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**OVERVIEW OF THE SPANISH SITUATION ON DRUGS POLICY**  
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# OVERVIEW OF THE SPANISH SITUATION ON DRUGS POLICY

Washington D.C - 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2014  
55 Regular Session of CICAD

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Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs  
Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality

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## 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE SPANISH DRUG POLICY

### Spanish law

- Article 43 of the Spanish Constitution recognizes that health protection is a right and entrust Public Authorities with public health guardianship.
- Private drug use is not a crime. Public drug use is an administrative offense, punished with fines.
- Drug production and trafficking are offenses punished by Criminal Law.
- Drug users are not treated as criminals but as sick people with an addiction disease.

# 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE SPANISH DRUG POLICY

## Spanish law

*Law 17/1967, 8<sup>th</sup> April, on regulation to actualize current normative on narcotic substances to adapt them to the UN 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, currently in force*, established in article 22 that “It will not be allowed other uses for narcotic drugs than industrial, therapeutic, scientific and educational”.

In **Current Spanish Legal System** admits, following international regulation, the use of any psychoactive substance (cannabis included) for therapeutic purposes, although this is determined by some legal requirement as: medical prescription, prescription of therapeutic doses, use of an official prescription, and purchase only in legally authorized pharmacies.

# 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE SPANISH DRUG POLICY

## Spanish law

- Regulation of production, uses, consumption and traffic: criminal and administrative regulation

- Criminal regulation (13)
- Administrative regulation (2)

Some legal entities:

- Private consumption
- To grow for private consumption
- Consumption in public
- Shared consumption

**NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DRUGS 2009 – 2016  
WORKING AREAS**

- 1. National Coordination**
- 2. Demand reduction (prevention; harm reduction; care and social reintegration)**
- 3. Supply reduction**
- 4. Improving scientific knowledge, both basic and applied**
- 5. Training**
- 6. International cooperation**



### NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DRUGS 2009 – 2016 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Evidence** based strategy
- **Social participation:** To encourage citizens direct involvement
- **Intersectoriality:** To offer an inter-sectorial and multi-disciplinary focus and approach
- **Integrity:** To link both the legal and illegal drugs, including demand reduction and supply control
- **Equity:** To guarantee real equality for all citizens in terms of access to different services
- **Gender focus**

### NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DRUGS EVALUATION AND PLANS OF ACTION

- Current Strategy builds on findings of previous strategy evaluation (National Drug Strategy 2000-2008 Evaluation)
- The Strategy is made operative in 2 Plans of Action:
  - 2009 – 2012
  - 2013 – 2016
- Plan of Action on Drugs 2013-2016 was published in 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

# 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE SPANISH DRUG POLICY

## PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUGS 2013 - 2016

AXIS	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	NUMBER OF ACTIONS
<b>1. COORDINATION (2)</b>	1. National coordination	2
<b>2. DEMAND REDUCTION (13)</b>	2. Increase awareness	1
	3. Increase abilities and capabilities	2
	4. Delay onset of drug use	2
	5. Reduce drug use	4
	6. Reduce harms related to drug use	1
	<b>7. Quality of care</b>	1
	<b>8. Social and work reintegration</b>	2
<b>3. SUPPLY REDUCTION (8)</b>	9. Control of illicit drugs supply	5
	10. Fight against money laundering	3
<b>4. KNOWLEDGE IMPROVEMENT (9)</b>	11. Research and knowledge	5
	12. Evaluation	4
<b>5. TRAINING (1)</b>	13. Training	1
<b>6. INTERNATIONAL (3)</b>	14. International coordination	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36</b>

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1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE SPANISH DRUG POLICY

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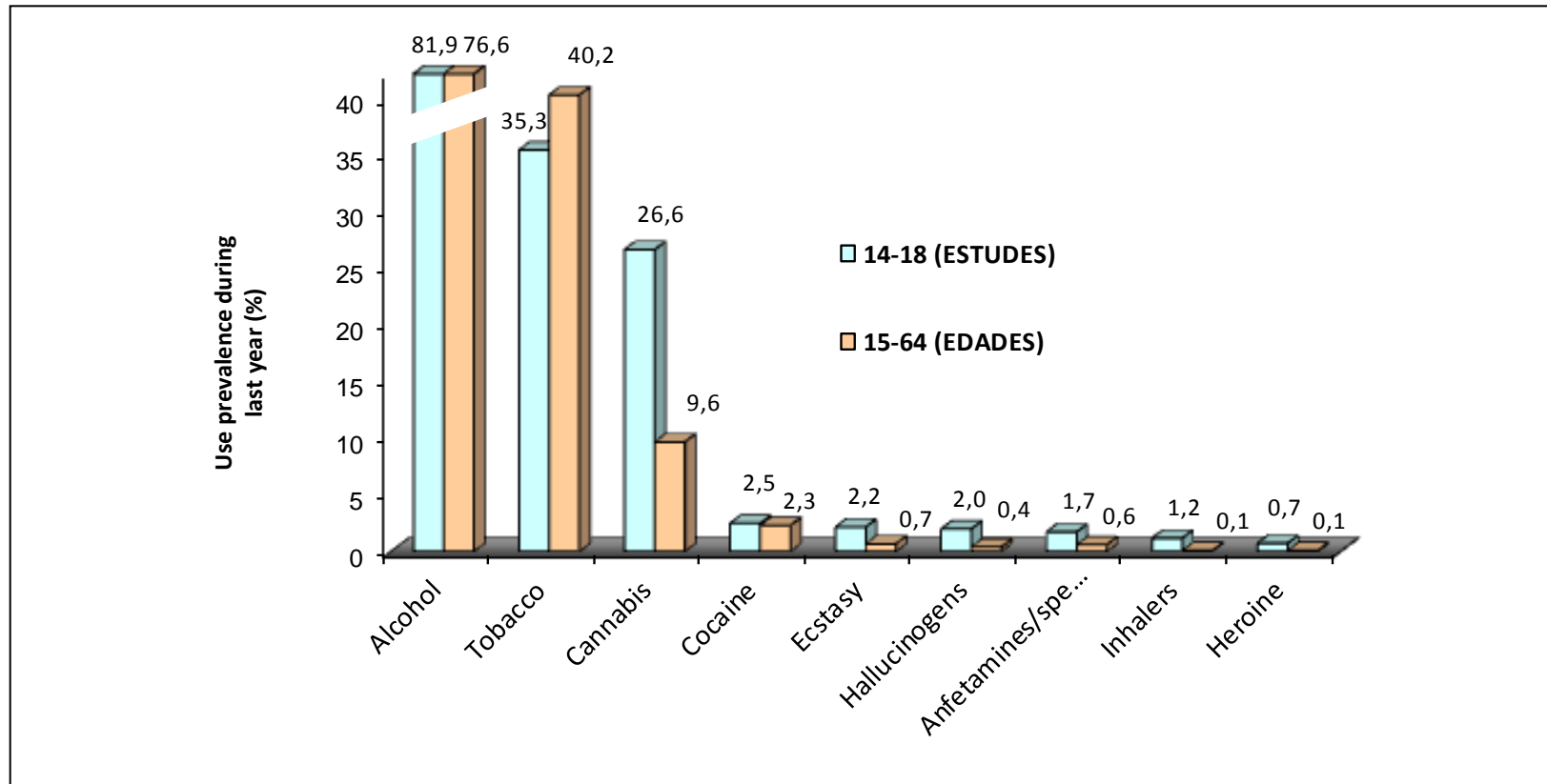
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## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE SPANISH SITUATION: General overview

### PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE IN SPAIN ESTUDES 2012, EDADES 2011



SOURCE: Spanish Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction. EDADES and ESTUDES

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE SPANISH SITUATION: General overview

### PREVALENCE OF USE OF EMERGING DRUGS AMONG SPAIN'S AGE 15-64 POPULATION (PERCENTAGES). 2011

	LIFETIME	LAST YEAR	LAST MONTH
<b>Ketamine</b>	1	0.2	0
<b>Spice</b>	0.8	0.1	0.1
<b>Piperazines</b>	0.1	0	0
<b>Mephedrone</b>	0.1	0	0
<b>Nexus</b>	0.2	0	0
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	0.8	0.2	0.1
<b>Magic mushrooms</b>	2.4	0.4	0.1
<b>Research chemicals</b>	0.1	0	0
<b>Legal highs</b>	0.1	0	0
<b>Salvia divinorum</b>	0.9	0.2	0.1
<b>Anabolic steroids</b>	0.3	0.1	0.1

SOURCE: Spanish Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction. Household Survey on Alcohol and Drugs in Spain (EDADES 2011).

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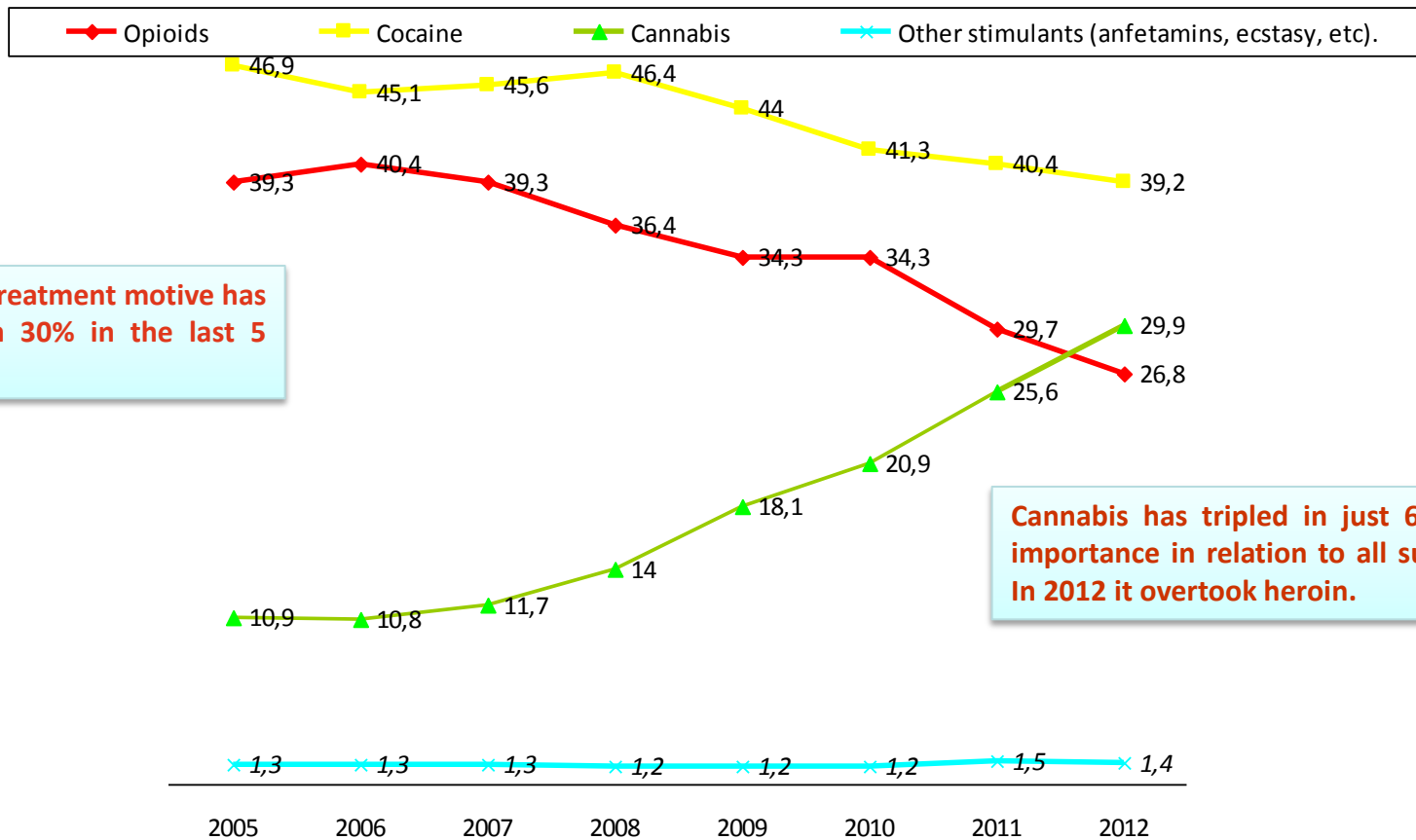
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## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE SPANISH SITUATION: Care and treatment

### PSICOACTIVE SUBSTANCES THAT MOTIVATE TREATMENT

#### EVOLUTION IN %, SPAIN 2005-2012



Heroin as a treatment motive has decreased in 30% in the last 5 years.

Cannabis has tripled in just 6 years its importance in relation to all substances. In 2012 it overtook heroin.

SOURCE: Spanish Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction. Treatment Indicator. Spain 2005-2012

### RESOURCES

- **Outpatient treatment:**
  - 94,403 patients (2010)
  - 91,996 patients (2011), decrease: 2.54%
  - Treatment facilities: 554
- **Therapeutic communities:**
  - 7,596 patients (2010)
  - 8,026 patients (2011), increase: 5.66%
  - Number of therapeutic communities : 135
- **Detoxification Units in hospitals:**
  - 3,984 patients (2010)
  - 3,420 patients (2011), decrease: 14.15%
  - Number of Detoxification Units: 53

### HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

- **Substitution treatments:**
  - Methadone:
    - 81,022 patients (2010)
    - 74,199 patients (2011), decrease: 8.42%
    - Distribution points: 2,361
  - Buprenorfine/naloxone (suboxone):
    - 1,350 patients (2010)
    - 2,064 patients (2011), increase: 52.88%

### HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS (Data 2011)

- **Social Emergency Centers: 43**
- **Mobile Units: 29**
- **Pharmacies working in Harm Reduction Programs: 1,424**

### HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

- **Supervised drug consumption facilities:**
  - 8,217 patients (2010)
  - 6,918 patients (2011), decrease: 15.80%
  - Facilities: 8 (6 in Catalonia, 1 in Madrid, 1 in Basque Country)
- **Syringe interchange programs:**
  - 1,287 points of interchange
  - 1,990,136 interchanged syringes
- **46 Treatment and Education Units (UTE) in prisons**
  - Spain is one of the seven countries that provides methadone and needle exchange programs in prisons.

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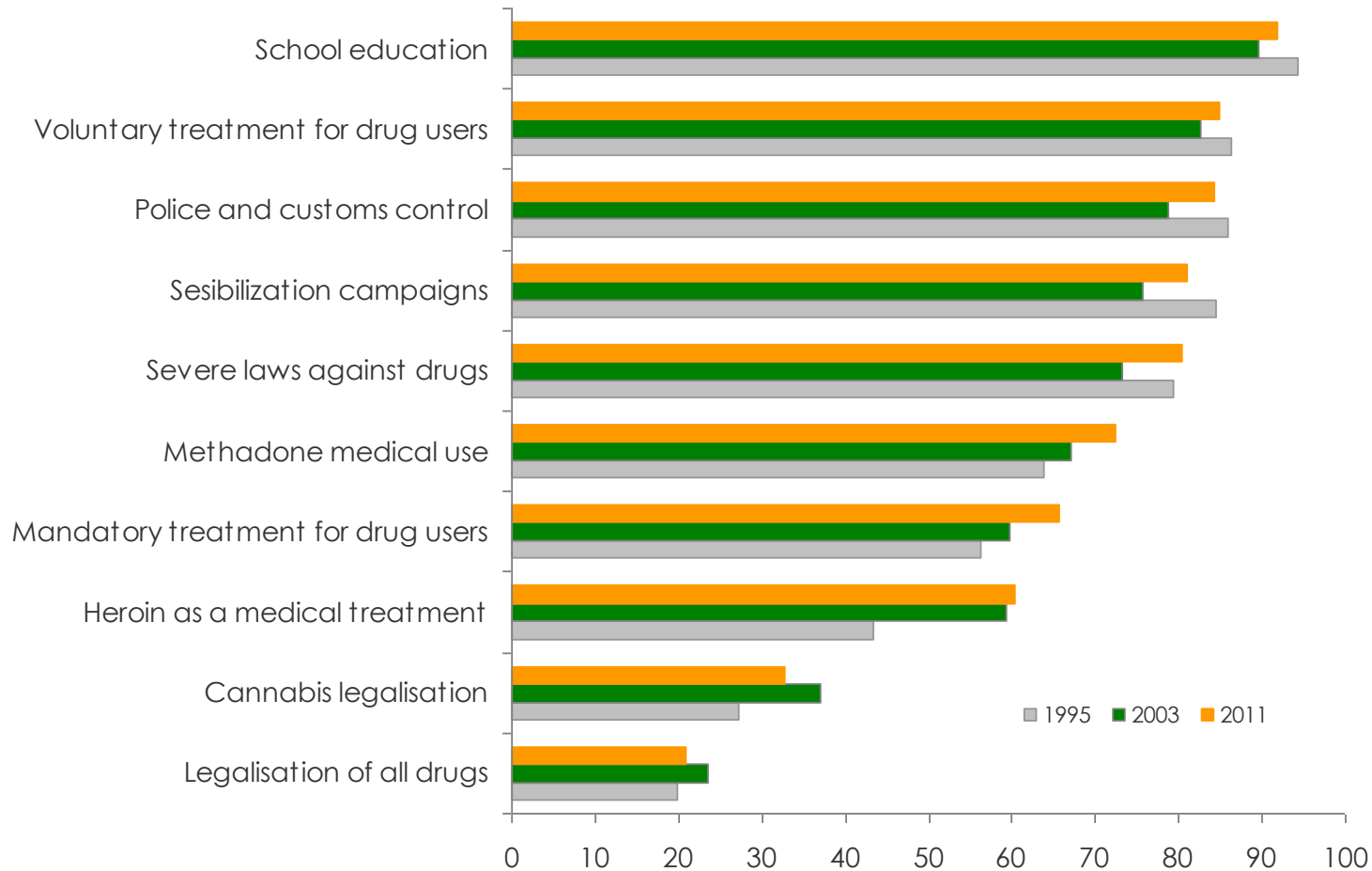
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### 3. THE WORLD DEBATE ON DRUGS POLICIES AND THE SPANISH POSITION

## POPULATION VALORATION OF DIFFERENT MEASURES



## SOME MYTHS REGARDING CANNABIS REGULATION

- Cannabis use is harmless.
- Individual freedom to choose.
- Therapeutic value.
- Fight against illegal drug markets and drug trafficking networks.
- «Legal gaps». Legal amount to be possessed. Shared crops.
- Experiences in other countries: Holland.