

Assessing the scale and impact of illicit drug markets in Scotland

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Illicit Drug Markets

- Study funded by the Scottish Government
- A scoping study that aims to use existing datasets to produce estimates of:
 - the size and value of the illicit drugs markets in Scotland
 - the social and economic cost of illicit drug use in Scotland
- Currently the only information on the size of the illicit drug use market in Scotland is based on UK estimates while the only social and economic costs available in the UK are restricted to England and Wales

Illicit Drug Markets

3 main parts of the study:

- Prevalence ‘model’
 - Information on the number of people in Scotland who use drugs
- Markets model
 - The size of the drug markets in Scotland
 - Amounts used
 - Total value
- Social and economic costs model
 - Cost to society of Scotland’s drug problem

Prevalence Model

- Estimates of the number of people in Scotland who use illicit substances
 - Can be extended to include alcohol and tobacco
- Only includes individuals aged 10 to 64
 - Age specific estimates
- Class A drug use
- Individual drugs including cannabis
- Types of drug use

Prevalence Model



- Three types of drug use
 - Young recreational (10 to 24 years)
 - Older regular (25 to 64 years)
 - Problem (15 to 64 years)
- These should be seen as ‘labels’ for the three types required for the models, rather than comments about the severity of problems individual drugs cause individuals or society

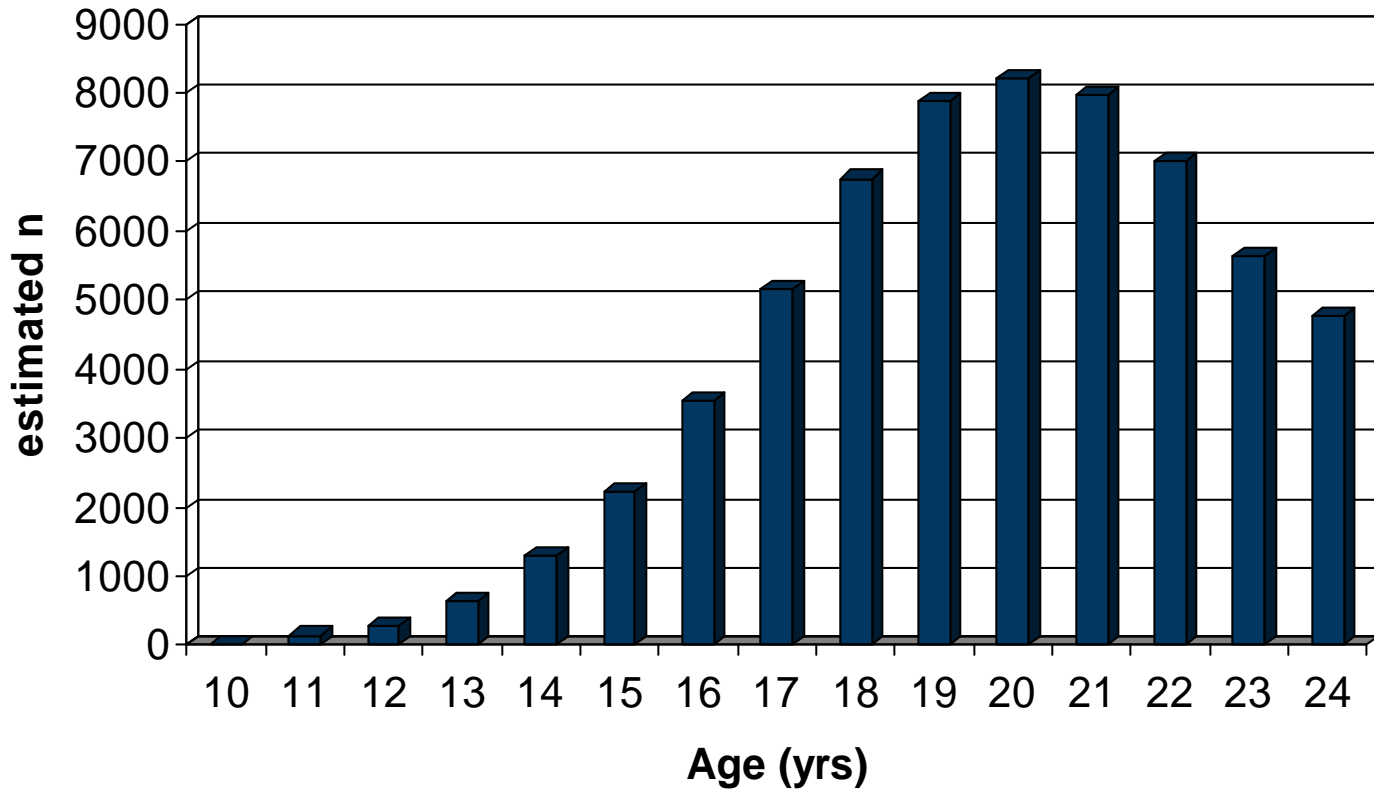
Young Recreational



- Uses information from:
 - Scottish Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS)
 - Study into levels of pre-teen drug use
 - CDMR report for the Department of Health
 - Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey
- Assumes negligible levels of heroin, crack cocaine or methadone use
 - Although those over 15 using those drugs will appear in the problem group

Young Recreational

Estimated number using powder cocaine (last year)



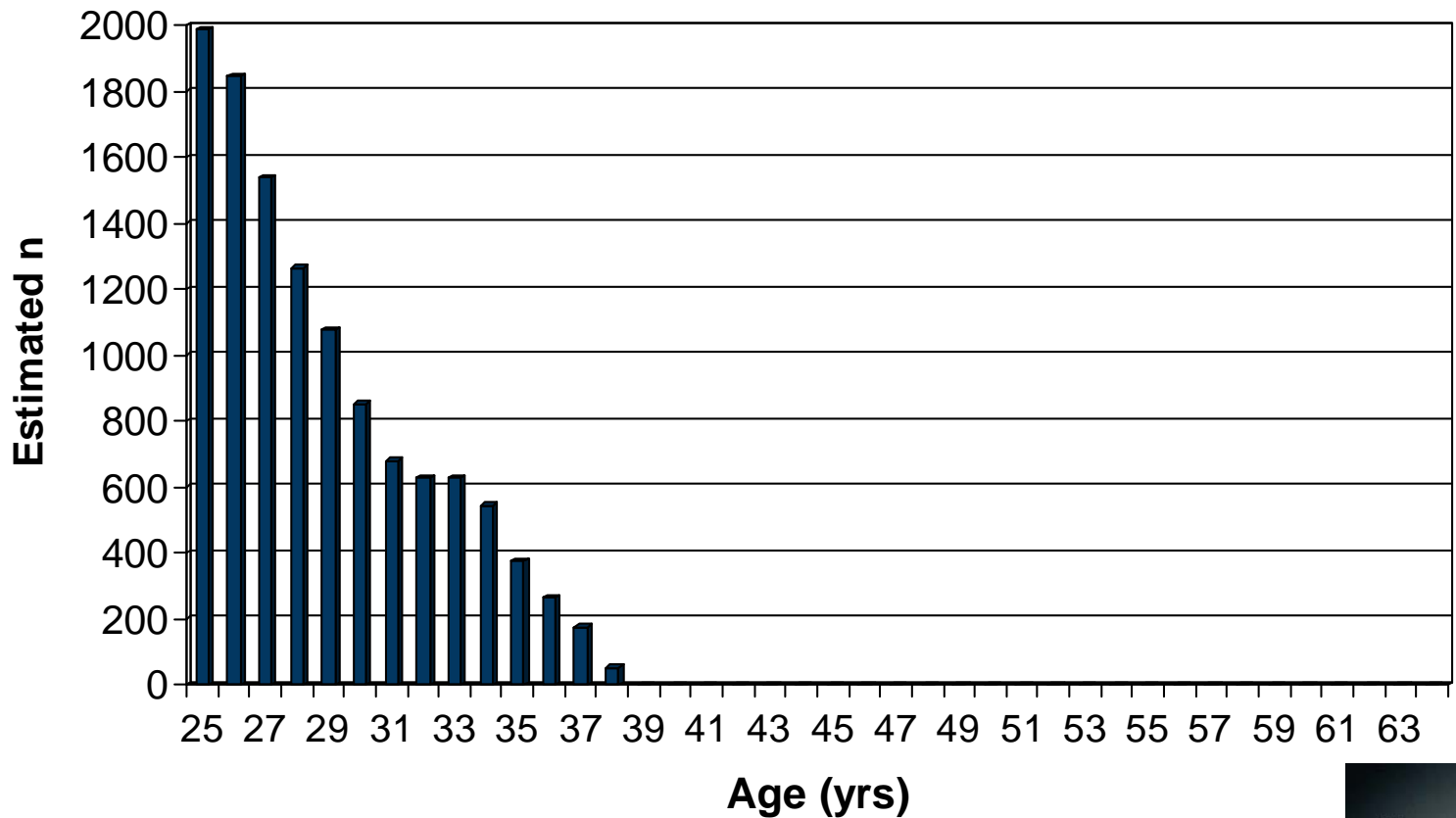
Older Regular



- Uses information from:
 - Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey
- Assumes negligible levels of ‘non problematic’ heroin, crack cocaine or methadone use
 - Although those using those drugs will appear in the problem group.

Older Regular

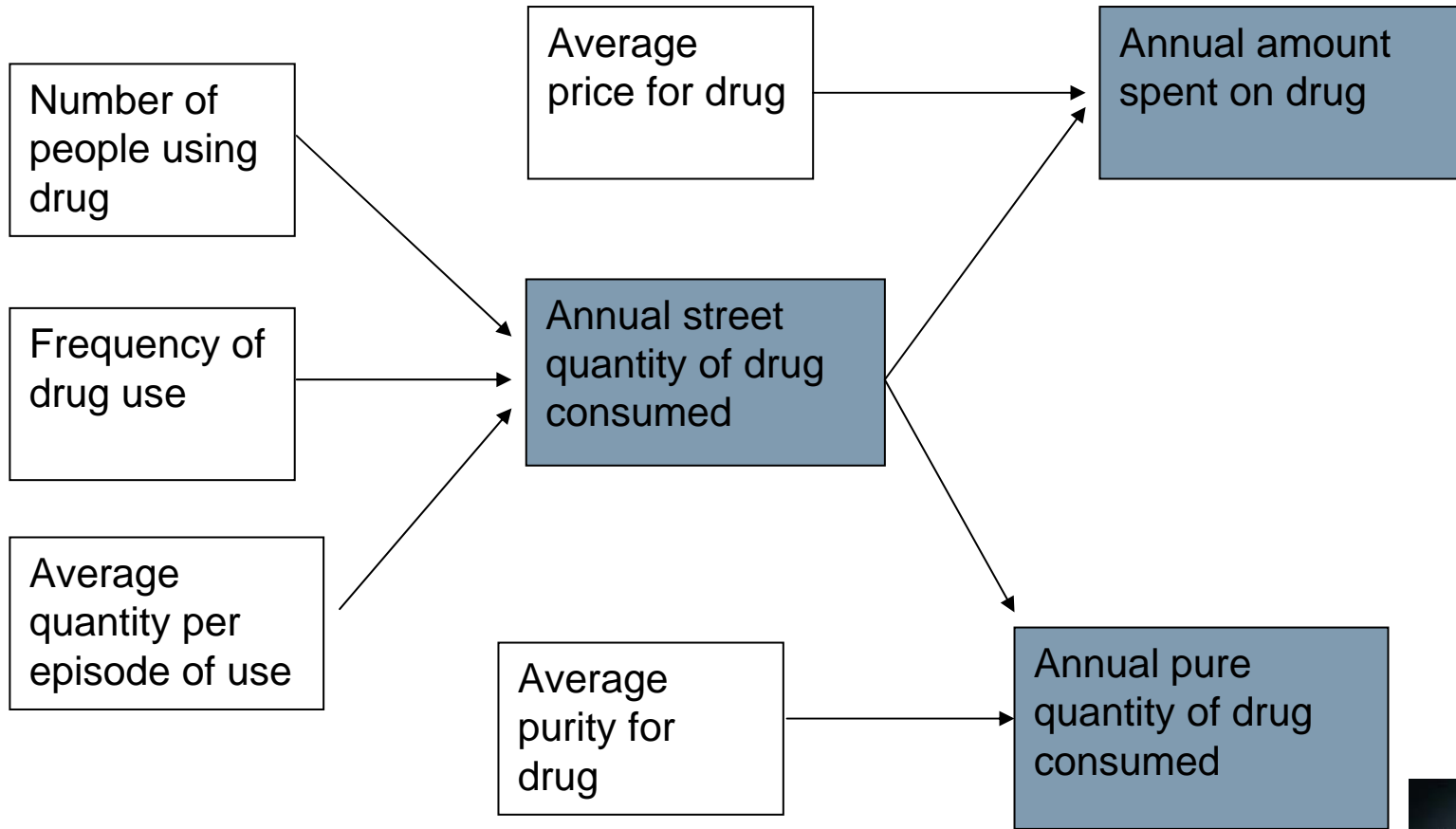
Estimated number using powder cocaine (last month)



Problem user

- Uses information from:
 - National Prevalence Study
 - Drug Outcome Research In Scotland (DORIS)
- Assumes negligible levels of ‘problematic’ use of individual drugs other than heroin, methadone and crack cocaine

Markets model - methods



Markets model

Average price of drug

- Calculated for each individual drug
- Uses information from:
 - SCDEA
 - DORIS
 - NHS Scotland data

Markets model

Frequency of drug use

- Estimate frequency of use rates for each individual drug and by drug use category
- Uses information from:
 - SALSUS / SCVS
 - DORIS
 - NHS Scotland data

Markets model

Average quantity per episode of use

- Estimate amount consumed per episode of use for each individual drug and by drug use category
- Uses information from:
 - DORIS
 - NHS Scotland data

Social and economic costs model



- Suggested costs to include in model:
 - Healthcare costs
 - e.g. methadone prescribing, residential rehab
 - Social work service costs
 - e.g. family social work
 - Criminal Justice
 - e.g. police time, court time
 - Wider economic costs
 - e.g. unemployment benefit
 - Human costs
 - e.g. drug related deaths

Study Results



- Main results are the estimated size / value of the illicit drug market and the estimated social and economic cost of illicit drug use in Scotland
- Estimates will be reported at the national level and at Police Force level where possible
- Final report due to be submitted at the beginning of May 2008