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Prevention and Control
Republic of Latvia

Addictive substance use prevalence and policy development in Latvia

Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia
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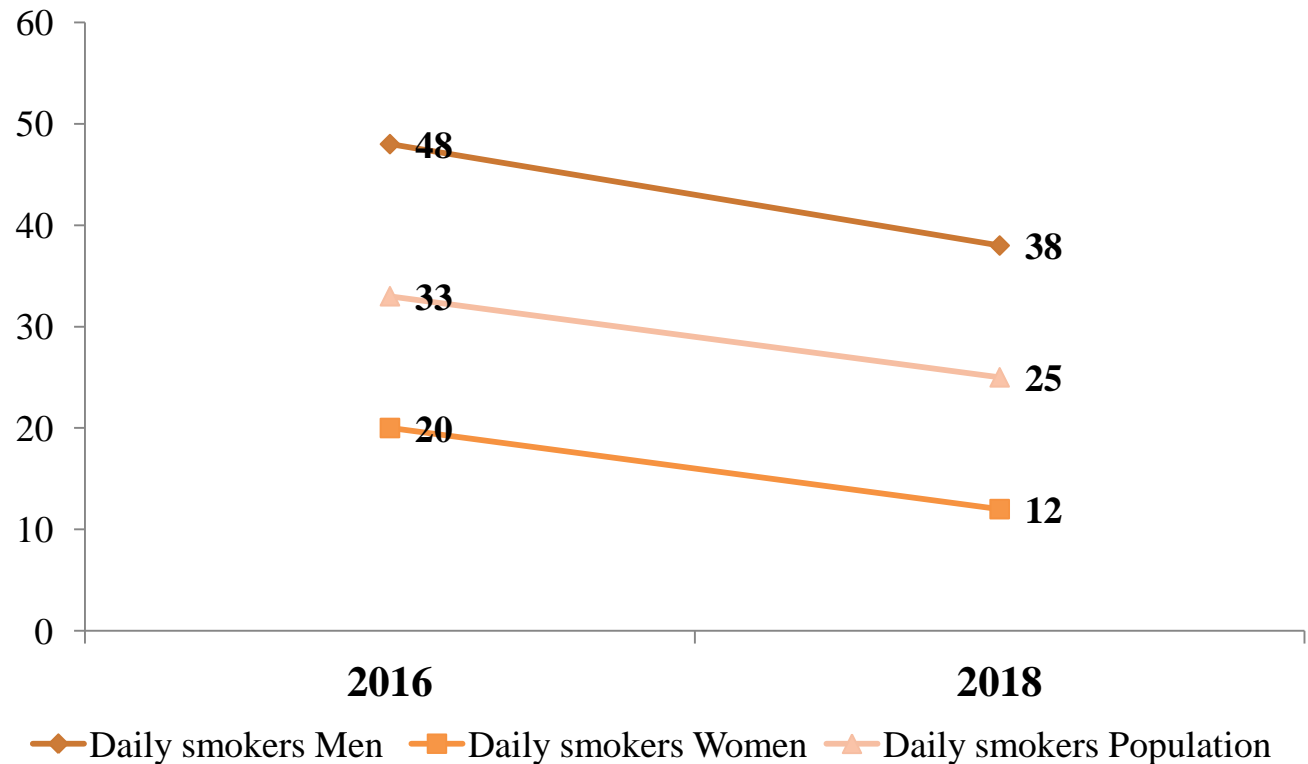
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Smoking Prevalence and Trends



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Prevalence of daily smokers among 15-74 year old population, 2016 - 2018



According to national survey data, 25% of the population were daily smokers in 2018:

38% of men and 12% of women.

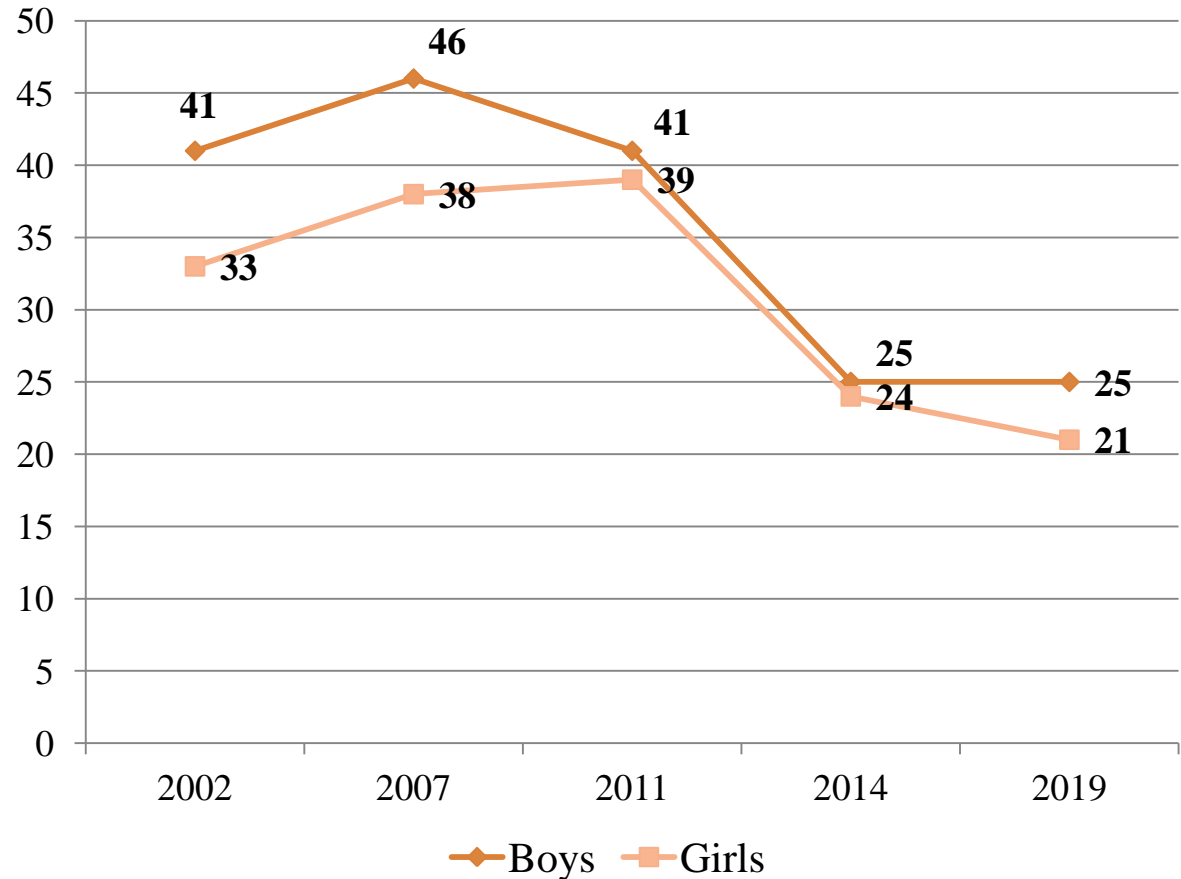
Most significant drop in prevalence rate ever recorded, both for women and men.

Source: "Health Behaviour among Latvian Adult Population, 2018". Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia, 2019



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Any type of tobacco use among 13 -15 year old pupils during the last month, 2002-2018(%)



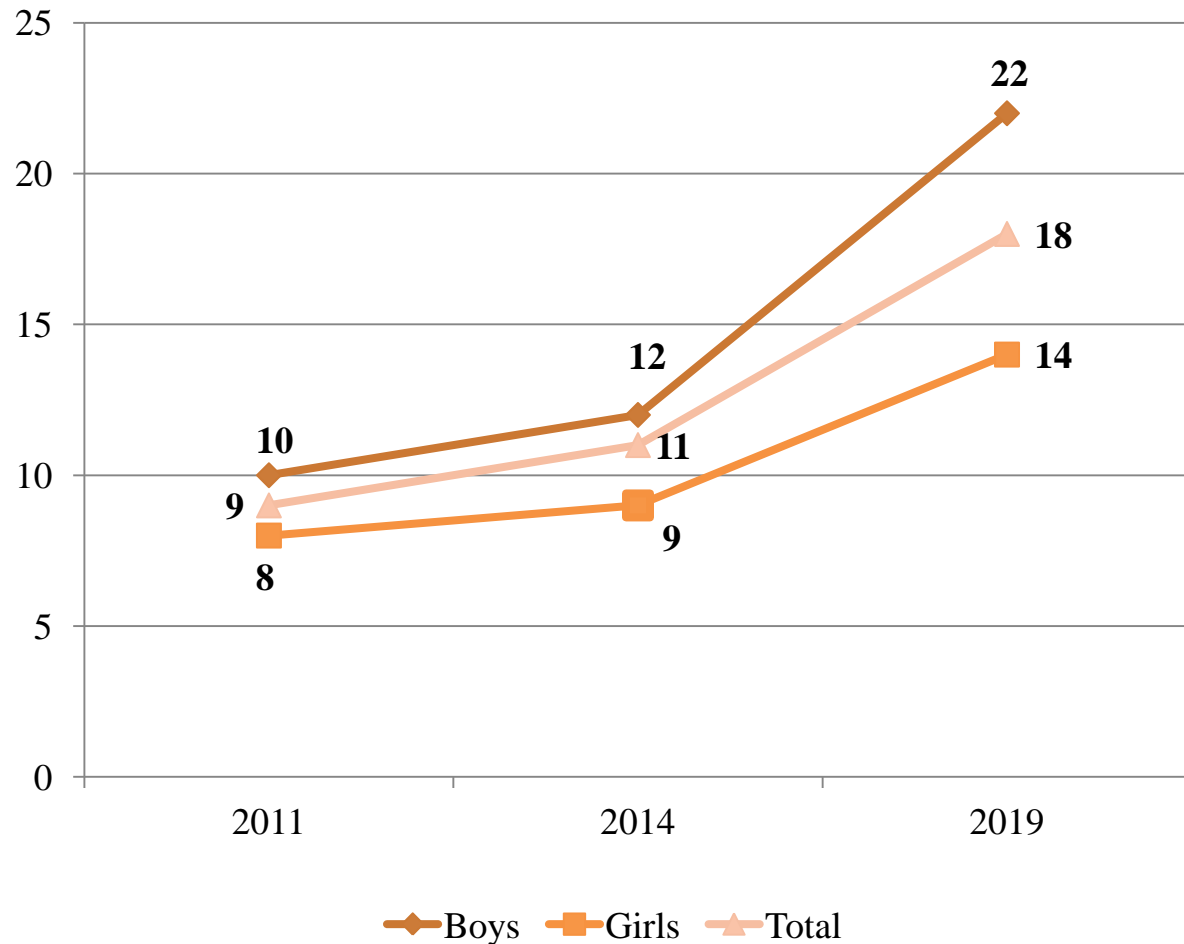
Since 2011 the prevalence of any type of tobacco use among 13-15 year old pupils during the last month has decreased by 39%.

The prevalence of tobacco users among girls has further decreased, and stabilised among boys.



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E-cigarette use among 13-15 year old pupils, 2002-2018(%)



A significant increase in e-cigarette use since 2011, especially among boys.

1% difference in the prevalence rate of e-cigarette use and tobacco smoking among boys in 2019.

Novel tobacco products - new “epidemic” ?

Source: Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2019. Unpublished data. Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia



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Policy: Recent developments

- Changes to the national tobacco, e-cigarette and herbal smoking product law adopted on 04.04.2019:
 - retail display ban on all tobacco products, herbal smoking products, e-cigarettes, e-cigarette refills;
 - price list available at the request of the customer;

Exceptions: specialized tobacco/e-cigarette retail stores, that are required to introduce measures ensuring that all products for sale are not visible from the outside.

Entry into force: **01.10.2020**

- Adoption of Track and Trace regulations on 09.04.2019



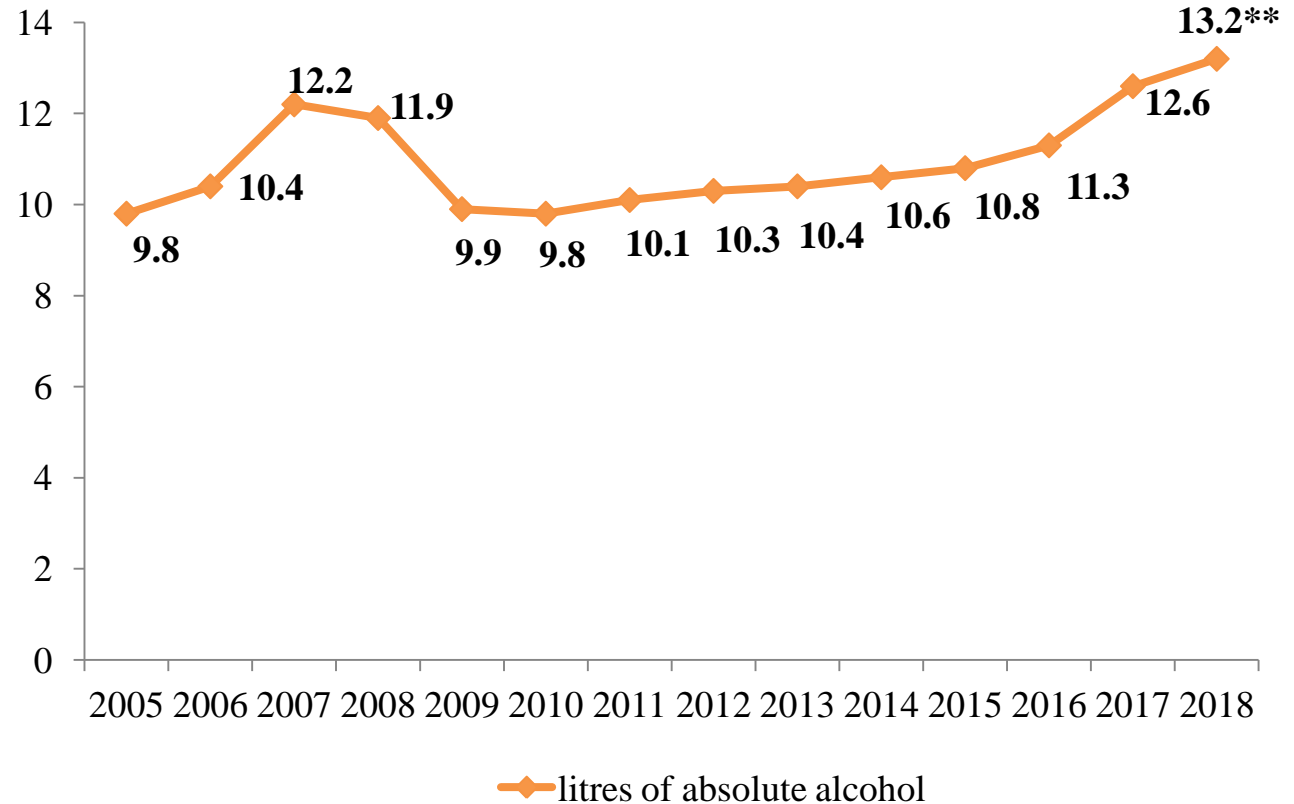
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Alcohol Use Prevalence



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Registered absolute alcohol consumption in liters per capita 15 +* 2005. – 2018



After a drop in consumption in 2009 due to the impact of the economic crisis, absolute alcohol consumption has gradually increased.

Rapid increase since 2017 due to over the border sales along the Latvian-Estonian border.

* Not adjusted for tourism and unrecored alcohol consumption

** Premelinery data



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Alcohol consumption due to over the border sales with Estonia

- 16.2% of alcohol excise duty income in 2018;
- 12.9% in 2017;
- 4.0% in 2016;

Based on Industry data:

- majority of Estonians spend 101 EUR to 250 EUR per single visit on alcohol;
- majority of customers – over 45 years of age;
- 43 mil. EUR spent on alcoholic beverages during the last visit;
- 124.5 mil. EUR spent on alcoholic beverages during the last year;

Based on State Revenue Service survey data:

- 1.75 liters of absolute alcohol per capita 15+ were consumed due to alcohol sold at Latvian- Estonian border stores in 2017.

Price difference for 40% Vol. vodka with Estonia:

2018 – 3.30 EUR
2019 – 2.64 EUR
2020 – 1.90 EUR

Source: State Revenue Service



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Policy: Recent developments

Change in excise duty rates on alcoholic beverages:

- increased from 01.03.2019;
- decreased from 01.08.2019. Decreased rates in force for 6 months.

Excise duty income drop since august due to the amount of alcoholic beverages that is left for sale with excise duty paid before 01.08.2019.

Type of beverage	From 01.03.2018 EUR	From 01.03.2019 EUR	From 01.08.2019 EUR	From 01.03.2020 EUR
Wine (per 100 l)	92	101	101	111
Fermented beverages $\leq 6\%$ Vol (per 100 l)	64	64	64	64
Fermented beverages $\geq 6\%$ Vol (per 100 l)	92	101	101	111
Intermediate products $\leq 15\%$ (per 100 l)	92	101	101	111
Intermediate products 15% -22% (per 100 l)	150	168	168	185
Other alcoholic beverages (per 100 l a/a)	1670	1840	1564	2025
			-15%	+30%

Policy: Recent developments



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Alcohol policy plan 2020 – 2022 developed:

- public consultation completed in August 2019;
- submitted to WHO for review;
- submission for ministerial adoption to start shortly;
- expected changes to the plan

MEASURES TO REDUCE AVAILABILITY, HEAVY DRINKING

- Ban sales at petrol stations;
- Ban sales promotions (“Happy hours”, “2 for 1 offers”)

PREVENTION

- Introduce mandatory alcoholic beverage labeling (warnings and content);
- Reduce BAC (Blood alcohol concentration) to 0.2
- Complete ban on TV, radio, internet advertising;
- Validation of AUDIT, training for health care specialists in providing screening and brief interventions;
- Health promotion activities

TREATMENTS AND REHABILITATION

- Introduce a state funded group psychotherapy program;
- Abolish patient co-payments for diagnosis and treatment;



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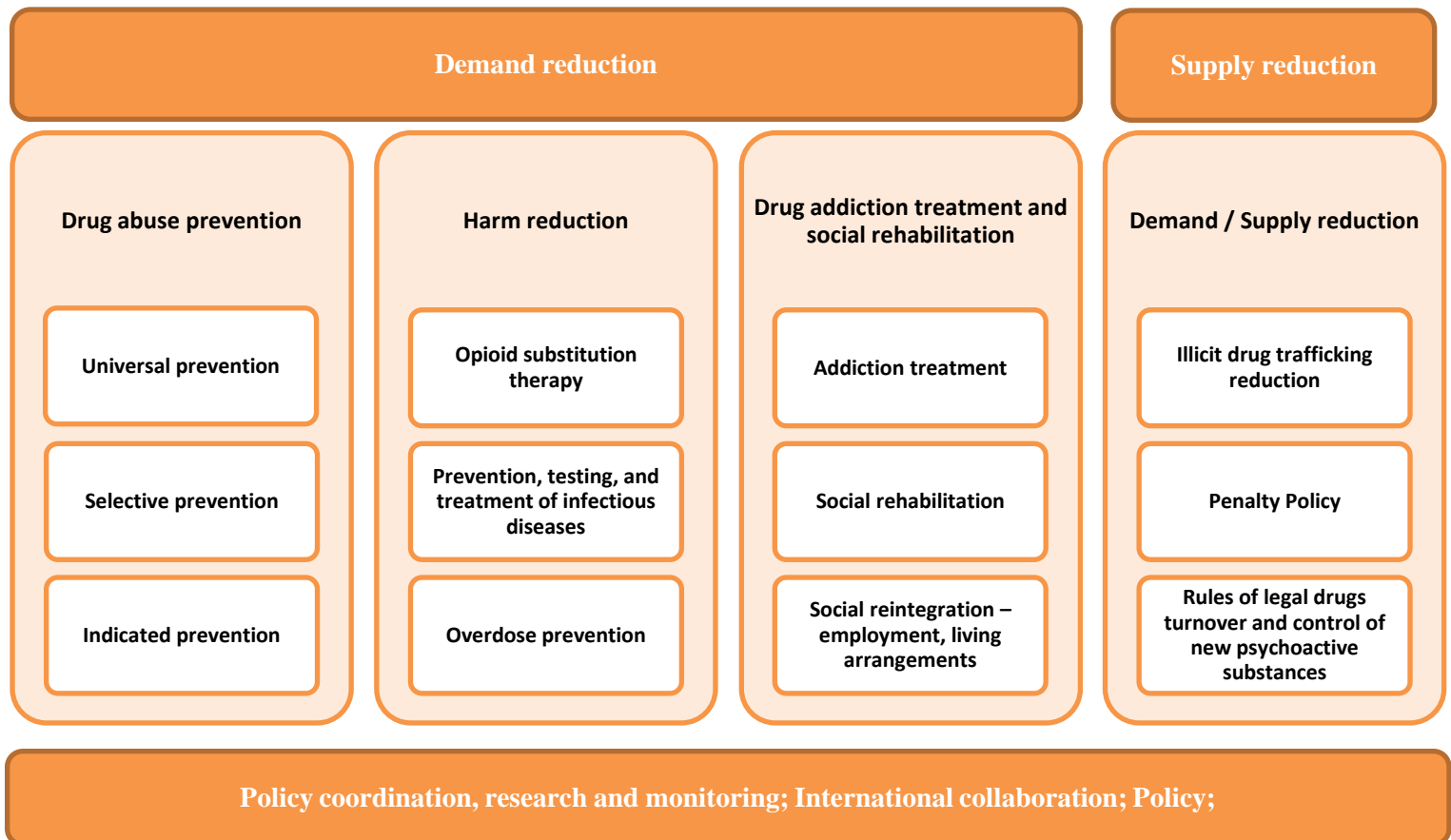
Illicit Drug Use



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Policy: Recent developments

“National Program for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and the Prevalence 2019-2020” adopted on 17.07.2019



From 2021, The Ministry of Health will be responsible for the development and monitoring of national drug policy, taking over from the Ministry of the Interior.



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Thank You!