

The role of Etizolam in Scottish drug-related deaths

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'Jellies' have ruined thousands of lives

John Arlidge talks to a former addict in Glasgow

John Arlidge | Wednesday 13 September 1995 00:02 |



Stuff

Diazepam Is Killing Scotland's Drug-Using Poor

Thanks to the majority of late-20th-century American fiction, many of us have the mistaken belief that Valium is the preserve of the clinically bored, middle-aged housewife, when really the drug is killing Scotland's poorest men.

By William Nicoll

Mar 19 2013, 7:00pm [Share](#) [Tweet](#)



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NEWS

Street valium blamed for 'unprecedented' spike in drugs deaths

GPs 'TURNING MILLIONS INTO PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADDICTS'

The Scotsman

February 4, 2004

by Geoff Meade, European Editor,
PA News in Brussels

NEWS

24th September 1998

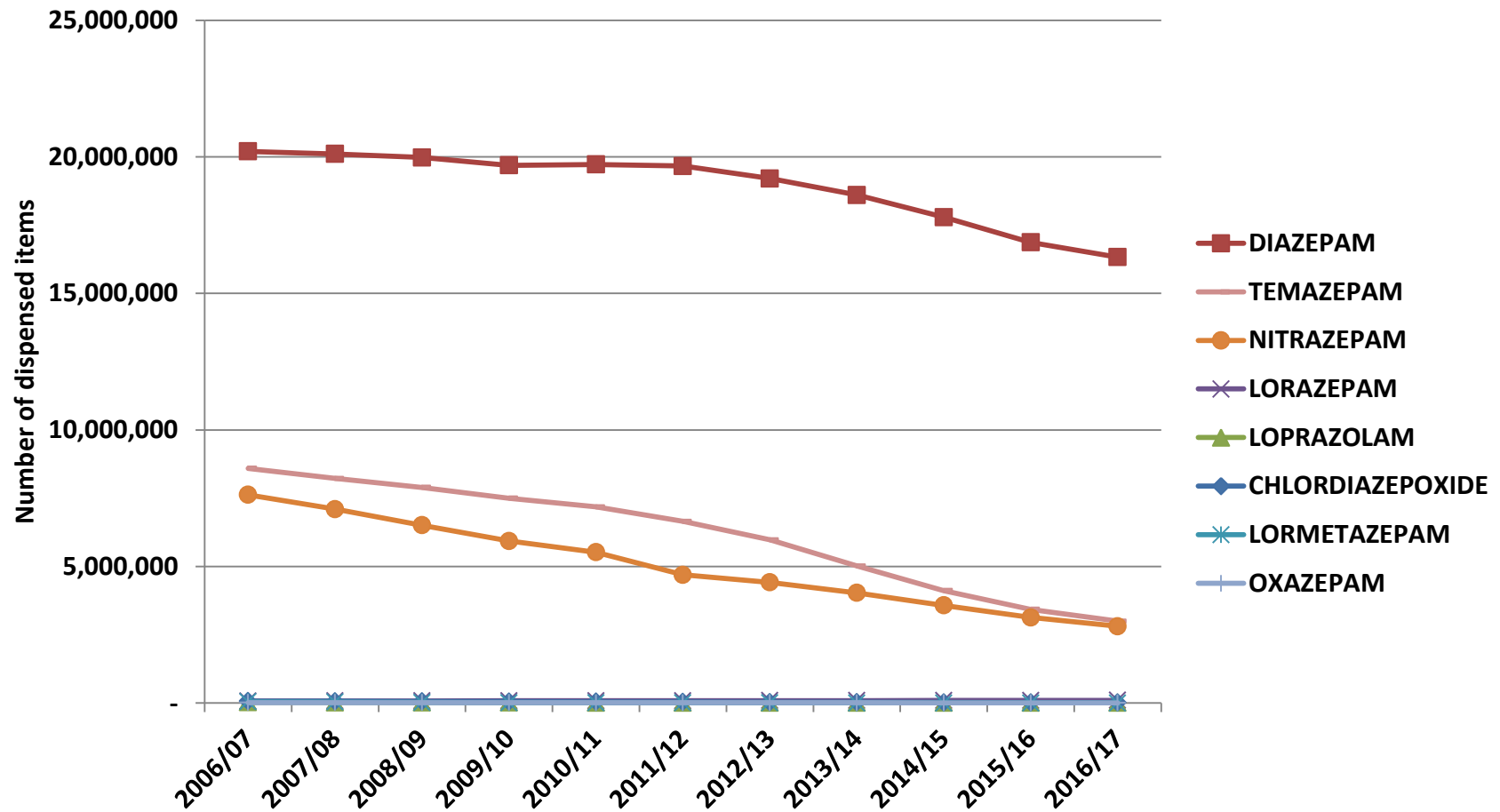
The Herald

Return of the banned killer jellies



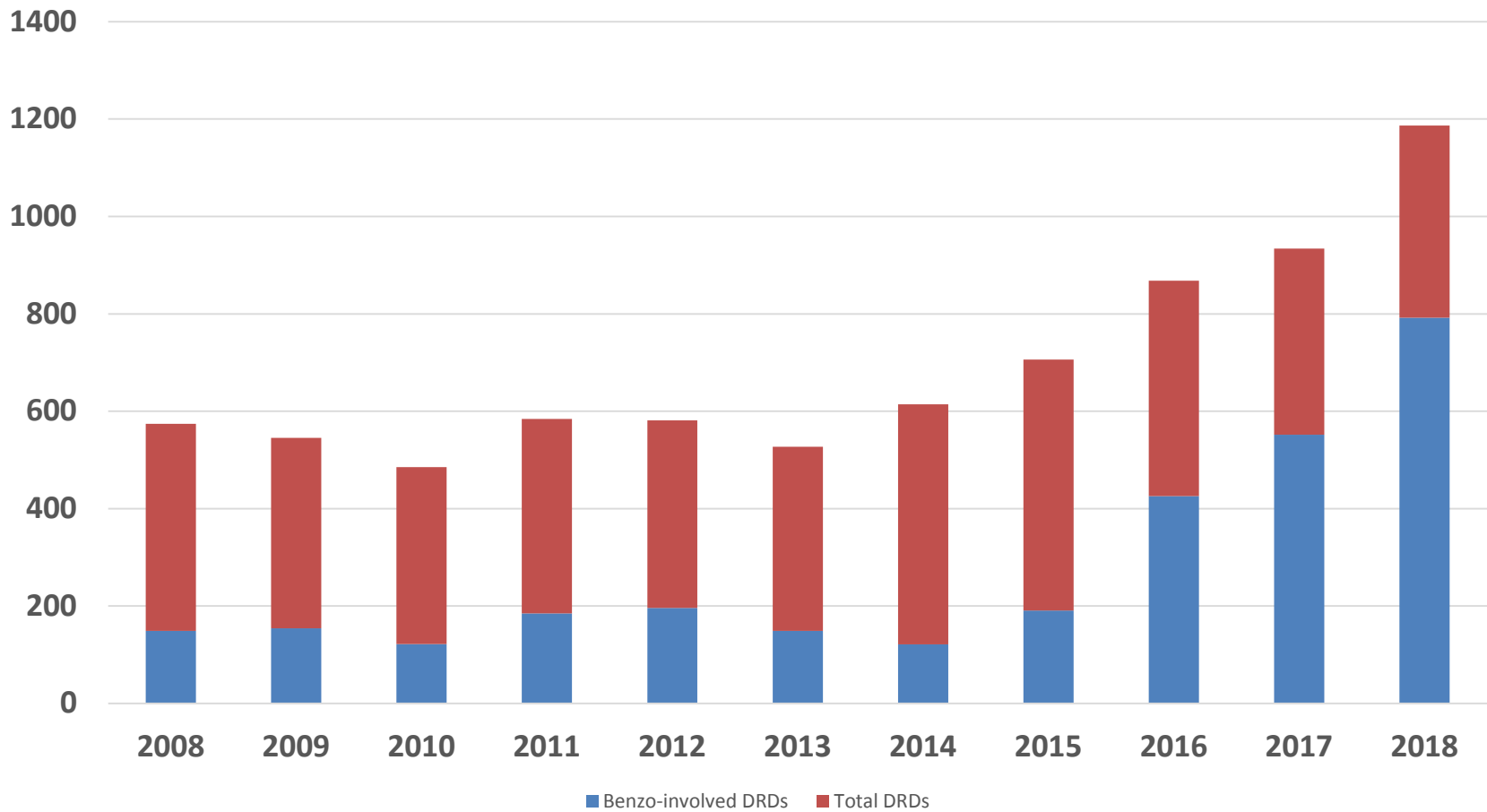
TEMAZEPAM, formerly the most widely abused prescription drug in Scotland, is making a comeback despite Government moves to ban it, drug experts were warned yesterday.

Trends in prescribing of Benzodiazepines in Scotland, 2006-2017



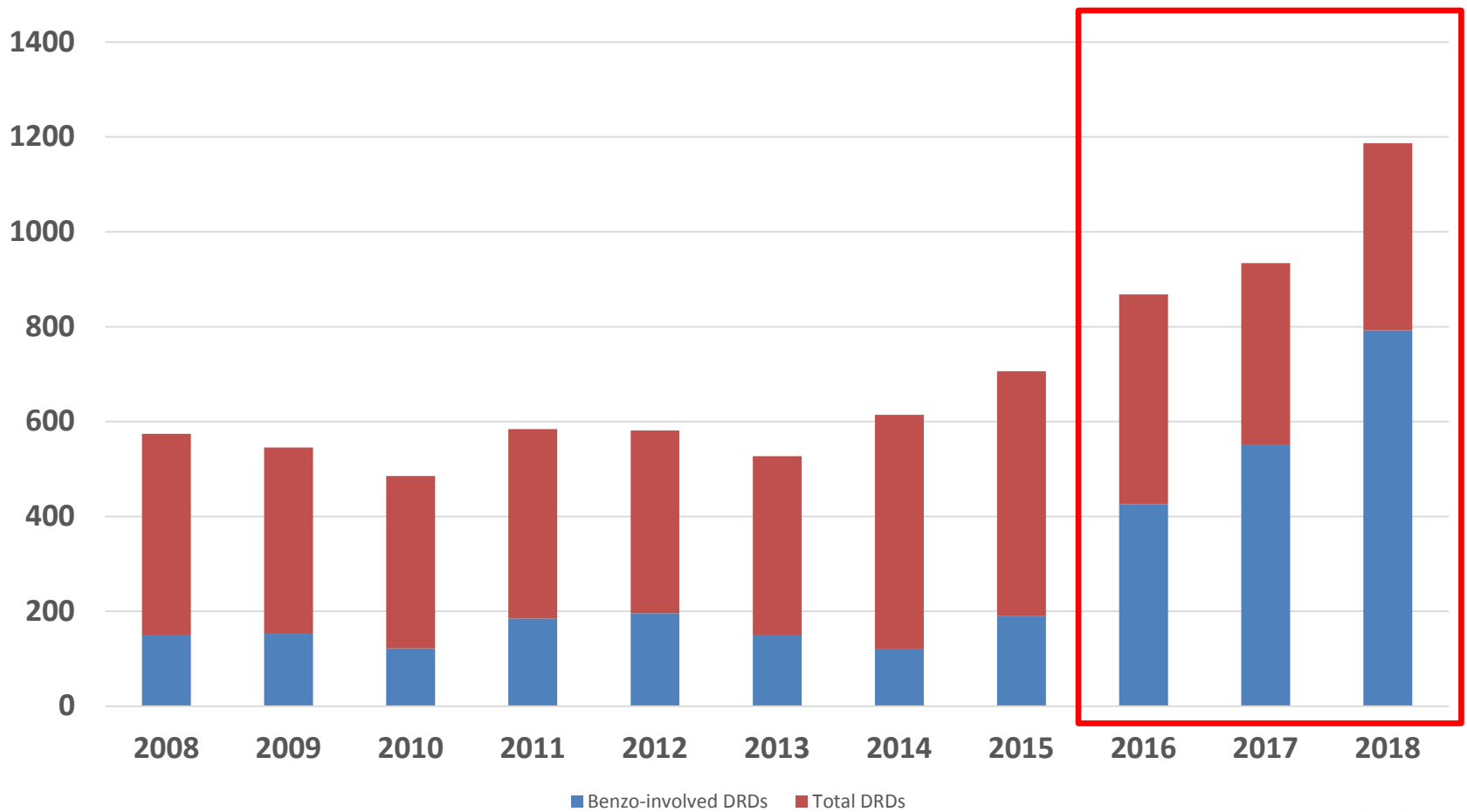
Source: NHS National Services Scotland

Benzodiazepine-related deaths, Scotland, 2008-2018



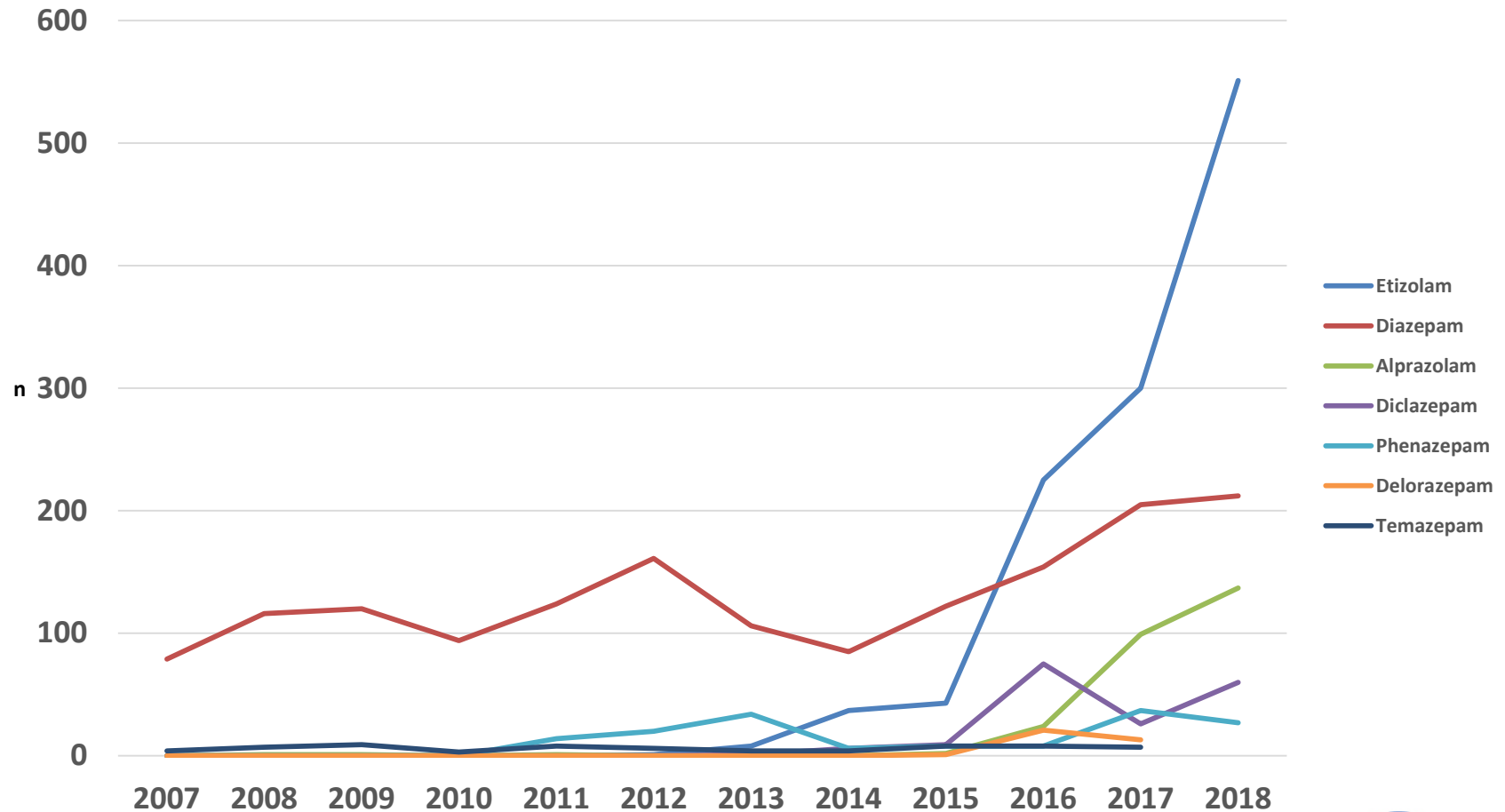
Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Benzodiazepine-related deaths, Scotland, 2008-2018



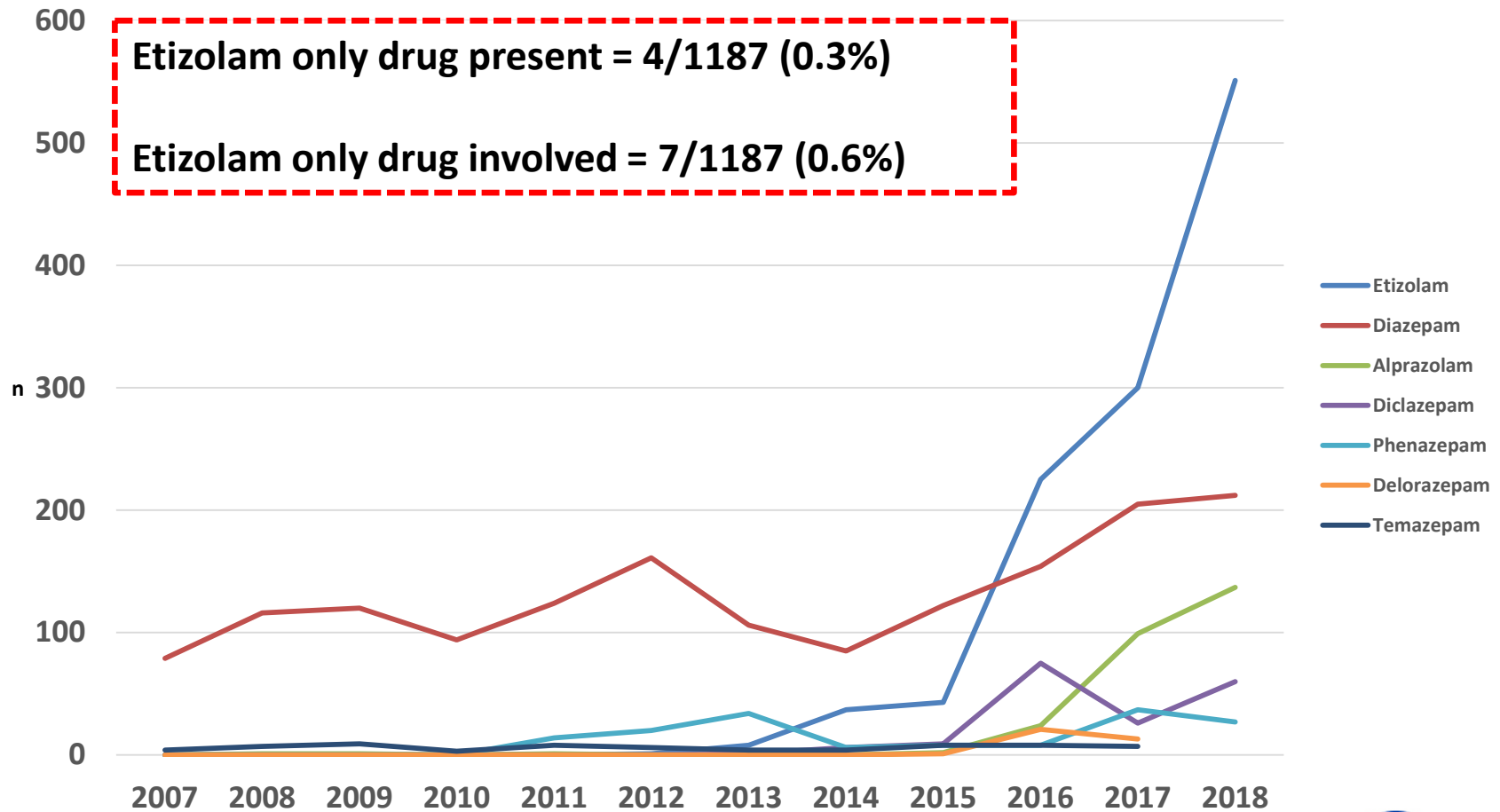
Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Benzodiazepine-related deaths by substance, Scotland, 2008-2018




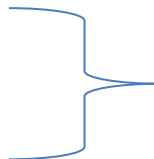

Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Benzodiazepine-related deaths by substance, Scotland, 2008-2018



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Why 'street benzo's matter...

- Increases polydrug toxicity  *Increased risk of overdose*
- When compared traditional Benzo's...
 - Much stronger
 - Different half-life *Increased risk of overdose*
- False advertising  *"Consumption roulette"*

Consumption roulette



“The ACMD is concerned with Police Scotland’s report that a number of benzodiazepines are being sold as ‘street valium’. When analysed, tablets with the appearance of diazepam tablets were found to contain diclazepam, diazepam, a mixture of etizolam and the synthetic opiate U-47,700 or U-47,700 on its own.”

ACMD letter to Home Office recommending control of Etizolam and other designer benzodiazepines, 2 Dec 2016

Consumption roulette

DRUG WARNING Killer drug Etizolam **TEN TIMES** more deadly than street Valium being sold on Scottish streets disguised as Diazepam

The drug is highly addictive and experts are warning that users may be taking the super-strong psychoactive substance without knowing it

EXCLUSIVE

By Mark Hendry

14 Aug 2018, 12:13 | Updated: 14 Aug 2018, 13:42



THE SCOTTISH
Sun

Gang who made 1.6 million 'street Valium' pills in Paisley garage jailed

20 December 2018



DRUG WARNING Killer drug Etizolam **TEN TIMES** more deadly than street Valium being sold on Scottish streets disguised as Diazepam

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THE SCOTTISH Sun

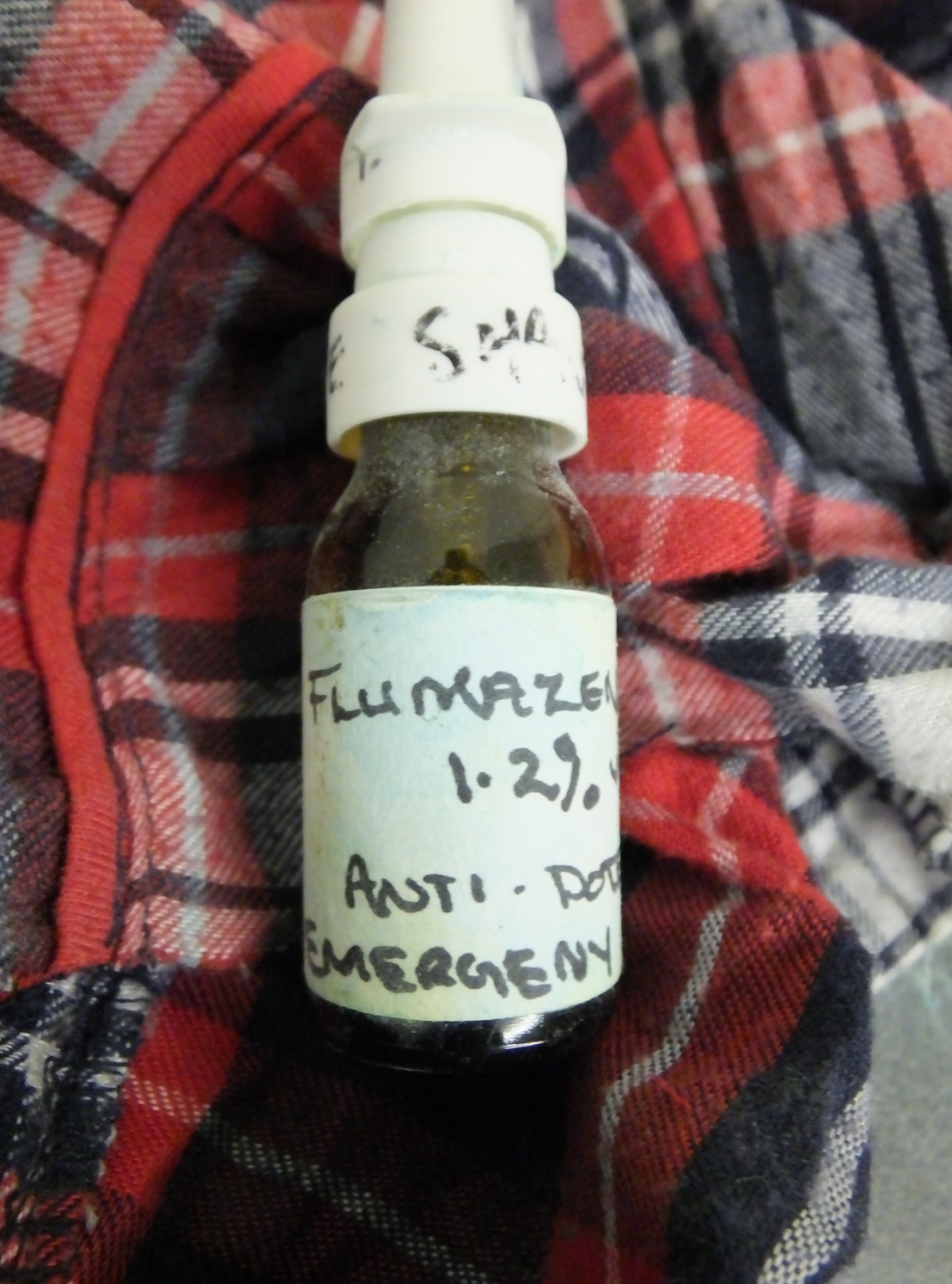
Gang produced millions of fake Valium pills from garage

Four men jailed for 19 years after police found 1,676,094 fake Valium tablets during raid.

NABBED Scottish 'Breaking Bad gang' convicted of running 'UK's biggest pill pressing factory' – churning out £1.6m of illegal drugs from back-street garage

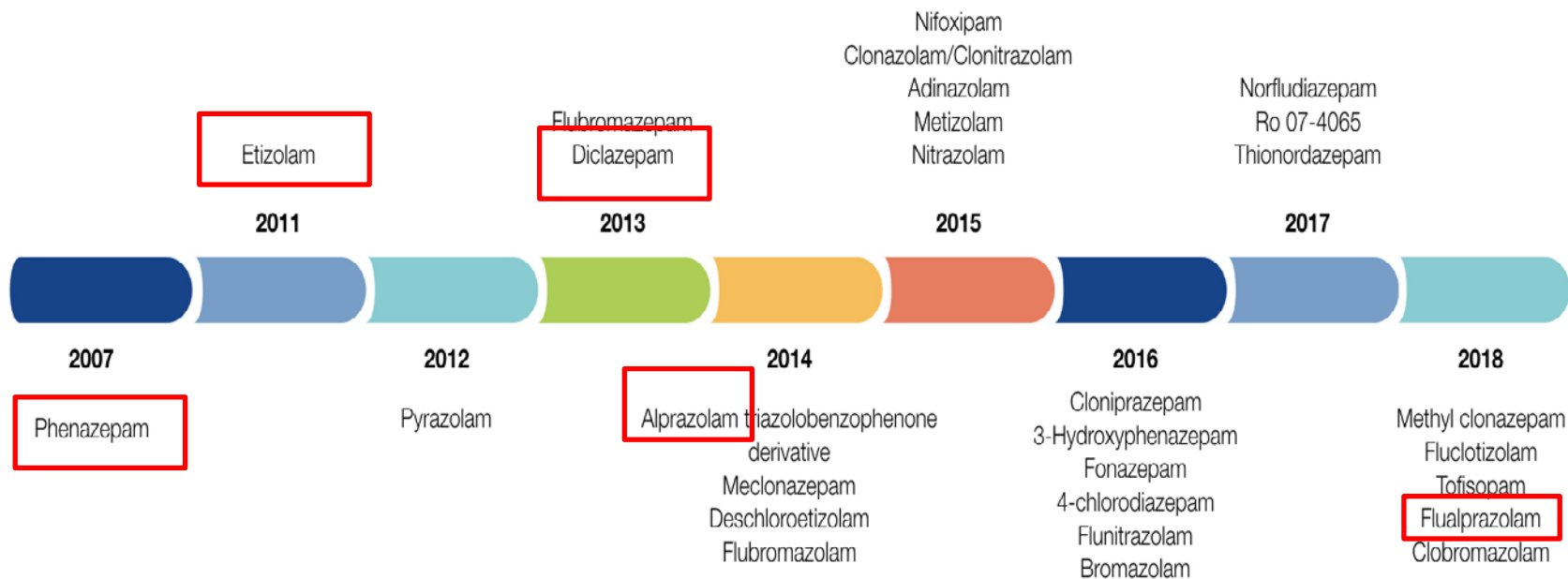
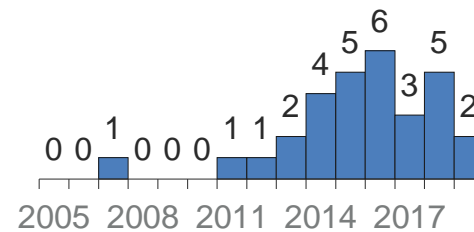
Police who raided the drugs factory found 1,676,094 Etizolam pills - dubbed the Blue Plague - being churned out at a rate of 250,000 an hour





Future trends?

Benzodiazepine notifications to EWS



Source: Michael Evans Brown, EMCDDA, personal communication, 2019

Summary

- High demand for benzodiazepines among PWUD in Scotland, alongside other drugs
- Shift from diversion of prescribed benzos to street based illicit benzos has increased the risk environment
- Policy and practice responses require flexibility and innovation

Thank you for listening

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