



Recent developments in Finland

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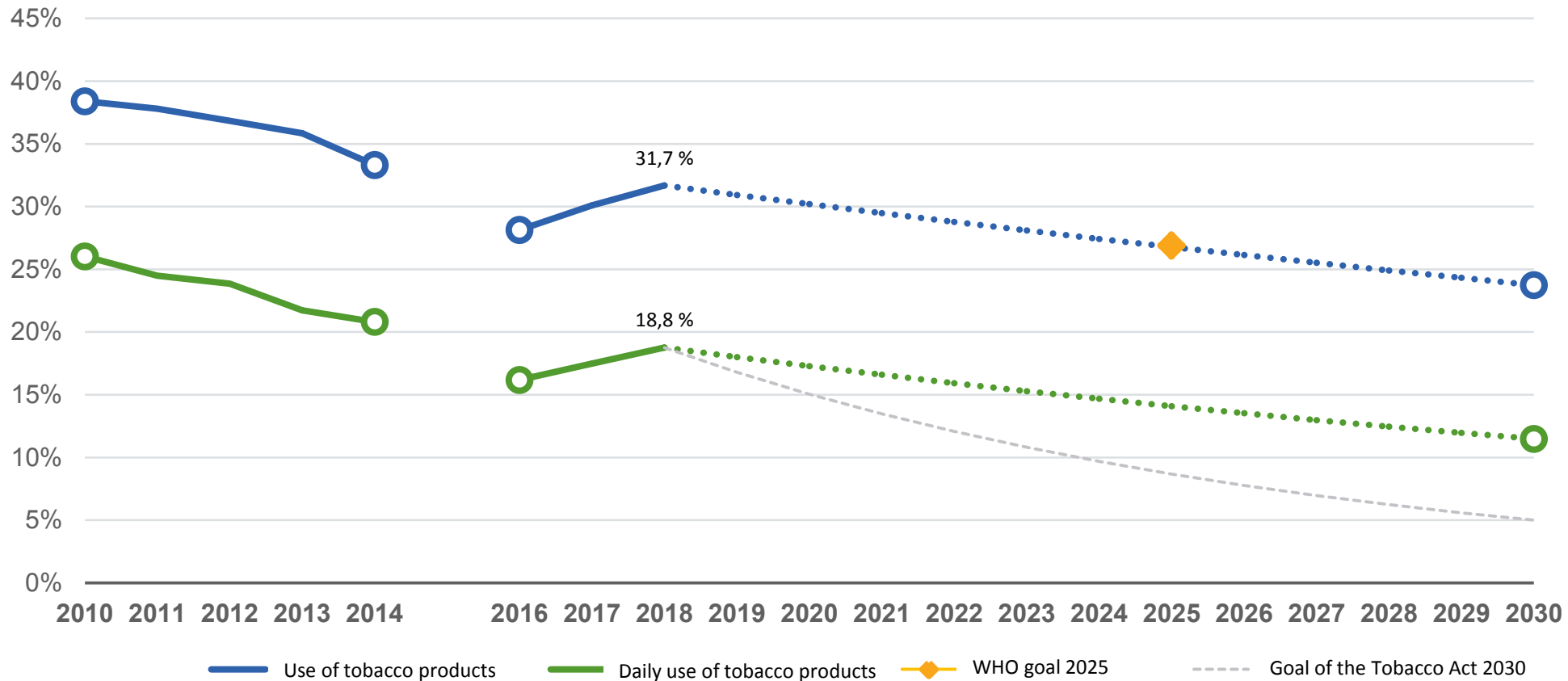
ASA EG Meeting 10.10.-11.10. 2019
Copenhagen, Denmark

TOBACCO

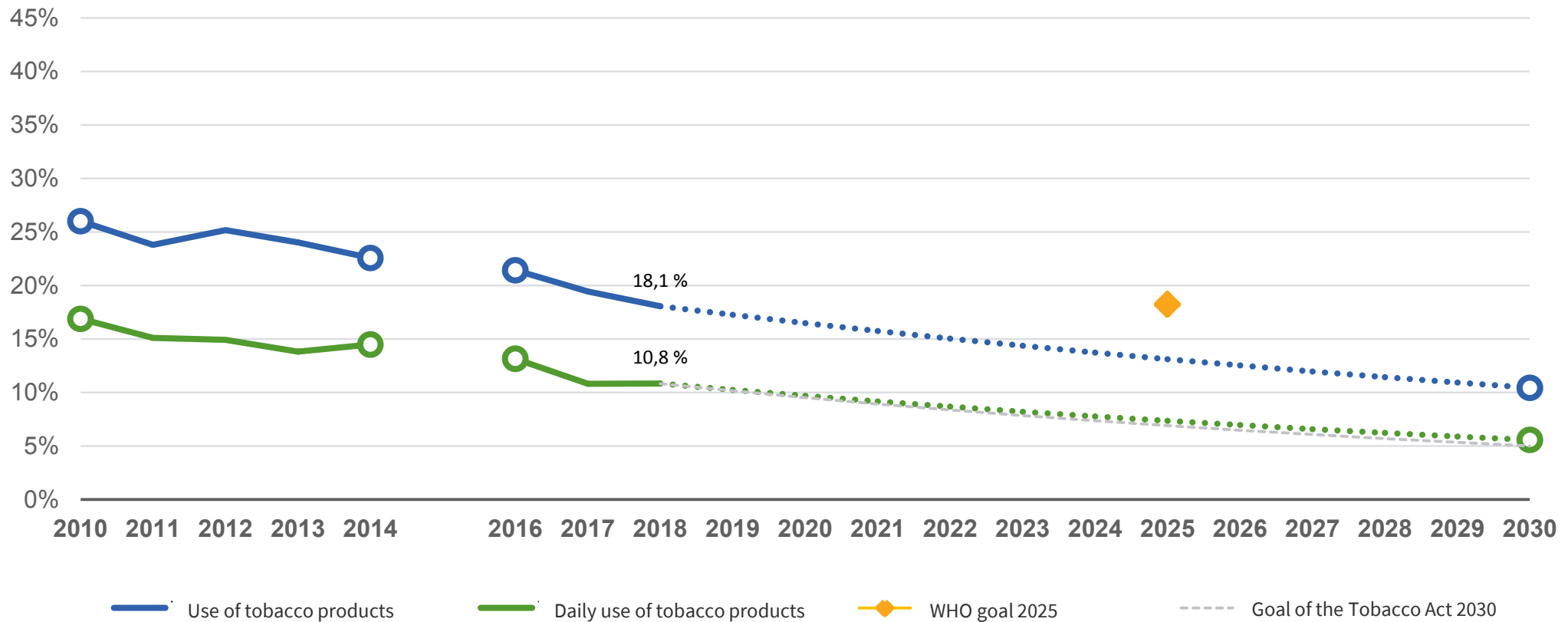
As a reminder...

- A working group appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health suggested in the summer of 2018 several proposals to contribute to the aim of the Tobacco Act (to end the use of tobacco and nicotine products by year 2030 (endgame)).
- For a quick recap on the contents: Report - Development of tobacco and nicotine policy. 44 proposals for action by the working group: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-4002-4>

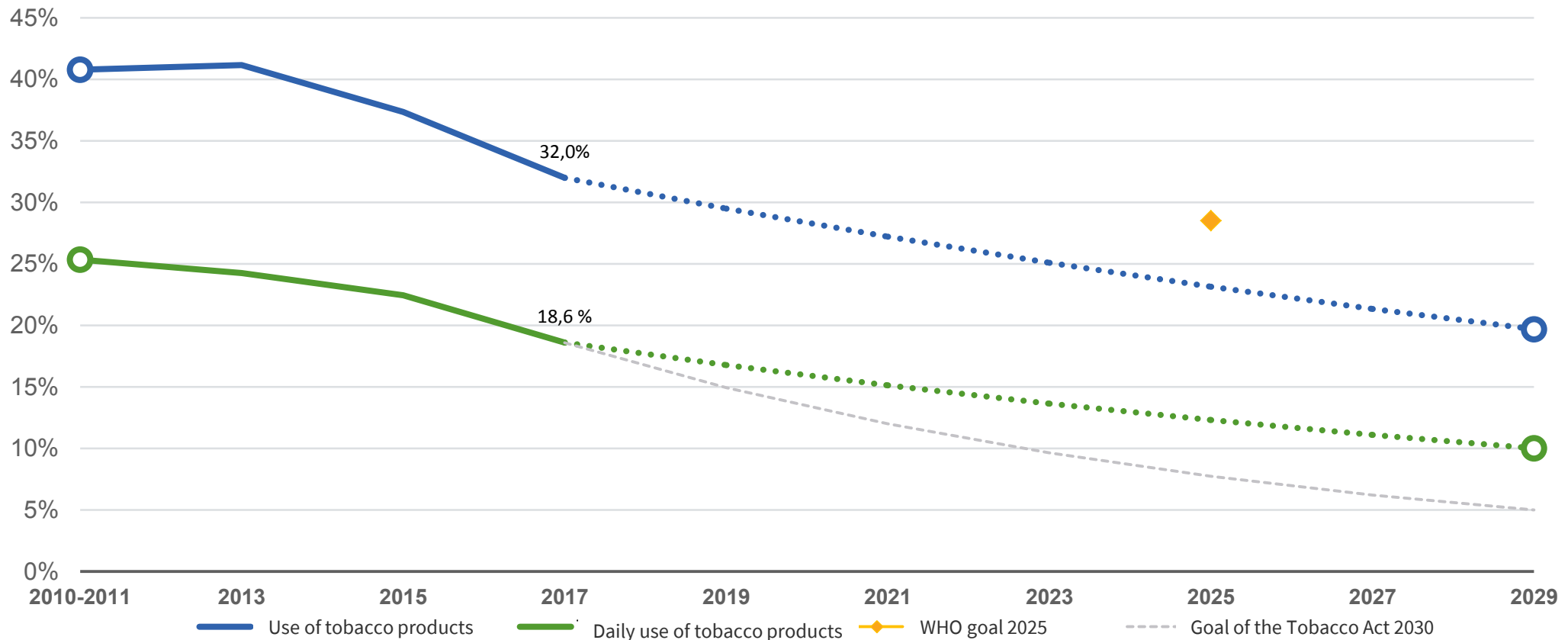
Use of tobacco products 2010-2018 and estimation for future trends, men 20–64-year-olds



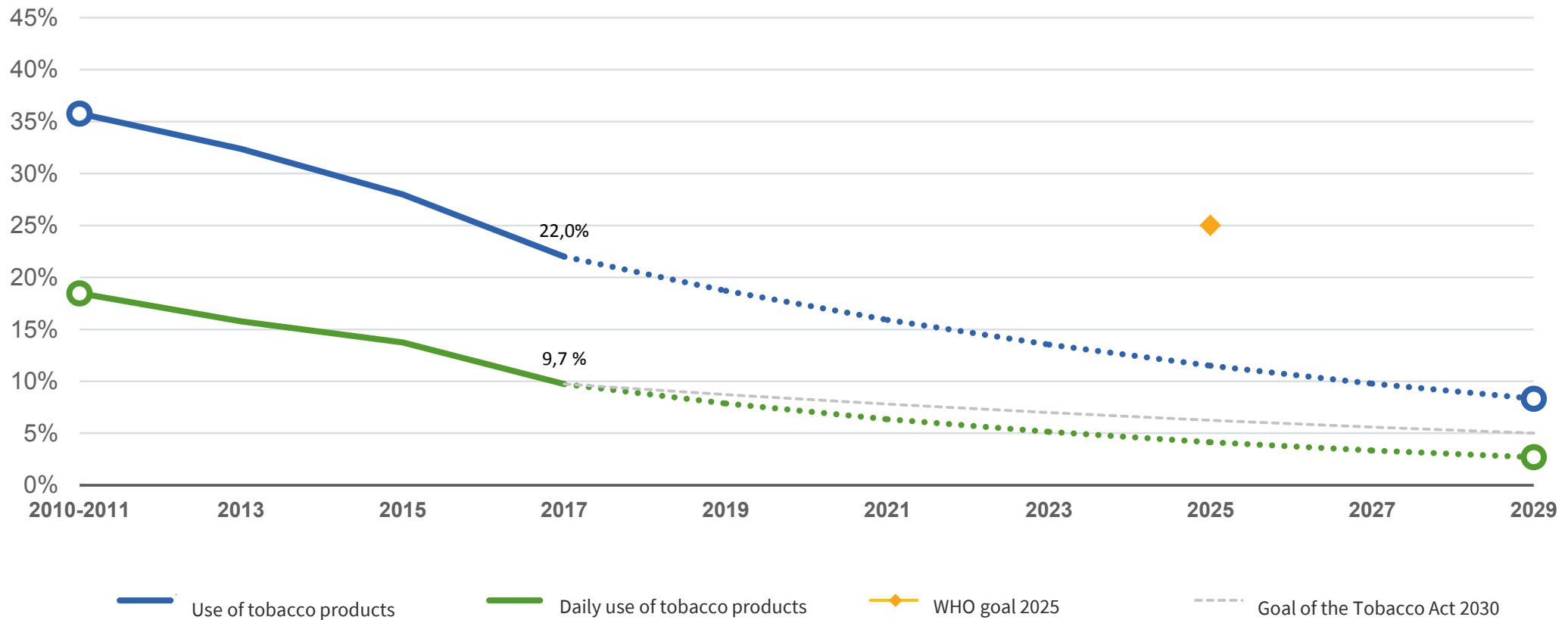
Use of tobacco products 2010-2018 and and estimation for future trends, women 20–64-year-olds



Use of tobacco products 2010/2011-2017 and estimation for future trends, boys aged 15-19



Use of tobacco products 2010/2011-2017 and estimation for future trends, girls aged 15-19



Snus use in Finland

- Snus use have increased among boys and among young men in recent years
 - Snus use is the most common tobacco product used among boys
 - Also some increase among girls
- There have been recent reports by the NGOs about the use of snus / acquisition of snus from the Swedish border
- In addition to lively media coverage, snus use have also risen to the political agenda
- Report about health effects of snus by the Folkehelseinstituttet (Norway) will be of great interest also in Finland

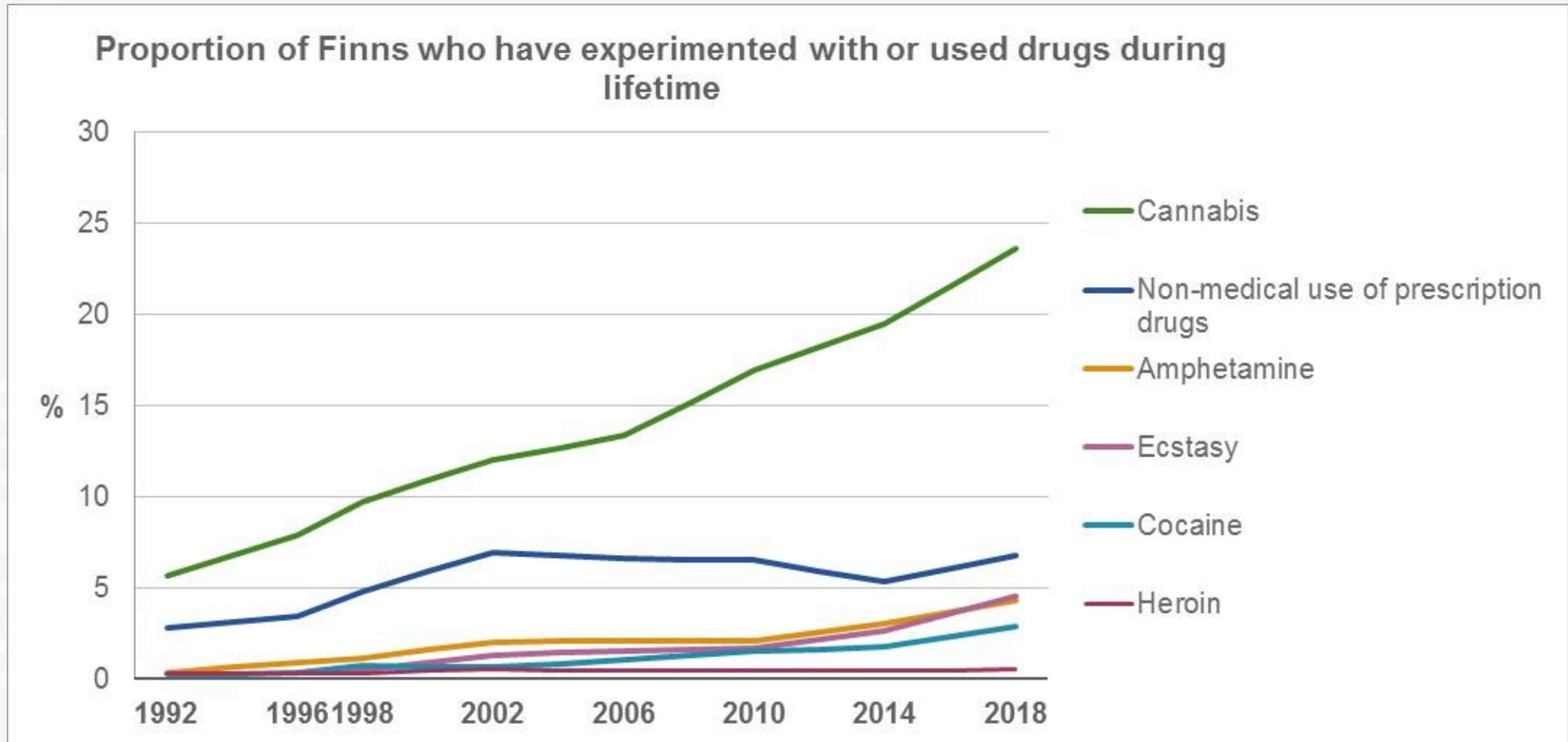
GAMBLING

Gambling Policy in Finland

- New amendments to the Lotteries Act under discussion
 - Blocking of illegal websites and money transfers
 - Mandatory identification for all gambling (online and offline)
 - Permanent self-exclusion from all gambling possible
- Amendment to the Lotteries Act in January 2019:
 - Mandatory player identification for decentralized slot machines in 2022
 - Not applied to machines in arcades
- State gambling monopoly Veikkaus decisions after criticism:
 - Reduction in the number of decentralized slot machines (18 500 > 15 500)
 - Reduction in the marketing budget

DRUGS

Results from the 2018 drug survey show that experimenting with cannabis continues to increase



...and that opinions on illicit drugs (especially cannabis) have relaxed

- 20 % would not punish for the use of any illicit drugs.
- 42 % would not punish for the use of cannabis.
- 18 % think that cannabis should be legally available for any kind of purpose.
- 54 % think that cannabis should be available for medical use.

Finland's EU Presidency and Drug Policy

- Finland chairs the HDG (Horizontal Working Party on Drugs).
- The aim is on harmonizing and coordinating the common position of the 28 EU countries in the field of drug policy.

Key themes for 2019:

- Initiating dialogues with China and Iran on drugs
- WHO recommendations on the rescheduling of cannabis
- UN policy and development of global data collection
- Strengthening the use of scientific information in drug policy

ALCOHOL

Alcohol and Alcohol Policy in Finland

- Alcohol policy issues were not a hot topic in the Finnish parliamentary election in spring 2019.
- The main party advocating for further liberalizations in alcohol policy, the National Coalition party, is currently in the opposition.
- The abolition of the retail alcohol monopoly still, however, remains as a central goal for the National Coalition party as well as for the Grocery Trade Association and the Finnish Commerce Federation.
- After the elections, the alcohol policy debate in Finland has been dominated by the alcohol tax reductions planned and carried out in Estonia and Latvia in July.

Travelers' alcohol imports according to different beverage types

Beverage type	September 2017 to August 2018 Million litres	September 2018 to August 2019 Million litres	Change	
			Million litres	in %
Beer	23.7	27.4	3.8	15.9
Cider	6.1	6.2	0.1	1.3
RTD	9.8	10.0	0.1	1.4
Wine	9.4	11.2	1.8	19.1
Intermediate products	2.0	1.3	-0.7	-32.8
Spirits	7.0	5.9	-1.1	-15.8
Travelers' imports of alcoholic beverages (volume litres)	58.0	62.0	4.0	6.9
Travelers' alcohol imports (100 % alcohol)	6.7	6.5	-0.2	-3.2

Travelers' alcohol imports 4/2005-8/2019

