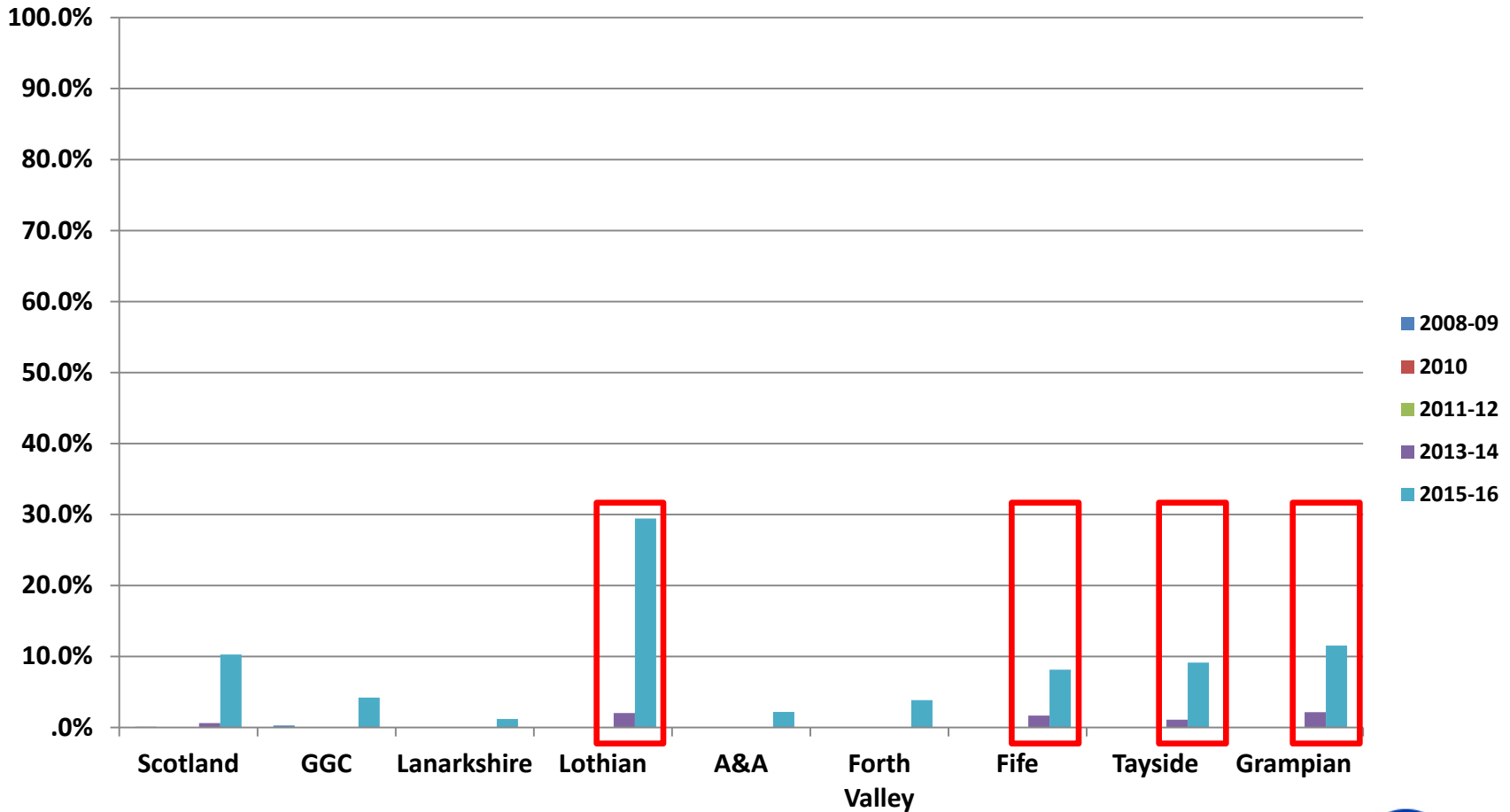
Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

NPS injecting in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2016



Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

NPS injecting in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2016



Source: Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)

Why NPS mattered...

- Increases polydrug toxicity → *Increased risk of overdose*
- Known to be associated with:
 - Increased frequency of injecting
 - Increased risk of n/s sharing
 - Increased risk of n/s re-use→ *Increased risk of BBV*
- Increased burden on health/social/CJ system

Assessing the impact of a temporary class drug order on ethylphenidate-related infections among people who inject drugs in Lothian, Scotland: an interrupted time-series analysis

Alan Yeung¹ , Amanda Weir¹, Hannah Austin³, Kirsty Morrison³, Donald Inverarity⁴, Jim Sherval³, Naomi Henderson⁴, Shruti Joshi⁴, Roisin Ure⁵ & Andrew McAuley^{1,2}

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Original Article


The experience of an increase in the injection of ethylphenidate in Lothian April 2014–March 2015

Con Lafferty¹, Linda Smith¹, Alison Coull² and Jim Shanley^{1,3}

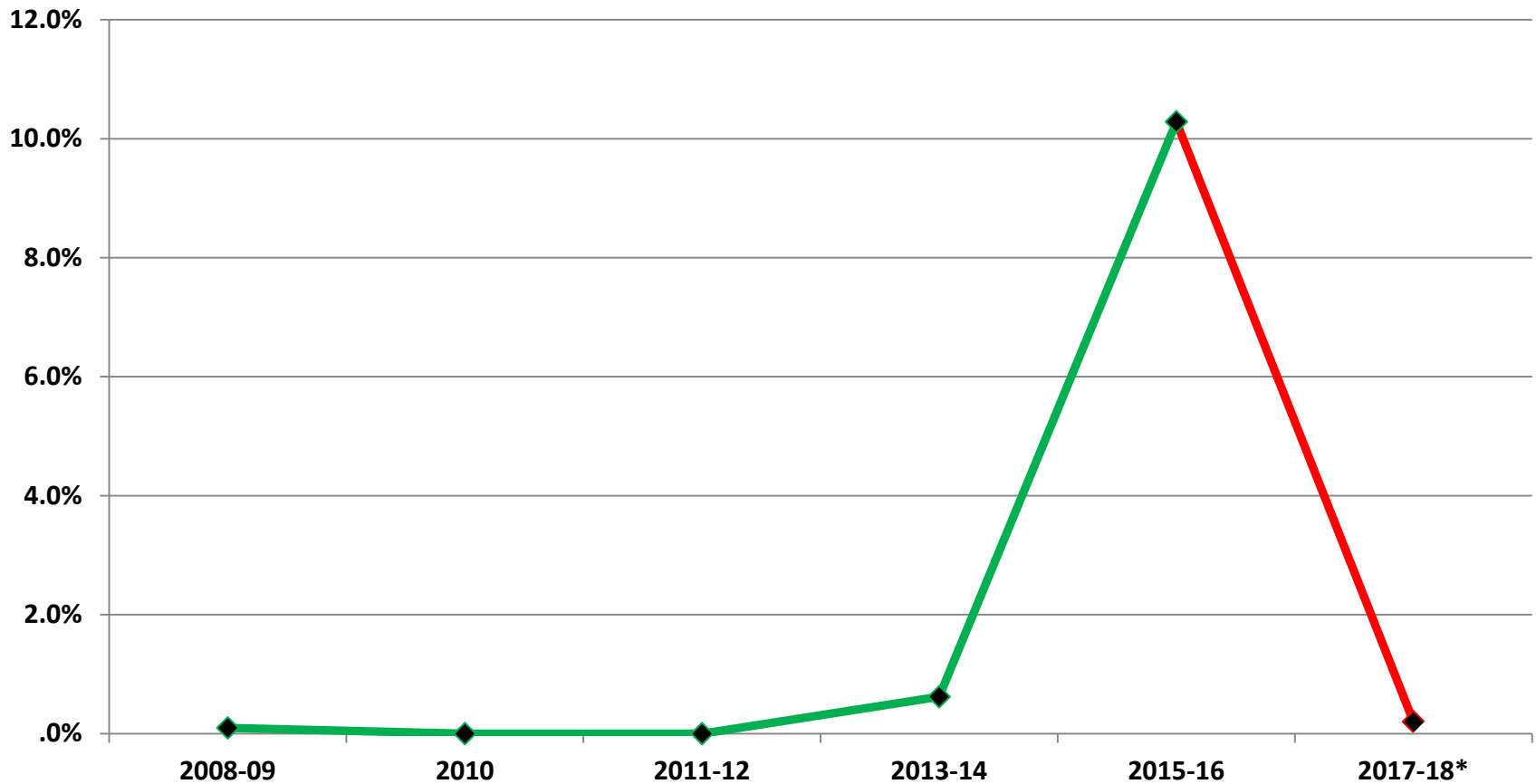
New drug controls and reduced hospital presentations due to novel psychoactive substances in Edinburgh

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E-mail: m.eddleston@ed.ac.uk

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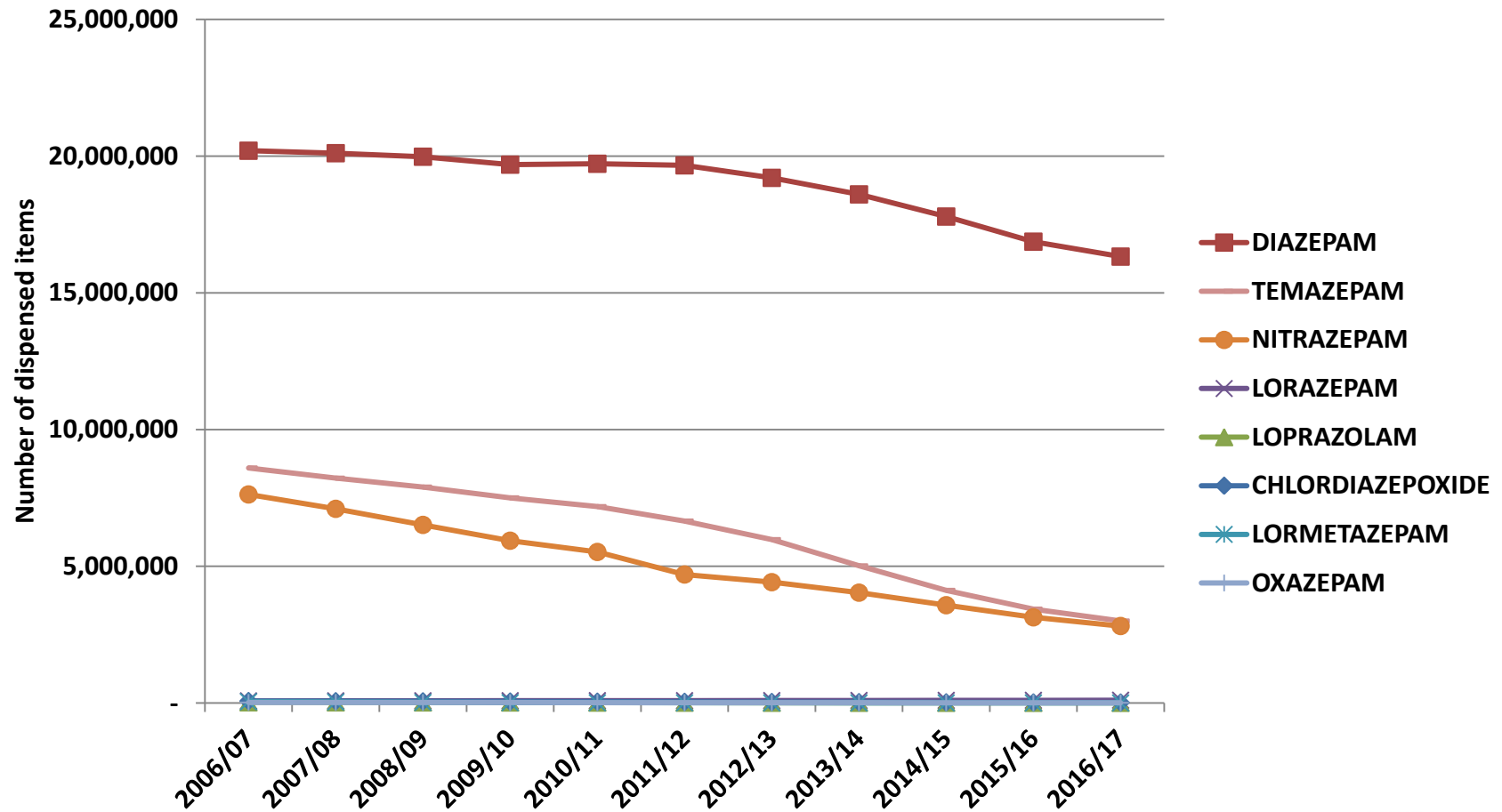
Janice Pettie^{1,2}, Allan Burt¹, Duleeka W. Knipe³, Hazel Torrance⁴, Margaret Dow^{1,2}, Karen Osinski^{1,2}, Robert Greig¹, Diletta Sabatini¹, Kate Easterford⁵, James Dear^{1,2,6} and Michael Eddleston^{1,2,6} 

NPS injecting in the last six months among PWID in Scotland, 2008-2018



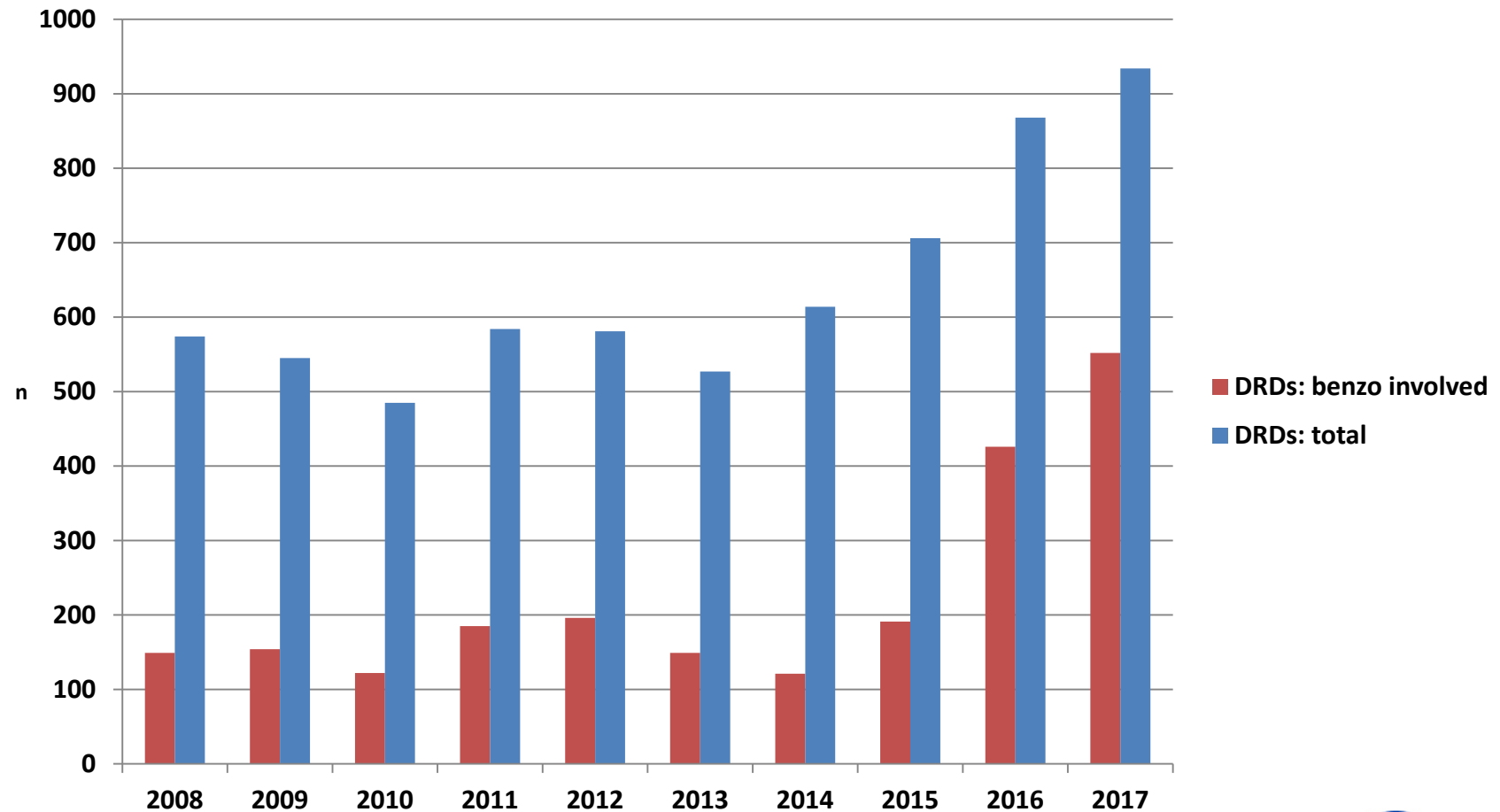
'Street' / 'Designer' benzodiazepines....

Trends in prescribing of Benzodiazepines in Scotland, 2006-2017



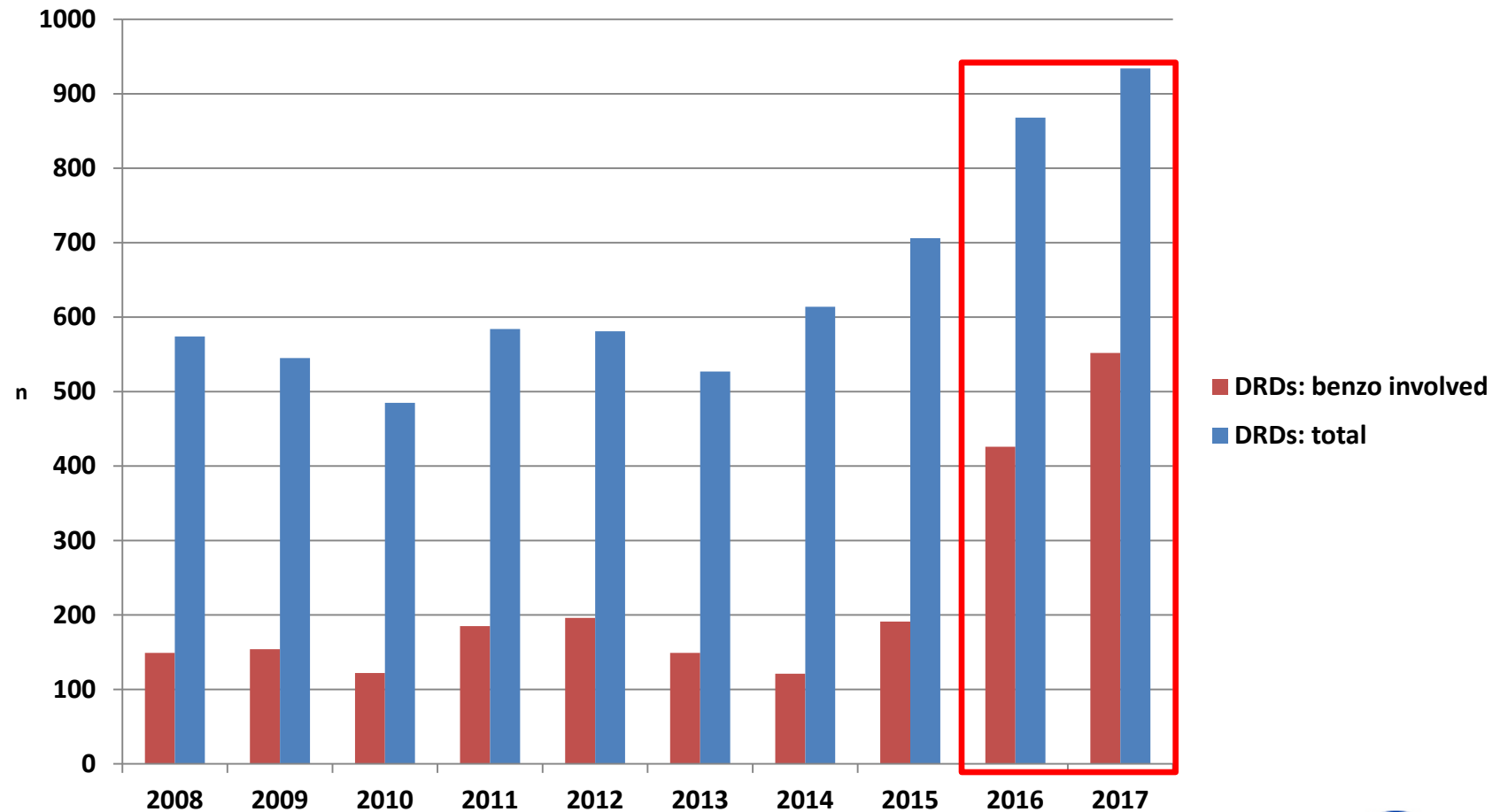
Source: NHS National Services Scotland

Benzodiazepine-related deaths, Scotland, 2008-2017



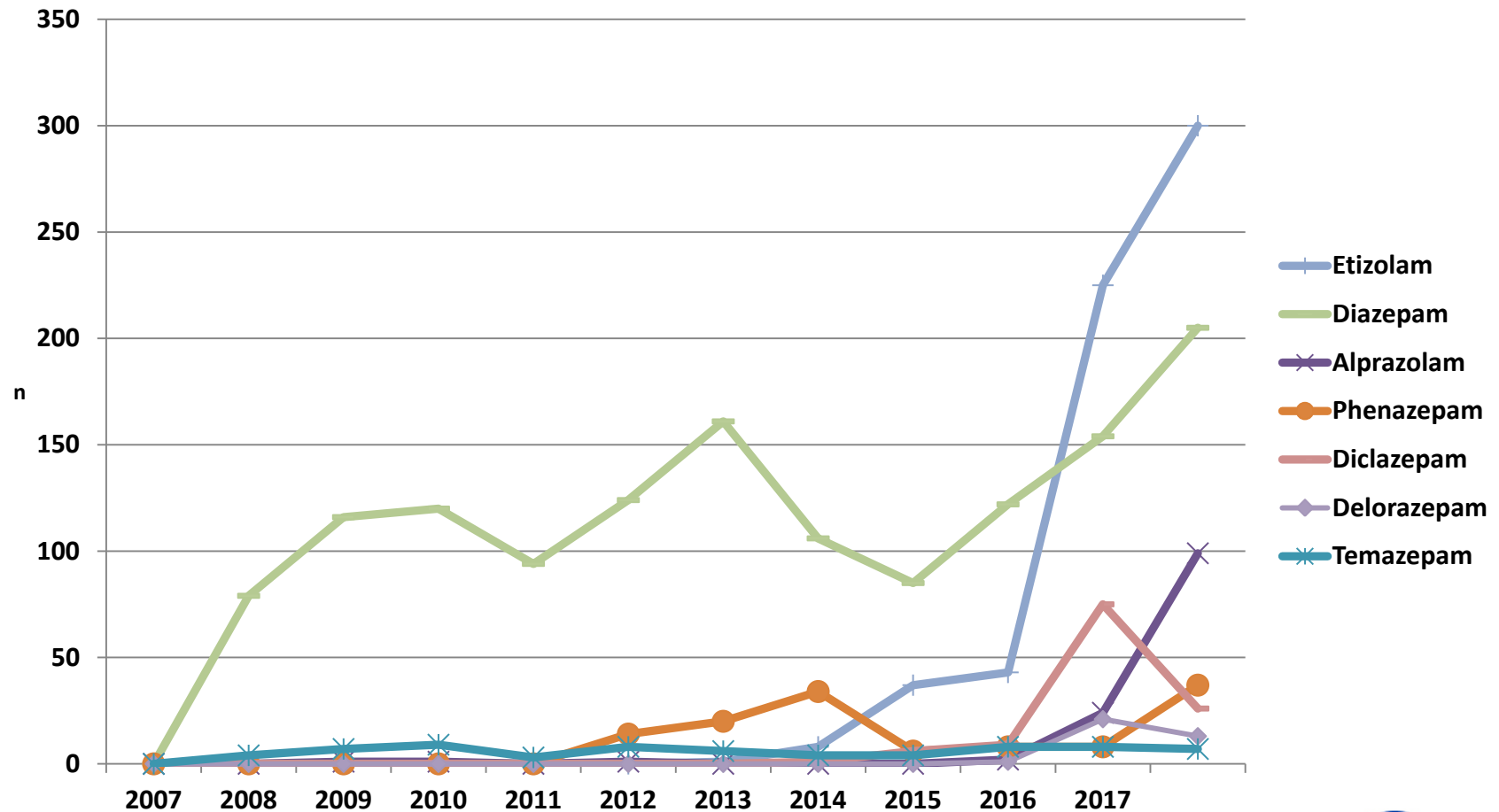
Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Benzodiazepine-related deaths, Scotland, 2008-2017



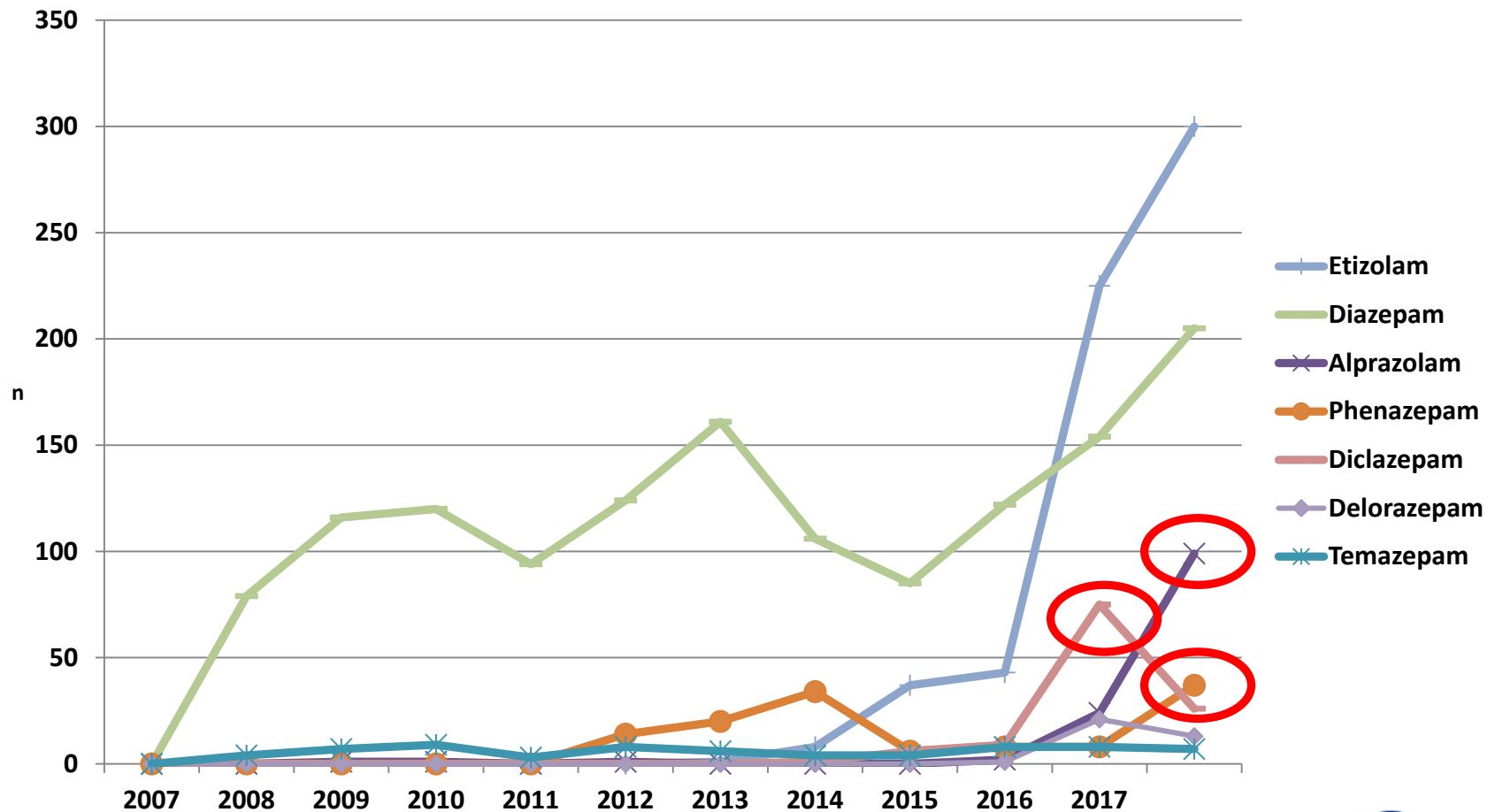
Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Benzodiazepine-related deaths by substance, Scotland, 2008-2017




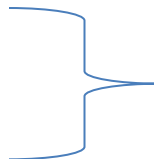

Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Benzodiazepine-related deaths by substance, Scotland, 2008-2017



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Why 'street benzo's matter...

- Increases polydrug toxicity  *Increased risk of overdose*
- When compared traditional Benzo's...
 - Much stronger
 - Different half-life *Increased risk of overdose*
- False advertising  *"Consumption roulette"*

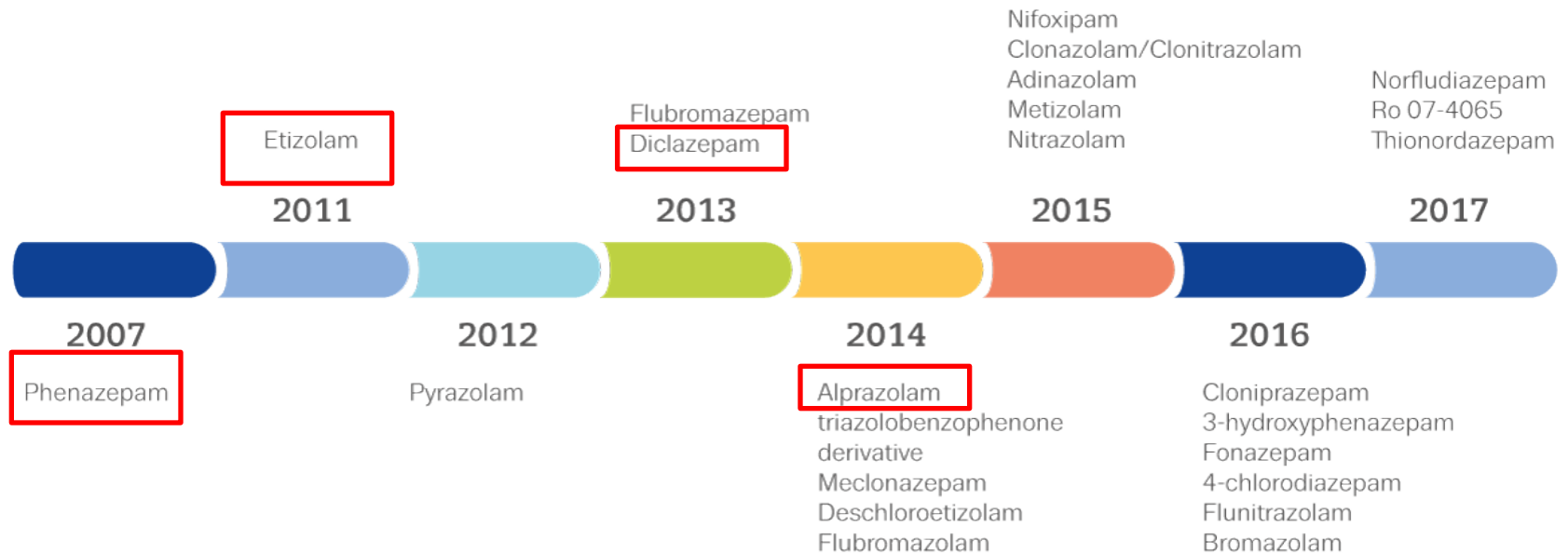
Why street Benzo's matter



“The ACMD is concerned with Police Scotland’s report that a number of benzodiazepines are being sold as ‘street valium’. When analysed, tablets with the appearance of diazepam tablets were found to contain diclazepam, diazepam, a mixture of etizolam and the synthetic opiate U-47,700 or U-47,700 on its own.”

ACMD letter to Home Office recommending control of Etizolam and other designer benzodiazepines, 2 Dec 2016

Timeline of reporting of new benzodiazepines to EMCDDA

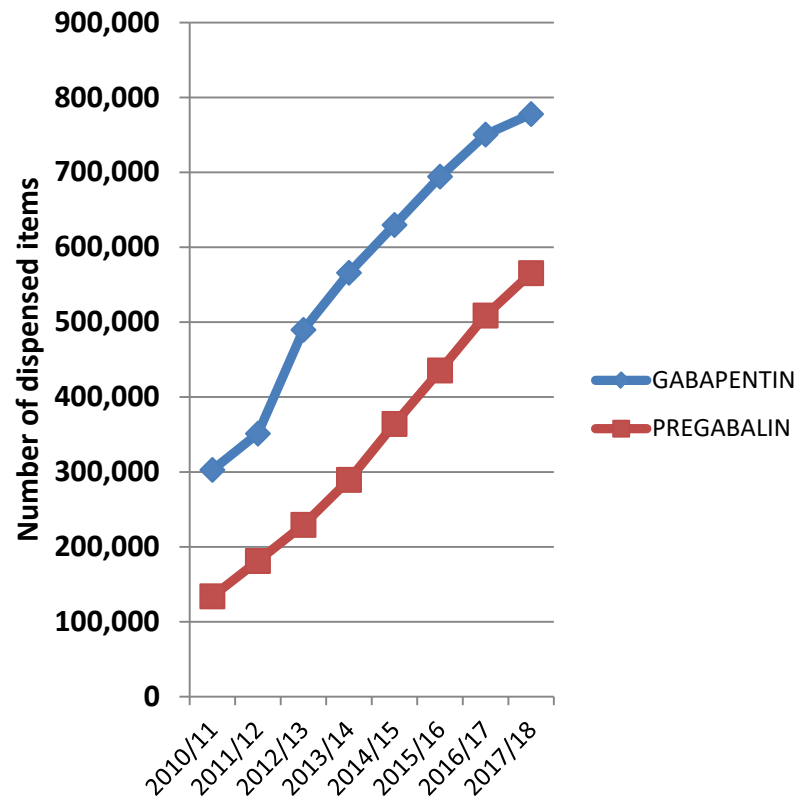


Source: EMCDDA

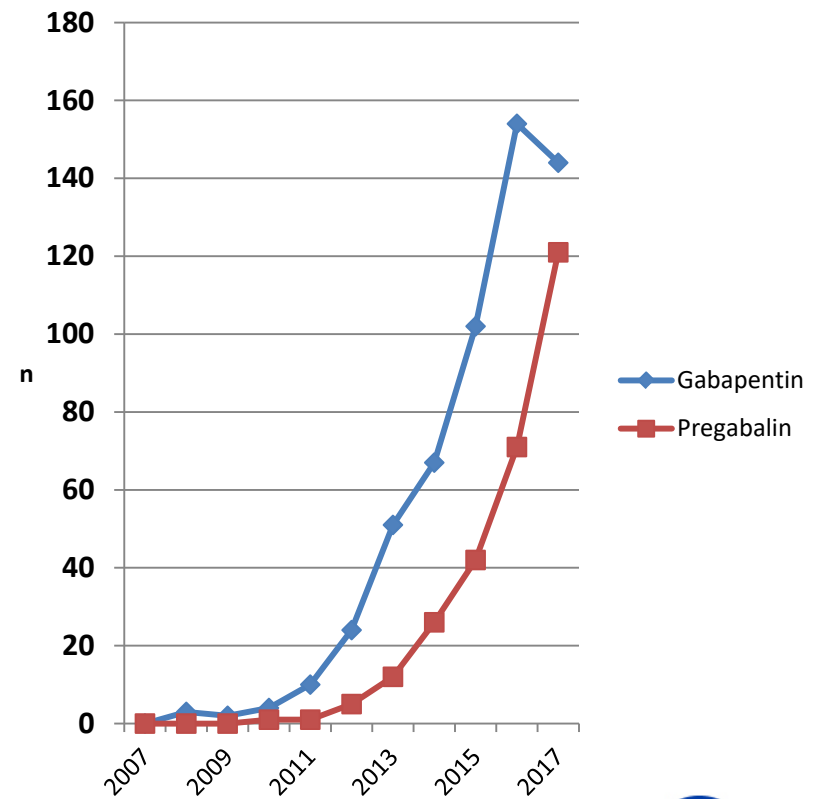
Anticonvulsant drugs...

Trends in prescribing of, and deaths involving, anticonvulsant drugs in Scotland, 2006-2017

Dispensed items



Deaths



Source: NHS National Services Scotland

To ban or not to ban...

ACMD
Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Chair: Professor Prof Les Iversen
Secretary: Zahi Sulaiman
1st Floor Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Tel: 020 7035 1121
Email: ACMD@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk


Karen Bradley MP
Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF


14 January 2016

Dear Minister,

Re: Pregabalin and Gabapentin advice



 Home Office

 Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Máinystre O Páistie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

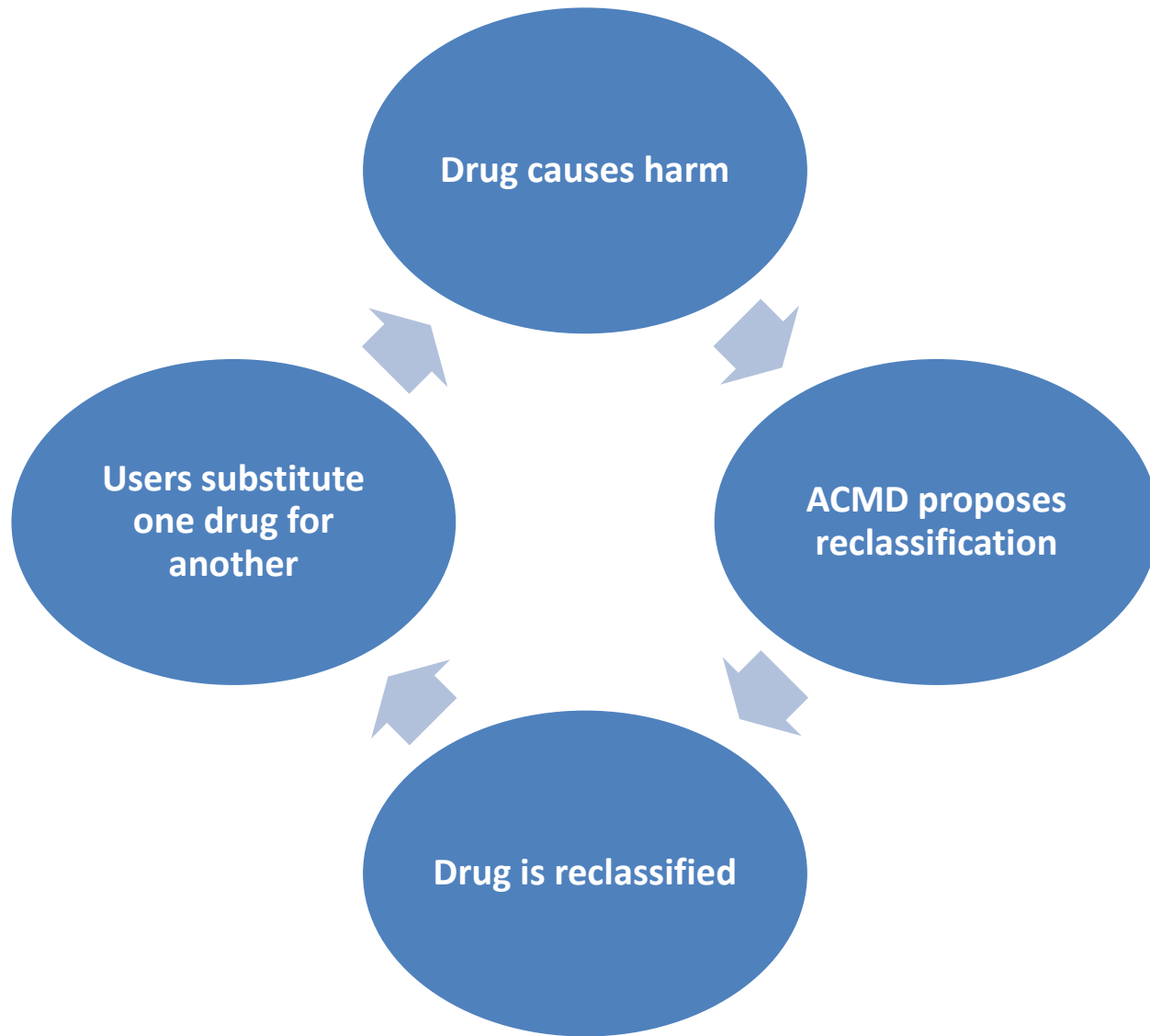
A consultation on proposals to schedule pregabalin and gabapentin under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001

Government consultation

Future trends...

“Trying to predict the future is a mug’s game. But increasingly it’s a game we all have to play because the world is changing so fast and we need to have some sort of idea of what the future’s actually going to be like because we are going to have to live there, probably next week.”

— Douglas Adams, *The Salmon of Doubt*



Is it time to reinvent the wheel?

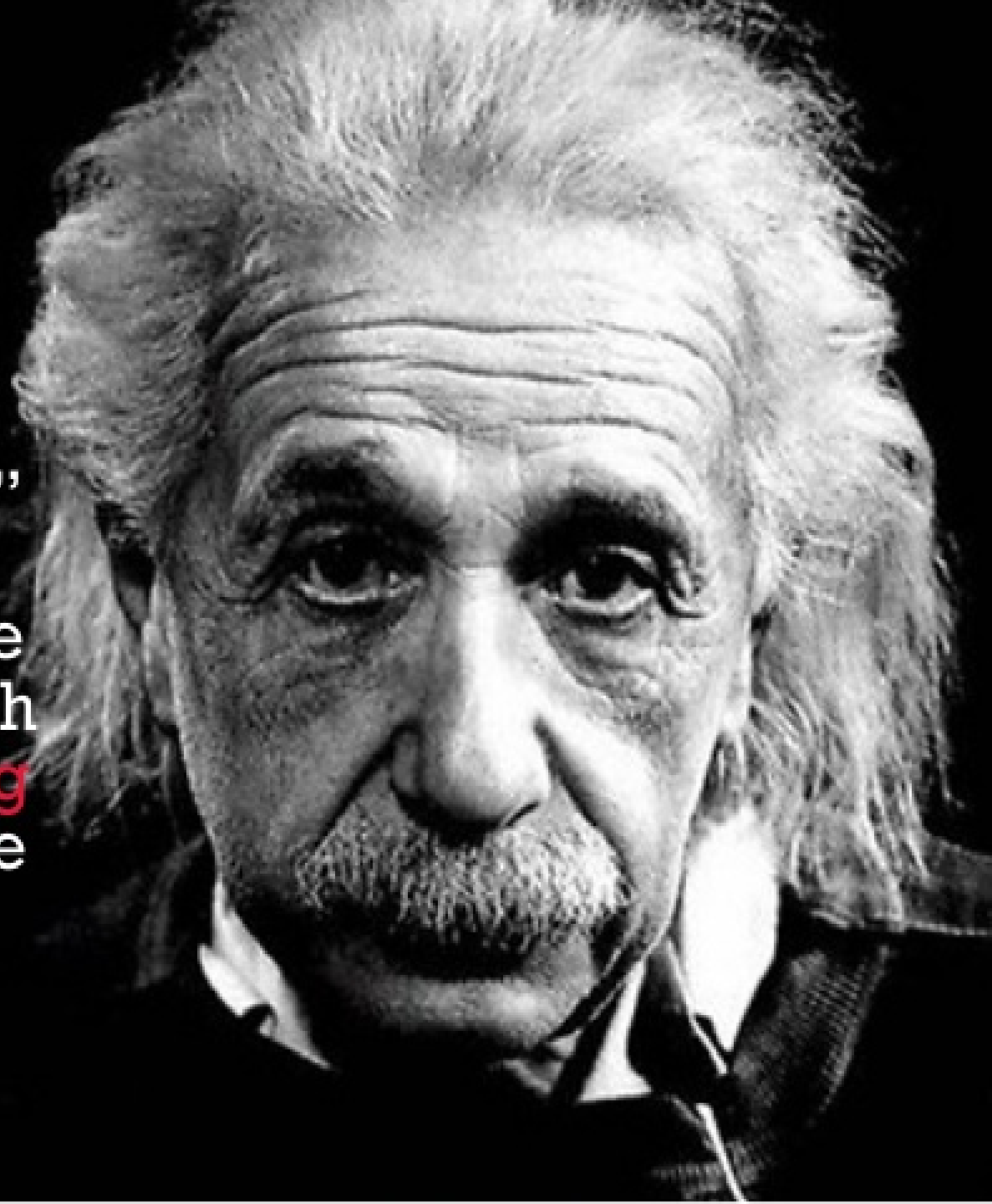
Summary

- In Scotland, opioids are *still* the main drugs of concern, but...
 - Drug use is changing!
- Changing drug trends are *compromising* harm reduction efforts
- Policy and practice responses require flexibility and innovation

“Insanity:
doing the same
thing over and
over again
and expecting
different results.”

“We cannot solve
our problems with
the **same thinking**
we used when we
created them.”

Einstein



Thank you for listening

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