



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# Do more people in Europe need treatment for problems related to cocaine use?

## An analysis of cocaine treatment demand in 10 Western European countries

**Jerome Antoine (BE)**

Nadine Berndt (LU)  
Barbara Braun (DE)  
Donal Cairns (GB)

Stefan Jahr (GB)

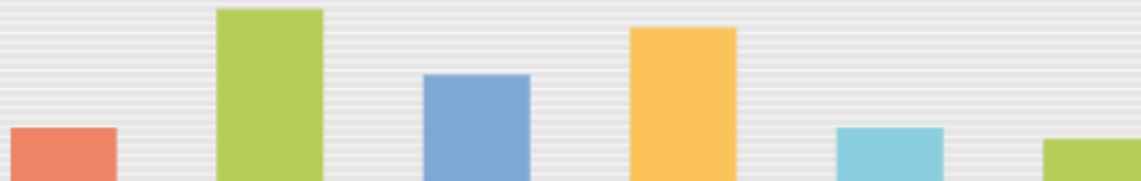
Andrew Jones (GB)  
Wil Kuijpers (NL)  
Noelia Llorens (ES)  
Suzi Lyons (IE)

Etienne Maffli (CH)

Natalia Magliocchetti (IT)  
Linda Montanari (EMCDDA)  
Christophe Palle (FR)  
Jeroen Wisselink (NL)



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# Background & Objectives

- **Signals at European level concerning cocaine growing market and related harms**
  - Global manufacture of cocaine doubled between '13 and '17
  - Seizures at historical high
  - Increase in purity, stable price → high availability
  - Increase in cocaine residues in wastewater
  - Increase in cocaine-related deaths
  
- **Analyse recent trends in cocaine treatment demands in 10 Western European countries**



# Methodology

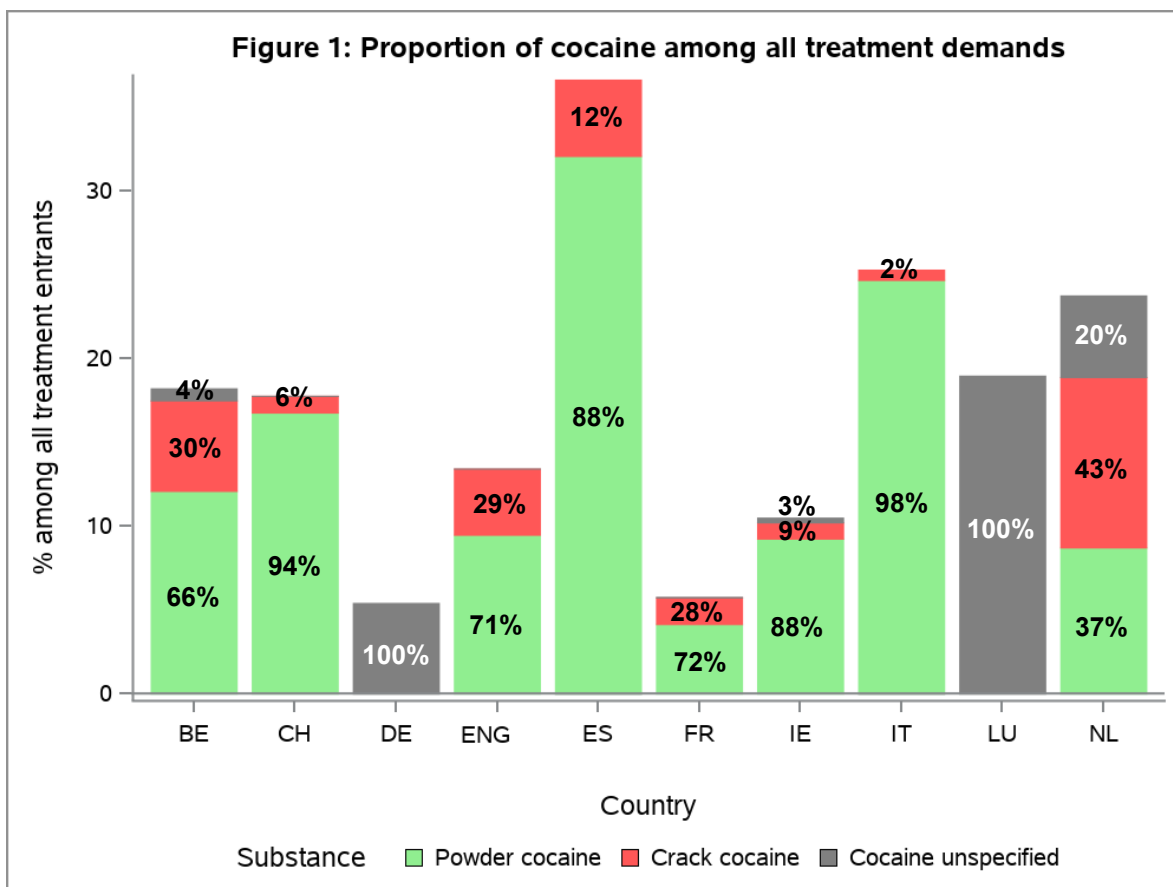
- 10 countries participating on voluntary basis
- TDI (Treatment Demand Indicator) data (2011-2018)
- Dataset for trend analysis
- Joinpoint regression program



# Results

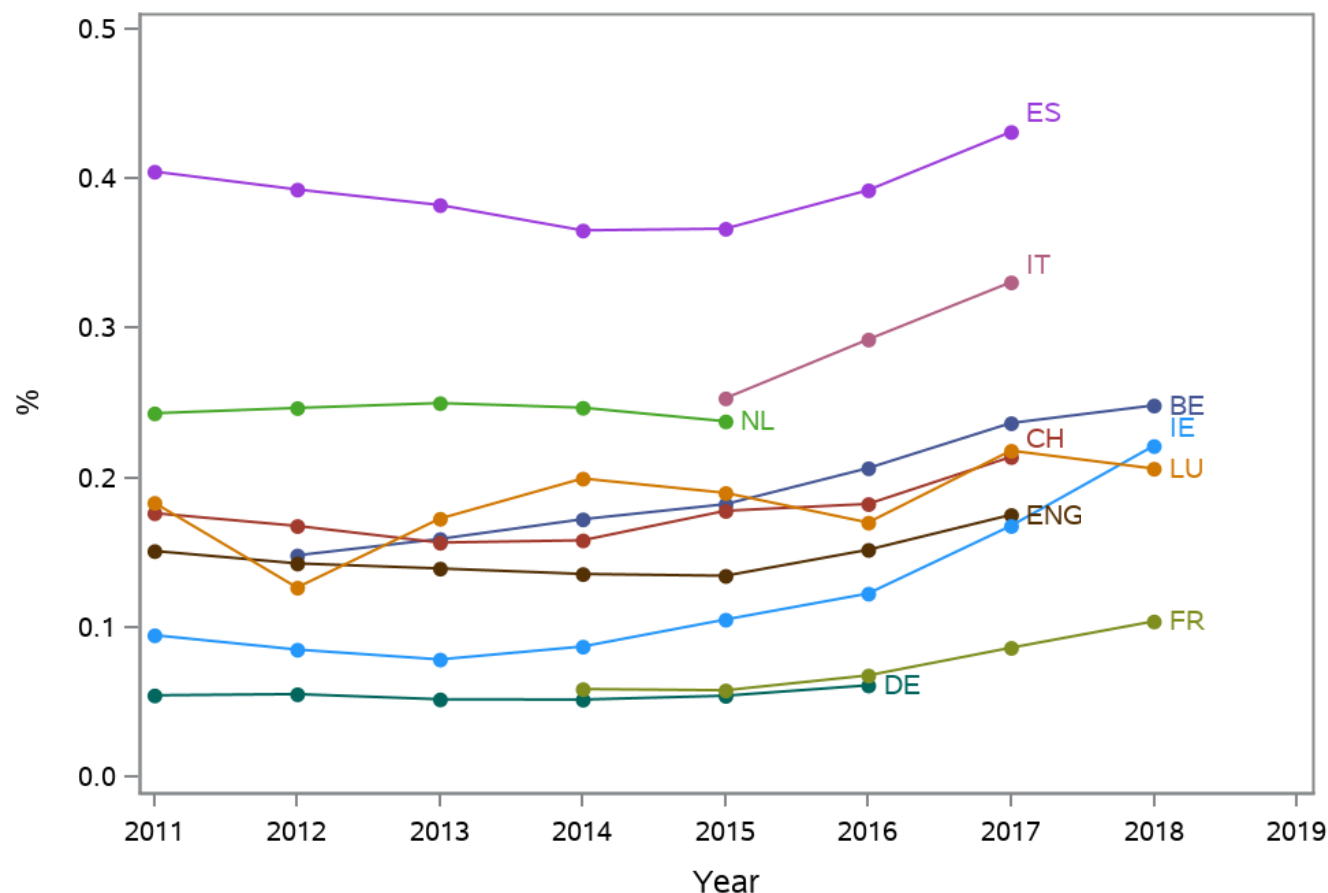
## ➤ Cocaine in drug-related treatment demands

- Proportion of cocaine among all treatment entrants
- Share of the different substances



# Results

**Figure 2: Trend in the proportion of cocaine (powder & crack) as primary drug among all treatment entrants**



**Table 1 : Results from the joinpoint regression on proportion among all treatment entrants**

Country	Period	APC
IE	'11-'14 '14-'18	-4,2% +28,2%*
FR	'14-'18	+17,7%*
ENG	'11-'15 '15-'17	-2,9%* +14,9%*
IT	'15-'17	+14,2%*
CH	'11-'14 '14-'17	-3,7% +10,6%
BE	'12-'18	+9,6%*
ES	'11-'15 '15-'17	-2,7%* +9,1%*
LU	'11-'18	+3,7%
DE	'11-'16	+1,7%
NL	'11-'15	-0,4%

# Results

## ➤ Split by substance

- Powder cocaine : same trend
- Crack cocaine : stronger trend

## ➤ Split by history in addiction treatment

- No previous treatment : same pattern, earlier

# Conclusion

- **Significant increase in cocaine treatment entrants in most Western European countries**
  - from 2014-2015 on
  - for both substances (crack and powder cocaine)
  - among all and first-time treatment entrants
- **Confirming increasing trends in seizures, prevalence or harm-related indicators**
- **Testing a methodology for trend analysis among different countries based on a standard indicator**

# Conclusion

## ➤ Challenges for the future

- Increase will probably continue in the following years
- Other EU countries may also be affected
- Increase in cocaine related harms
- Adapt prevention, treatment and harm-reduction offer

## ➤ Further research

- Continue this surveillance, also with other countries, more years
- Investigate more on profile of users, drug use patterns
- Statistical analysis on pooled data
- Cross validation with other epidemiological indicators
- Validate a methodology for trend analysis across countries