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Kommissariat Analyse 1

Using scenarios to explore resilience in police-public health relationships

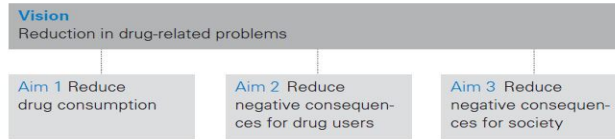
Christian Schneider, Federal Office of Police, Switzerland



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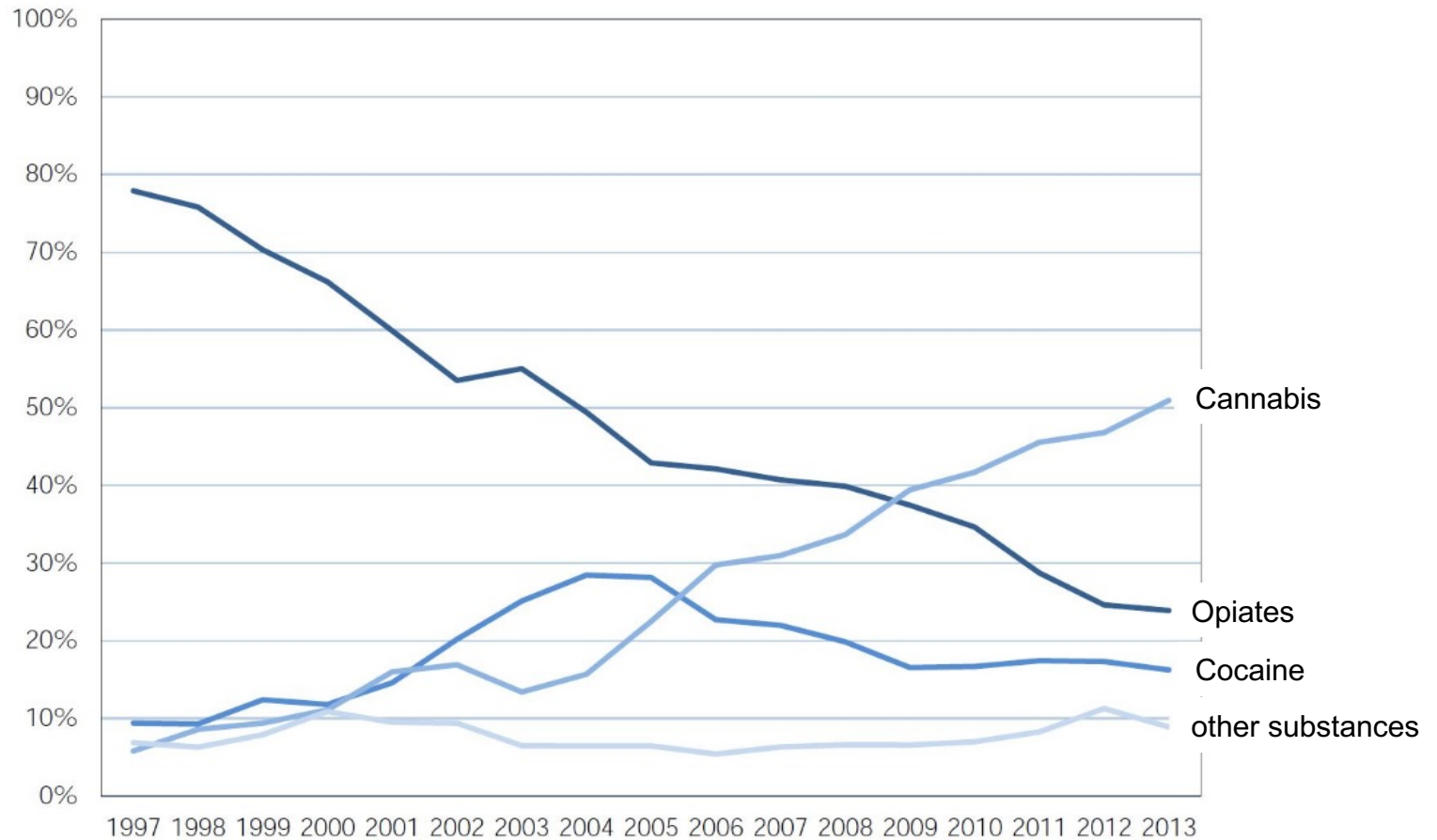
Swiss Drug Policy

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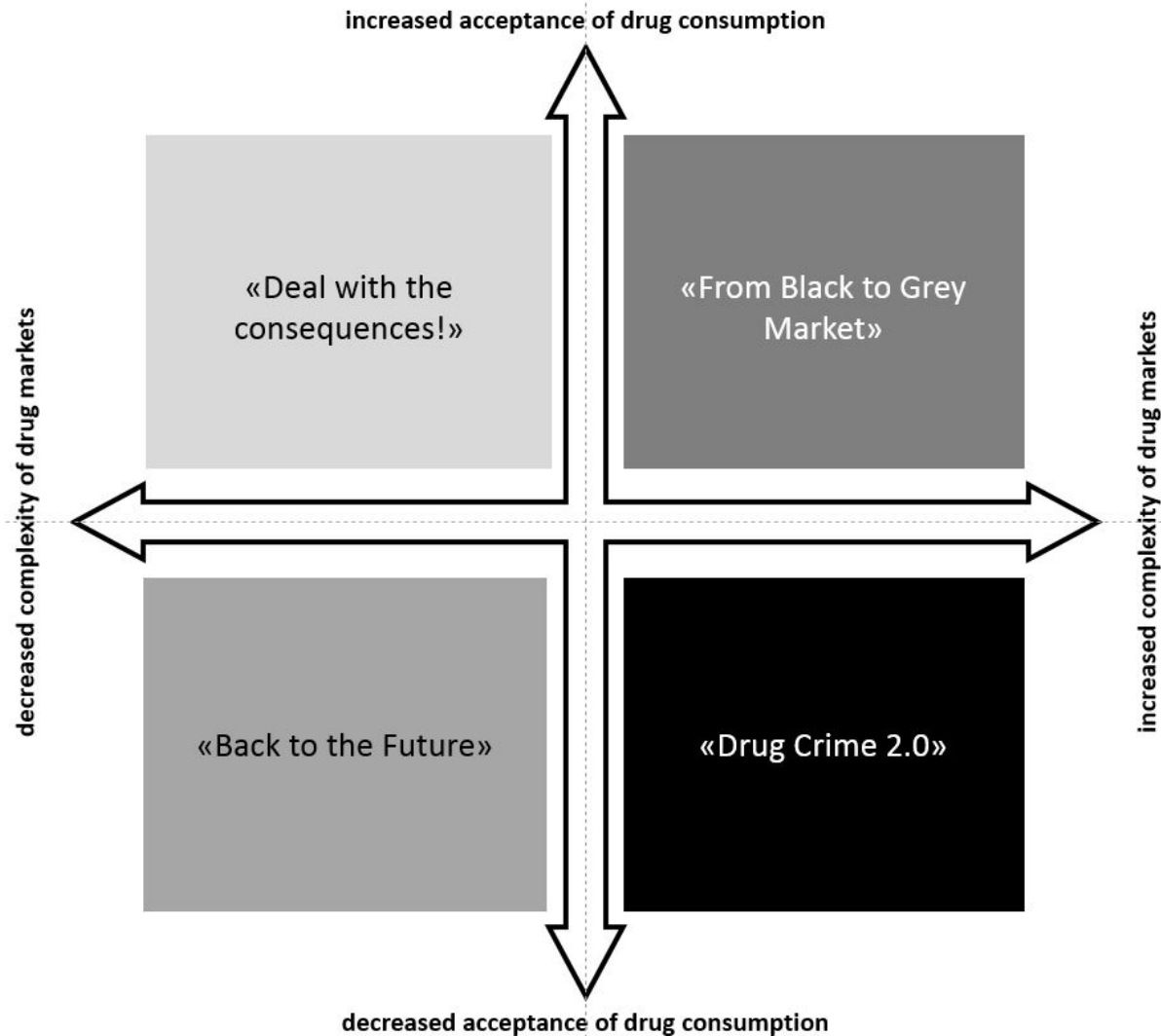
Heroin Consumptions in Decline



Main substance consumed by patients entering drug dependence therapy (Source: act info 2013: 68)



Scenarios – Swiss Heroin Market in 2025





Expert Opinions

- Police – public health relations would work as a local early warning system for major changes in drug consumption and drug markets.
- Police – public health relations would shorten the time needed to react on such changes, even when early warning signs were missed.
- Police – public health relations have lead to a change in organizational cultures in both professions, making it less likely that extreme measure would be taken unilaterally.
- Police – public health relations are robust enough after two decades of cooperation that even competition of scarce financial resources would not lead to a complete breakdown of (informal working-level) relations.



Conclusions: Police – Public Health Relationships

- Police – public health relationships are perceived as a micro-level «safety net» contributing to a resilient implementation of drug policies.
- Police – public health relationships are perceived as stable and resilient to changes in their environment
- In places where routines are firmly established, there is strong confidence in police – public health relationships being crucial to avoiding (at least local) “drug epidemics”.
- Experts from that lack established police – public health relationships perceive their cities/regions more exposed to dramatic changes of the current situation
- **What do these observations mean?**
 - Highly resilient form of drug policy implementation -> surprise unlikely
 - Overconfidence in current policy implementation -> surprise likely



Conclusions: Use of Scenario Techniques

- **Talking about the future is sometimes easier than talking about the present**
- Helpful method to integrate different perspective an issue
- Two levels of observation:
 - Interactions during the workshops
 - Individual reflections on narratives
- Value added restricted to participants