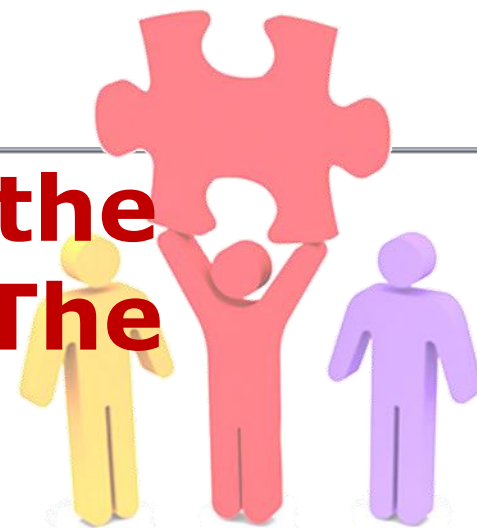


DIMS and the practice of the Early Warning System in The Netherlands.



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Toxicologist

Head Drugs Information and Monitoring System
(DIMS); Dutch contact for EWS

Conference on
Early Warning System on New Psychoactive
Substances
Zagreb, 19 April 2011

Outline of presentation

1. The Netherlands and Dutch drug policy
2. Drugs Information and Monitoring System
3. Early Warning System in the Netherlands and the Co-ordination Centre for Assessment and Monitoring of new drugs (CAM)
4. Two examples
5. Conclusion

The Netherlands

- Population in 2009: 16,5 million; 7 million people live in the 'Randstad' (western part of the country)
- Most densely populated country in the world: 484 inhabitants per square kilometre (1,254 /sq mi)
- 80% is ethnic Dutch; 20% other (including 9% western and 11% non-western population)
- Unemployment rate increased from 2.8% in 2008 to 3.9% in 2009, but still almost lowest in Europe (*Eurostat*)
- Geographical location: sea (Rotterdam harbour), Schiphol airport near Amsterdam
- Within Schengen area (removal internal borders in many European countries)



The Netherlands: Randstad



Dutch drug policy

- Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports is responsible for drug policy in The Netherlands

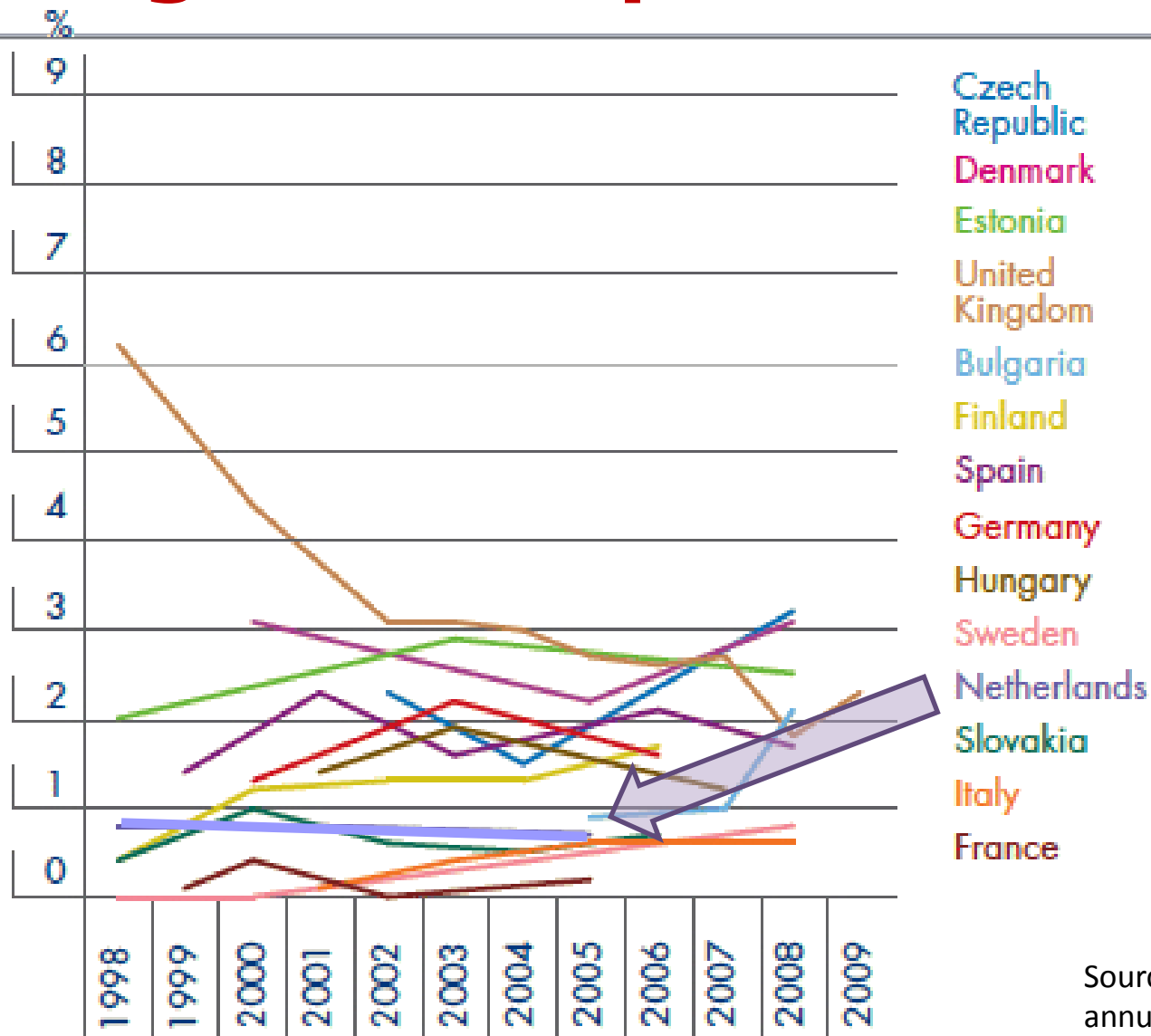
Dutch drug policy

- Protection of the health of the individual, the immediate environment and society, by
 - preventing drug use and treat and rehabilitate drug users
 - reducing harm to users
 - combat production and trafficking of drugs
 - reduction of public nuisance by drug users
- Law:
 - Differentiates between (use)/possession and trade/production
 - Differentiates between 'hard' and 'soft' drugs
 - possession of cannabis for personal use is misdemeanor, no criminal offence

Drug policy - recent developments

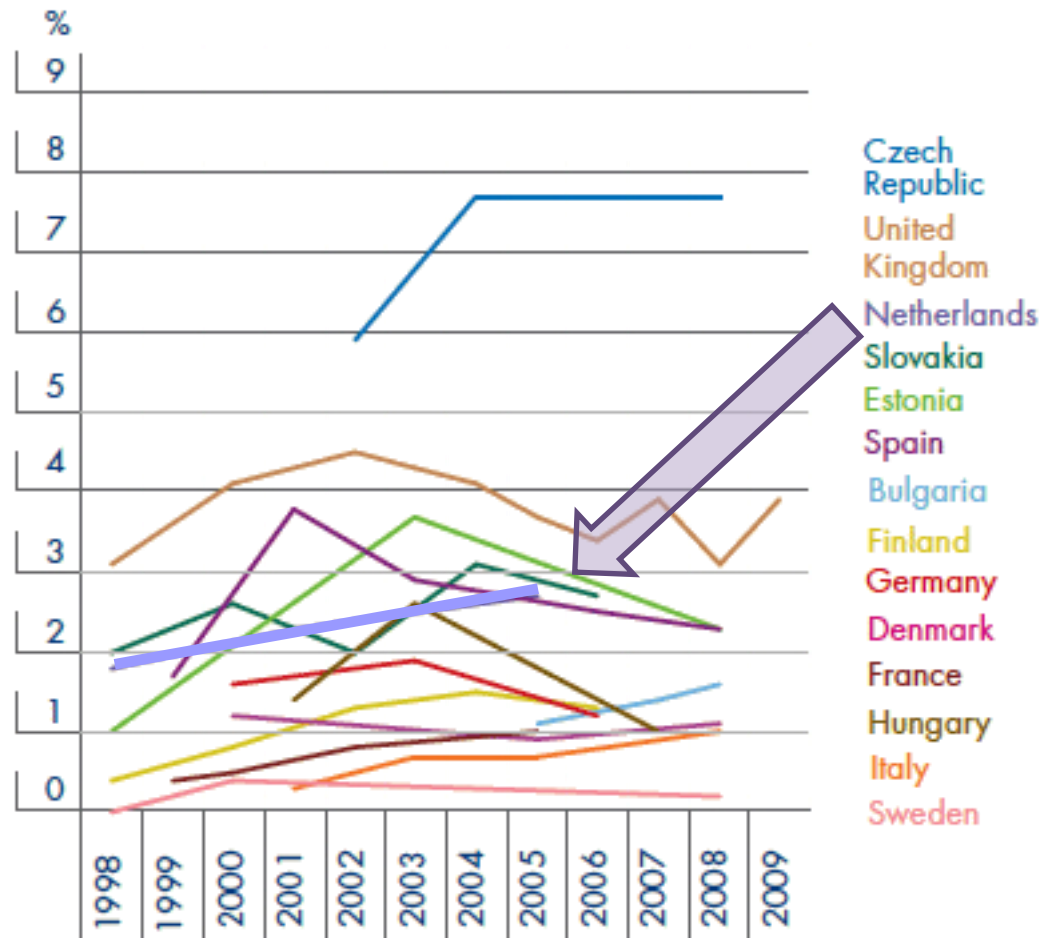
- Intensification of law enforcement on large-scale cannabis cultivation, continuation of fight against synthetic drugs production
- Legislation
- September 2009: Outline of a new drug policy paper
 - Intensification of (selective and indicated) prevention of substance use among minors, especially vulnerable youth
 - Coffee shops should become again small scale points of sale for local users
 - Improved measures against (drug-related) organised crime, with high priority for organised cannabis cultivation, using a combination of administrative law, fiscal and criminal law measures
 - Evaluation of usefulness of maintaining 2 schedules in the Dutch Opium Act

Drug use: amphetamine



Source: EMCDDA annual report 2010

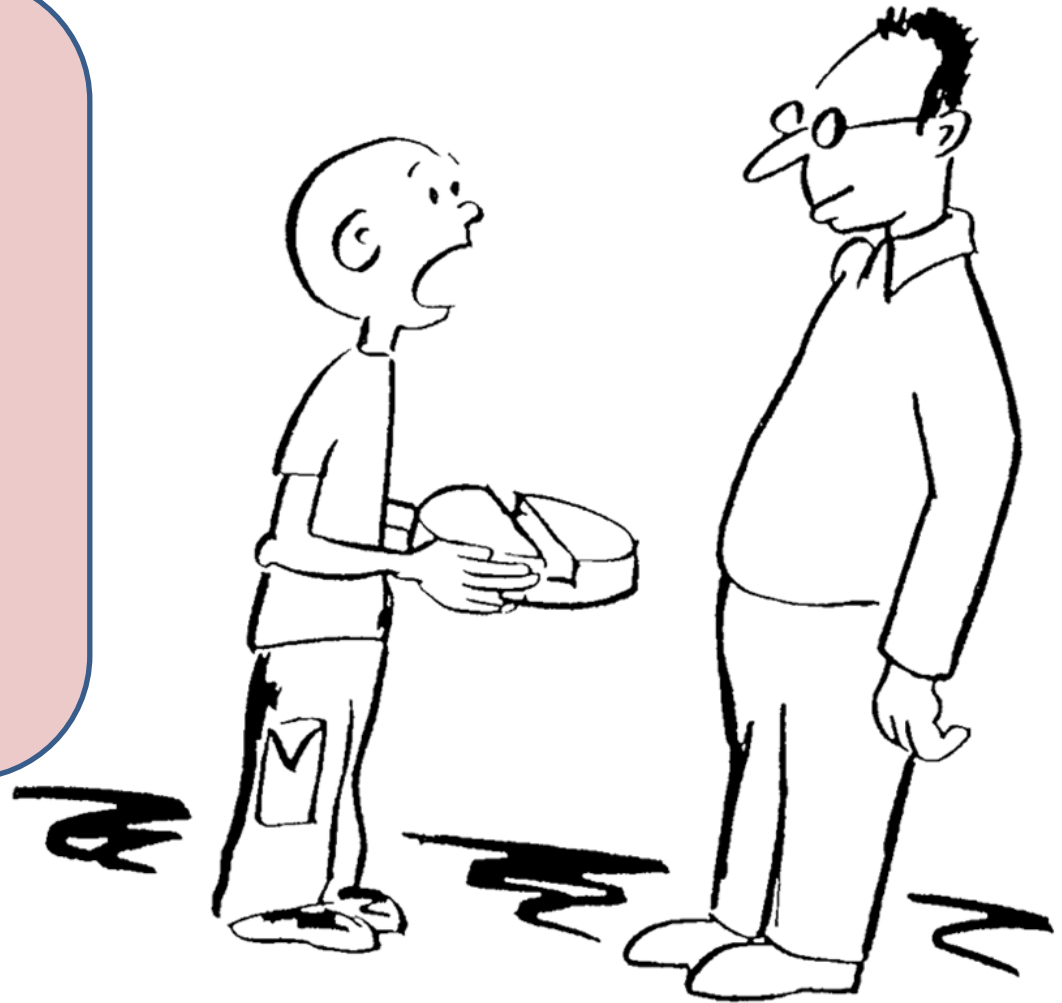
Drug use: ecstasy



Source: EMCDDA
annual report 2010

The Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)

Basis:
testing
drugsamples
from drug
users



The Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)

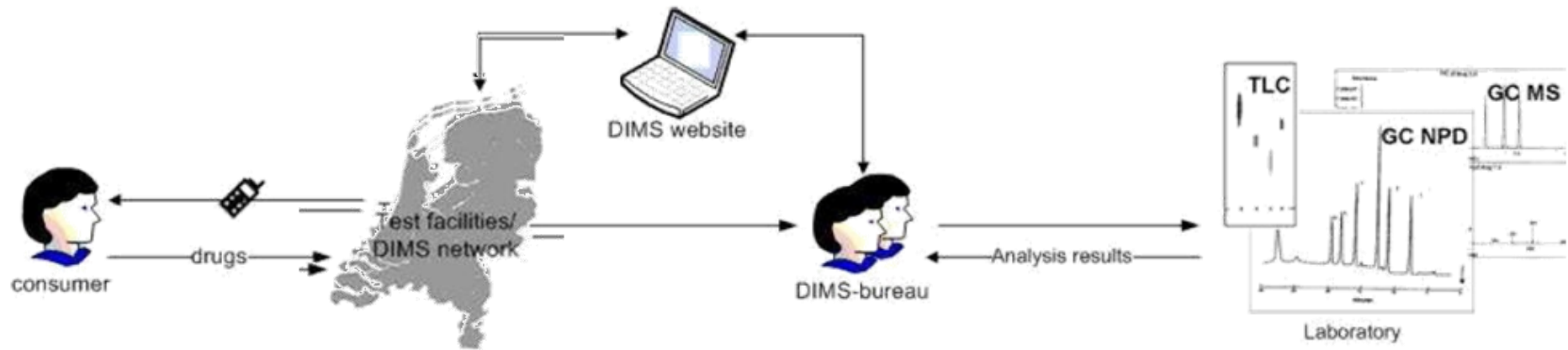
System is based on the exchange of information



The Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)

- Monitor rapid changes in the market of recreational drugs;
- To gain knowledge about the appearance of new psychoactive substances;
- Surveillance of substances with extra risks or for extra riskful situations.
- Warning for such substances or situations.

The Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)



A schematic representation of the DIMS system.

The Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)

Test it!
Laat je drugs testen

Home | Colofon | Disclaimer | Sitemap

Hoe werkt het testen
Voorwaarden
Waar kan ik drugs laten testen
Werking XTC
Zelf pillen testen
Links

Home > Waar kan ik drugs laten testen

Waar kan ik drugs laten testen

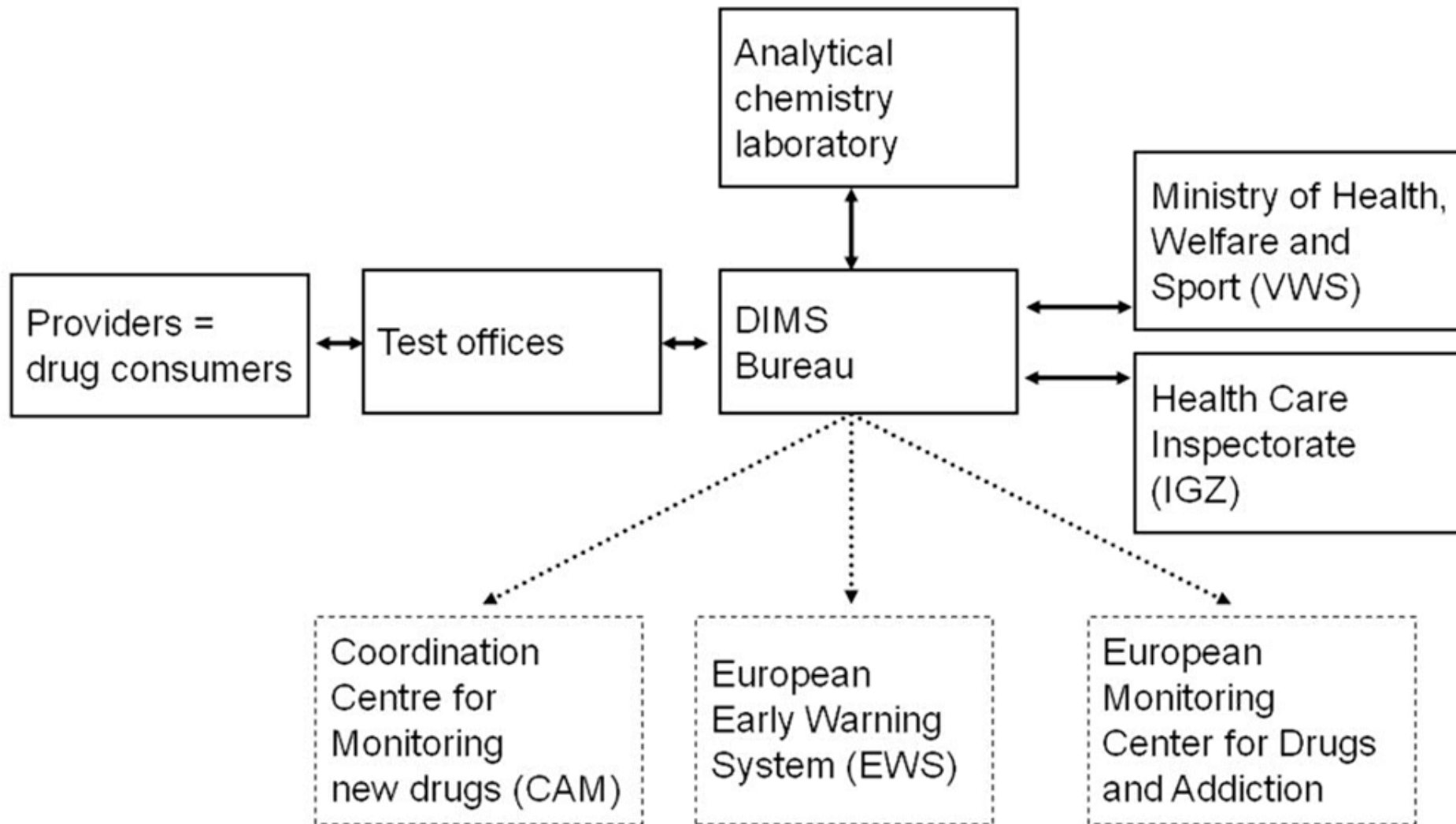
Kaart Sat Terr. Earth

Test facilities/
DIMS network

Disclaimer | Colofon

Between 20 and 30 test facilities all over The Netherlands.

The Drugs Information and Monitoring System (DIMS)



Sources of information

Psychotropic
substance
from drug user

Drugs-related
incident

Forensic
Institute

Police

Addiction
care centre

Signal verification



Hazard identification



Risk characterization



Risk management

Chemical
analysis

User
information

Literature
search

Expert
consultation

Informing
user(s) about
effects and risks

Specific
warning

General warning
Red Alert

Drug-related Incidents (MDI)

1. Monitor in selected regions

- uniform registration drug-related incidents
- idea of number and kind of incidents
- signalling trends and acute life-threatening health hazards

2. Network participants

- new substances, contamination, symptoms, treatment.

Drug-related Incidents (MDI)

Participants health professionals:

- Hospital emergency rooms
- Ambulances
- Police physicians

Nationally:

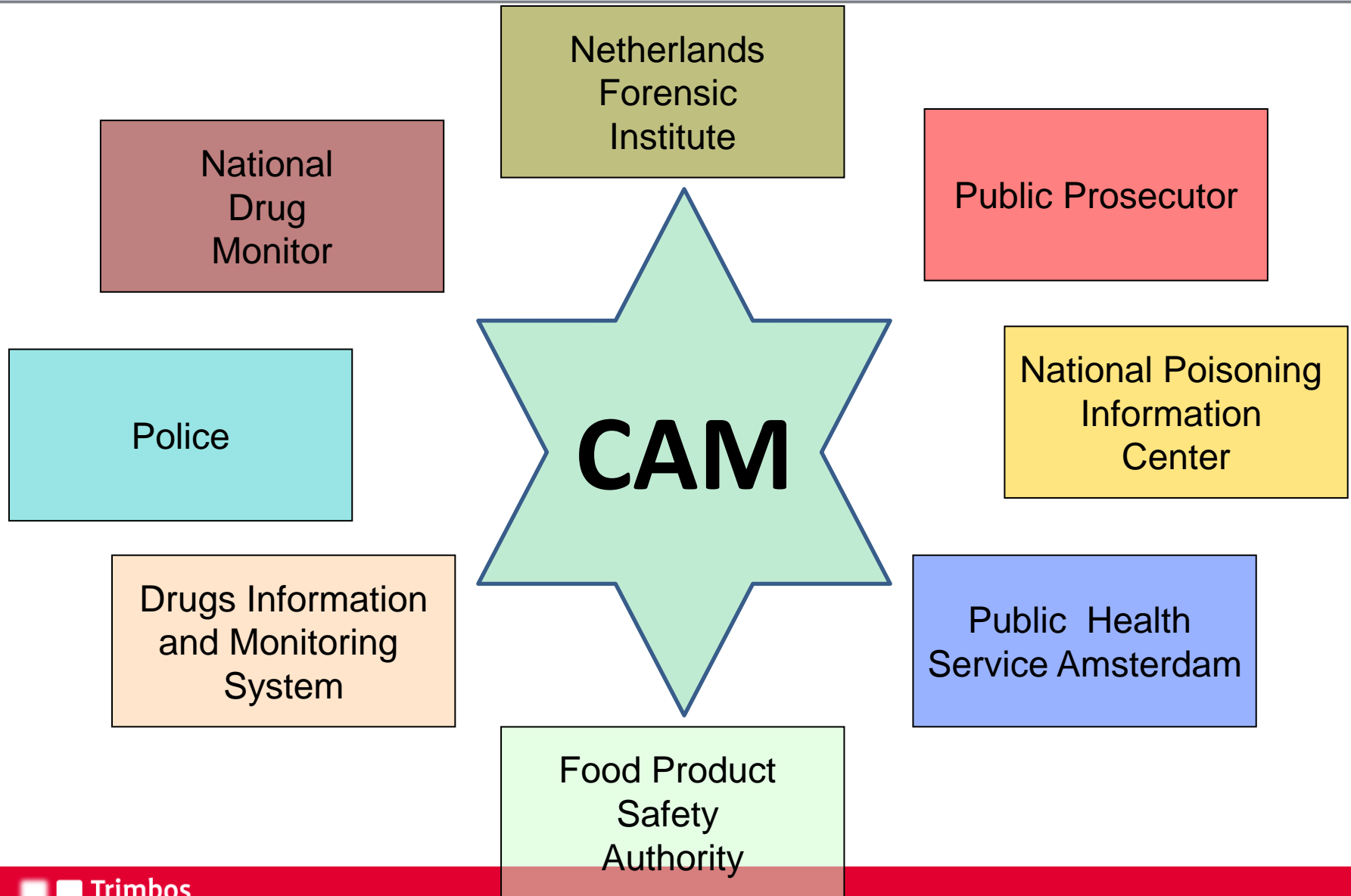
- First-aid stations on dance-events




Drug-related Incidents (MDI)

- Many incidents with GHB; level intoxicatie often moderate-heavy
- Region Amsterdam:
 - 55% of all incidents
 - Not representative for The Netherlands
 - Many tourists with cannabis problems
 - Large portion of incidents with hallucinogenic mushrooms
- Others regions:
 - Less incidents
 - Large portion GHB

Co-ordination Center for Assessment and Monitoring of new drugs (CAM)

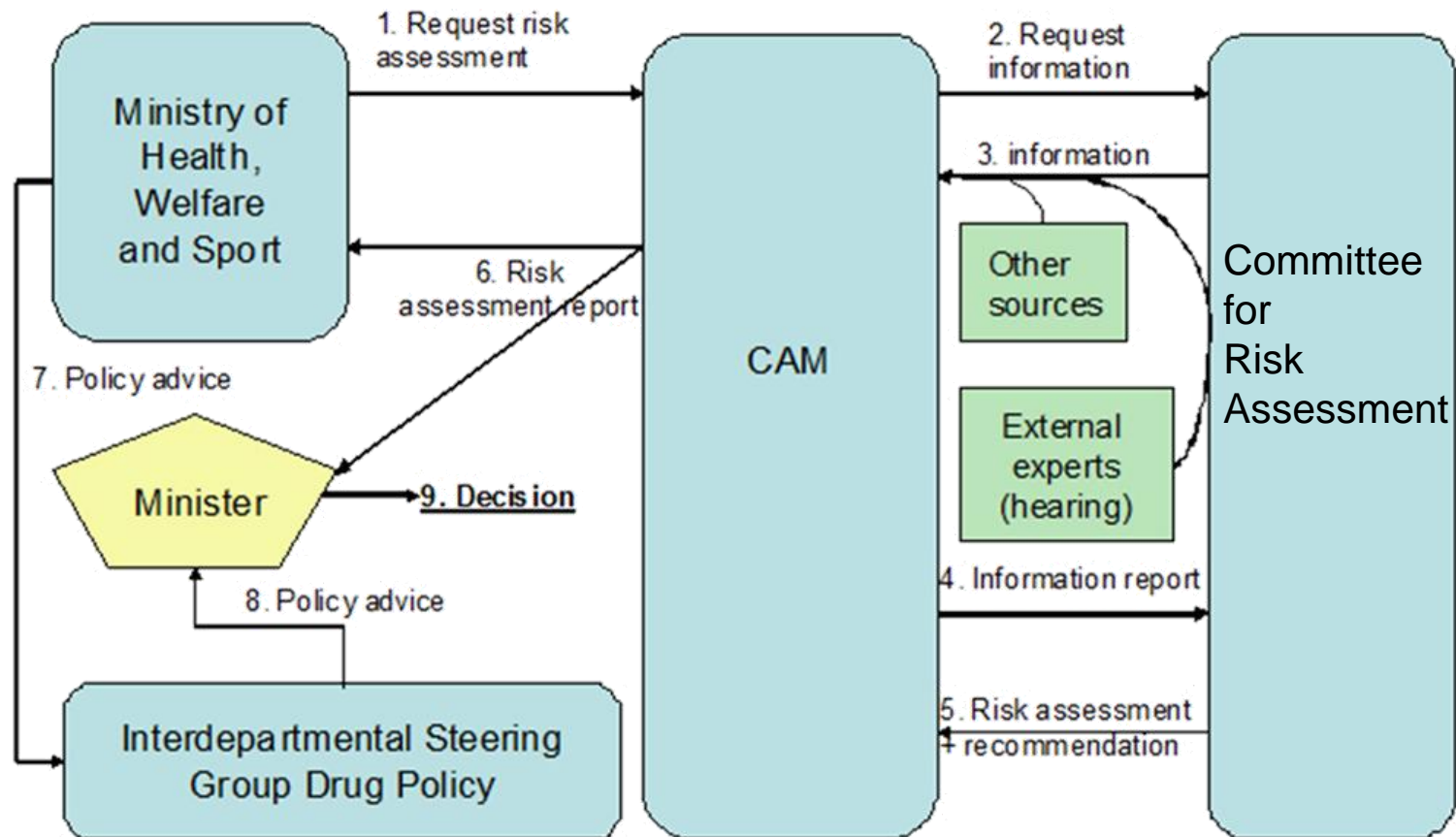


Co-ordination Center for Assessment and Monitoring of new drugs (CAM)

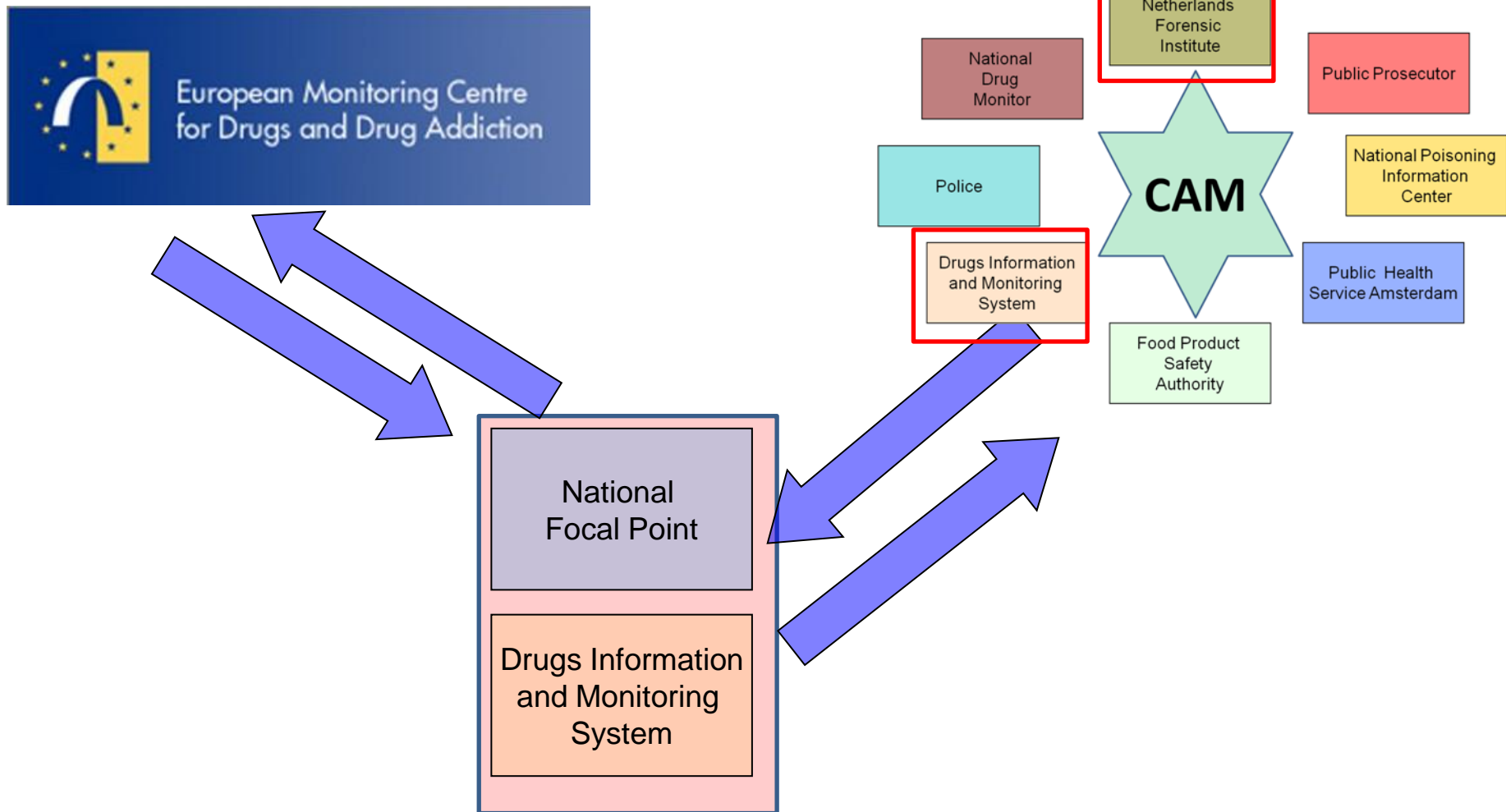
- Exchange of information between organizations that have information on new drugs
- Assessment of health risk of new psychoactive substances at the national level
- Implementation of the European Joint Action of 1997 ( European EWS)

Co-ordination Center for Assessment and Monitoring of new drugs (CAM)

Risk assessment proces



European Early Warning System



PMMA containing ecstasy pills

Police:
man dies
after taking
XTC pills



NFI:

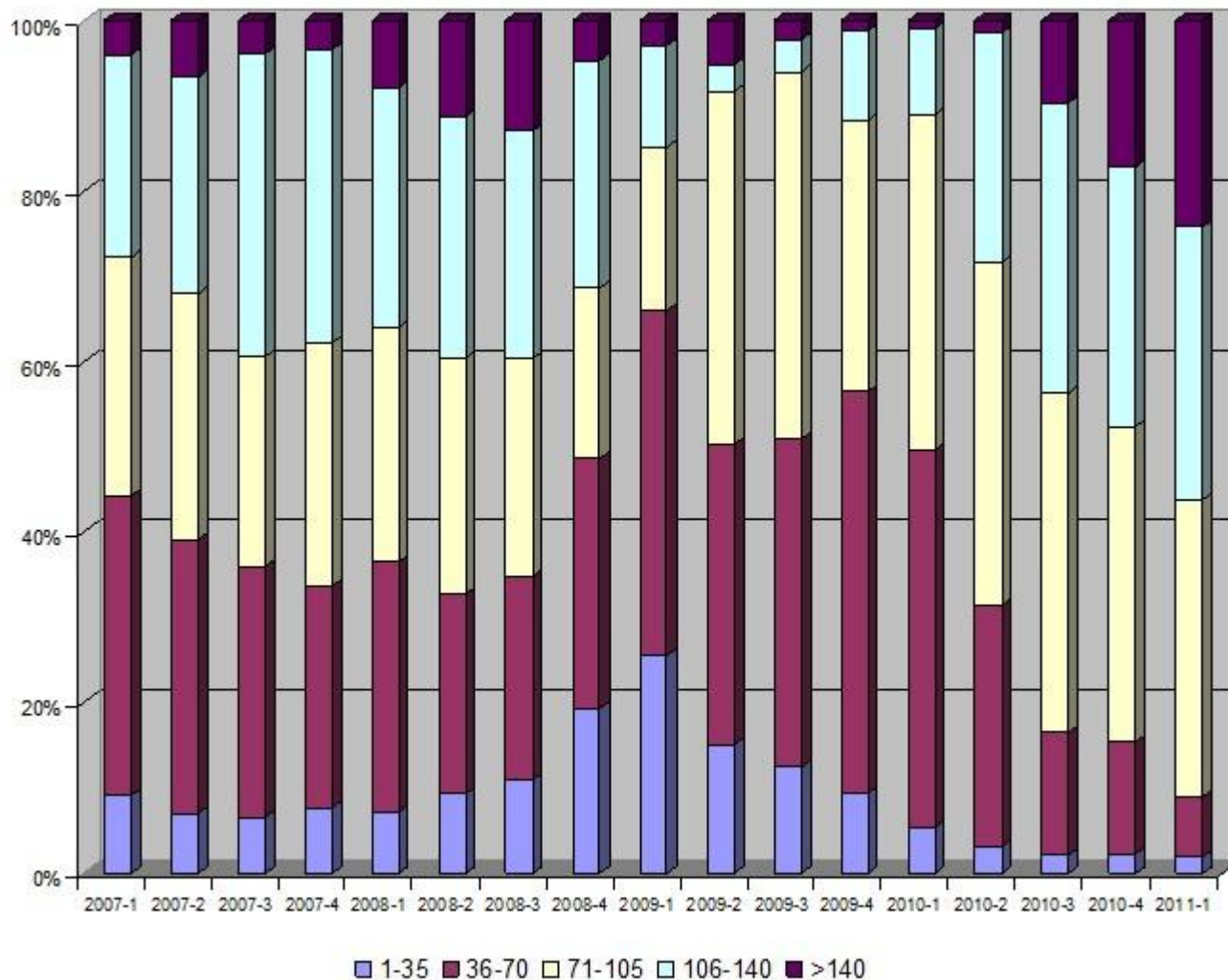
Analysis of XTC pills:
high amount of PMMA,
informs DIMS

**General
warning**

DIMS:

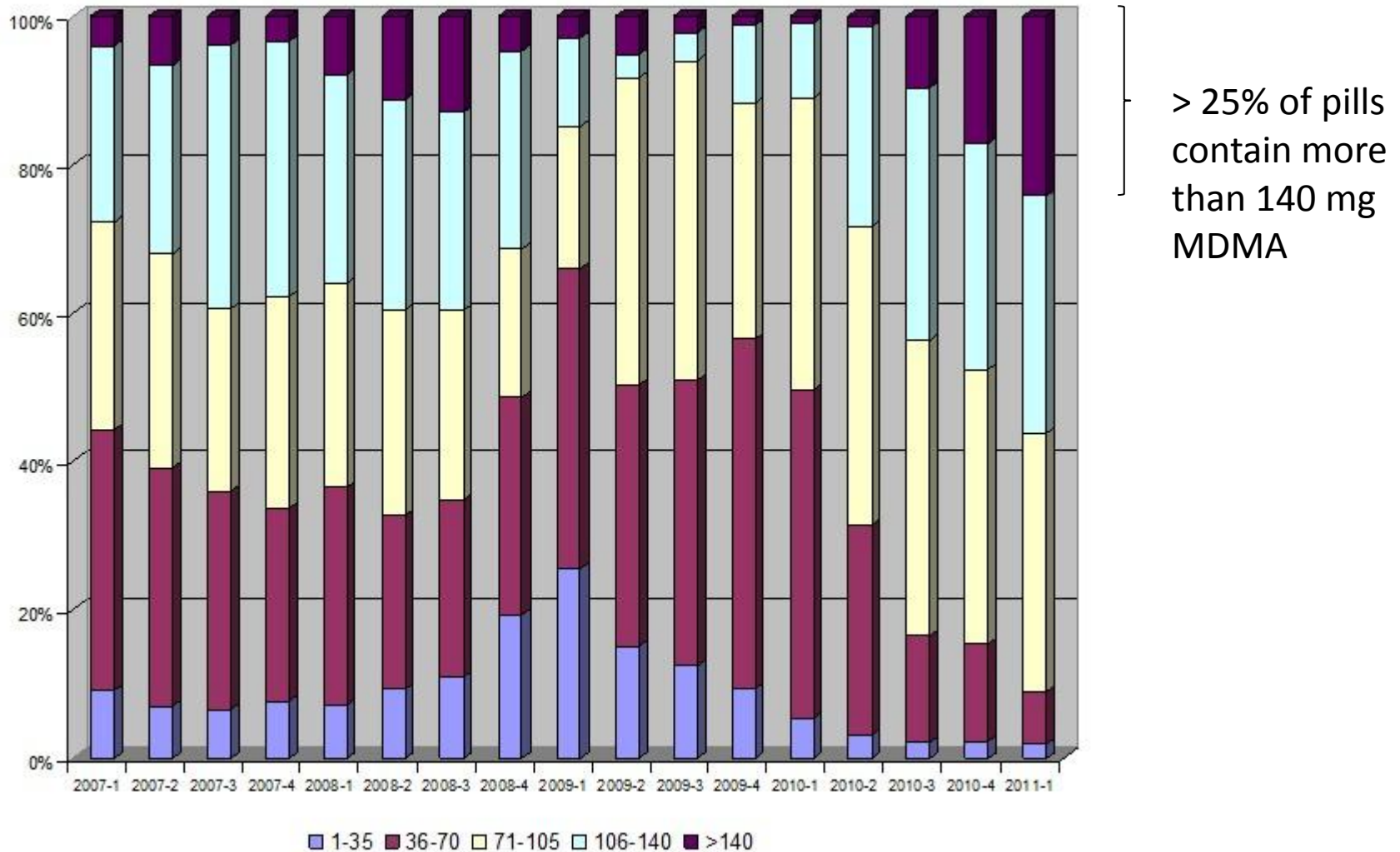
contacts police
(Which information is public?)
and informs the general public
and drug users via the network

DIMS: high amounts of MDMA in ecstasy pills



> 50% of XTC-pills contain more than 105 mg MDMA

DIMS: high amounts of MDMA in ecstasy pills



DIMS: high amounts of MDMA in ecstasy pills

- Warning for many ecstasy pills with high amount of MDMA
- Some pills also contain (high) doses of PMMA
- Four people died due to ecstasy overdose

Conclusion + future

- Good fit between policy and practice
- Good network of prevention workers essential for feedback to drug-users
- Not all sources are included in the EWS yet (customs)