

Drug Related Deaths in the North East

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Outline of presentation

- North East drug related deaths key themes
- Current or emerging trends
- Projects on-going in the north east
- Summary

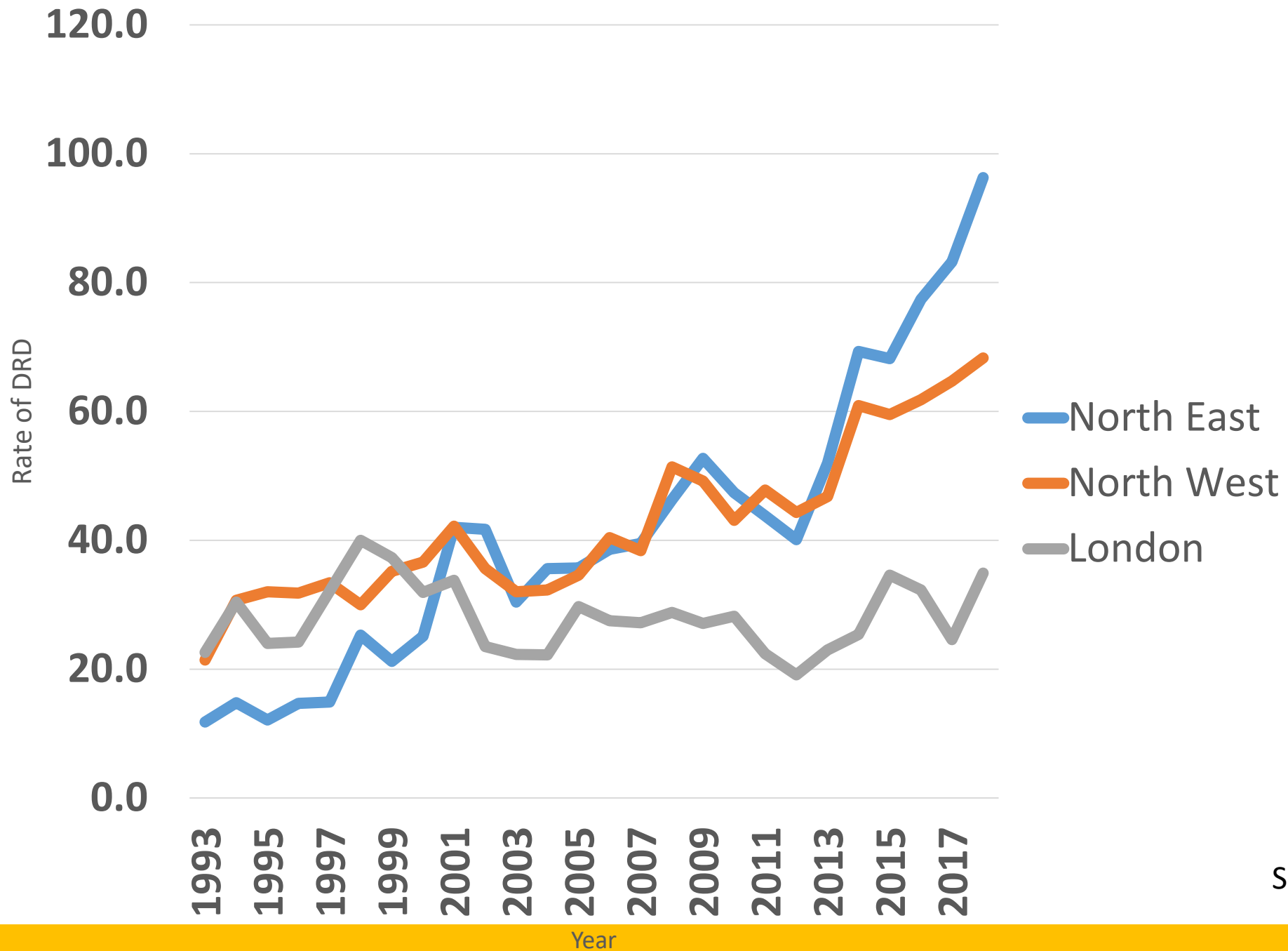
Drug related deaths and the North East

No

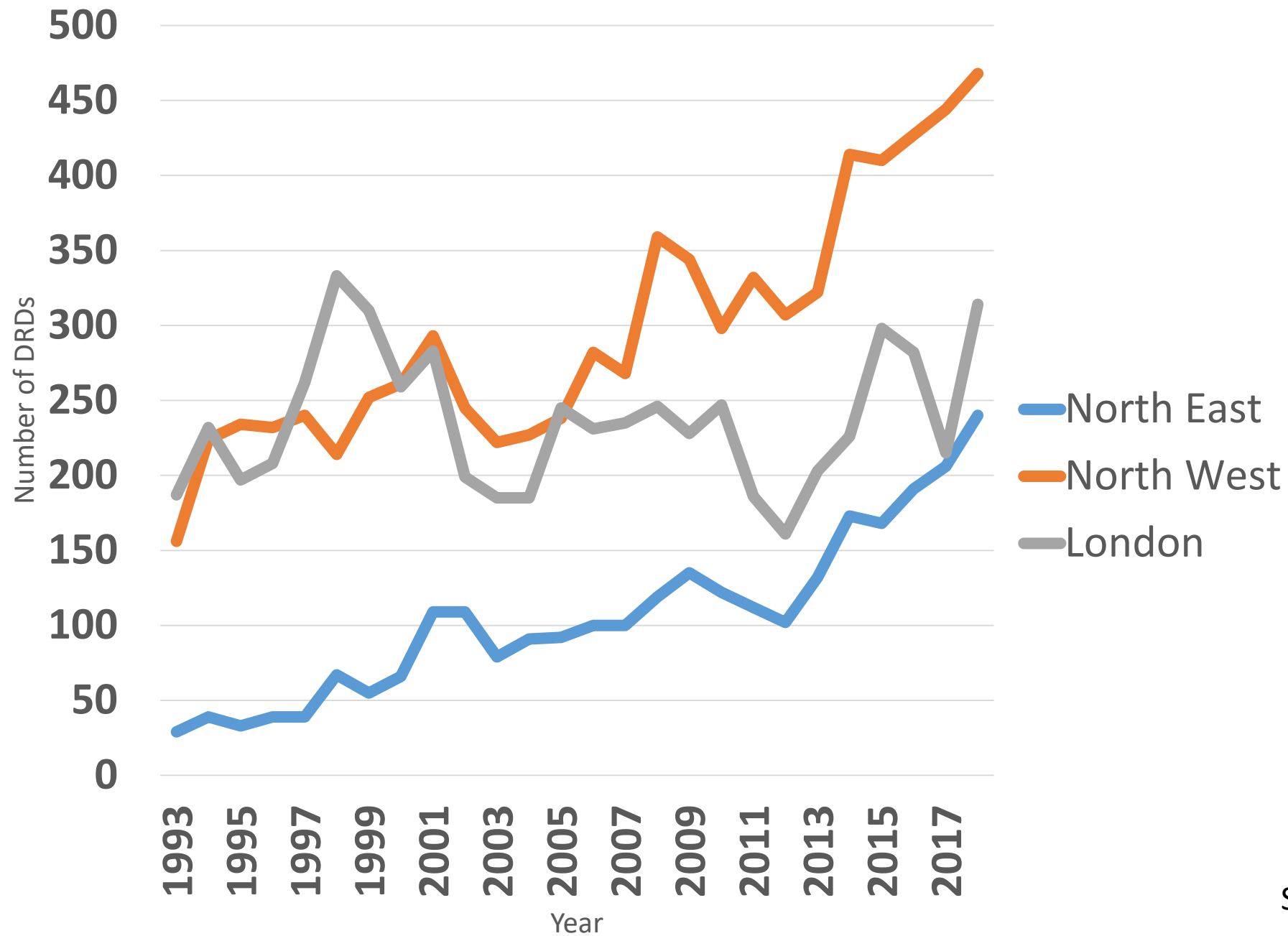
ted Deaths



- Population of north east is roughly 2.7 million (ONS, 2019).
- Highest prevalence of drug users in England given size of population (PHE, 2019).
- Hartlepool, Middlesbrough have highest rates of drug deaths in the region, and some of highest on local level in England and Wales (ONS, 2019).



Source: ONS, 2019



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Results from the 'deep dive' into DRD inquests

'Mixed – toxicity'	Single
Opioid detected	Living Alone
'Tablets' detected	Found unresponsive in home
Two thirds are male	Unemployed
Majority aged 30 - 49	Mental health diagnosis
Born in 70's or 80's	Previous trauma
Arrested/ prison sentence	Smoker/COPD/Asthma

Why such a sharp increase in the north east?

- Rise in multi-drug use?
- Purity/price?
- Changing drug market?

Service cuts?
Socio-economic factors?

Female deaths?...
Ageing cohort?...
Deteriorating physical health?...

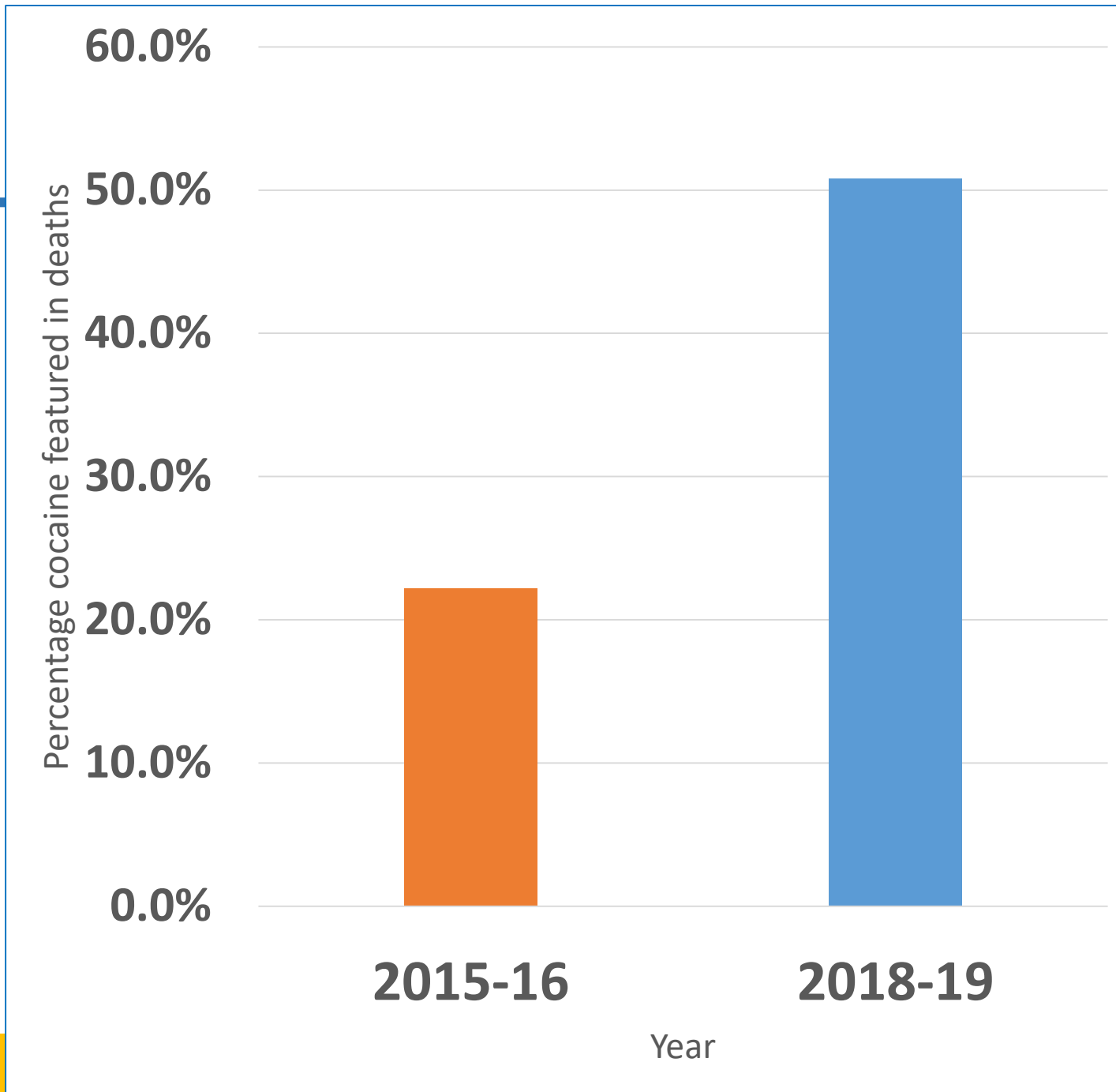
Recent trends in the North East:

Comparing data from 2015/16
to 2018/19

Increases

ortem

Cocai

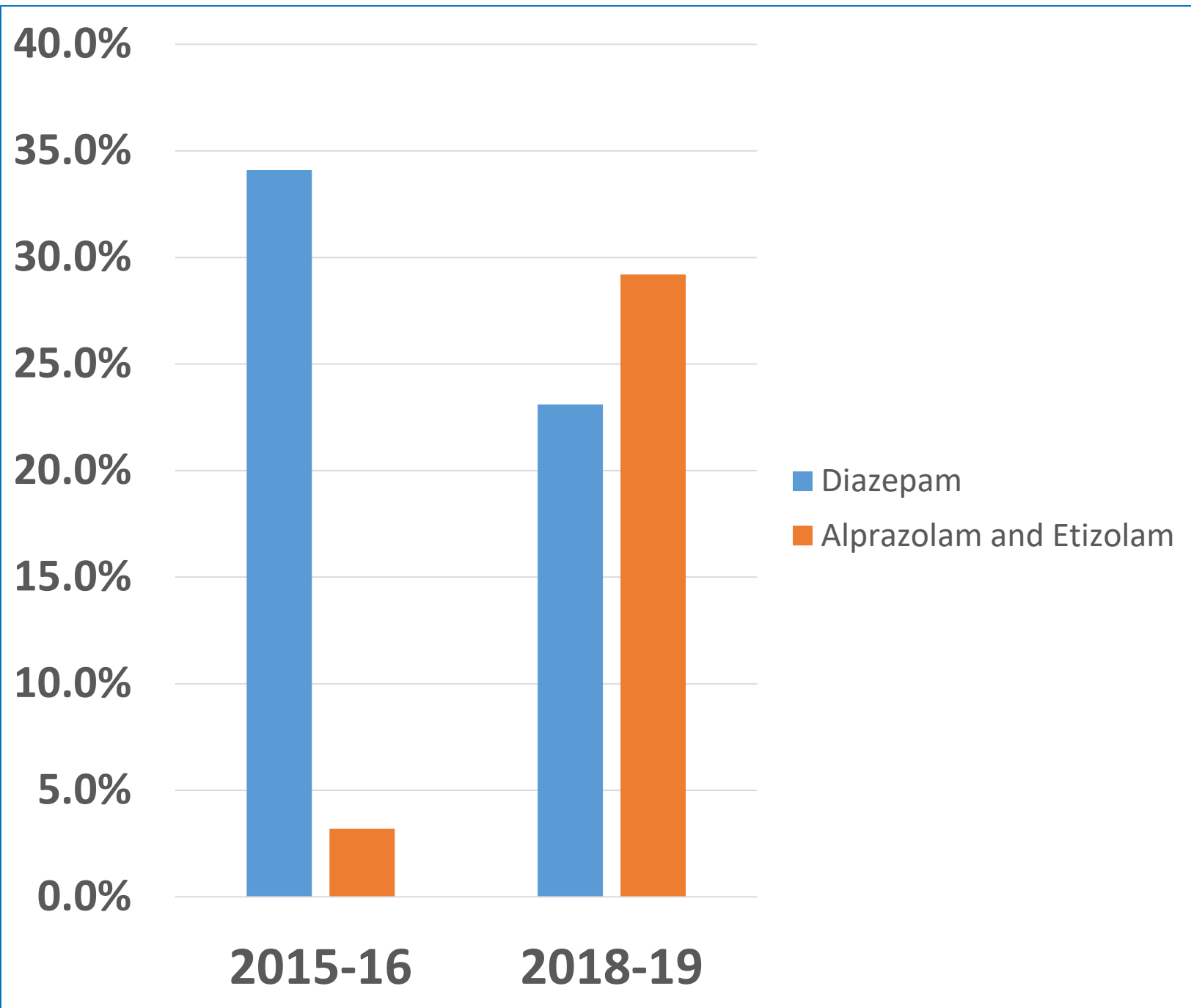


Increases

em

'Exotic

Reduct
Inceas



Increases in drugs detected post-mortem

Other meds or 'tablets'

Pregabalin and Gabapentin
Zopiclone

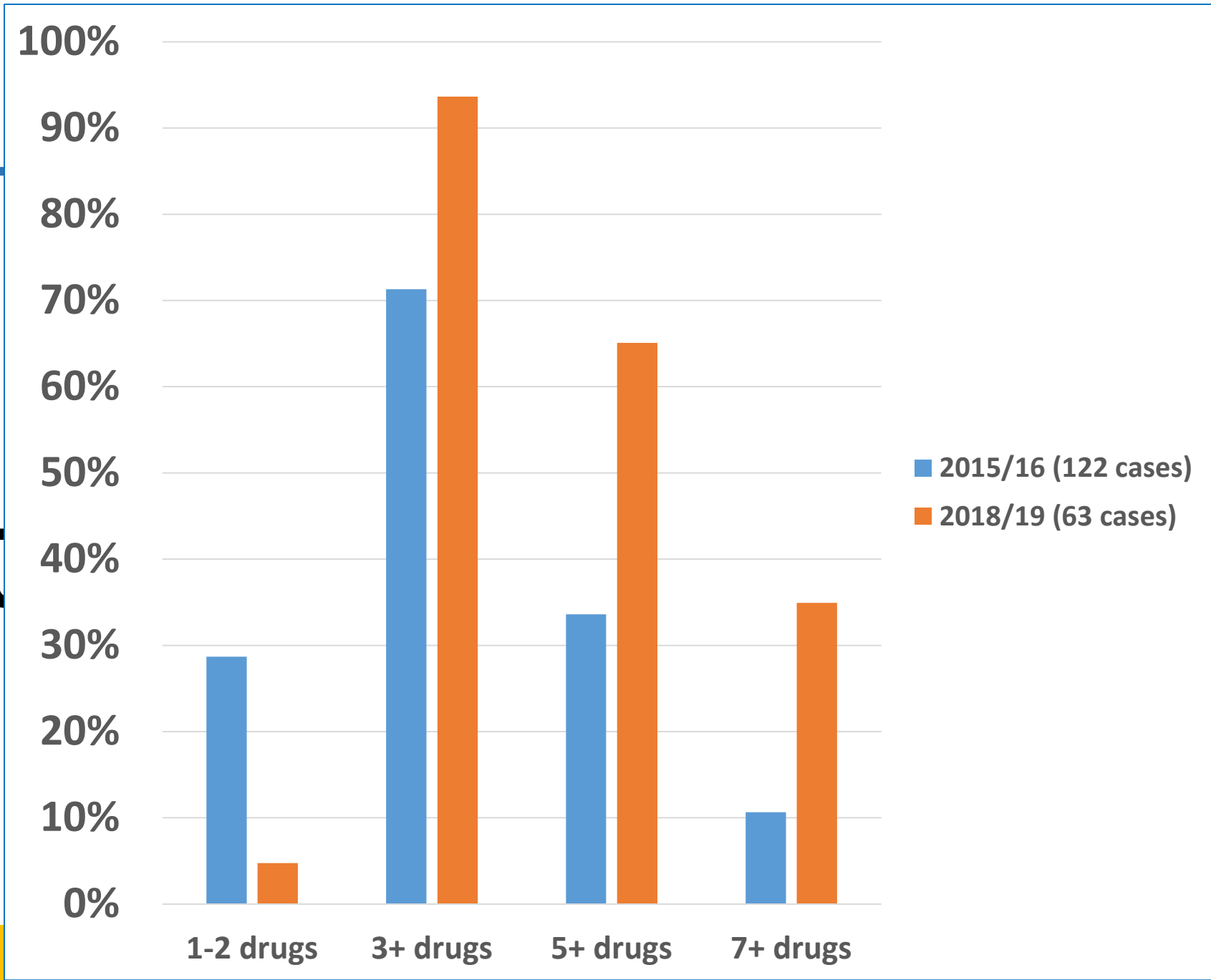
...Emergence of Promethazine?

Detections with heroin have also increased, but to lesser extent.

Methadone and alcohol detections stable

Rise in

'Mult



Projects in the North East

Peer naloxone
Heroin Assisted Treatment
Injectable methadone pilot

Suicide cocaine task group
Drug analysis project
Prison release task group

Summary

Summary

- Drug deaths have risen significantly over the past 10 years in the North East
- Changes in drugs appearing post-mortem and multiple-use more frequent → matches similar profile to Scotland
- A number of projects being set up...

Thank you for listening

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