

Characteristics of attenders of safer injecting facilities among people who inject drugs in France: Baseline results from the COSINUS cohort study

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INTRODUCTION

Epidemiological situation of French people who inject drugs (PWID) (Coquelicot, 2011-2013, Lloyd, 2012, Fatseas 2012, Denis 2015):

- Among PWID out-of-treatment seeking treatment: HCV prevalence is decreasing in some studies
- Among PWID out-of-treatment not seeking treatment: HCV prevalence is increasing and precariousness is high
- HCV prevalence over 60%, and 50% injection equipment sharing
- Experimental opening of SIFs

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the impact of Safer Injecting Facilities (SIFs) and other harm reduction programs in France on

- Practices at risk of HCV transmission in PWID
- Other outcomes: Psychopathology, perceptions of help received, behavior and cognitive status

METHODS

Study design

- A prospective multisite cohort study in 4 different French cities (2 with SIF and 2 without SIF)

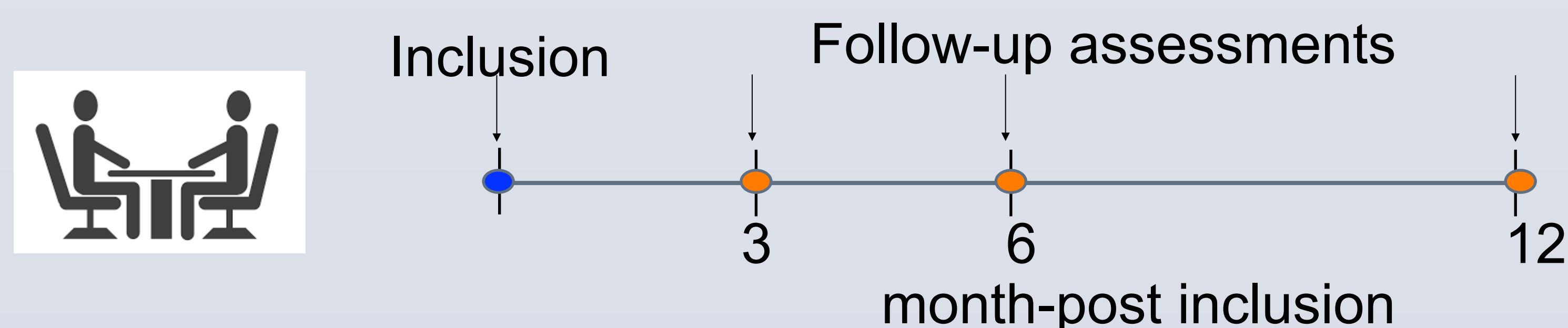


Participants

- Age over 18 years old
- Regular users of illegal substances (heroin, cocaine/crack, amphetamine, ecstasy) or misused medications
- To have injected at least once during the past 30 days

Procedure

- Enrolment in harm reduction programs and SIFs
- 12 months inclusion phase will enroll 680 PWID
- Adapted from the evaluation of the Vancouver SIF (Kerr, 2006, BMJ, Strathdee, 1997, AIDS)



Measures

- HCV risk practices
- Socio-demographic characteristics
- Behavioral, Psychometric, Cognitive assessment
- Access to care and perception of existing and future harm reduction services

Statistical Analyses

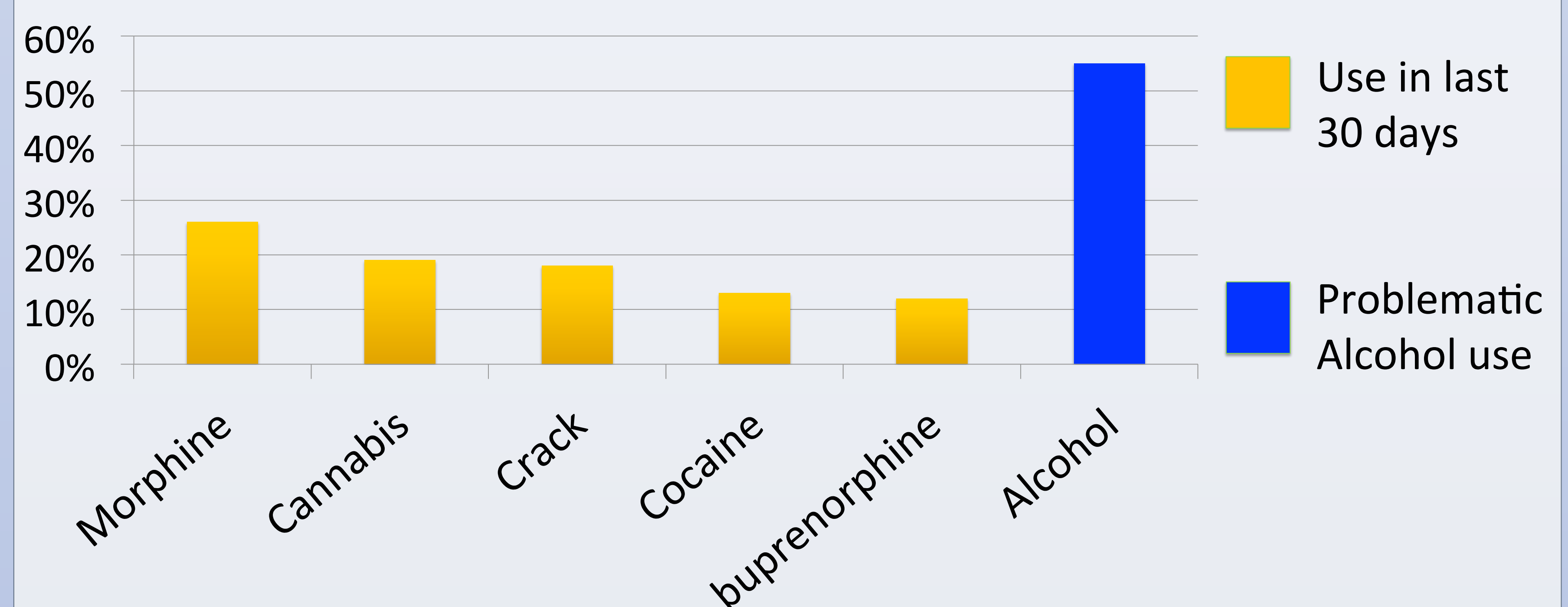
Mixed logistic model to assess the impact of individual factors and structural factors (SIF, harm reduction programs) on HCV risk

PRIMILINARY DESCRIPTIVE RESULTS AT INCLUSION

Sample characteristics

- N=190, 36 y.o. (19-64), 81% males, 76% without job
- 69% do not have stable housing, 51% slept in the street in last 30 days

Substances used



Injection and risk practices

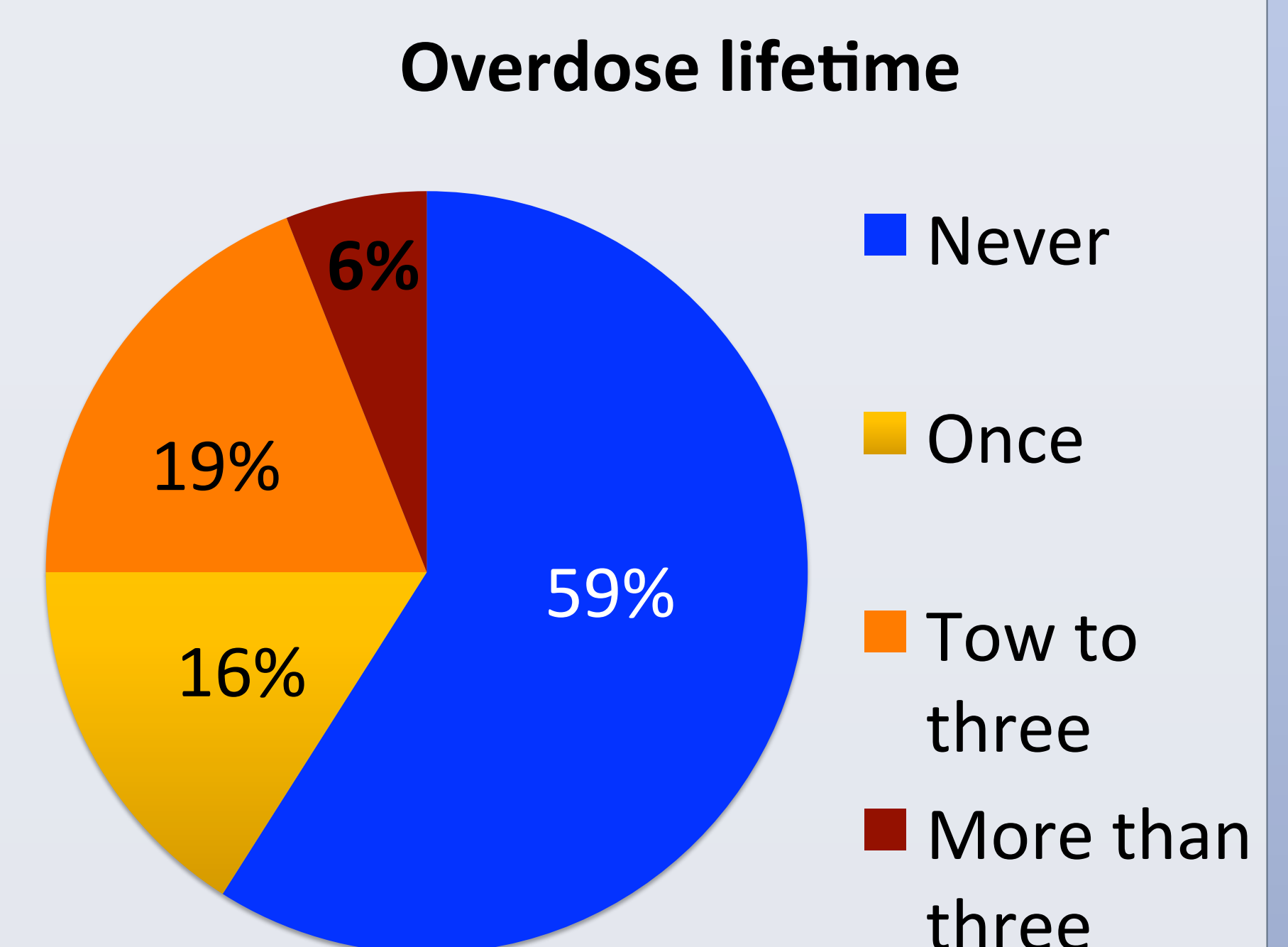
- 64% inject daily
- 36% inject in public places
- 40% throw used equipment in public garbage cans
- **62% have at least one HCV risk practices**

Treatment for addiction

- 42% methadone
- 19% buprenorphine
- 5% morphine sulfate

Structural factors

- Harm reduction programs attendance:
 - 77% often / always
- SIF
 - 93% heard of it
 - 81% are interested
 - 33% attended at least one SIF in the last month and 72% think they will follow-up



CONCLUSION

- High prevalence of HIV-HCV risk practices in this group
- Willingness to attend a SIF
- Longitudinal results will help to better understand:
 - characteristics of PWID who use and do not use SIFs
 - evaluate changes in HCV risk practices and other outcomes

