

KEY ISSUES

**THE DRUG
SITUATION
& RESPONSES
IN MALTA
2025**



NATIONAL DRUGS & ADDICTIONS UNIT

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National Drugs and Addictions Unit

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2025 National Report on the Drug Situation and Responses in Malta

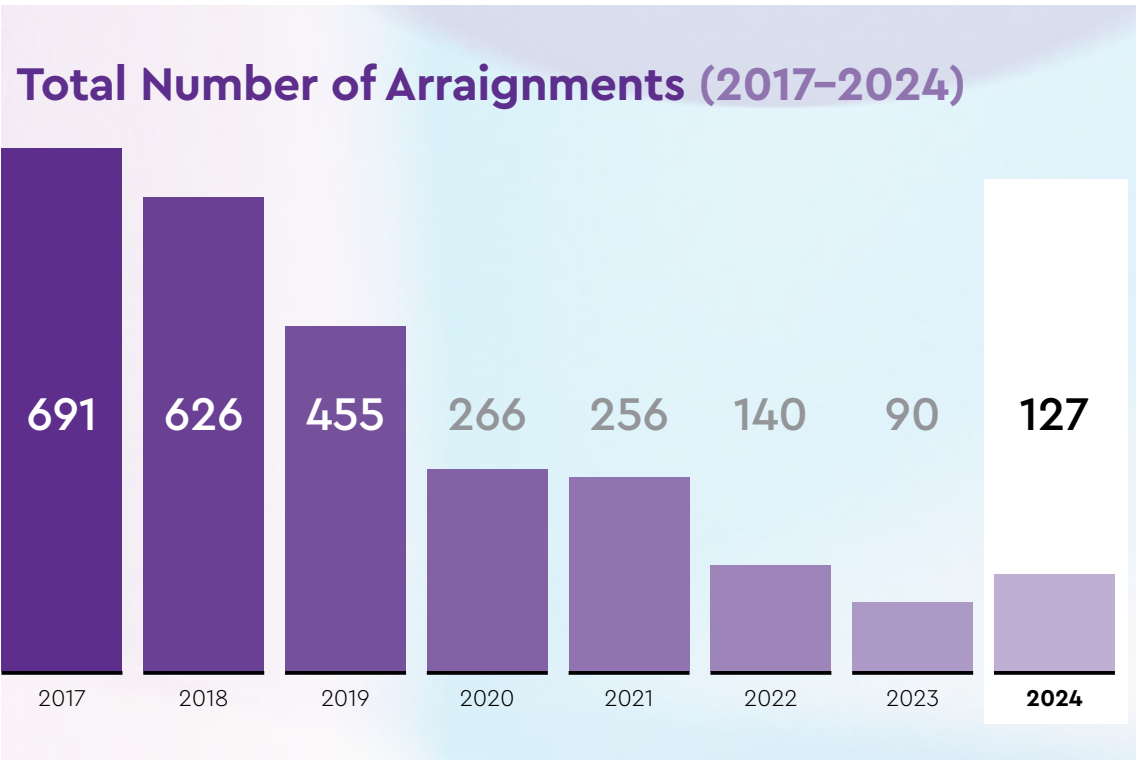
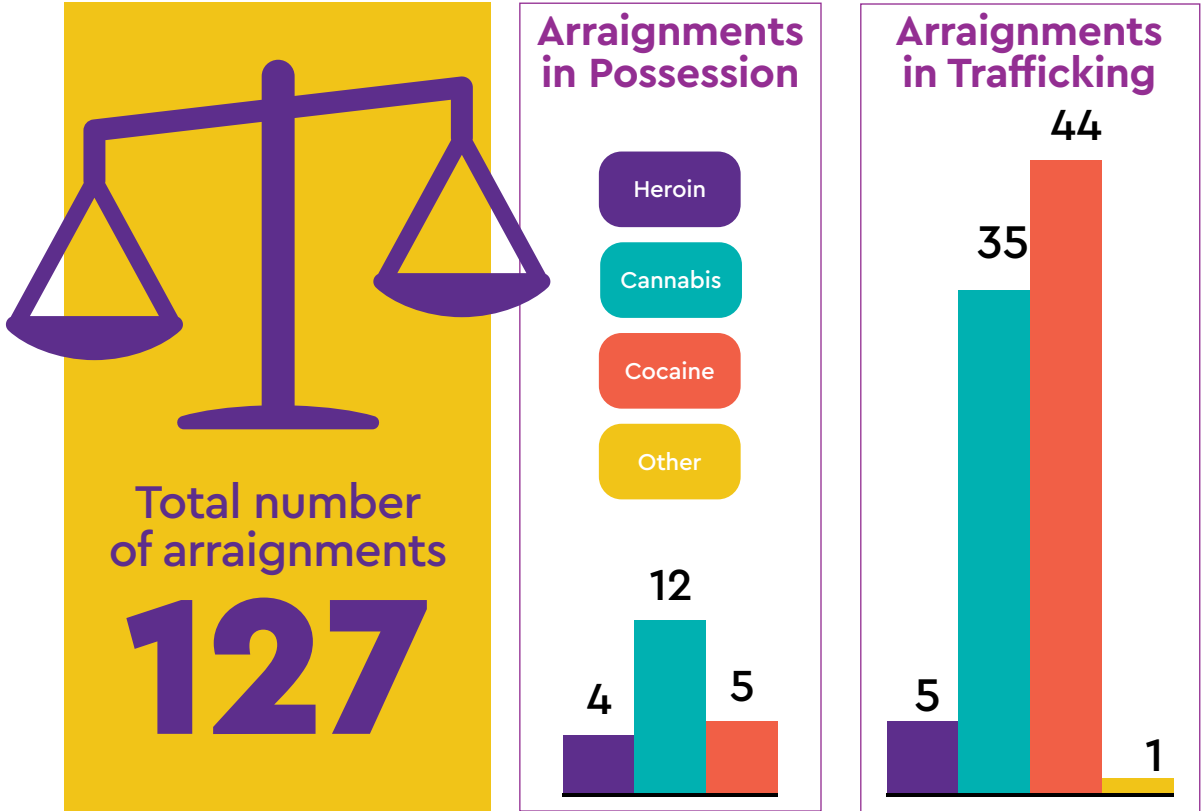
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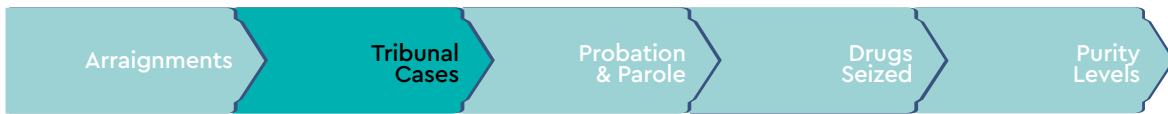
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DRUG LAW OFFENCES



DRUG LAW OFFENCES



Total number of
tribunal cases

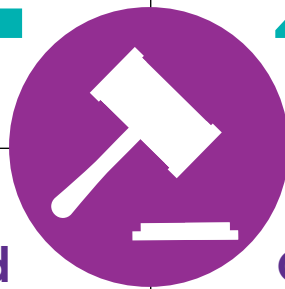
60

Paid cases

22

Pending Payments

28



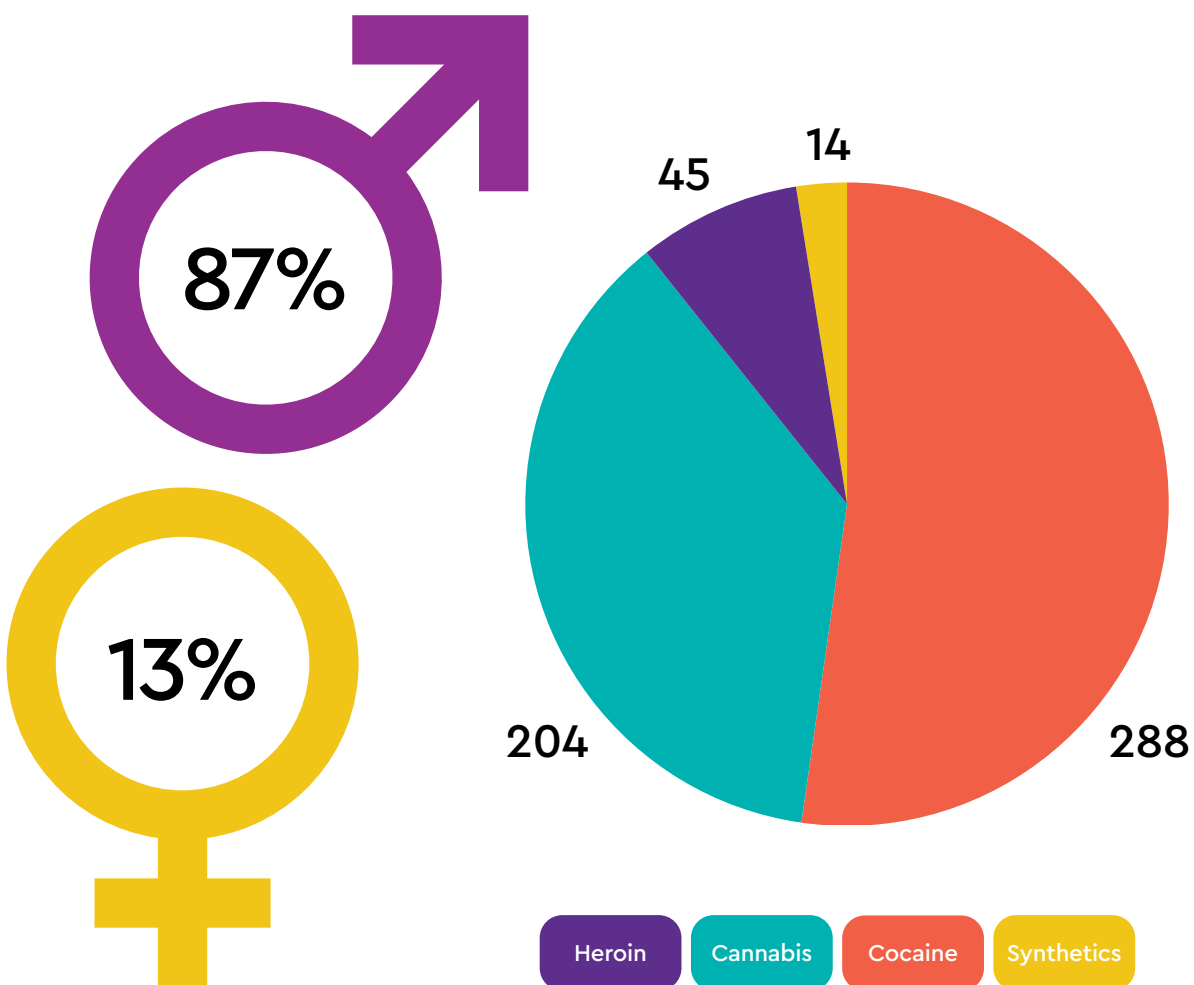
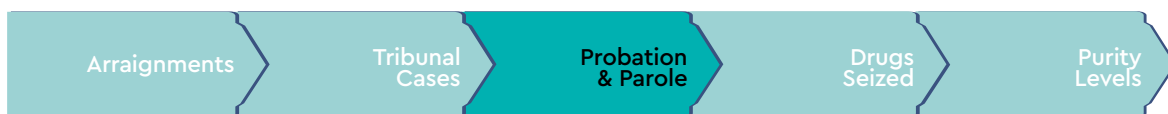
Cases judged
Not Guilty

2

Cases pending
judgment

8

DRUG LAW OFFENCES



DRUG LAW OFFENCES

Arraignments

Tribunal
CasesProbation
& Parole**Drugs
Seized**Purity
Levels

TOP 3 drugs seized



Cannabis Resin

4315kg


Cocaine

2249kg


Cannabis Grass

213kg

2024 DRUG SEIZURES



AIR SEIZURES

Cocaine: 7,800g (3 incidents)
Cannabis Grass: 71,000g (4 seizures)
Cannabis Resin: 1,508g (2 seizures)



LAND SEIZURES

Cocaine: 13,425.94g (36 seizures)
Cannabis Grass: 9,127.94g (23 seizures)
Heroin: 1,368.04 (11 operations)



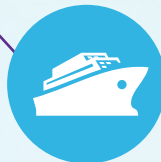
MAIL SEIZURES

Cannabis Grass: 111,733g (59 seizures)
Cannabis Resin: 13,536.26g (12 seizures)
Cocaine 2000g (2 seizures)



SEA FREEPORT

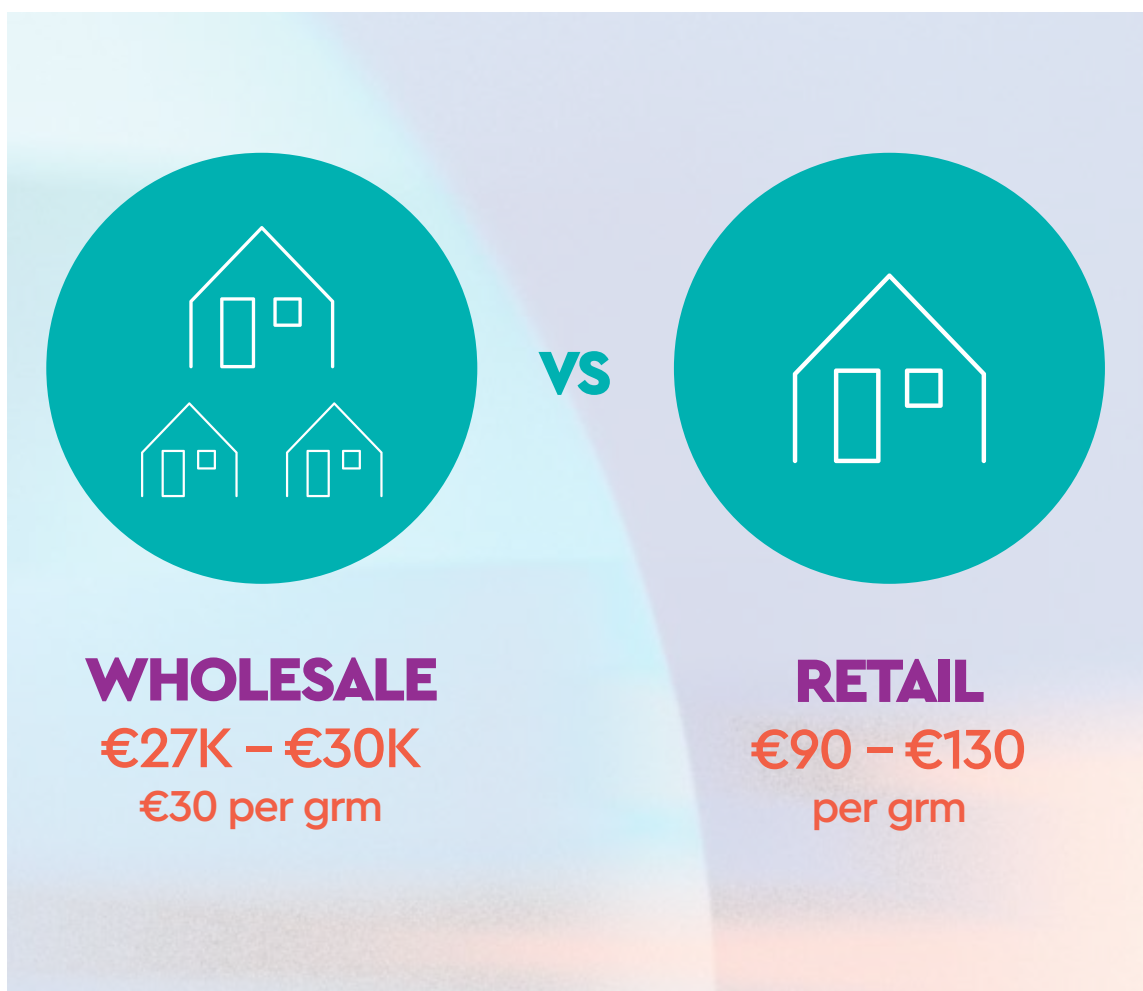
Cocaine: 2,204,000g (18 incidents)
Cannabis Resin: 4,300,000g (1 seizure)



SEA CATAMARAN

Cocaine: 21,950g (3 seizures)
Cannabis Grass: 22,000g (2 seizures)

DRUG LAW OFFENCES



TREATMENT



2004



Number of Cases
1,525

2024



Number of Cases
2,111



Syringe Distribution
217,168



Syringe Distribution
48,526



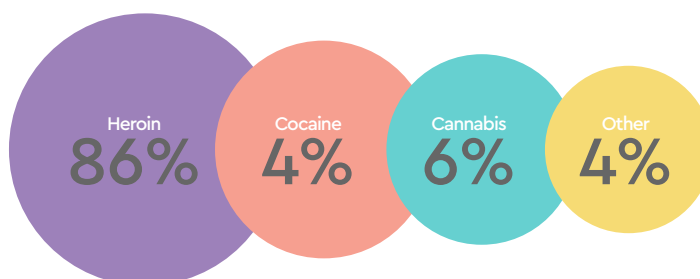
OAT
70%



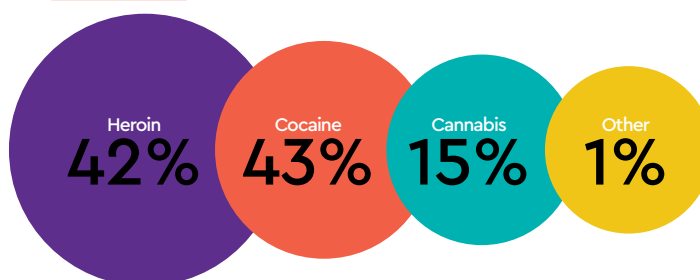
OAT
39%

Primary Drug

2004



2024



2004

82%

received treatment
before **2004**



Primary Drug
of choice

86%

Heroin

18%

never received treatment
before **2024**



Primary Drug
of choice

90%

Heroin

2024

76%

received treatment
before **2004**



Primary Drug
of choice

51%

Heroin

24%

never received treatment
before **2024**



Primary Drug
of choice

60%

Cocaine

DEMOGRAPHICS

Overall Treatment		Demographics	Male Female Characteristics	Heroin Cocaine Cannabis	Drug Harms	ATS DDU CSA
			2004	2024		
	Employment		44% Employed	43% Employed		
	EDUCATION COMPLETED Secondary level Higher education		54% 27%	61% 13%		
	Median age in treatment		27	40		
	Male Female		85% 15%	82% 18%		
	Stable accommodation		71%	89%		
	Self-referred/ family or friends		76%	58%		

MALE TREATMENT PROFILE



2004	 TREATMENT Seeking treatment Previously treated cases New treated cases	2024
85% 70% 16%		82% 62% 20%
74% 3% 5%	PRIMARY DRUG Heroin Cocaine Cannabis	35% 35% 12%
27 N/A N/A	AVERAGE YEARS Median Age of first use Years before seeking treatment	40 16 9
N/A	INJECTING BEHAVIOUR Never injected	67%
N/A N/A	FAMILY STATUS Have children Living with their children	33% 32%
52% 50% 48%	EDUCATION Secondary level Employed Unemployed	62% 48% 32%
29% 50% 46%	EMPLOYMENT Higher Education Employed Unemployed	12% 54% 17%

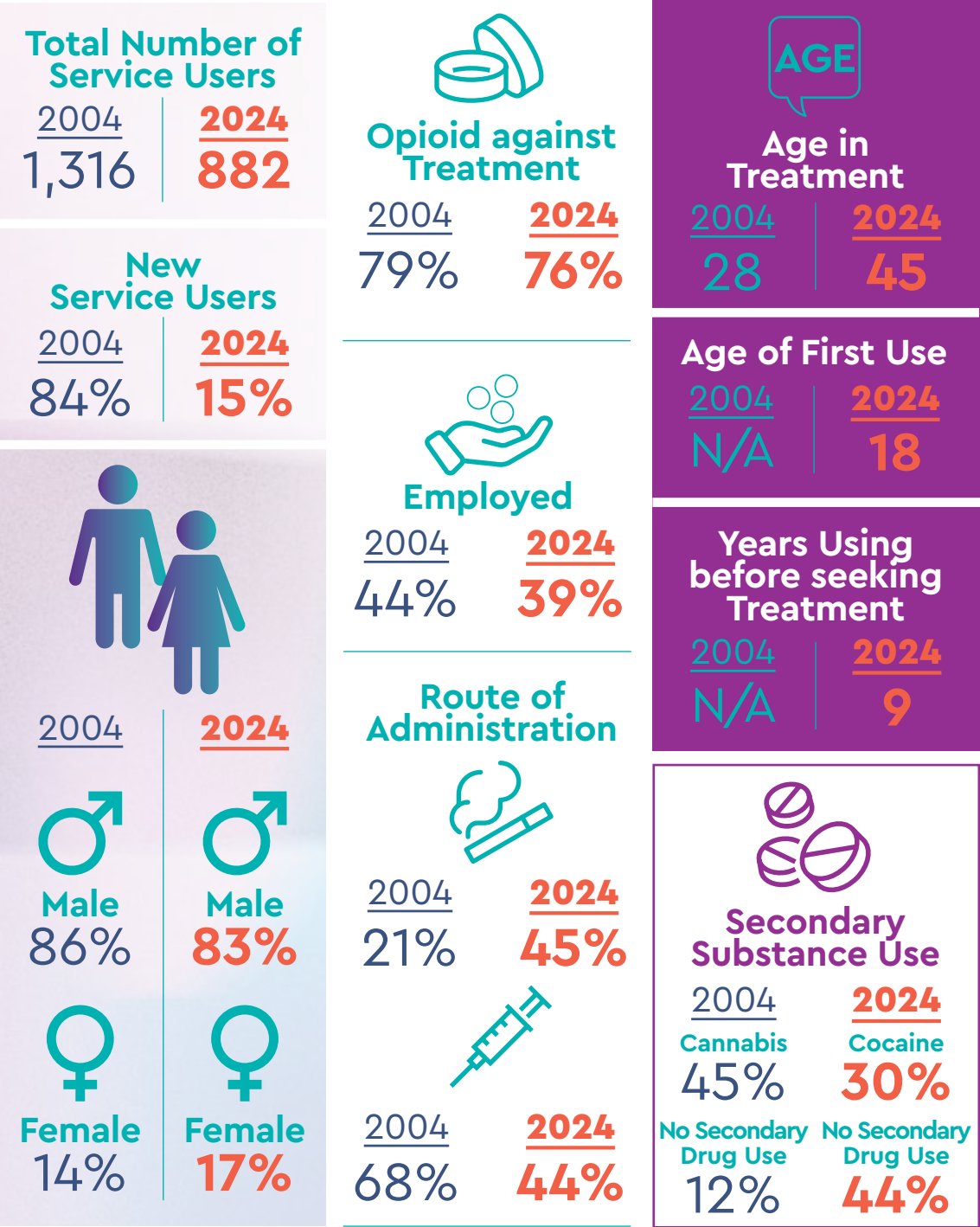
FEMALE TREATMENT PROFILE

Overall Treatment	Demographics	Male Female Characteristics	Heroin Cocaine Cannabis	Drug Harms	ATS DDU CSA
2004		2024			
15% 12% 2%	TREATMENT Seeking treatment Previously treated cases New treated cases	18% 14% 4%			
12% 1% 1%	PRIMARY DRUG Heroin Cocaine Cannabis	7% 8% 3%			
25 N/A N/A	AVERAGE YEARS Median Age of first use Years before seeking treatment	39 16 8			
N/A	INJECTING BEHAVIOUR Never injected	65%			
N/A N/A	FAMILY STATUS Have children Living with their children	40% 34%			
69% 32% 57%	EDUCATION Secondary level Employed Unemployed	58% 32% 43%			
12% 41% 41%	EMPLOYMENT Higher Education Employed Unemployed	16% 52% 22%			

HEROIN



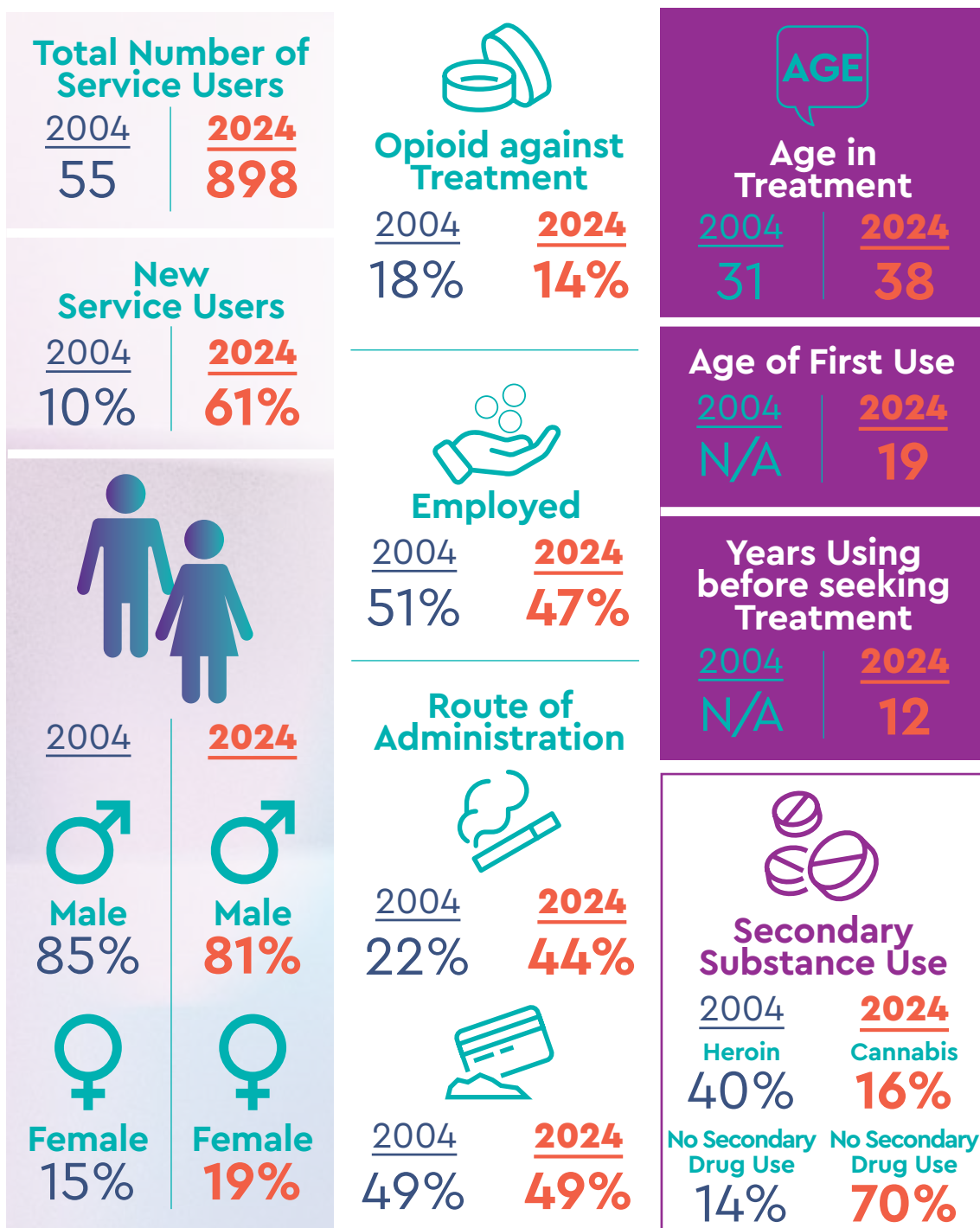
Characteristics of Individuals using HEROIN



COCAINE



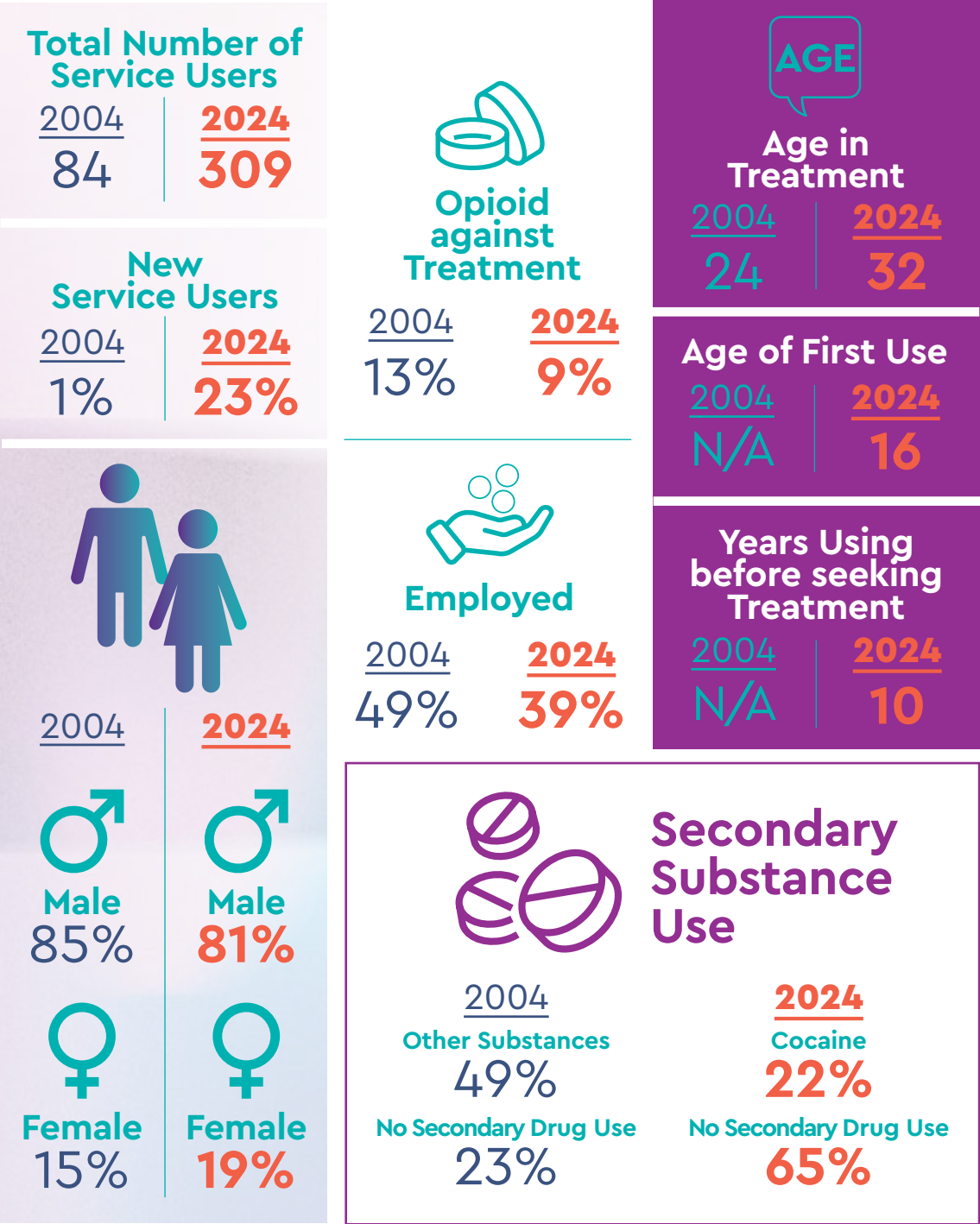
Characteristics of Individuals using COCAINE



CANNABIS



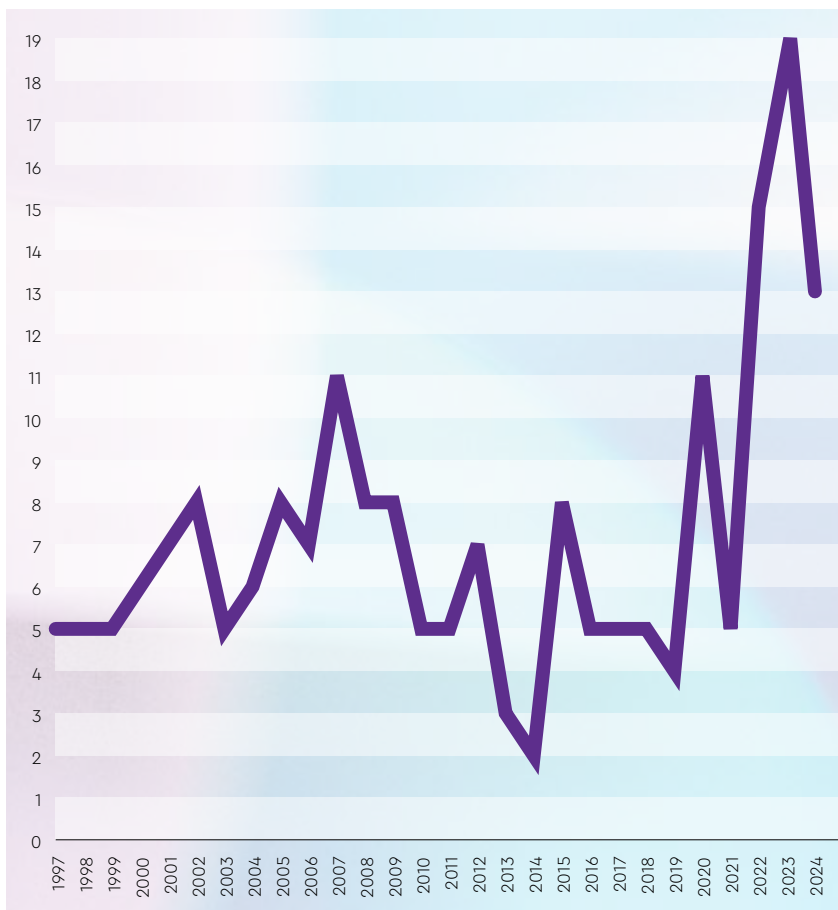
Characteristics of Individuals using CANNABIS



DRUG HARMS



Evolution of Deaths (1997–2024)



PERIOD 1 (1997–2006)

Average – 6 deaths
(lowest 5 deaths;
highest 8 deaths)



PERIOD 2 (2007–2016)

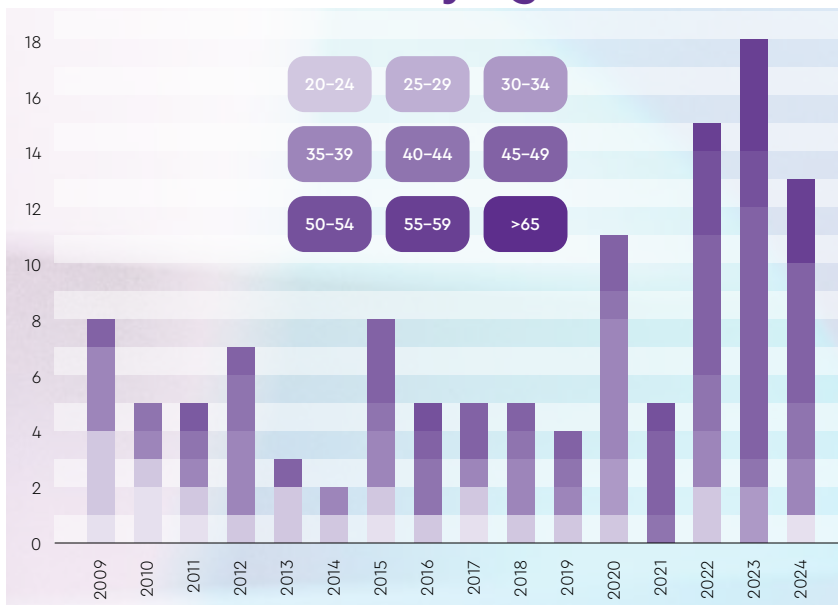
Average – 6 deaths
(lowest 2 deaths;
highest 11 deaths)



PERIOD 3 (2017–2024)

Average – 10 deaths
(lowest 4 deaths;
highest 19 deaths)

Evolution of DRDs by Age 2009–2024



Drug
Related
Deaths

13

Opiate
Deaths
2

Non
Opiate
Deaths
10

Not
Known
1

ATS



Service Users by Source of Referral Tal-Ibwar (2022-2024)

Referred By	2022 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)
Anti Substance Abuse Unit	9%	14%	9%
CCF	0%	0%	7%
Court/Probation/Police/CSA	41%	33%	9%
Family	18%	22%	35%
Other	3%	1%	4%
Other Drug Treatment Agency	0%	0%	2%
Other Health or Medical or Social Services	23%	22%	17%
Psychiatrist	6%	2%	2%
Self	0%	6%	15%

GENDER

Females
 **35%**

Males
65% 

NATIONALITY

Maltese
 **91%**

INJECTING

Never injected
100%

USE

Daily drug use
43%

PRIMARY DRUG

Cannabis
89%

Synthetic Cannabinoids
4%

Cocaine
4%

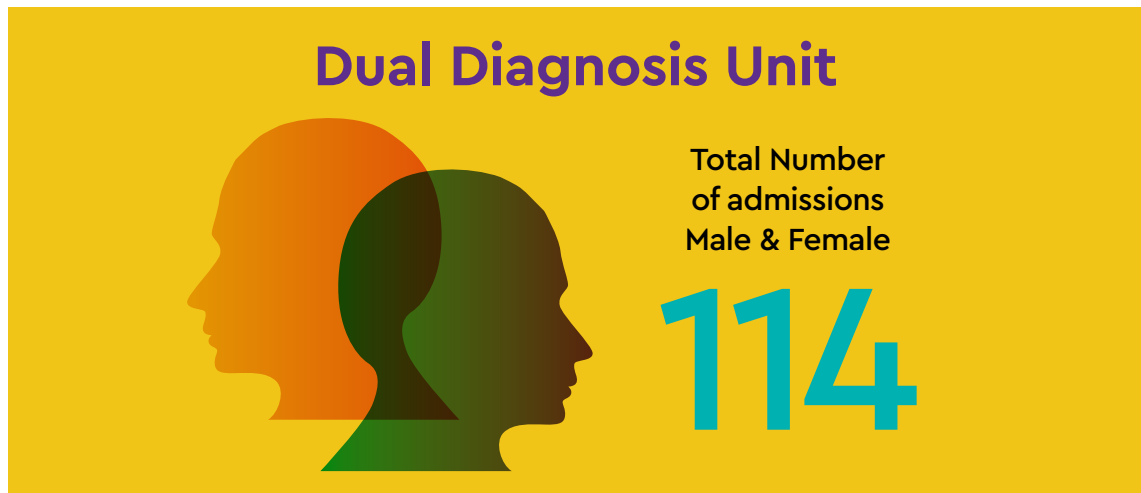
Ecstasy
2%

TREATMENT SEEKING BEHAVIOUR:

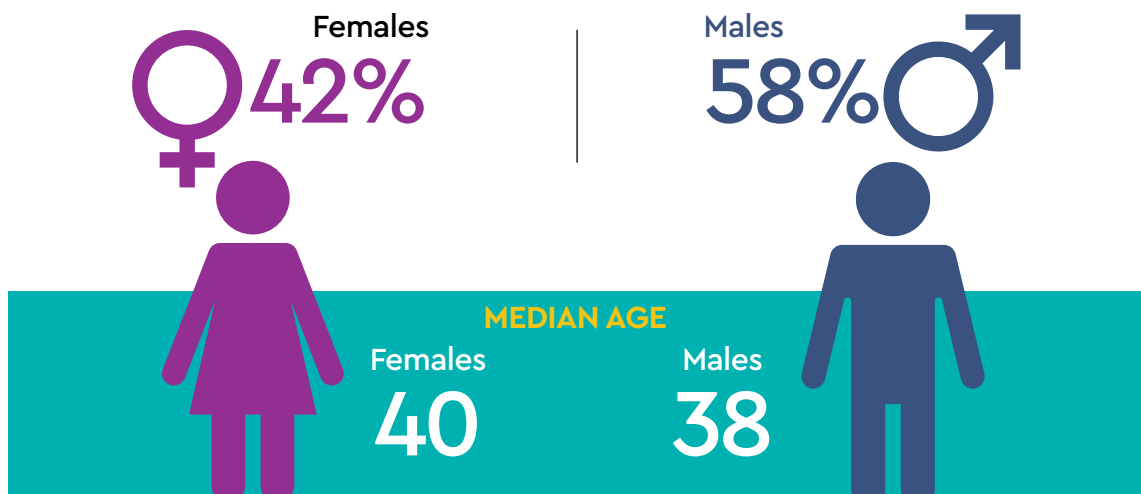
After
1 year of
drug use **26%**

After
2 years of
drug use **28%**

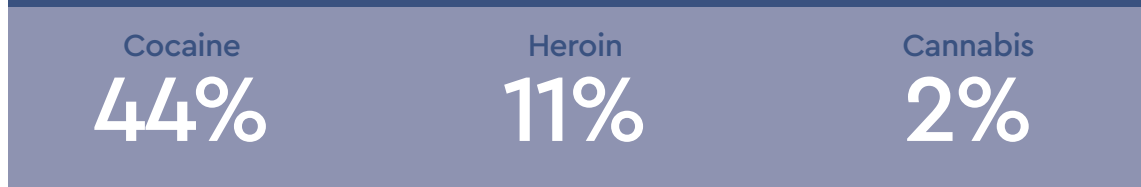
DDU



GENDER



PRIMARY DRUG – MALES



PRIMARY DRUG – FEMALES



CSA



Correctional Services Agency

Total inmates
750
of which
70%
with known substance use

Mode of
AGE
Distribution
30-34
years old



GENDER
Males **92%**
Females **8%**



NATIONALITY
Maltese **61%**



**PRE-
INCARCERATION
SUBSTANCE USE**
Cannabis **51%**
Cocaine **44%**
Other drug **4%**



**HAVE CHILDREN
BUT NOT LIVING
WITH THEM**
Males **31%**
Females **4%**



**HAVE CHILDREN
AND LIVING
WITH THEM**
Males **5%**
Females **1%**



**PRE-
INCARCERATION
EMPLOYMENT**
Unemployed **37%**
Employed **42%**



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL POLICY
AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



EMCDDACERTIFIED
Reitox national focal point