

Epidemiology of Common Club Drugs

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What are Club Drugs?

Rave Culture (1)

(Dr. Erica Weir, 2000, p. 1844)

- A subculture of youth who, in reaction to the materialism of the "me" generation, have embraced a party etiquette of peace, love, unity and respect - "PLUR"
- Began in UK & US in mid-1980s & then to Australia, India, Belgium, Egypt and Canada

Rave Culture (2)

(Dr. Erica Weir, 2000, p. 1844)

- Up to 20,000 youths dance vigorously and continuously all night to repetitive electronic music by celebrated DJs
- Ravers seek sensory amplification and euphoric transcendence through a combination of marathon trance dancing, liberal drug use and hypnotic music

Common Club Drugs in Hong Kong

- * 3,4-methylene-dioxy-meth-
amphetamine (MDMA)**
- * Meth-amphetamine
(Desoxyn; speed; ice)**
- * Ketamine (Ketajet)**

Other Club Drugs

- ✿ Lysergic acid diethyl-amide
(LSD)
- ✿ Gamma-hydroxy-butyrate
(GHB)
- ✿ Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)

Meth-amphetamines

Amphetamines (1)

- ✿ **1887** - Amphetamine was synthesized
- ✿ **1910** - Patented as anorectics in Germany
- ✿ **1932** - S.K.F. produced Benzedrine inhaler
- ✿ **1937** - Narcolepsy (and many others)
- ✿ **1940s** - German, Japanese, & British soldiers in WW II
- ✿ **1950s** - American soldiers in Korean War

Amphetamines (2)

- * **1958** - P.H. Connell: Amphetamine psychosis
- * **1960s** - Japanese Bohryokudan Triad and amphetamine sales
- * **1968** - BMA Working Party: No place for depression
- * **1970** - FDA: Narcolepsy, ADHD, short-term weight reduction
- * **1971** - Withdrawn from market
- * **1980s** - Ice developed in Hawaii for smoking

4 kinds of amphetamines?

(Kovar, K-A et al., 1996)

- ❁ **Psycho-stimulants: central stimulation**
Amphetamine & methamphetamine
- ❁ **Entactogens: insight enhancement**
MDMA, MDA, MDE, MMDA, MBDB
- ❁ **Methoxy-phenethylamine hallucinogens:**
Mescaline, etc.
- ❁ **Methoxy-amphetamine hallucinogens:**
TMA, DMA, PMA, DOET, DOB, DOM / STP

Amphetamines

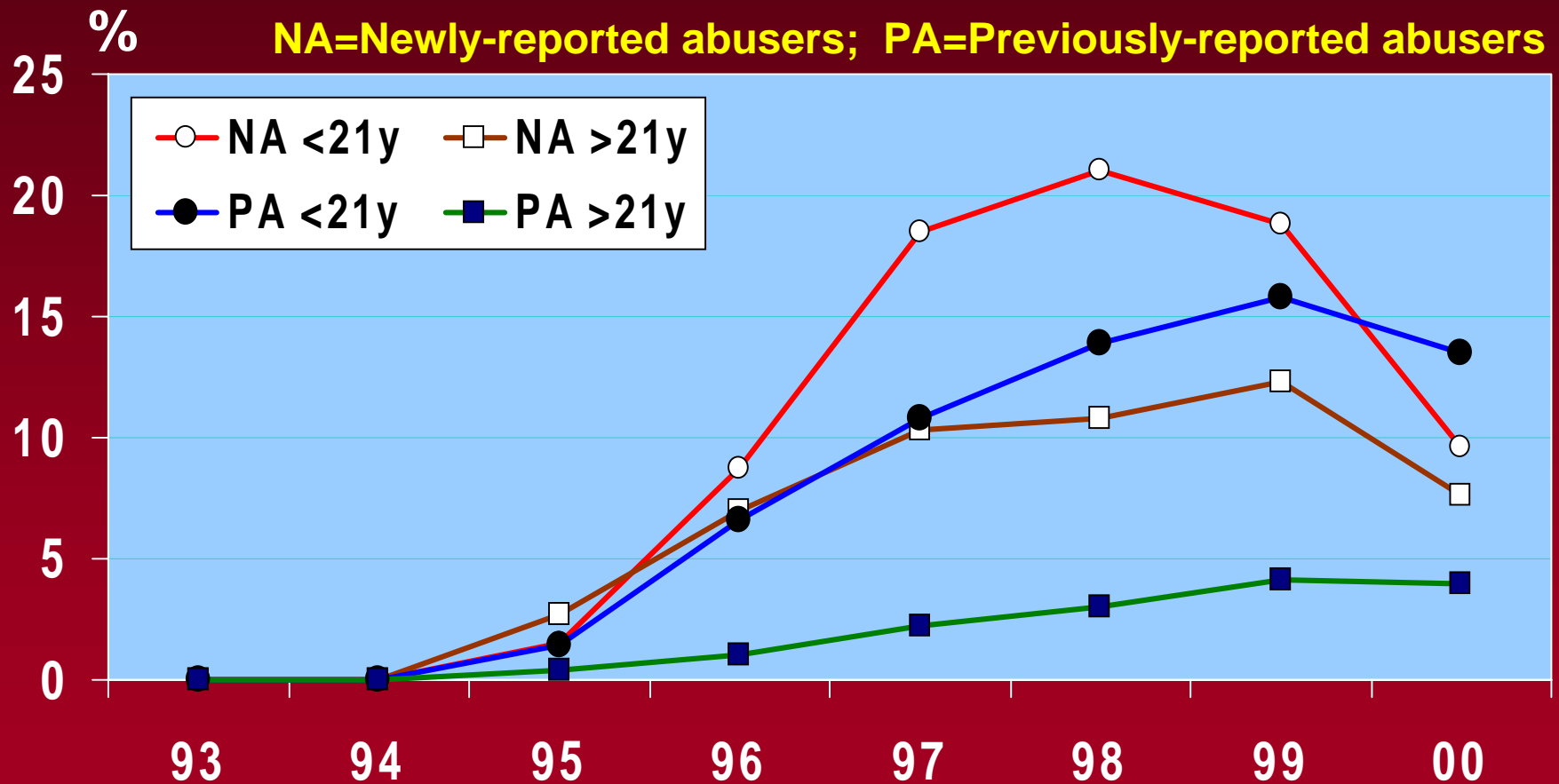
- ✿ **Dextro-amphetamine**
- ✿ **Amphetamine sulfate**
- ✿ **Biphetamine**
- ✿ **Meth-amphetamine HCl**
- ✿ **Meth-amphetamine**

Methamphetamines

(Speed, ice)

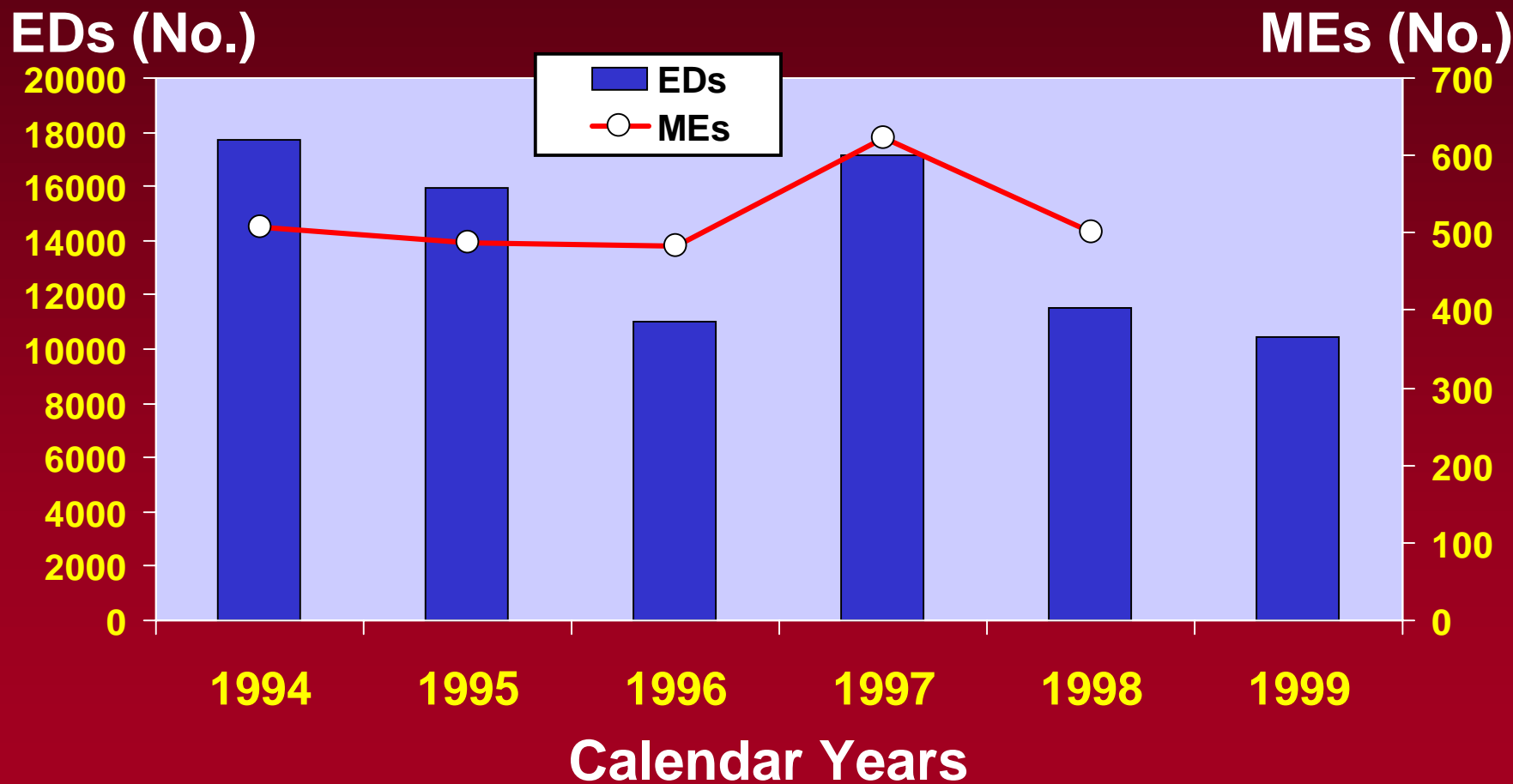
- * Methamphetamine HCl (Speed) for oral, snorting & injection - 'Flash house'**
- * Methamphetamine (free base) - 'ice' - for smoking & injection**
- * Listed as Schedule II in USA**

Annual Proportion of Methamphetamine Use Hong Kong 1993-2000 (CRDA, 2000)



Weighted EDs & Unweighted MEs

Methamphetamines **USA** (DAWN, 2000)

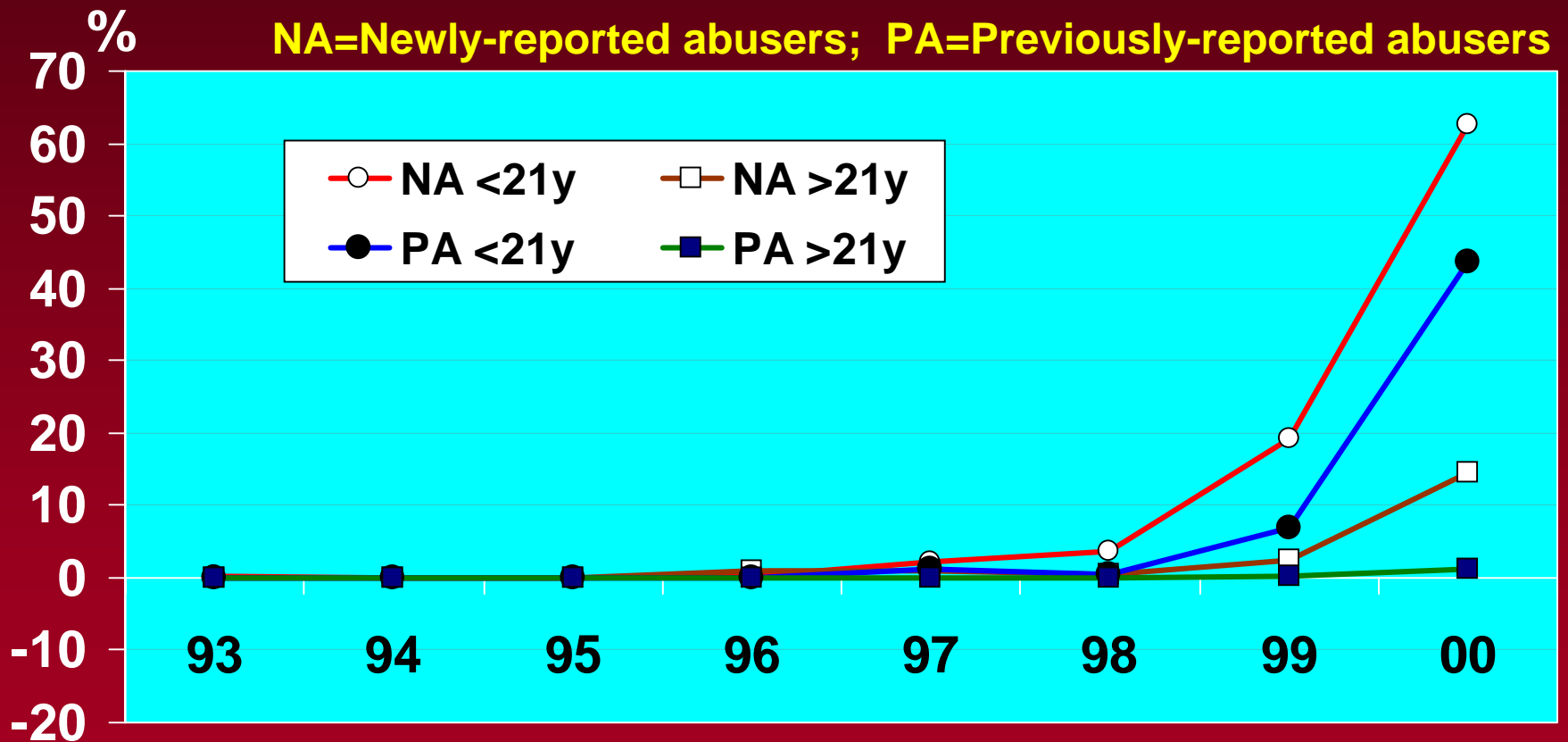


**3,4-methylene-dioxy-meth-
amphetamine
(MDMA)**

MDMA (Ecstasy, Fing頭丸)

- ✿ **1912** - Synthesized by Merck
- ✿ **1950s** - Intensive study by American CIA
- ✿ **1960s** - Used in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco (the Hippie Movement)
- ✿ **1978-85** - Alexander Shulgin introduced to psychotherapists as adjunct to psychotherapy: Entactogen
- ✿ **1983** - Used in rave parties, night clubs & discos
- ✿ **1985** - American DEA: Public hearing
- ✿ **1986** - Listed as Schedule I Controlled Substance in USA

Annual Proportion of MDMA Use Hong Kong 1993-2000 (CRDA, 2000)

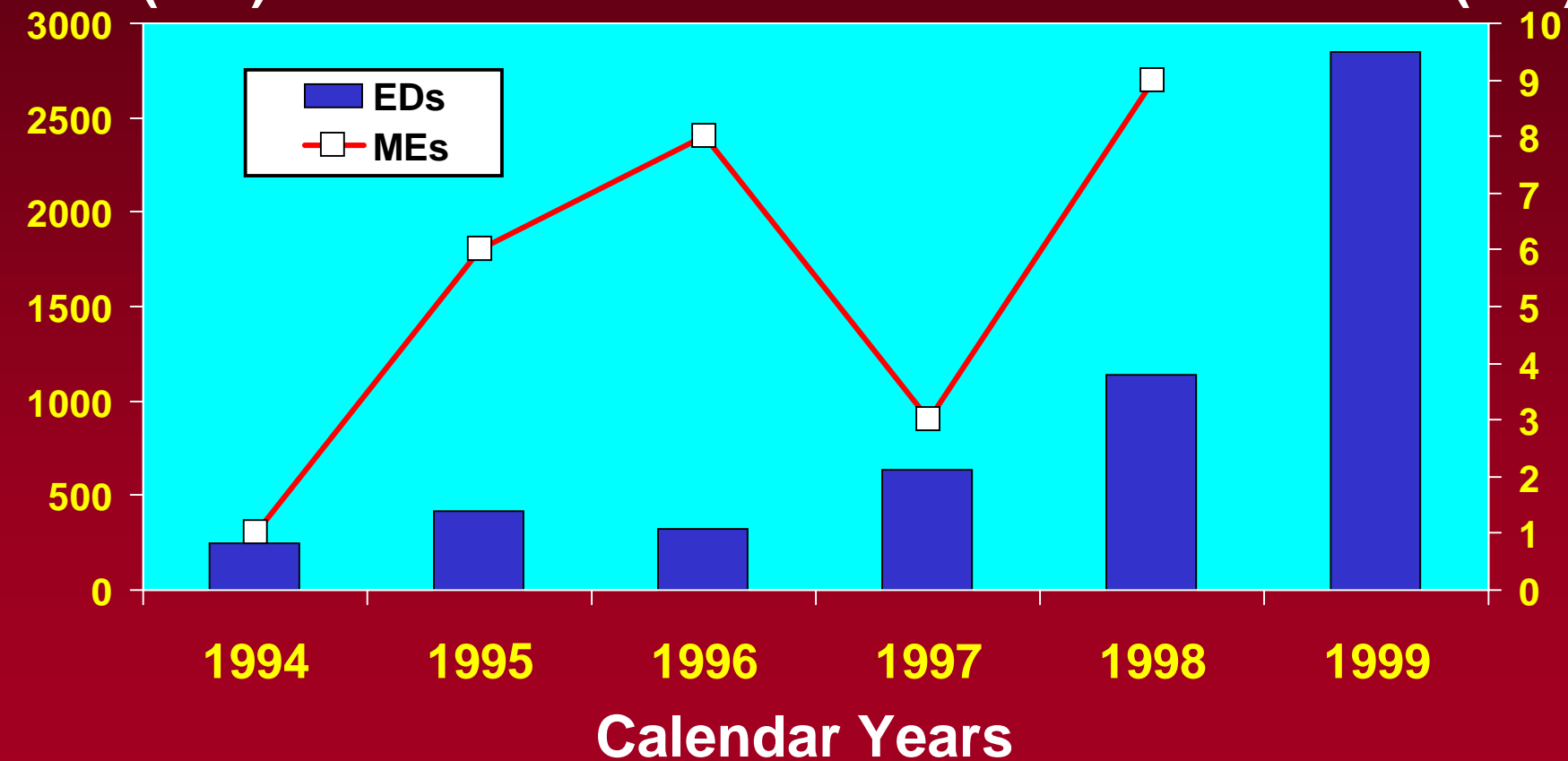


Weighted EDs & Unweighted MEs

MDMA USA (DAWN, 2000)

EDs (No.)

MEs (No.)



Ketamine 氯胺酮 (K仔)

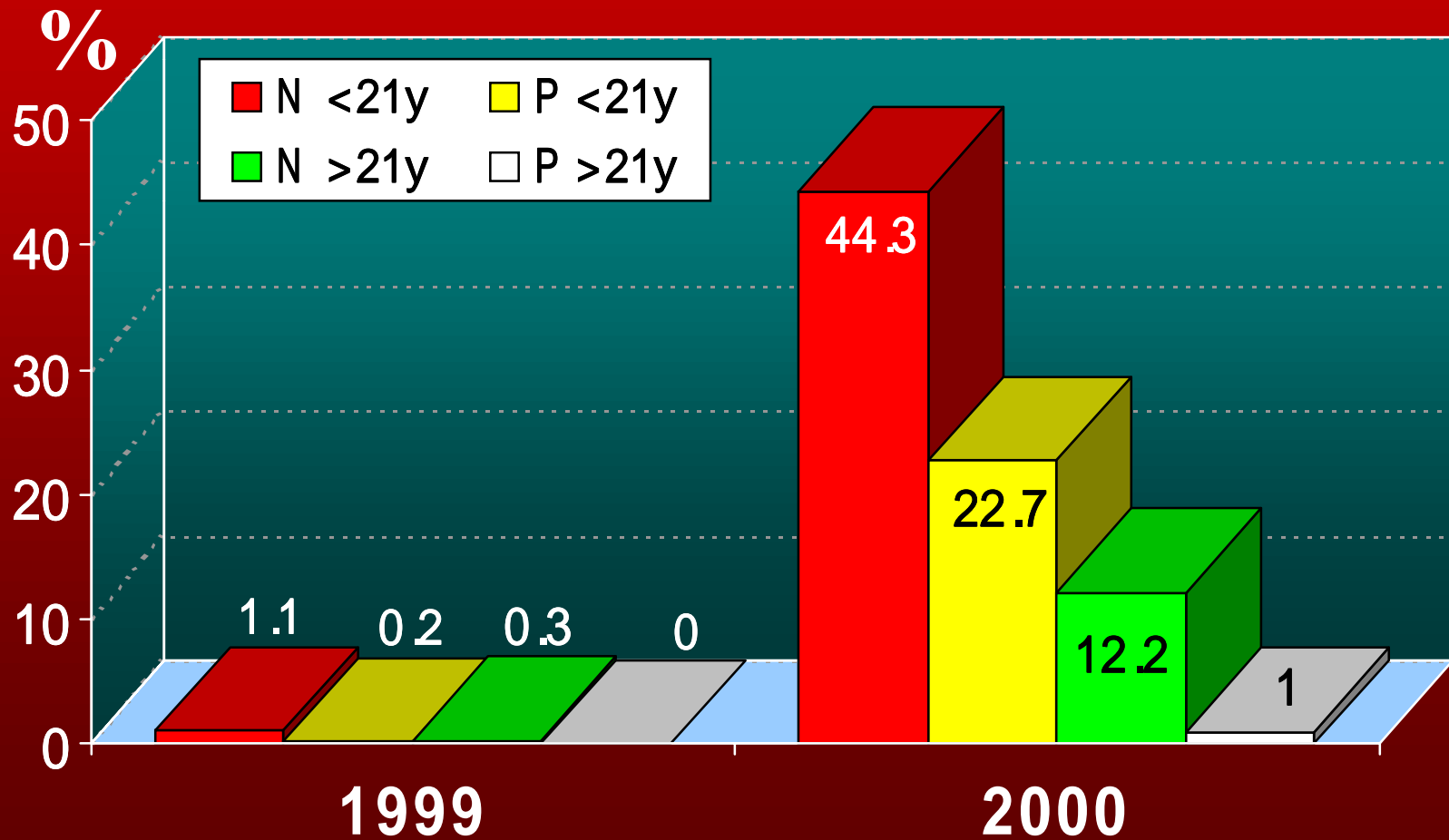
- ✿ **1962** - Synthesized (an analog of Phencyclidine)
- ✿ **1965** - Replaced phencyclidine as a surgical anaesthetic both in humans and in animals
- ✿ **1970** - Listed in Schedule III in USA
- ✿ **1980s** - Abuse began

Phencyclidine 天使塵

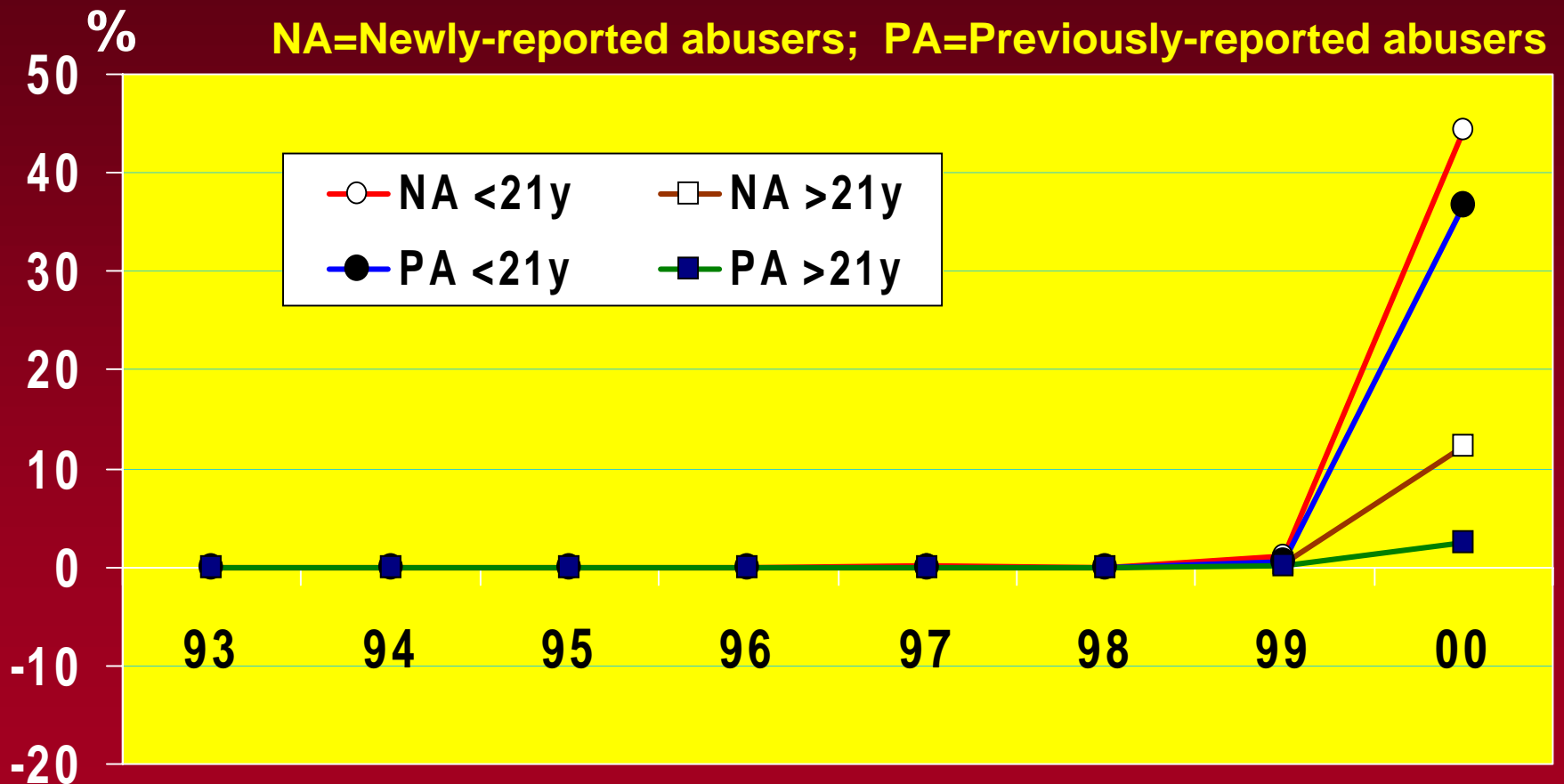
- ✿ **1957** - Synthesized in Parke-Davis Lab (Sernyl)
- ✿ **1957/65** - Used as I.V. surgical anaesthetic, but 10-20% had CNC depression (Sernylan)
- ✿ **1967** - Widespread abuse as 'peaCe' pills in San Francisco, but many bad trips
- ✿ **1970** - Listed as a Schedule II in USA
- ✿ **1979** - All legal manufacture ceased

Ketamine Abuse in HK

(CRDA Report, 46th)

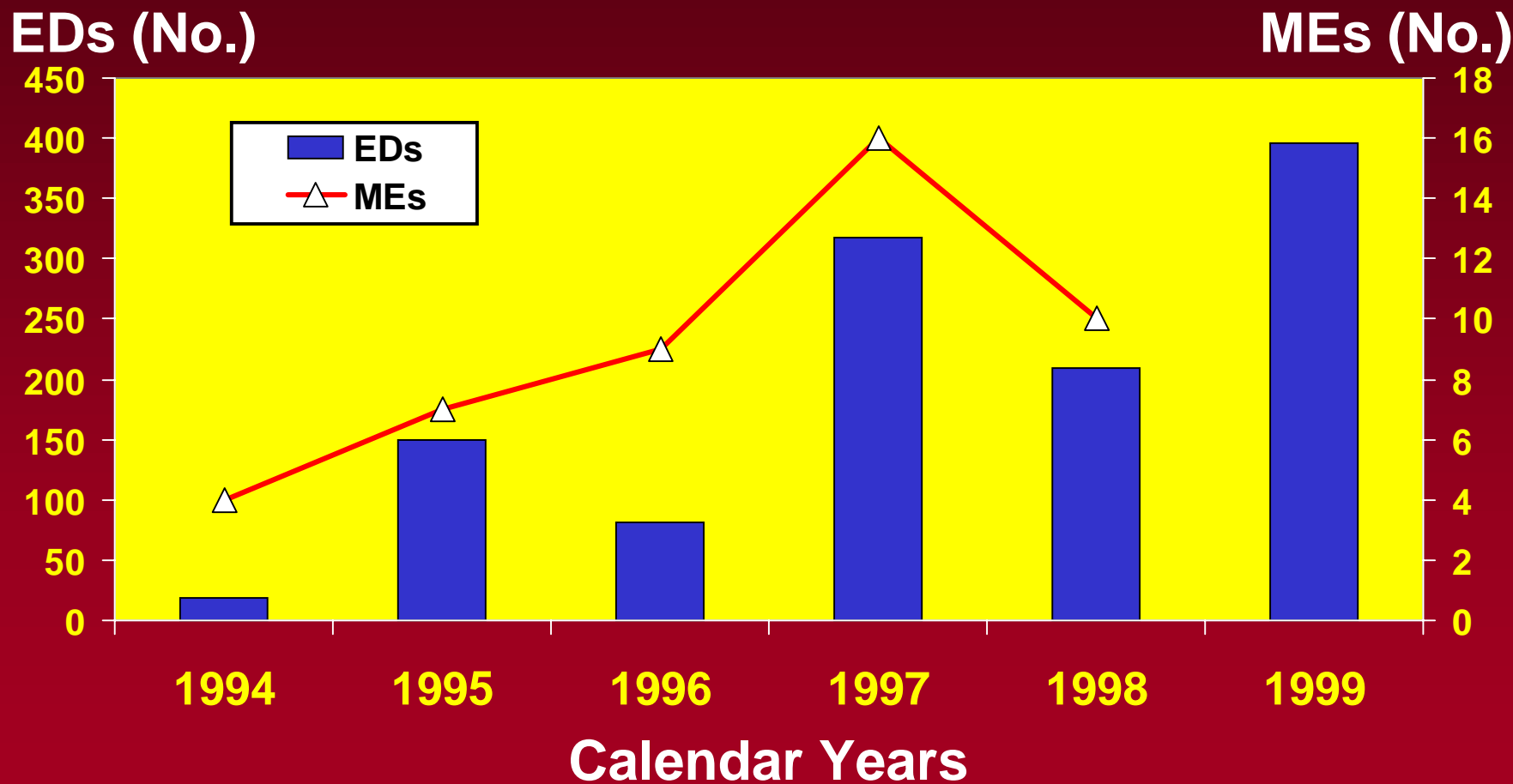


Annual Proportion of Ketamine Use Hong Kong 1993-2000 (CRDA, 2000)

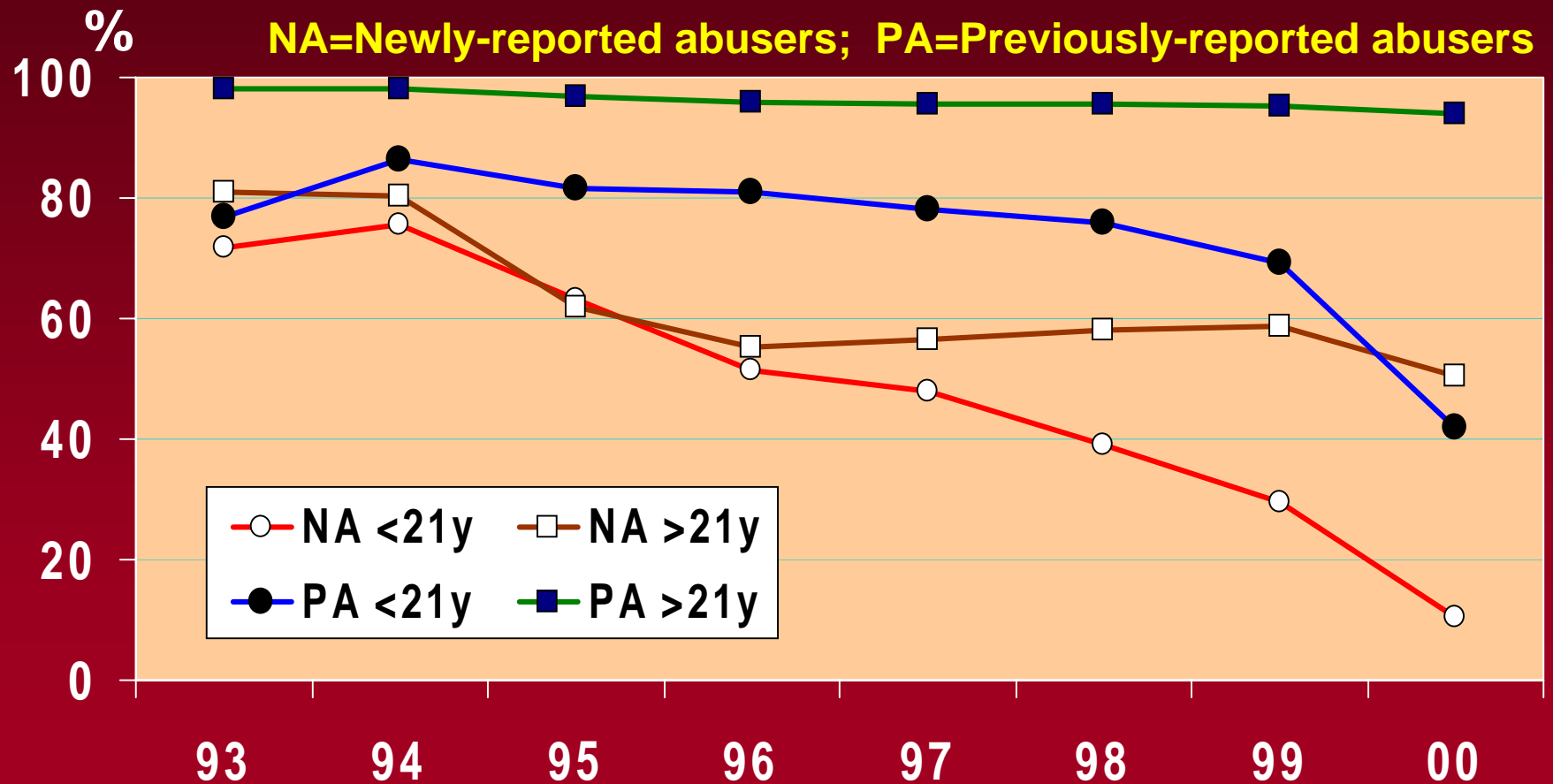


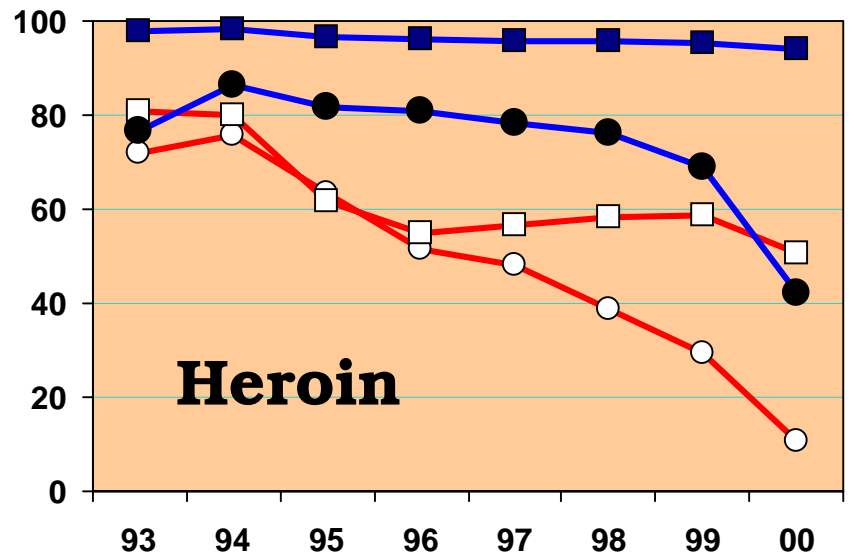
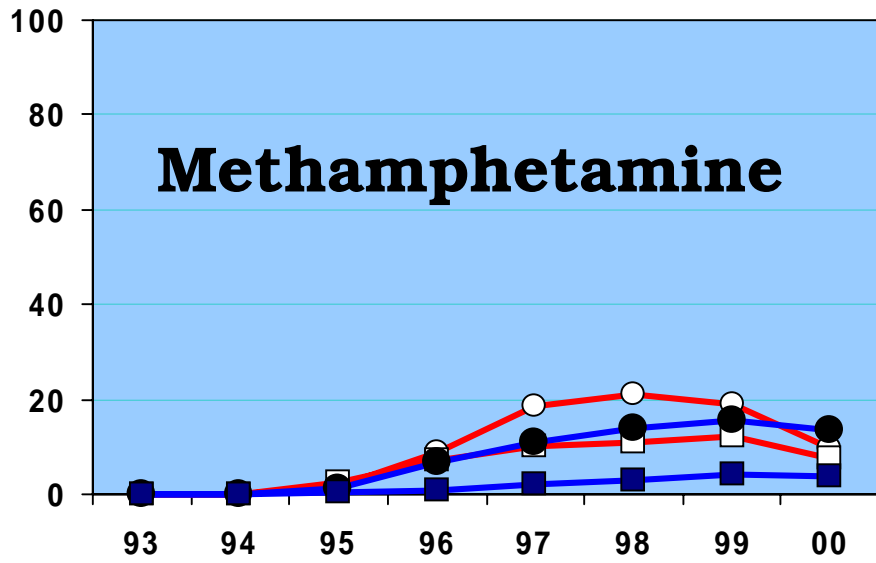
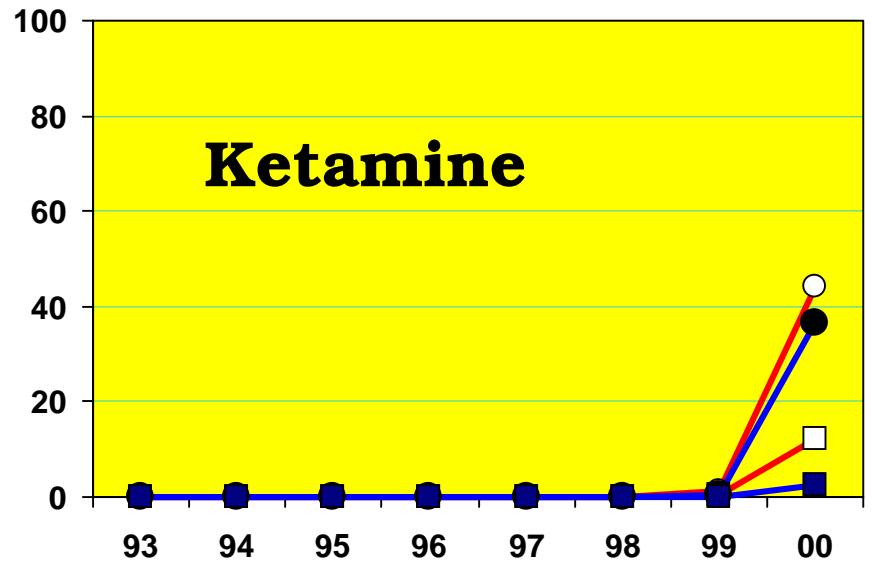
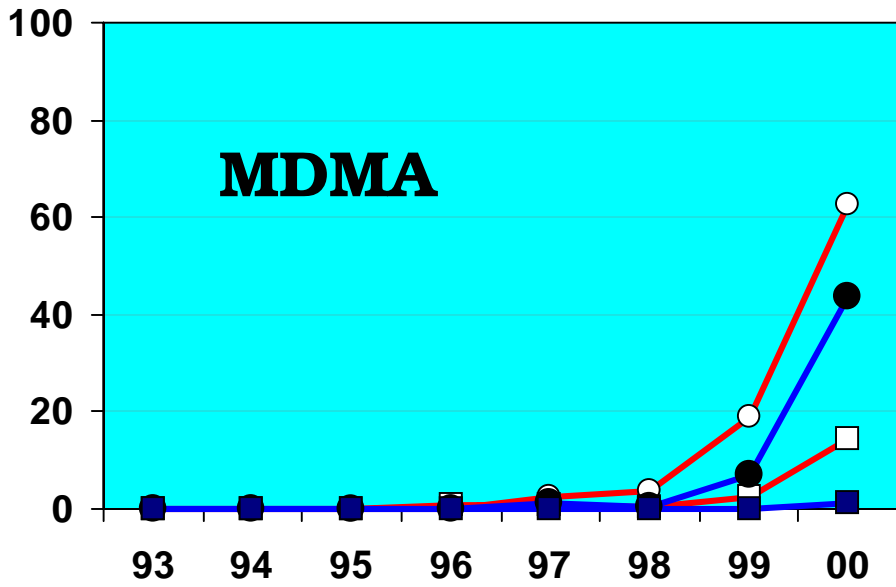
Weighted EDs & Unweighted MEs

Ketamine USA (DAWN, 2000)



Annual Proportion of Heroin Use Hong Kong 1993-2000 (CRDA, 2000)



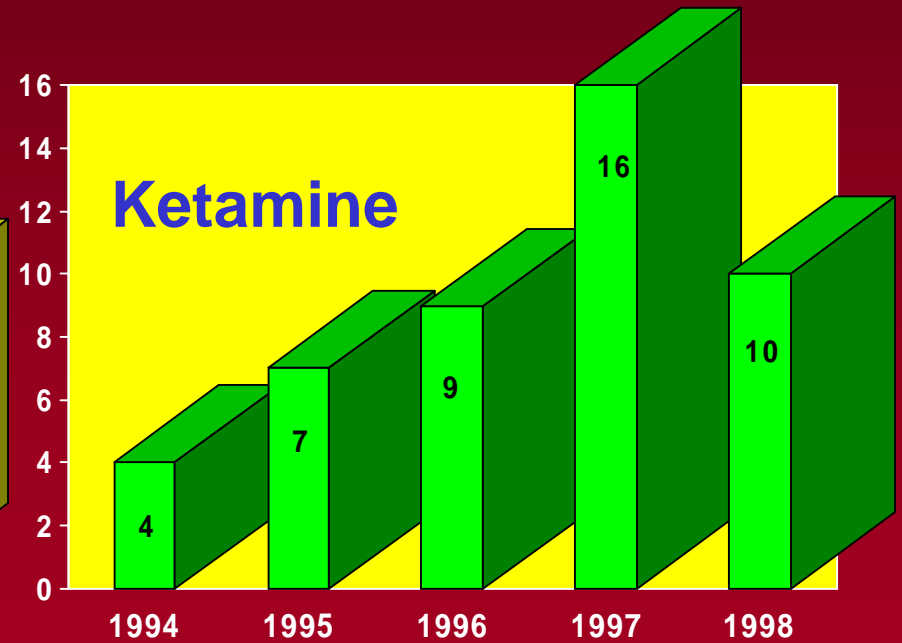
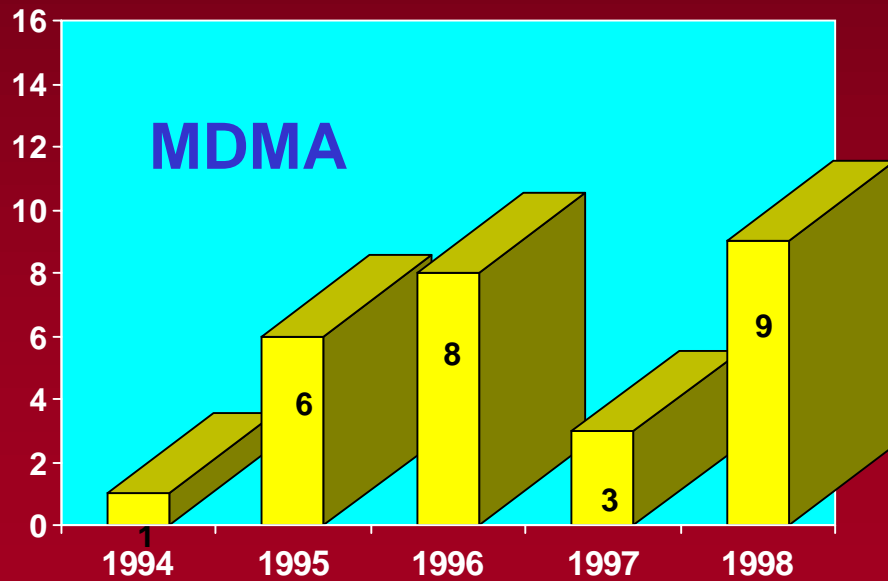
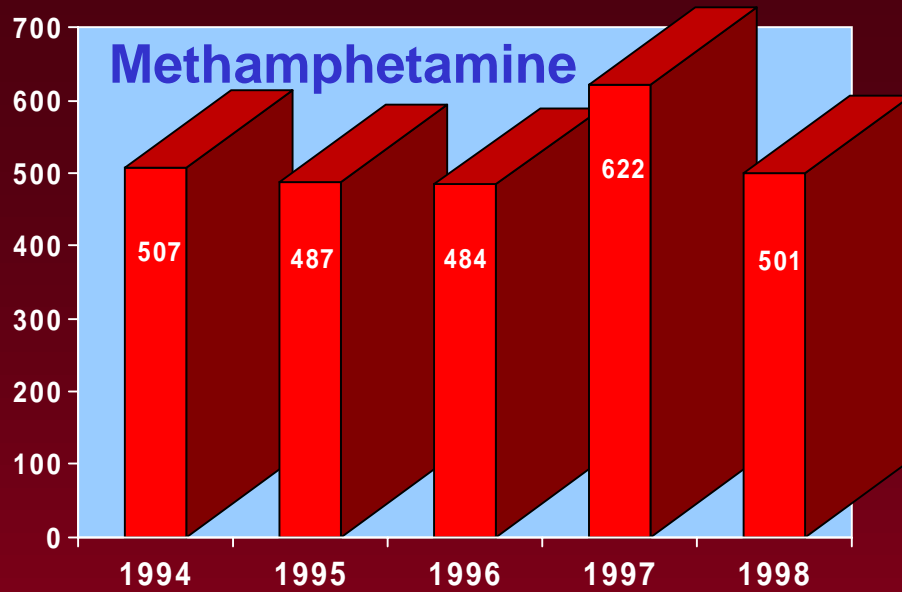


—○— NA <21y
 —□— NA >21y
 —●— NA <21y
 —■— NA >21y (CRDA, 2000)

Death

**Examined by
Medical Examiners**

ME Voluntary Reports



Ratio of EDs/MEs (DAWN, 2000)

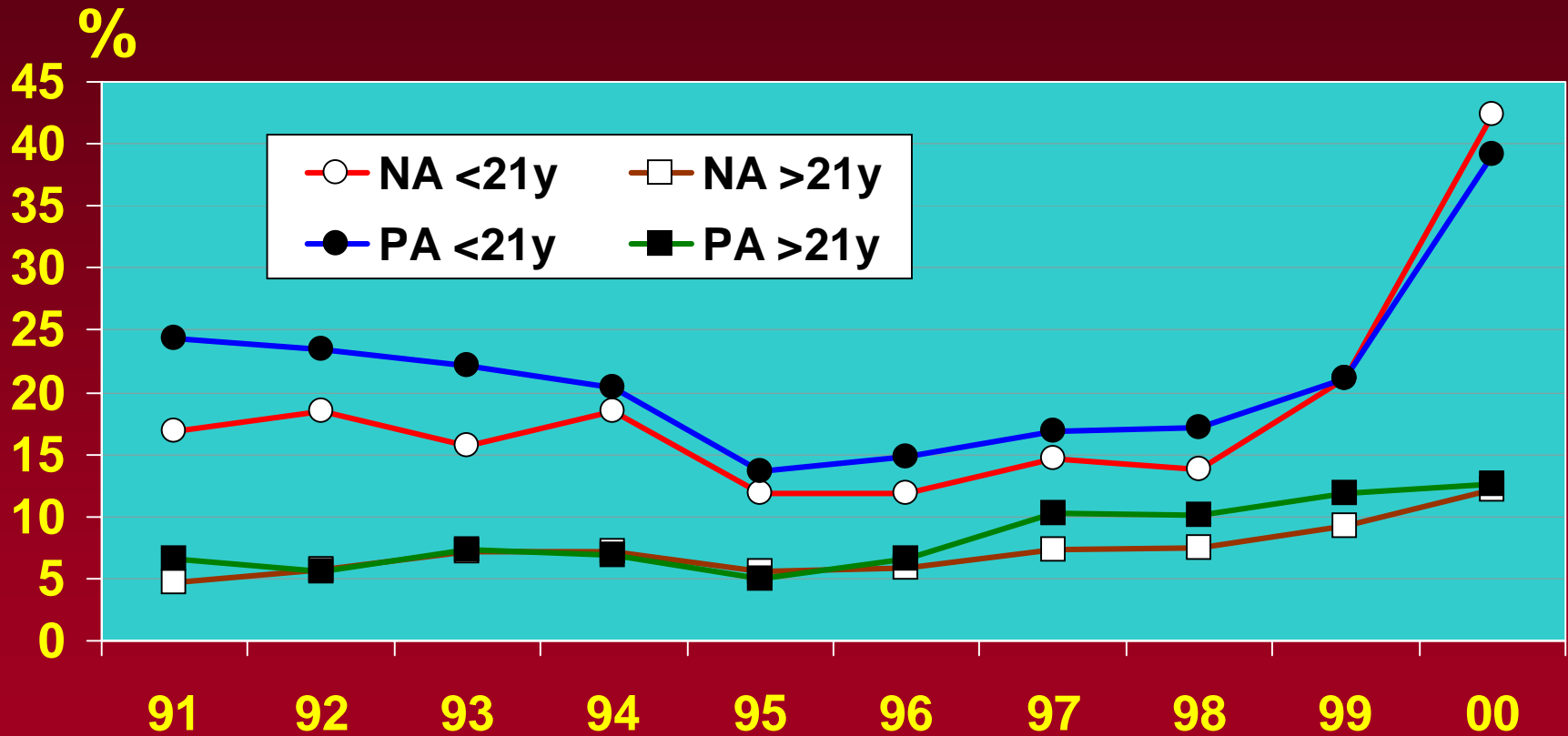
| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | Total No. of Deaths in 1994-98 |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Ketamine | 5:1 | 21:1 | 9:1 | 20:1 | 21:1 | 46 |
| MDMA | 250:1 | 70:1 | 40:1 | 212:1 | 127:1 | 27 |
| Math-amp het-amine | 35:1 | 33:1 | 23:1 | 28:1 | 23:1 | 2,601 |

Note: ME = Medical Examiners' cases, which are voluntary reports;
ED = Emergency Department mentions, which are weighted data.

Poly-Drug Abuse

Proportion of Poly-drug Use

Hong Kong 1991-2000 (CRDA, 2001)



Proportion of Poly-drug Episodes

USA 1999 (DAWN, 2000)

