



Relationships between DRD, heroin availability and heroin purity in France

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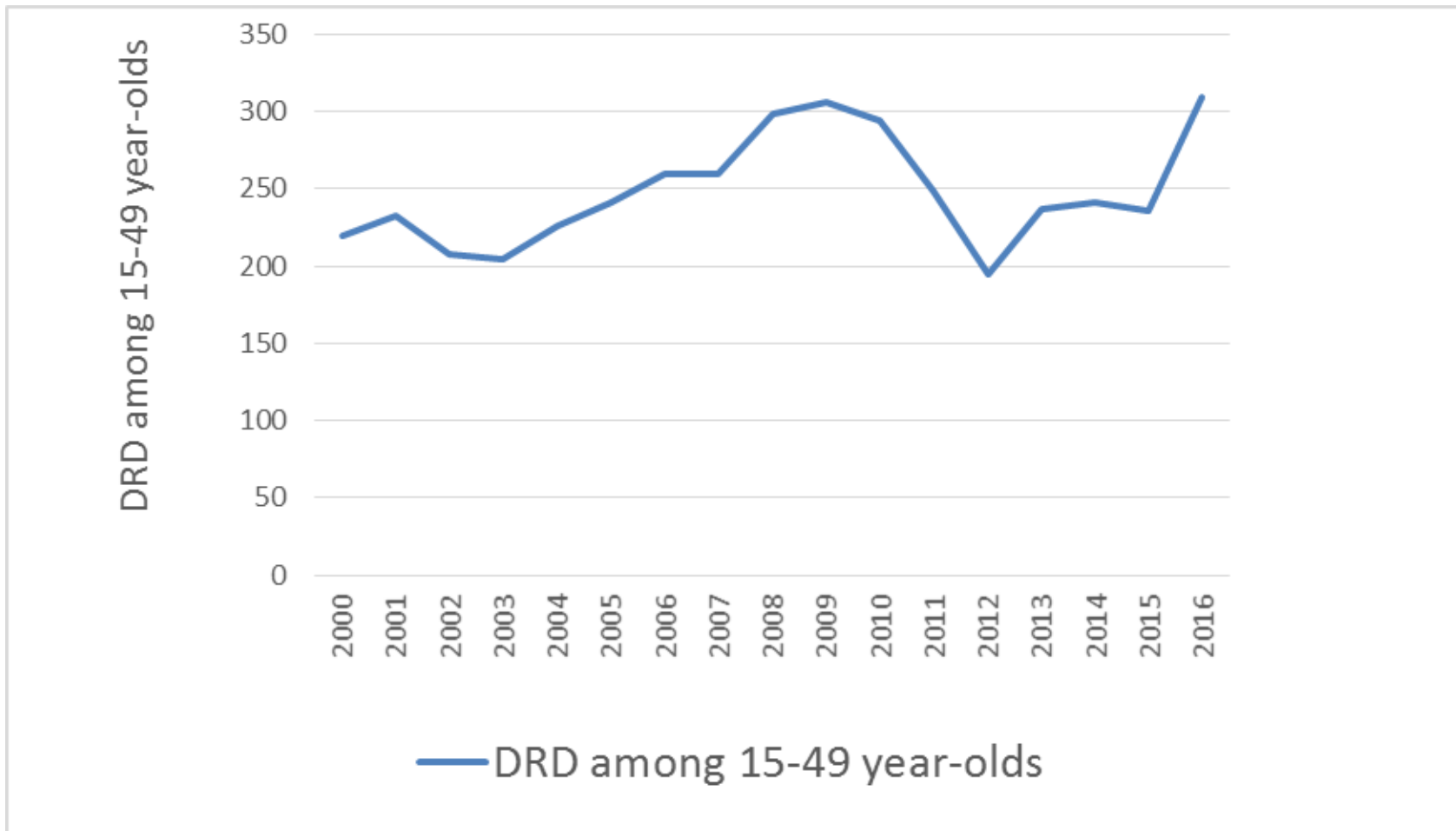
Background

- Increase in number of DRD in the 2000s in France, fluctuation of their number in the early 2010s
- Heroin has been involved between 15 and 30 % of cases of DRD since 2010
- Similar trends : DRD numbers, heroin-related deaths, heroin seizures and heroin purities
- To what extent could these DRDs' fluctuations be explained by the availability of heroin and its purity?

Methods

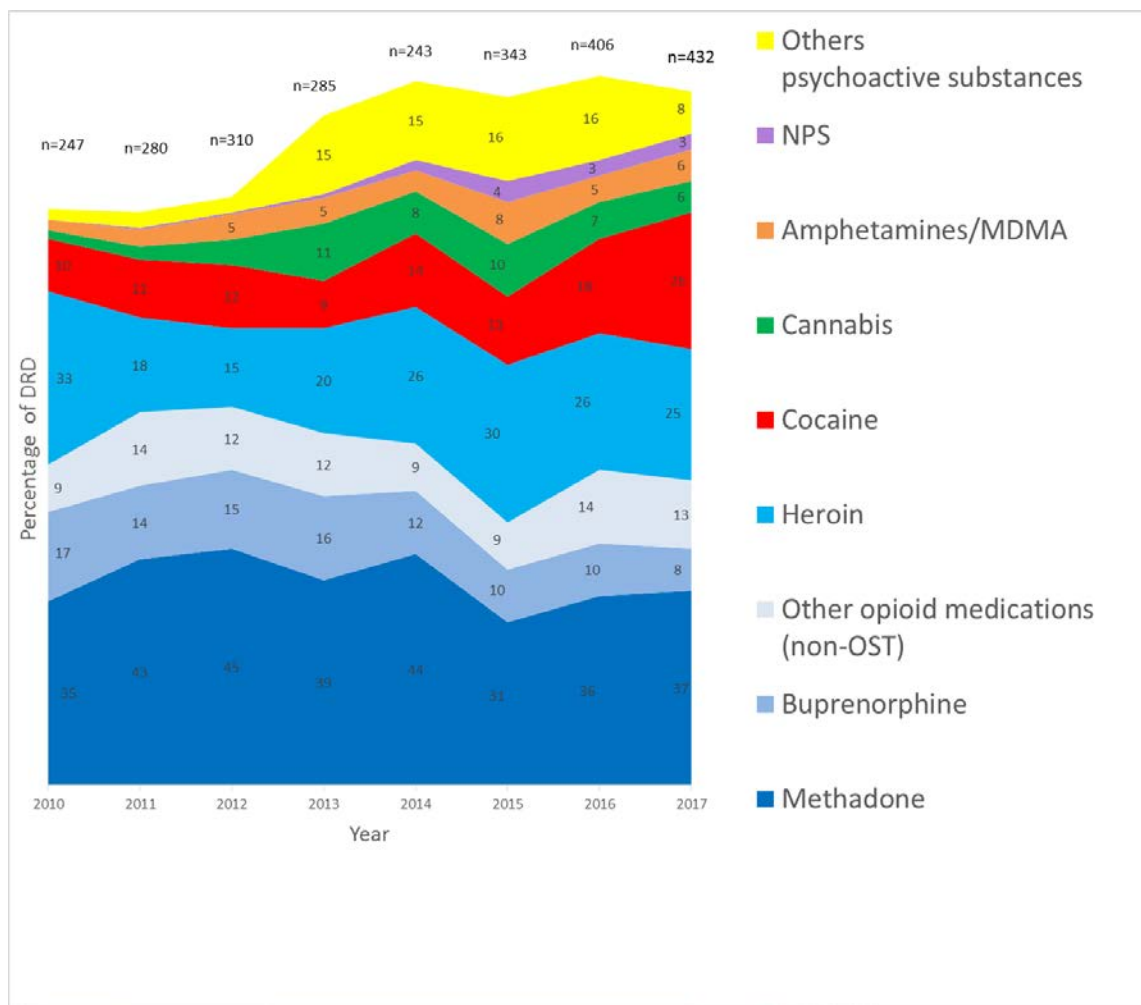
- **calculation of the correlation coefficients between :**
 - ✓ **DRD numbers (GMR) and quantities of heroin seized**
 - ✓ **Part of heroin-related deaths (SR) and purity levels of heroin seized**

Trends in the number of drug-related deaths



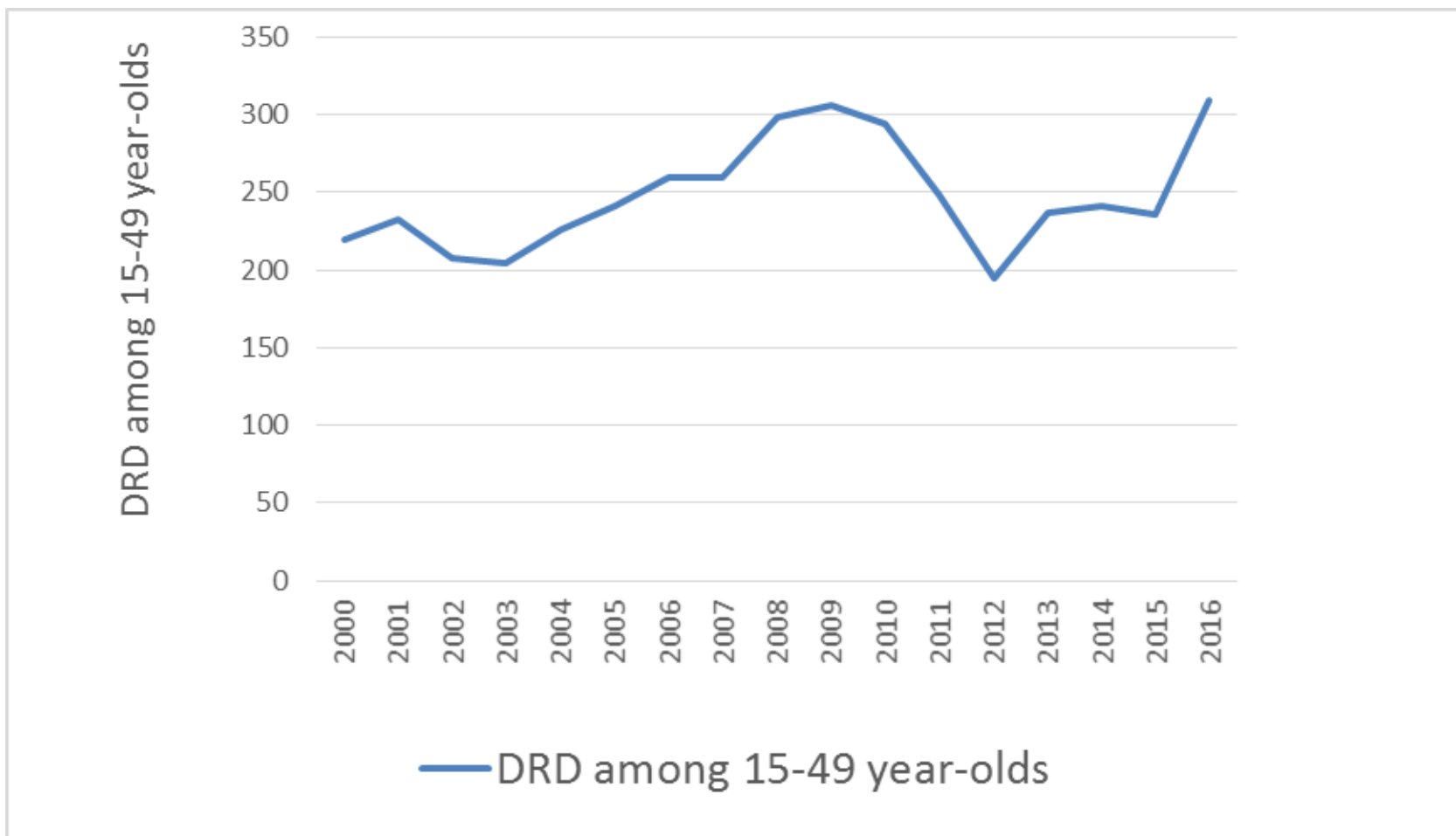
Source : General mortality register, selection B , CépiDc-Inserm

Trends of DRD by substances involved



Source: Special register, DRAMES, CEIP-A Grenoble, ANSM

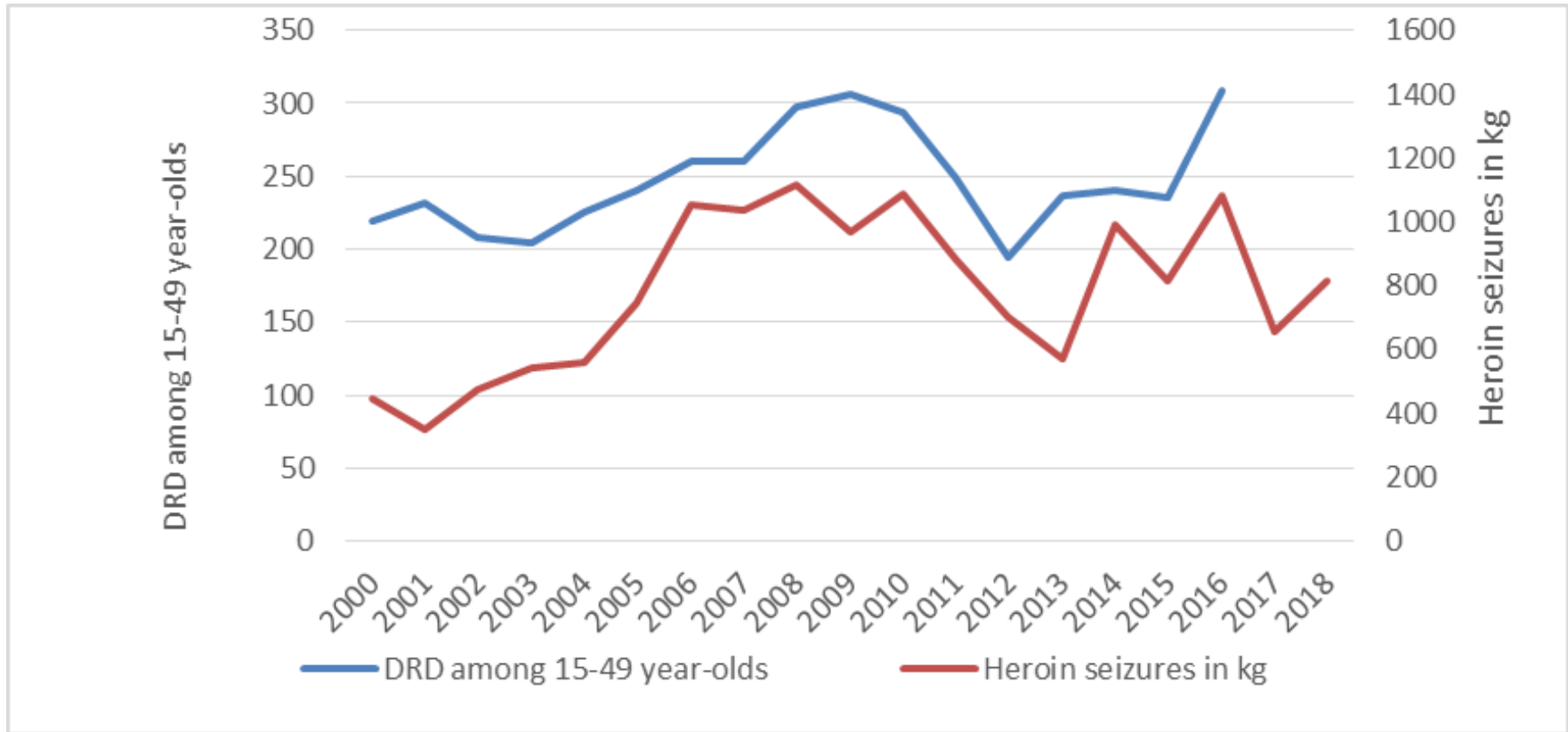
Trends in the number of drug-related deaths



Source : General mortality register, selection B , CépiDc-Inserm

Trends in the number of drug-related deaths

Trends in heroin seizures

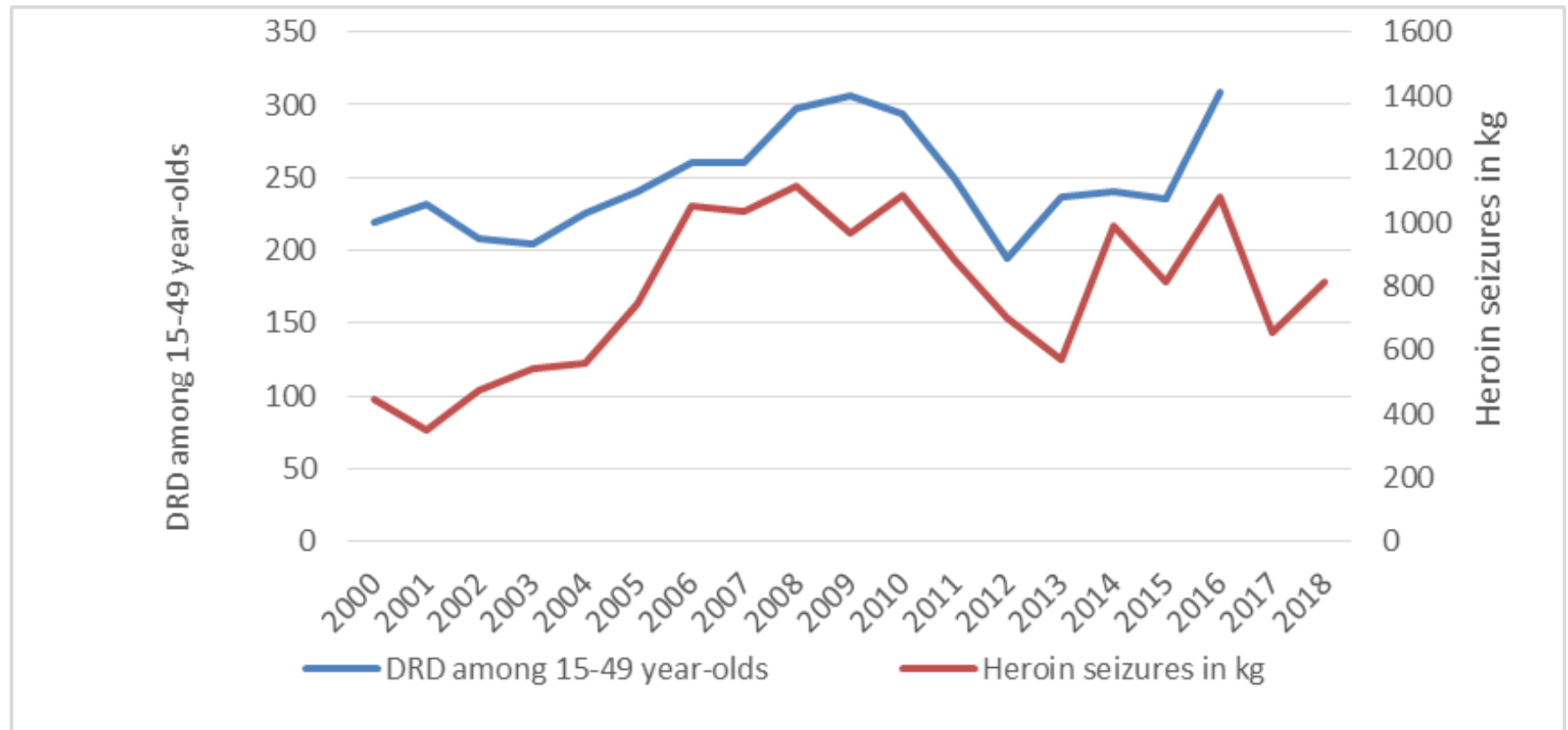


Source : General mortality register, selection B , CépiDc-Inserm for DRD
OCRTIS for heroin seizures

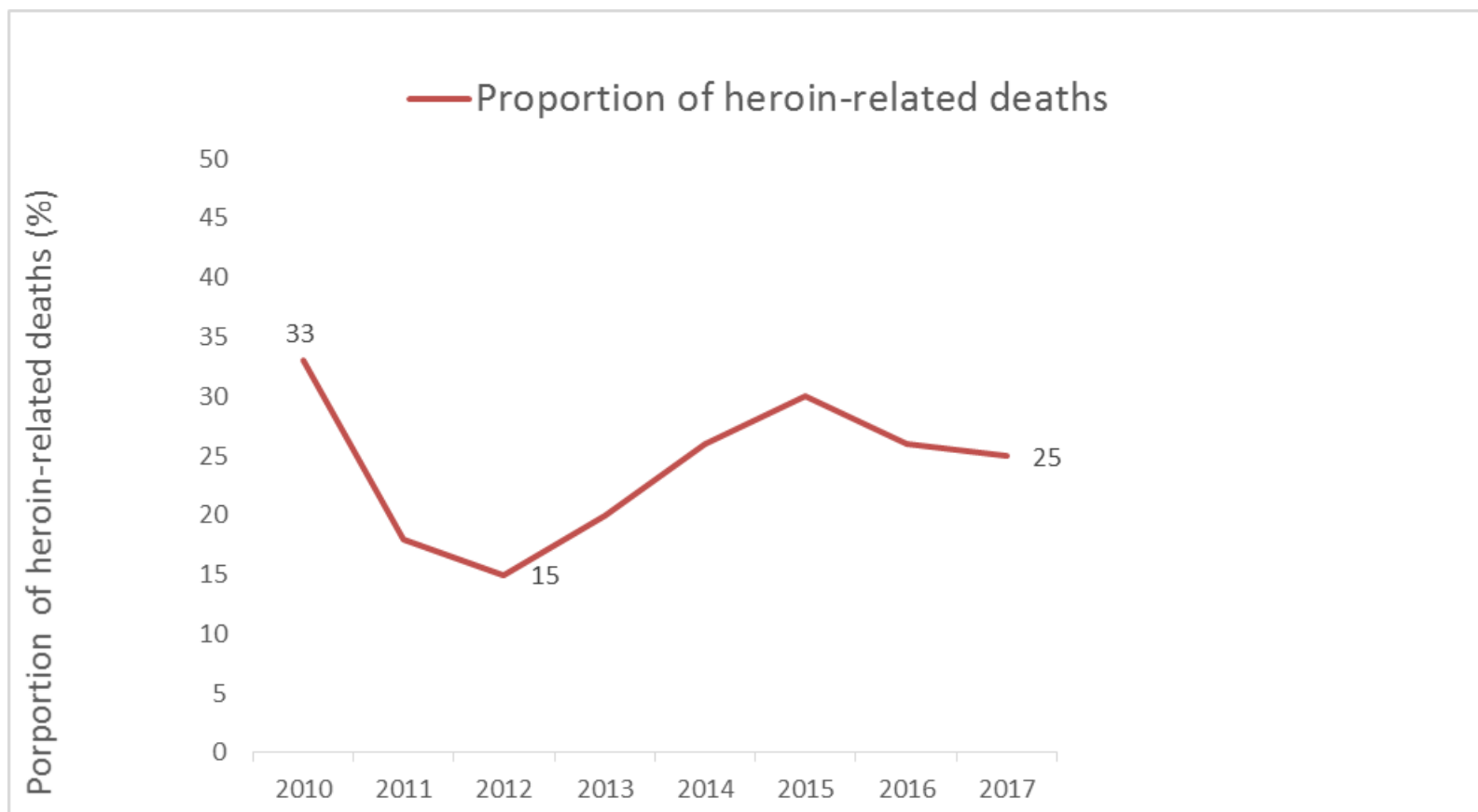
Trends in the number of drug-related deaths

Trends in heroin seizures

Correlation coefficient = 0,78 $p < 0,001$



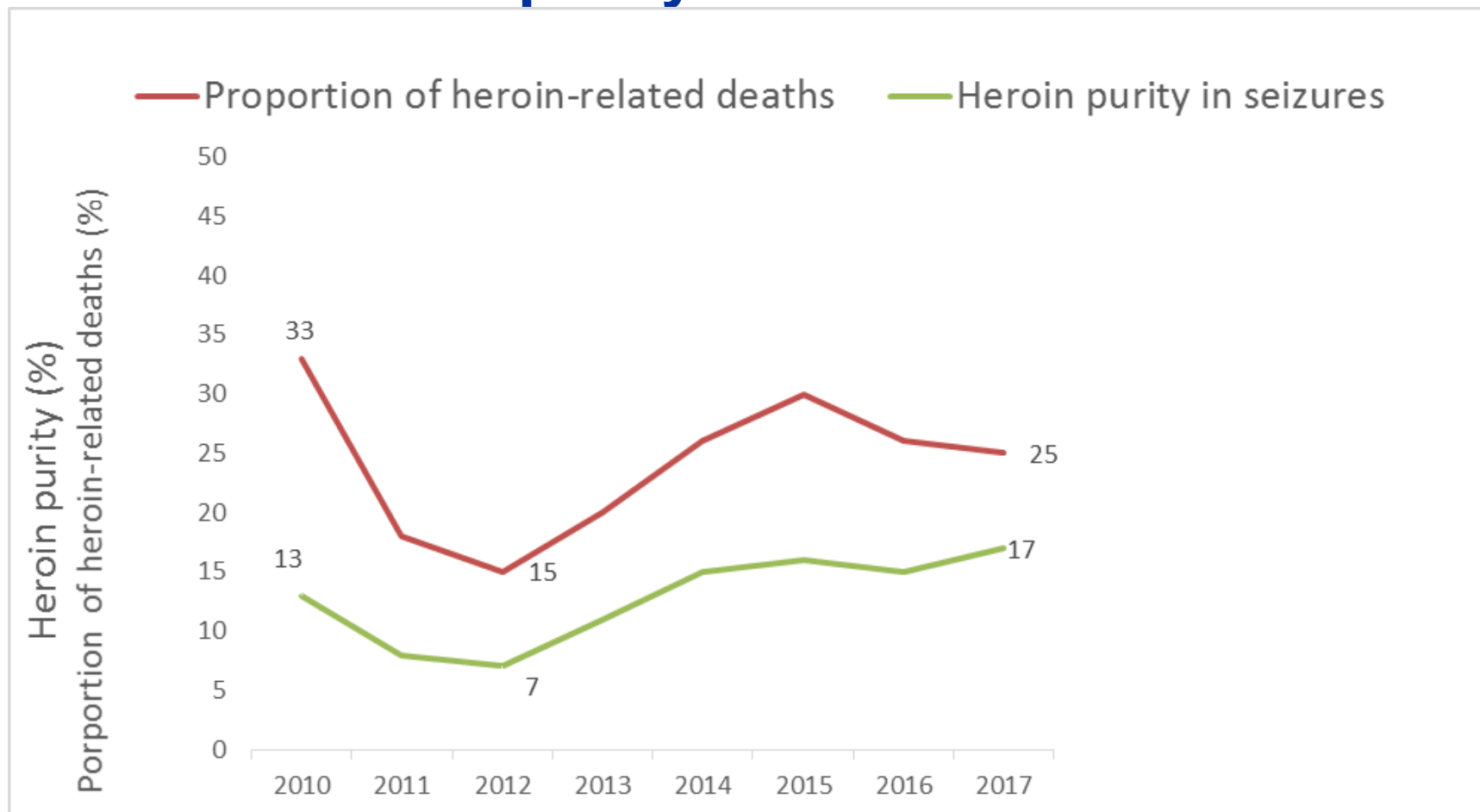
Trends in the proportion of heroin-related deaths



Source: Special register, DRAMES, CEIP-A Grenoble, ANSM

Trends in the proportion of heroin-related deaths

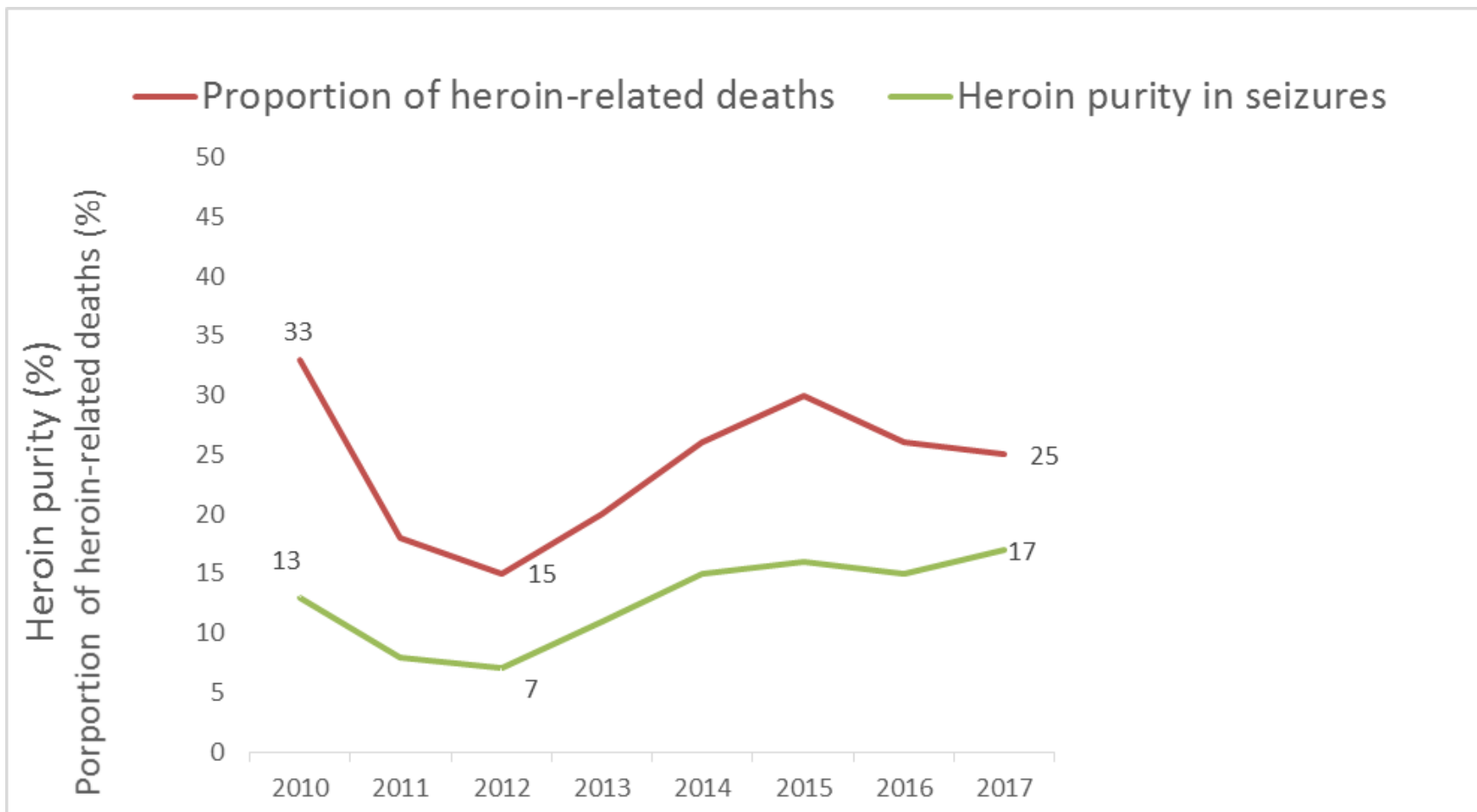
Trends in heroin purity in seizures



Source: Special register, DRAMES, CEIP-A Grenoble, ANSM for heroin-related deaths STUPS, INPS for heroin purity (brown heroin)

Trends in the proportion of heroin-related deaths

Correlation coefficient = 0,77 $p < 0,025$



- ✓ **The changes in the quantities of heroin seized (reflecting the availability of the substance) between 2000 and 2015 seem to explain for the most part the changes in the number of drug-related deaths over this period**
- ✓ **Changes in the part of heroin related deaths are linked to heroin purity**

Conclusion

- ✓ **Monitoring of heroin cycles is crucial**
- ✓ **Its high availability usually seems to mirror recruitment of new opioid users, and also recrudescence of overdoses**
- ✓ **The more heroin is available and the higher its purity, the greater the number of people dependent on opioids and there is a consequent increase in the number of fatal overdoses linked to heroin but probably also to other opioid uses**
- ✓ **Fast data availability for heroin seizures**

Thank you for your attention

