

Policing Youth Engagement in High Risk Drug Use





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- Millions of youths use drugs
- Many youths stop using drugs
- All drug use can be risky
- Use of 'controlled' drugs can be particularly risky

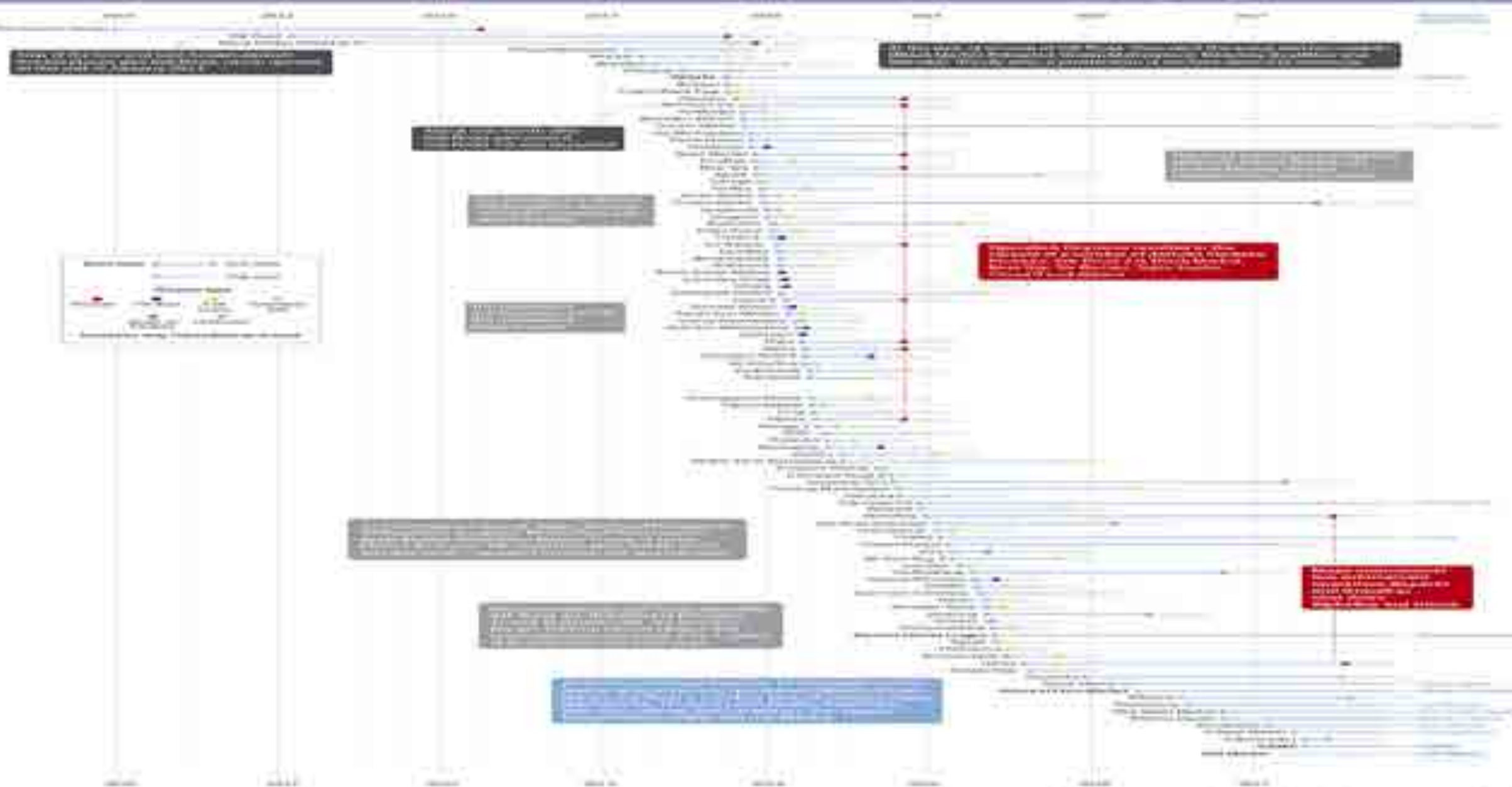
Supply-Side Harm Reduction?

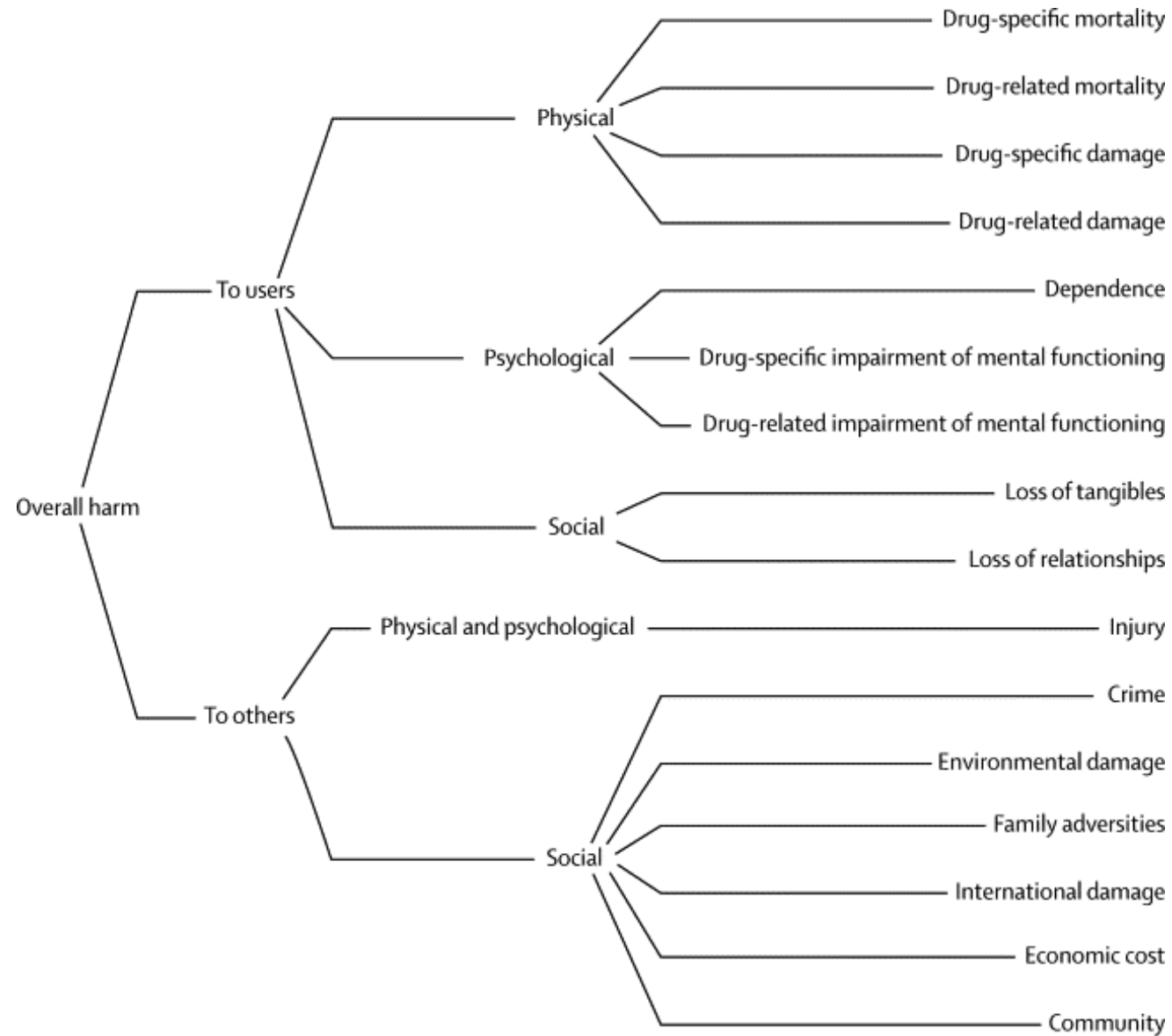
- Higher quality?
- Feedback from peers
- Reduction in street dealing/ recruitment into dealing?
- Stop circulation of dangerous batches



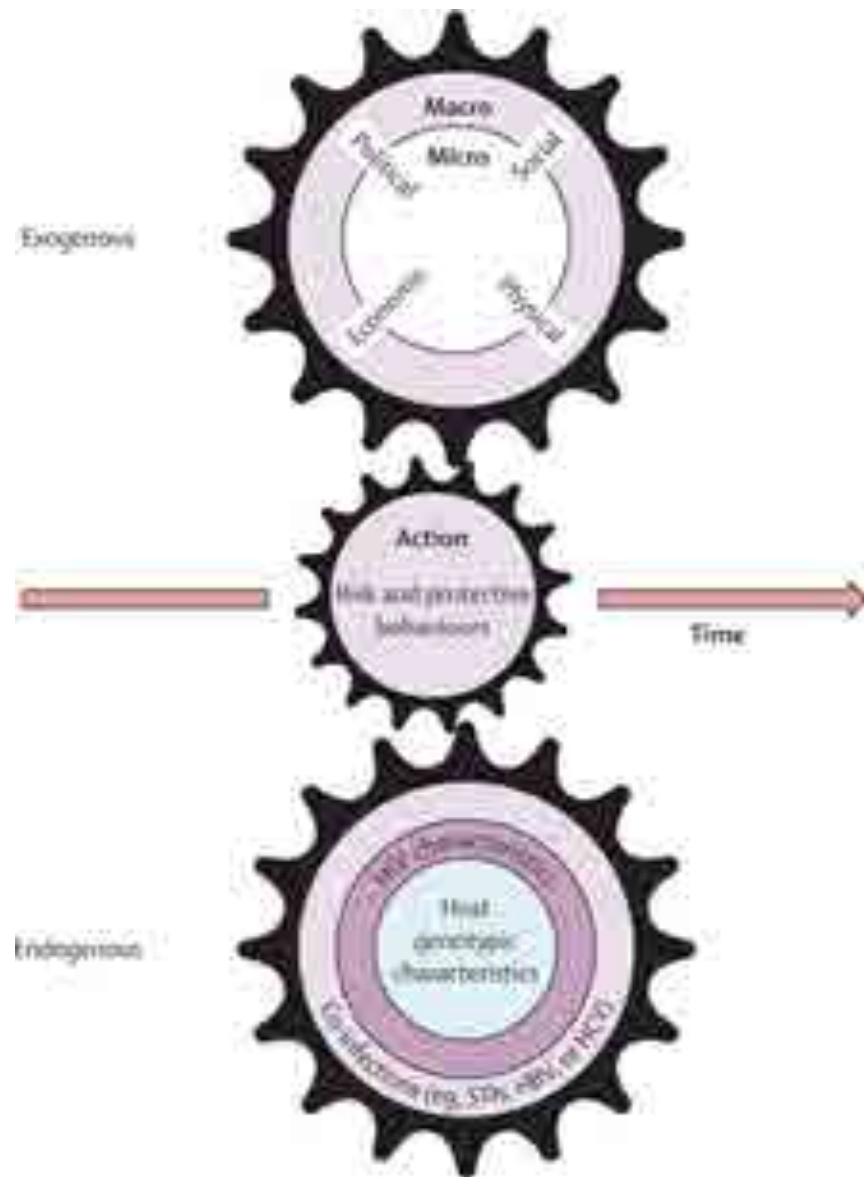
Darknet markets ecosystem

Timeline of Darknet Market Operations from 2010 to 2018

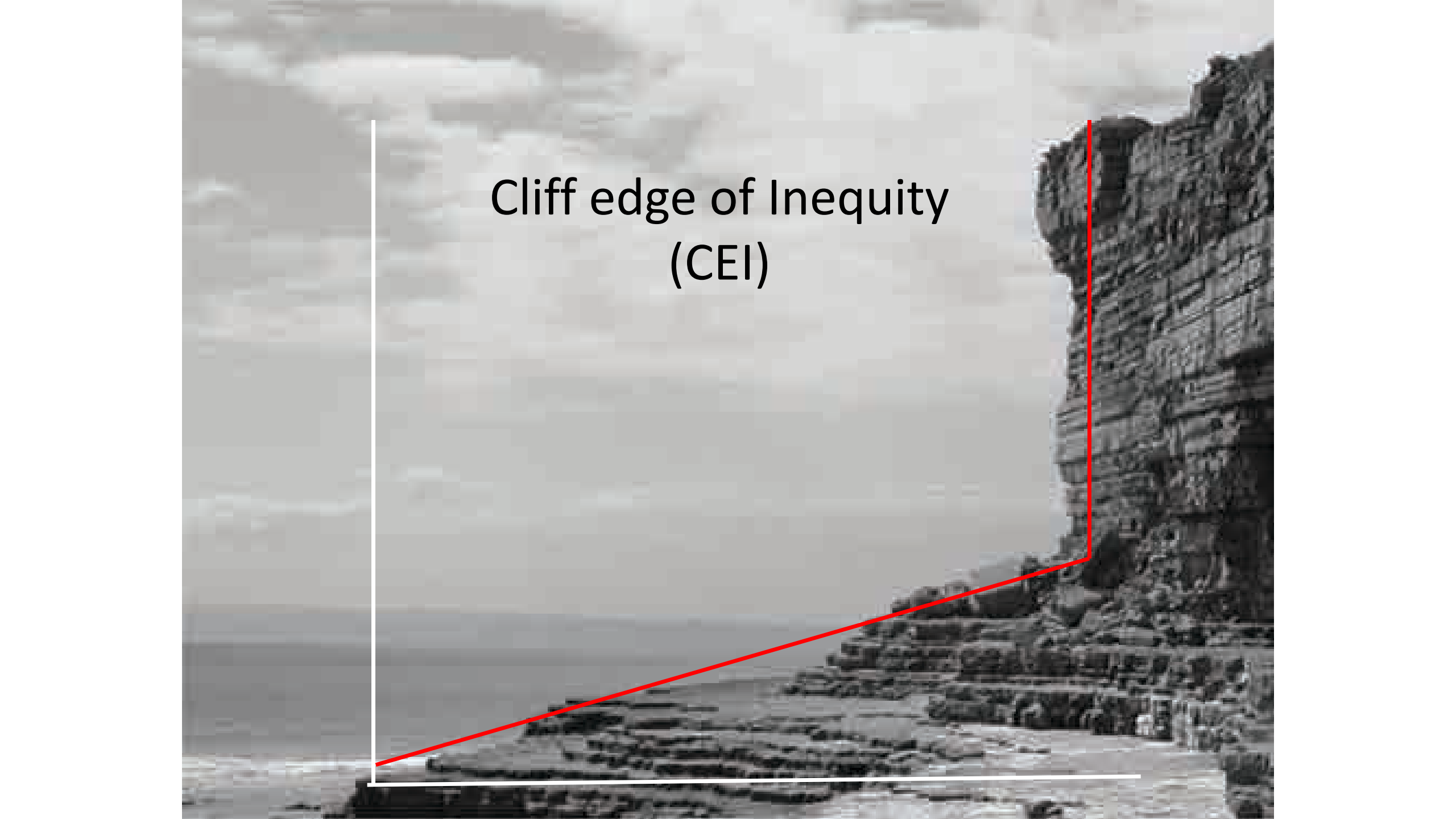




Nutt, King and Philips (2010)



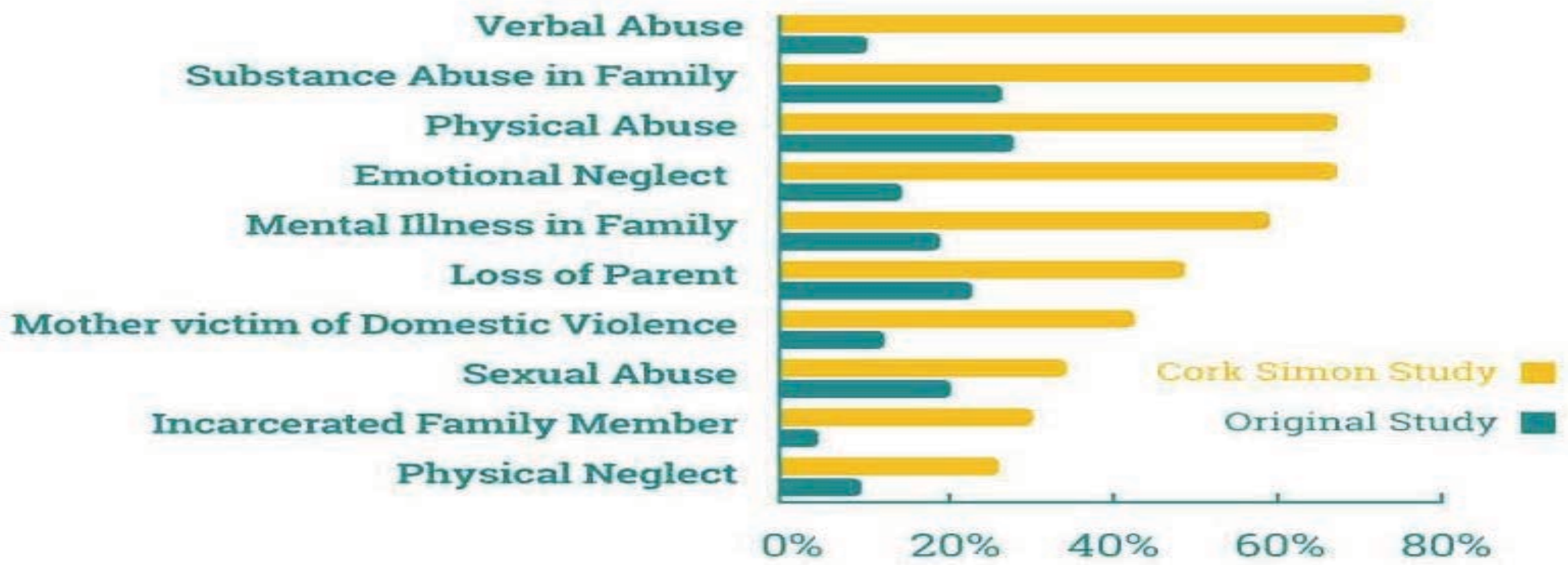
Rhodes (2002)

A black and white photograph of a cliff edge. A red line traces the profile of the cliff, starting from the bottom left, rising to the top of the cliff, and then following the top edge. A white line forms a rectangle, with the bottom and left sides visible. The text "Cliff edge of Inequity (CEI)" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Cliff edge of Inequity
(CEI)

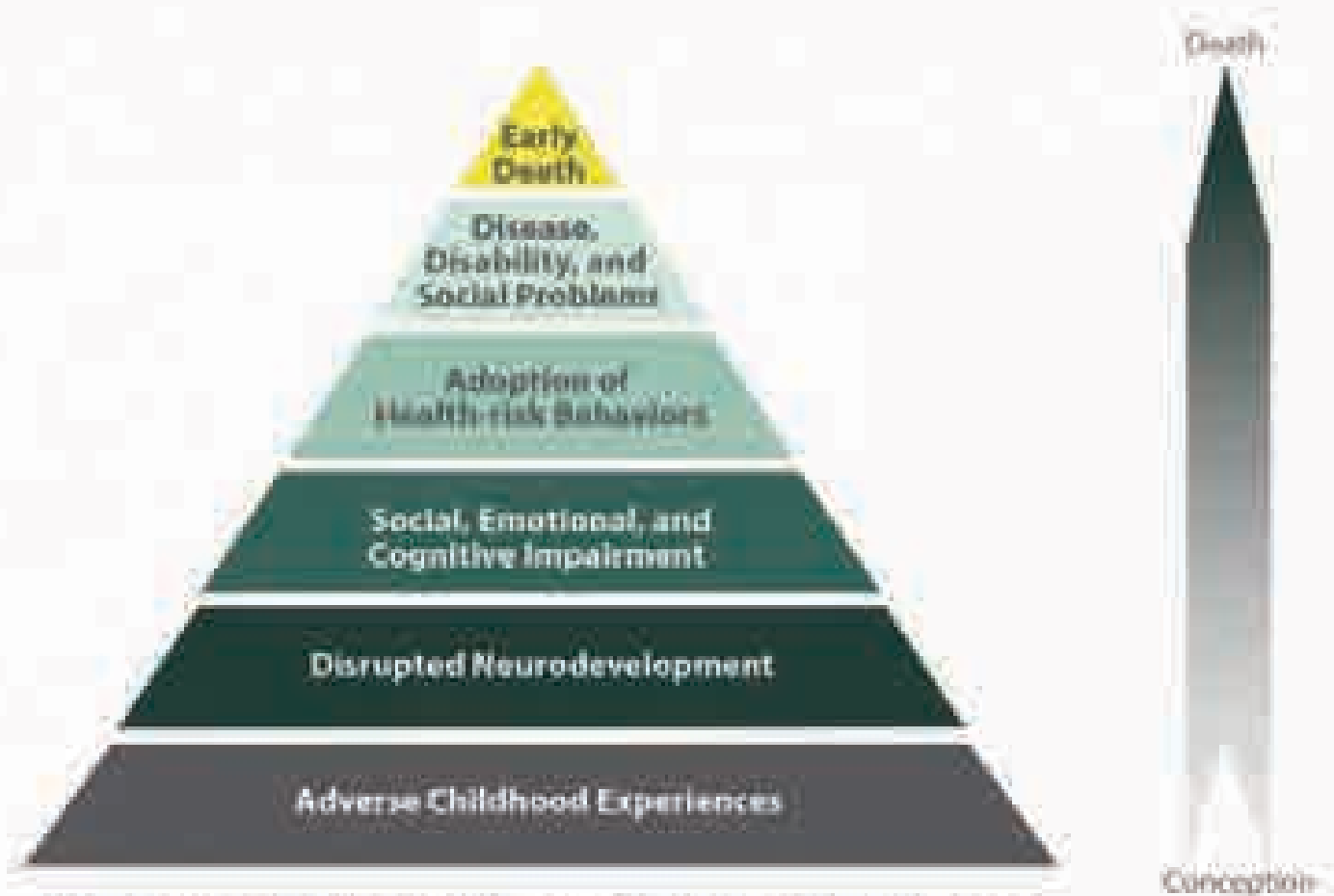


ACEs among Cork Simon service users compared to the general public in the original ACE study:



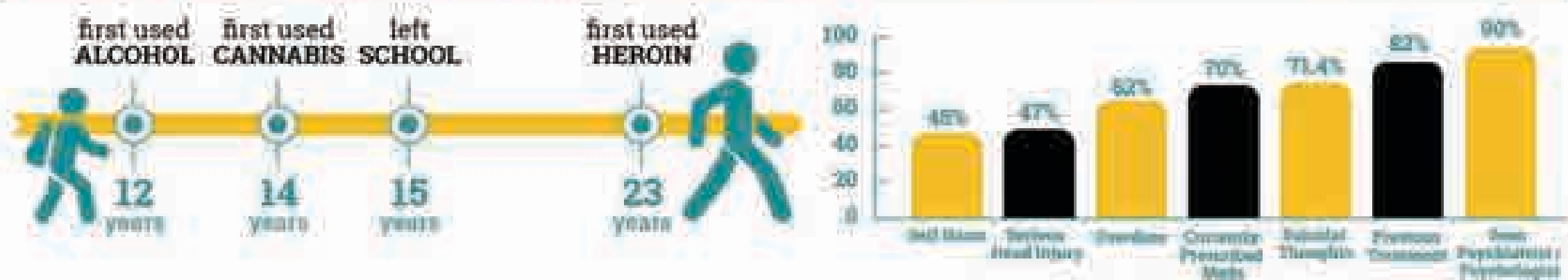
ACEs among Cork Simon service users:





Mechanism by Which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

Health & Wellbeing among Cork Simon service users





Motivational
Interviewing

Restorative
justice

Approx. 20,000
interventions
with 10,000
U18s

Approx. 6%
recidivism rate

RIP

- 18
- Student
- Brother-of-friend/friend-of-friend/house-of-friend
- Consumed 25 i-NBOMe sold as 2C-I in house party
- Outlines need for drug checking services and clear Good Samaritan Policies





Festivals

- **NO SNIFFER DOGS!**
- High visibility policing can lead to people consuming all their drugs which can lead to crisis events
- Policing of festival gates may decrease overall supply into the festival –is this desirable? (do we want youths to buy drugs in festival?)- and can lead to spikes in crisis events
- High visibility policing may decrease the supply and consumption of drugs overall but may also decrease access to services
- Some service providers suggest that high visibility policing/ private security should be reserved for near campsites to prevent assault and sexual abuse.

See: [Ritter et al., 2017](#)



RIP

Drug Checking

- Such services exist in Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands for approx. 20 years
- Pink superman pills detected and warning sent in Belgium and France but not in UK leading to 4 deaths
- UK iteration
- Supported by West Midlands and Durham police
- Opportunities for brief intervention





RIP

Chemsex

- Bodies left in same graveyard
- Lack of police competency on chemsex led to the delayed arrest of serial murderer Stephen
- Stigma, discrimination and lack of cultural competence may lead to under reporting of chemsex-related crime (e.g. rape, assault, theft)

See: Stephen Morris



“Dirty Junkie”

- John, 27
- Mother went to Magdalene Laundries, brother was abused by the Brothers. In care institutions most of his life
- Intravenous heroin use, benzodiazepine/z-hypnotic use
- Stabilising, tells me that I am first person to treat him like a “human for a long while”
- Police call him “dirty junkie” in front of his girlfriend and children
- Subsequent reaction lands him into the prison
- Immediately prior to prison becomes suicidal and is suspected of attempting to kill himself by overdose



Age restriction is an issue!

- Majority of drug consumption sites have age restrictions, youth are turned away from these services (Schäffer et al., 2014)
- Some sexual health services have restrictions regarding consent (e.g. condoms)
- Some mental health services have restrictions

'The Academy'

- *"I won't mind going to prison. I will have time and space to do beat boxing. I'll be there at most a couple of months and I'll meet new people"*
- *"it's like an academy"* (Gerry 'The Monk' Hutch; one of Ireland's most famous criminals)
- *"the low availability of heroin which encouraged a shift from smoking to injecting; the scarcity of injecting equipment which fostered sharing networks far wider than outside prison; inadequate injecting equipment cleaning practices; and the rent of needles and syringes in exchange for the drugs"* (Long, 2004)
- *"they used to leave out buckets of bleach"* (former member of National Advisory Committee on Drug)



Recommendations for police

- Use humanising and respectful language
- Engage in primary, secondary and tertiary prevention e.g. focus on reducing ACEs/reduce impact on accumulation of social capital, facilitating access to harm reduction and treatment services
- Discretion and diversion programs should be used wherever possible

Senator Lynn Ruane

- Grew up in socioeconomically disadvantaged area
- Drug use history
- Had a child at 15
- Access Programme to Trinity College
- Senator
- [Misuse of Drugs Amendment bill](#)

