Prescription Drug Misuse: Spain
Today’s Goals

• Prescription drug misuse in Spain
• Landscape overview
• Prescribing patterns
• Misuse by class
• Misuse by API
• Poison centres data (GTNet)
• Aaddiction centres data (Europad)
What is the RADARS® System?

- Supported by subscriptions from pharmaceutical manufacturers, government, and non-government agencies for surveillance, research and reporting services.
- Property of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado.
- Denver Health retains exclusive ownership of all data, databases and systems. Subscribers do not participate in data collection nor do they have access to the raw data.
Spain: Landscape

- Drug consumption and minor possession: non-criminal offense
  - Fines can be suspended if attend treatment, rehabilitation, counselling
- National strategy focus
  - Delay age of first exposure
  - Focus on trafficking for illicit, licit, and novel substances
- EMCDDA data
THE DRUG PROBLEM IN SPAIN AT A GLANCE

Drug use
in young adults (15-34 years) in the last year
by primary drug

Cannabis
18.3%

Other drugs
MDMA 1.2%
Amphetamines 0.9%
Cocaine 2.8%

Opioid substitution treatment clients
58 749

New HIV diagnoses attributed to injecting

Population
30 700 225
(15-64 years)

Drug law offences
389 229

Top 5 drugs seized
1. Cannabis resin
2. Cocaine
3. Herbal cannabis
4. Heroin
5. Amphetamine

Source: Eurostat Extracted on: 18/03/2019

Syringes distributed
1 503 111

through specialised programmes

Source: ECDC
Spain: Prescribing patterns

- Tramadol
- Codeine
- Oxycodone
- Morphine
Survey of Non-Medical Use (NMURx)

• Nationally representative online survey covering multiple drug classes
• Contains information on users and non-users
• Demographics, misuse behavior (route/reason) and psychological factors
Spain: Misuse by Class
Survey of Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs (NMURx)
Spain: Misuse by Type of Opioid
Survey of Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs (NMURx)
Entering Treatment Centres (Europad)

• Individuals entering treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
• Network of treatment centres and their covered populations
• Surveys ask about past 3 months misuse including routes, primary drug and non-opioids
Spain: Addiction Centres (Europad) Misuse Rate per Population

- Codeine
- Tramadol
- Morphine
- Oxycodone
Spain: Addiction Centres (Europad) Misuse Rate per Units Sold
Spain: Conclusions

• Tramadol and codeine most prescribed opioids
• Pain relievers and sedatives most misused by general population
  • Codeine most misused of the opioids
• Codeine and tramadol most misused by those entering addiction treatment per population
  • Morphine and oxycodone on the rise
  • Similar increases when adjusted for drug availability