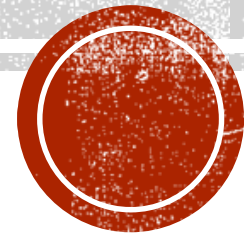


HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

HOW TO BETTER TACKLE HEP-C?

Contribution Freek Spinnewijn

Hep-C Community Summit – 25/11/2019 – Marseille



HOMELESSNESS

- At least 700.000 people on any given day
- > 0,1%
- 70% increase in 10 years
- Worrying increases of migrants, youth, family
- Expanding shelter system



HEALTH

- Most homeless people are sick
- Mental & physical health problems
- Multimorbidity
- Average age of death chronic homeless is < 50 years old



HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

- Homelessness is not (yet) considered health problem
- Resistance from both social/shelter sector
 - Stigma
 - Lack of expertise
 - Perception homeless of their health too positive
- Resistance from health sector
 - Complicated link with health & diseases
 - Undeserving



HOMELESS AND HEALTH POLICIES

- Perspectives
 - Threat - infectious diseases & nuisance
 - Cost - ineffective use of health system

VS

- Right – health & homelessness strategies/policies



MAIN OBSTACLES TO BETTER HEALTH

- Universal health coverage is illusion
 - Devil is in detail
 - Out of pocket payments
 - Insurance
- Social determinants
 - Best medicine against bad health of homeless is HOUSING
 - Hesitation from health sector...
- Awareness health professionals
 - Homelessness ~ health problems
 - Health solutions ~ homelessness



HOMELESS & INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- Not yet prominent target group for HIV, TB, HCV
- Unlike
 - Prisoners, PWID, MSM, Migrants
 - Overlap (2/3)
 - “Easily” reachable
- But gradual changes – also at EU level
 - Recent recommendations from EU MCDDA
 - Andriukaitis



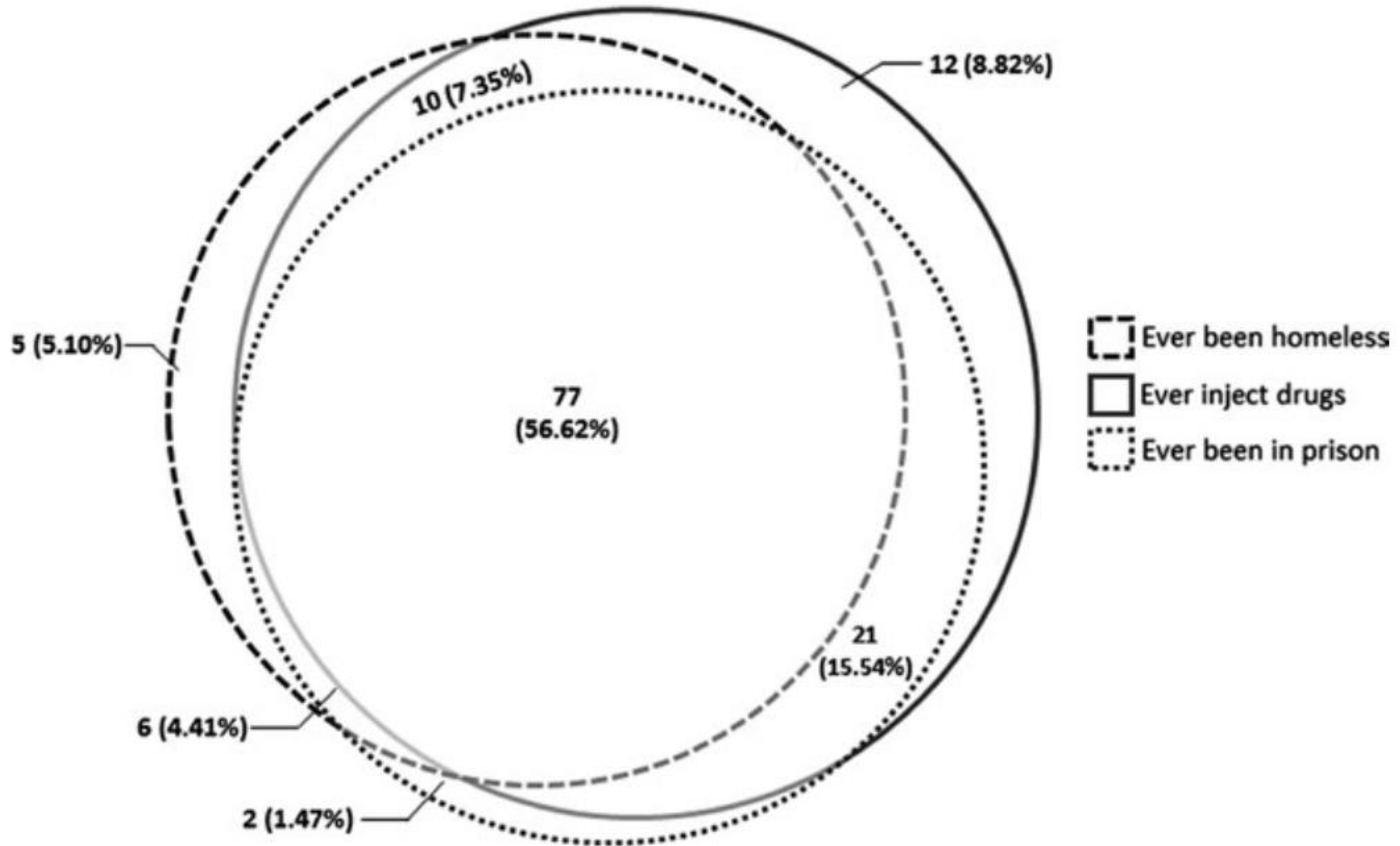


FIGURE 2 Overlapping characteristics among being homeless, PWIDs and have been in prison



COOPERATION WITH HOMELESS SECTOR

- Actions needed
 - Training staff
 - Overcome resistance harm reduction
 - Promotion best practices
- Common challenges
 - Better data
 - Stop criminalisation of street homelessness
 - Advocate for comprehensive homelessness strategies
- FEANTSA is your partner



- Thank you for listening
- ?Questions? !Comments!



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