

JOINT SURVEY OF ALL GERMAN FEDERAL STATES: SUBSTANCE ABUSE BY PRISONERS

**28TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF
PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICES**

***“MANAGEMENT OF PRISONS AND PROBATION: NEW
CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE RESPONSES”***

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Background

- Resolution by ‚Strafvollzugausschuss der Länder‘ in May 2012
 - implementation of a joint survey in all German Federal States about Substance abuse by prisoners
 - commissioning of a statewide working group lead by the Ministry of Justice Berlin
- Development of a survey concept by the statewide working group in the years 2013 till 2015
 - instrument for the data collection & survey manual
 - preparations in the German federal states regarding structure, responsibilities and processes
- Aim: Implementation of data collection in all German Federal States on the 31.03.2016 (*but a full census could not be realized in every federal state to this date*)



Survey Concept

- Abuse assessment using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (WHO) → currently valid version ICD-10
 - Different responsibilities in the federal states: doctor, social worker, psychologist addiction counsellor
 - Time: beginning of detention
- Reference day 31. of march → calculation of a rate of prisoners with an addiction problem for the prison population at this reference day
- Survey content:
 - Consumption patterns: dependence or harmful use
 - Main psychoactive substance (alcohol [F10], opioids [F11], cannabinoids [F12], sedatives or hypnotics [F13], cocaine [F14], other stimulants [F15], hallucinogens [F16], volatile solvents [F18], multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances [F19] → without tobacco [F17]!)

Limitations

Lowest common denominator solution among federal states

Different professions assess drug abuse or dependence

Differences in data collection and documentation of outcomes

Data collection upon entry into the prison system

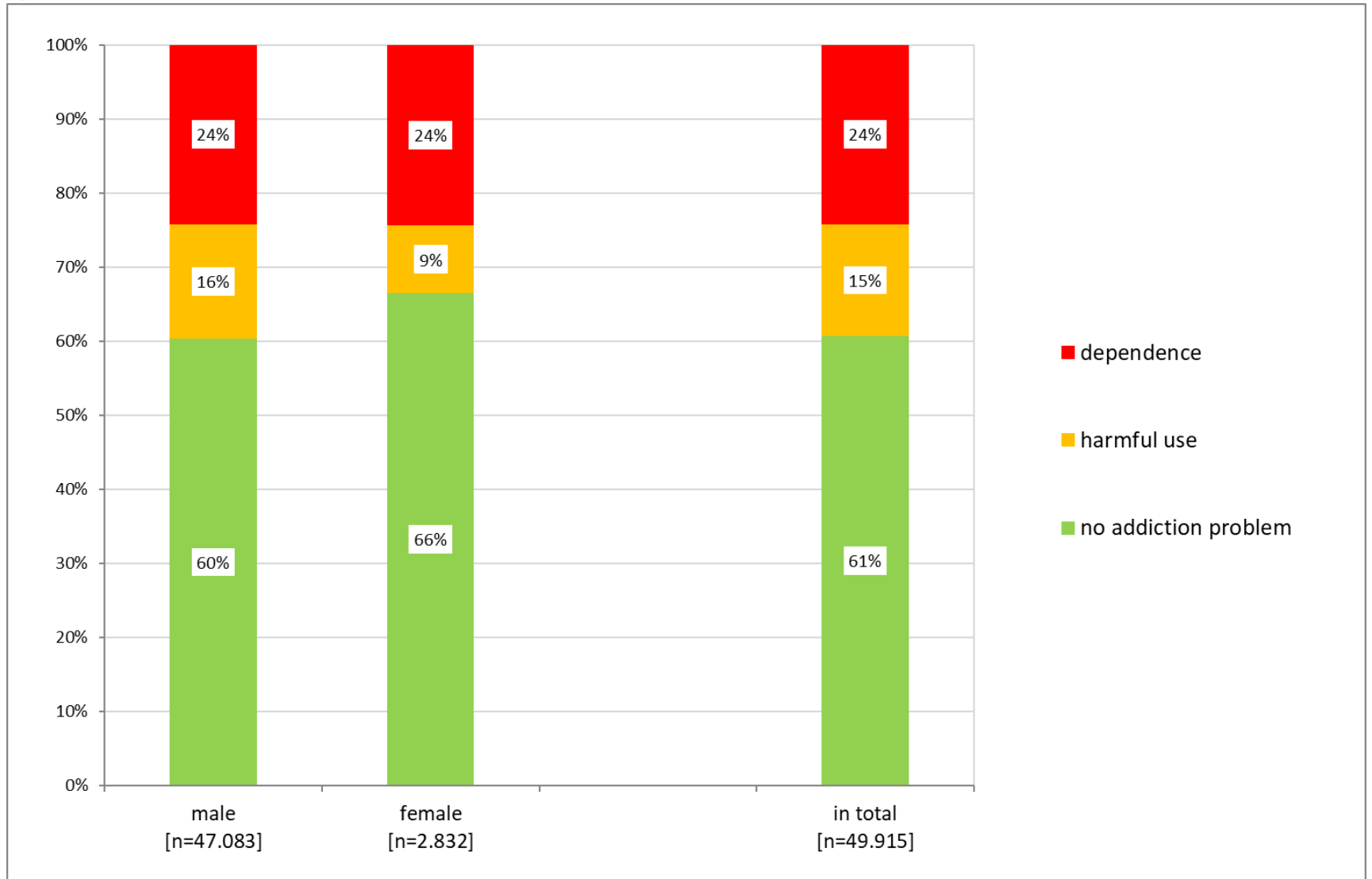
Classification system ICD-10

Key date survey

Limited reliability of substitution rates

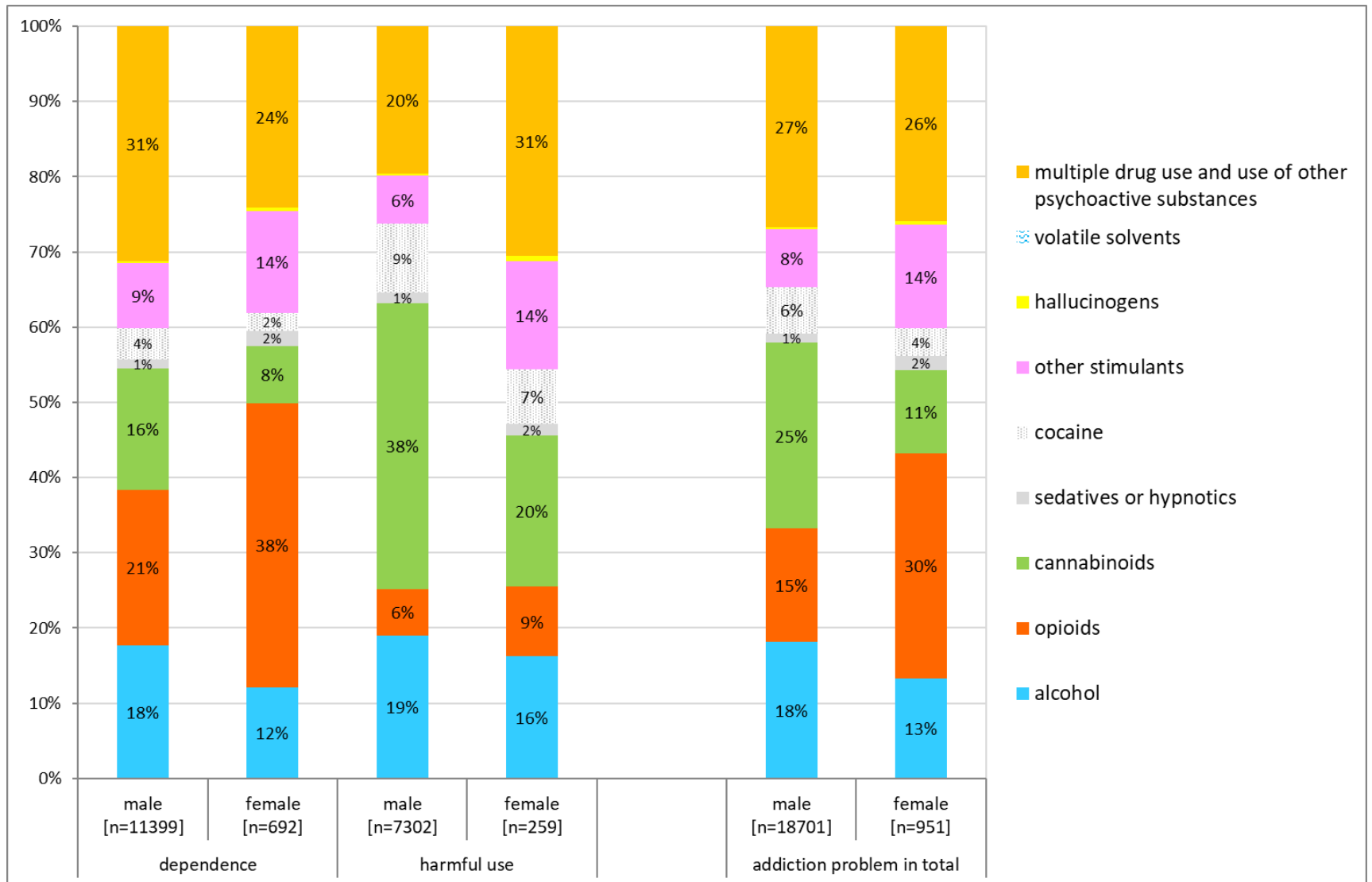


results – addiction problem differentiated by gender



results - main substance differentiated by gender

reference day: 31.03.2022



results – prisoners in substitution

reference day: 31.03.2022

rate of substitution					
reference value: opioid-dependent + multiple substance use-dependent					
	main substance			substitution	
	opioids (amount)	multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances (amount)	in total	prisoners in substitution (amount)	rate of substitution (prisoners in substitution/main substance in total)
female	261	167	428	327	76,4 %
male	2.367	3.555	5.922	2.579	43,5 %
in total	2.628	3.722	6.350	2.906	45,8 %

Contextualising results

- Fazel, S. et al. (2017): Substance use disorders in prisoners: an updated systematic review and meta-regression analysis in recently incarcerated men and women
- Review of studies reporting 12-month prevalence of alcohol and drug use disorders in prisoners
 - N=24 studies and n=18388 prisoners across 10 countries
 - Australia, Austria, England, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and United States
- Prevalence estimate of alcohol use disorder: 24% with very high heterogeneity
 - 16 to 51% in male prisoners
 - 10-30% in female prisoners
- Prevalence estimate of drug use disorders: 40,5%
 - 30% (range 10%–61%) in male prisoners
 - 51% (range 30–69%) in female prisoners



Future developments – Study on psychiatric morbidity in the Berlin prison system

- Trained psychologists will carry out a diagnostic interview with a random sample of inmates in all Berlin prisons (with the exception of the young offenders institution).
- Disorders to be assessed: Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, Personality Disorders, ADHD, Psychosis, Substance misuse.
- Cases summarised as vignettes and presented to an expert panel in order to rate treatment needs.
- Co-morbidity rates of substance use to be determined



Further information

- Fact-Sheets & report by the transnational working group (only in german)
<https://www.berlin.de/justizvollzug/service/zahlen-und-fakten/drogen-sucht/>
- Fazel, S., Yoon, I. A., & Hayes, A. J. (2017): Substance use disorders in prisoners: an updated systematic review and meta-regression analysis in recently incarcerated men and women. *Addiction*, 112, 1725–1739
[Substance use disorders in prisoners: an updated systematic review and meta-regression analysis in recently incarcerated men and women - Fazel - 2017 - Addiction - Wiley Online Library](#)



Thank you for your attention!

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