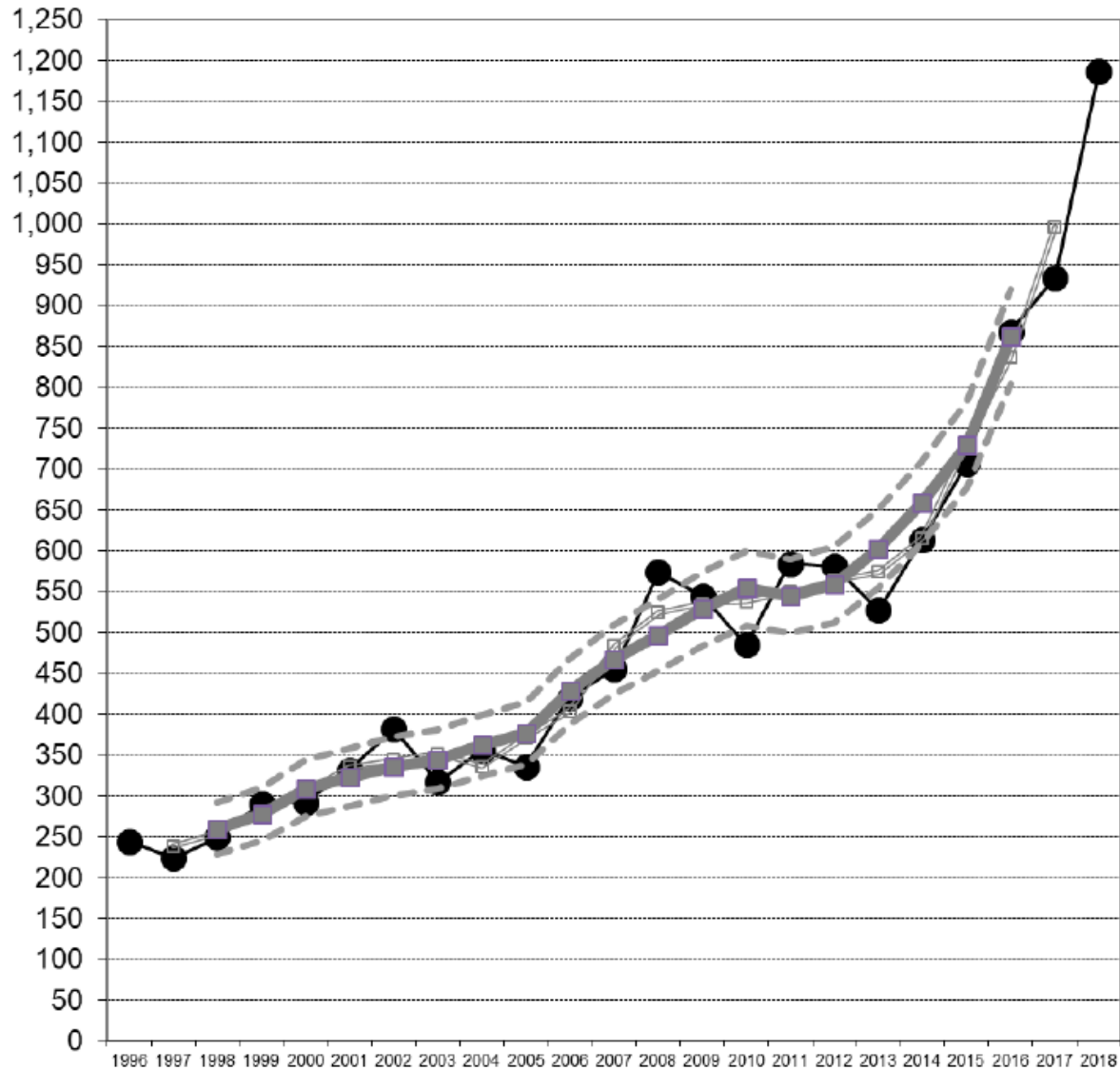


Assessing Risk of Death in People with Problematic Drug Use

Dr Emma Fletcher, Jerusha Vithiyanandan,
Dr Phyllis Easton, Dr Fiona Cowden,
Dr Vered Hopkins, Superintendent John Wyllie,
Professor Nick Fyfe

Drug-related deaths in Scotland, 3- and 5-year moving averages 1996-2018



Source: National Records of Scotland.
Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2018

Key findings in Tayside

- Mean age 40.2 years
- 60% deaths – people living in most deprived areas
- 80% recorded as having experienced at least one adverse event in life
- 46% had been in prison or on remand at least once

Mental health co-morbidity

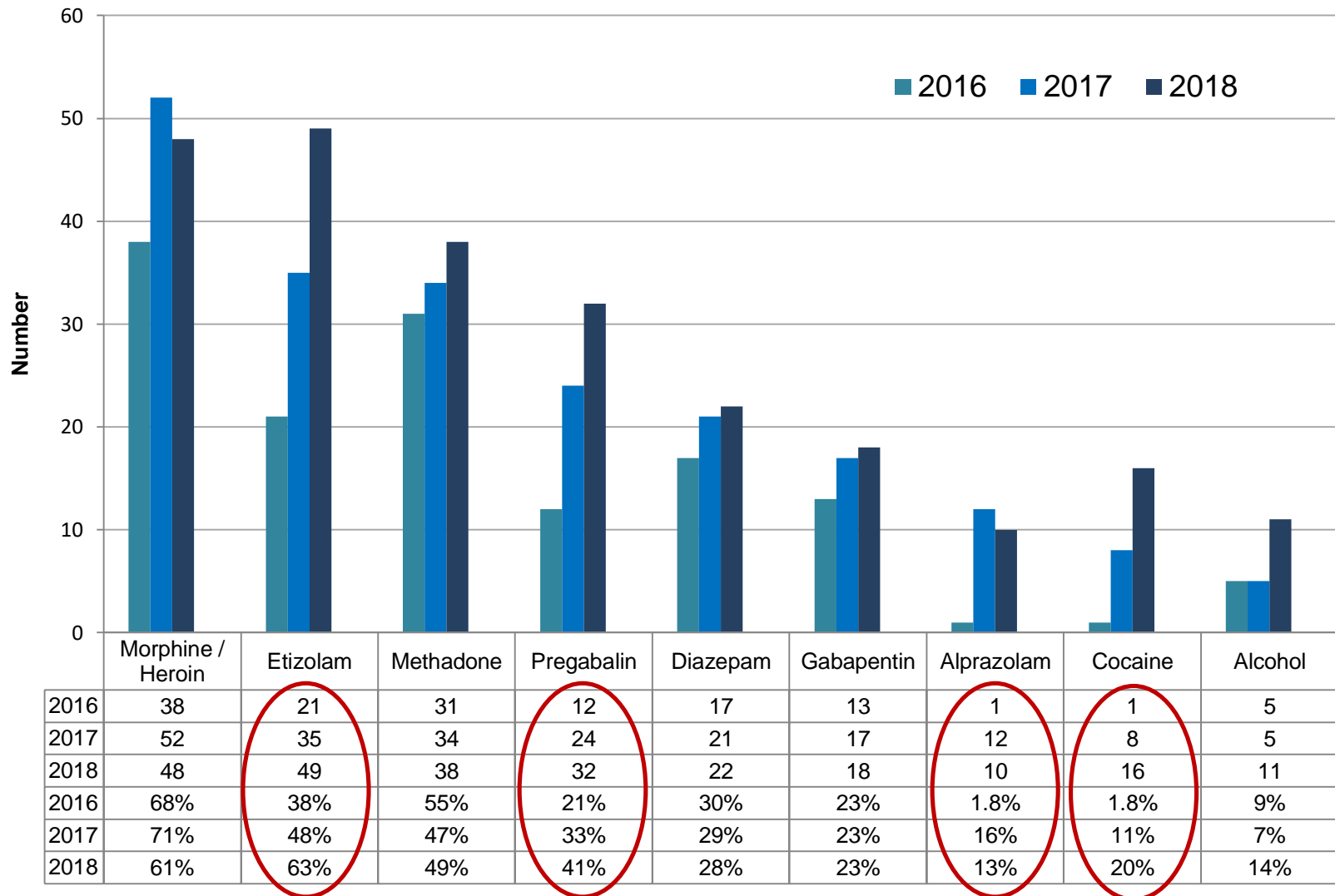
38 (49%) - mental health condition at time of death

Further 19 (24%) - prior mental health condition

Most commonly:

- Depression – 30 (39%)
- Anxiety – 15 (19%)

Drugs referred to in death certificate



Risk factors identified to date....

- Male gender
- Concurrent depression and or anxiety
- Opioid use
- (Barbituate use)
- Co-morbid health conditions
- Benzodiazepine prescription (1993-2004)
- Shorter duration of methadone use / no OST
- Prison liberation

Our study...

- Retrospective cohort study
- Using the anonymised information from persons known to specialist substance misuse services in Tayside on 1st Jan 2014
- Follow-up 5 years

Data variables include...

- Engagement with substance misuse services
- Living circumstances
- Employment
- Co-morbidities
- Significant life events
- Police contact – y/n and date
- Vulnerable persons database – y/n

Progress to date

- First proposed to ADPs and NHS Tayside in Spring 2018
- SIPR application ✓
- Confirmed funding – SIPR and ADPs x 3 ✓
- Post arrangements – University (2 schools), honorary NHS ✓
- Ethics application ✓
- NHS Tayside Research and Development . . .

Purpose

Produce recommendations that assist the police and partners to align prevention and intervention activities to achieve real world impact in reducing adverse outcomes of substance misuse, specifically rates of drug deaths.

With many thanks to...

- Jerusha Vithiyandandan
- Dr Phyllis Easton
- Dr Fiona Cowden
- Dr Vered Hopkins,
- Superintendent John Wyllie
- Professor Nick Fyfe



The Scottish Institute
for **Policing Research**