

German Model Project of Heroin Assisted Treatment of Opiate Dependent Patients

Control group comparison
Heroin- vs. methadone treatment

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Target groups

- Methadone treatment failures (MTF)
 - Opiate addicts presently in methadone-maintenance treatment, who have not profited sufficiently from treatment
 - Hepatitis C: 84%; HIV: 11%
- Untreated / not in treatment (NIT)
 - Heroin addicts, who have dropped out of treatment services and are presently not in treatment, but in need of treatment due to their state of health or present life situation
 - Hepatitis C: 79%; HIV: 7%

Treatment

- **Heroin**: daily dispensing (up to 3x), maximum daily dose, iv-use under supervision
- **Methadone**: daily dispensing, take-home regulation, no dose limit
- Two innovative psychosocial treatment arms:
 - Case-Management: structured, person-centred, intervening concept; with integrated Motivational Interviewing (**CM**)
 - Drug counselling and psychoeducation (**PE**): counselling upon demand and psychoeducation according to manualised group setting

- In plaats van spikes, onttreknaald gebruiken!
 - Per verstrekking nieuwe opstreknaald gebruiken en deze nier met het flesje meewegen.
 - De marge voor een tekort mag zijn 0,20 cc.
- Alles wat direct met aan achterv







David was when he got out of prison, he had some debts and was really losing his mind, he got a job but couldn't handle it.

Just when I was about to give up, he had the chance he was found about in his car, it was a miracle.

The same it was just a mistake, he thought he had committed the crime but he didn't, and his tolerance was completely different.

OVERDOSE

I remember this one time, I did a job with the other people, that time I knew I was coming home, I realized I had some eyes.

I was my recommendation I was taking a little rest, they should be give a little about the life of it.

OVERDOSE

It wasn't my fault, I was just a little bit off, I was just a little bit off, I was just a little bit off.

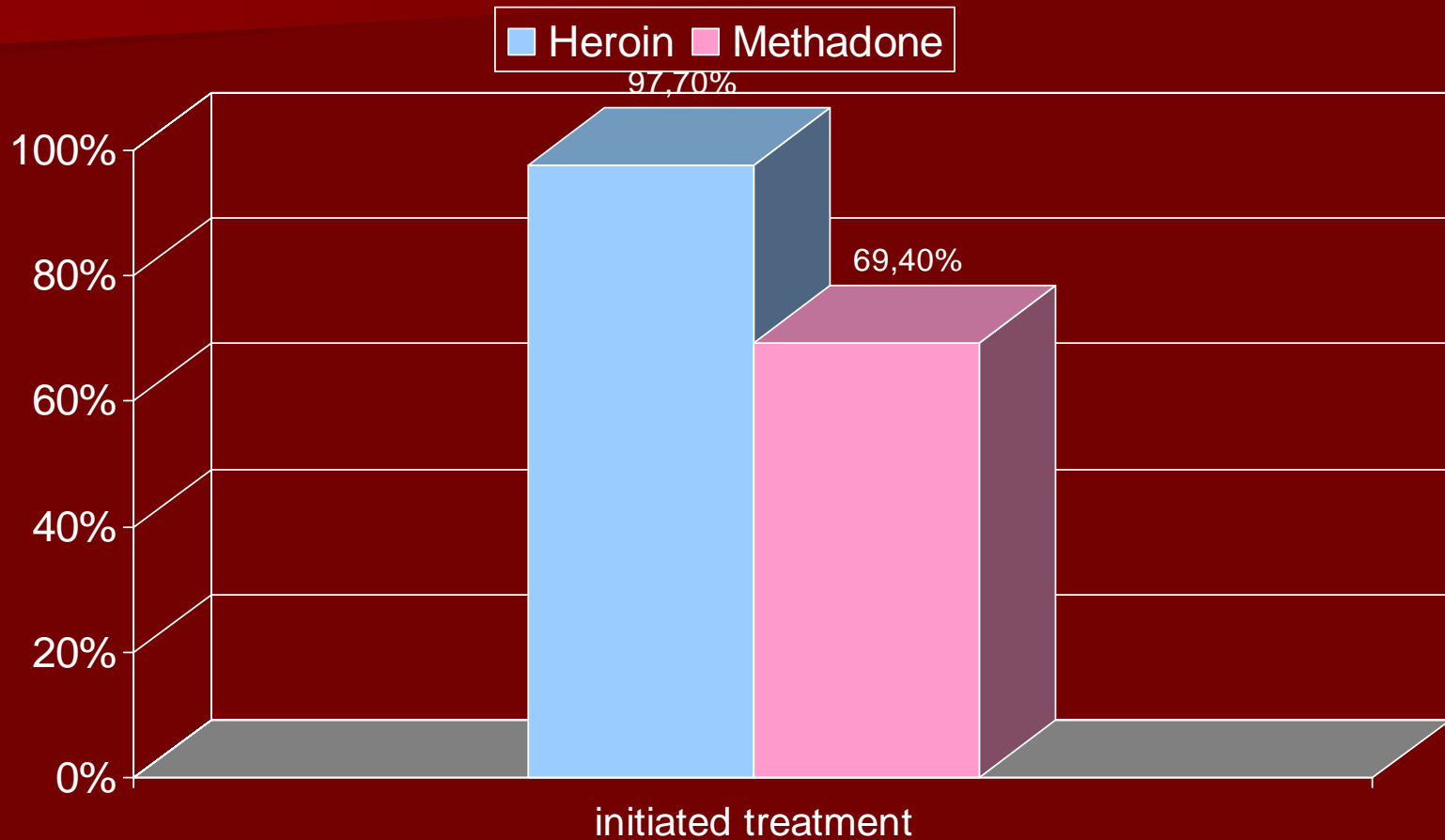
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OVERDOSE

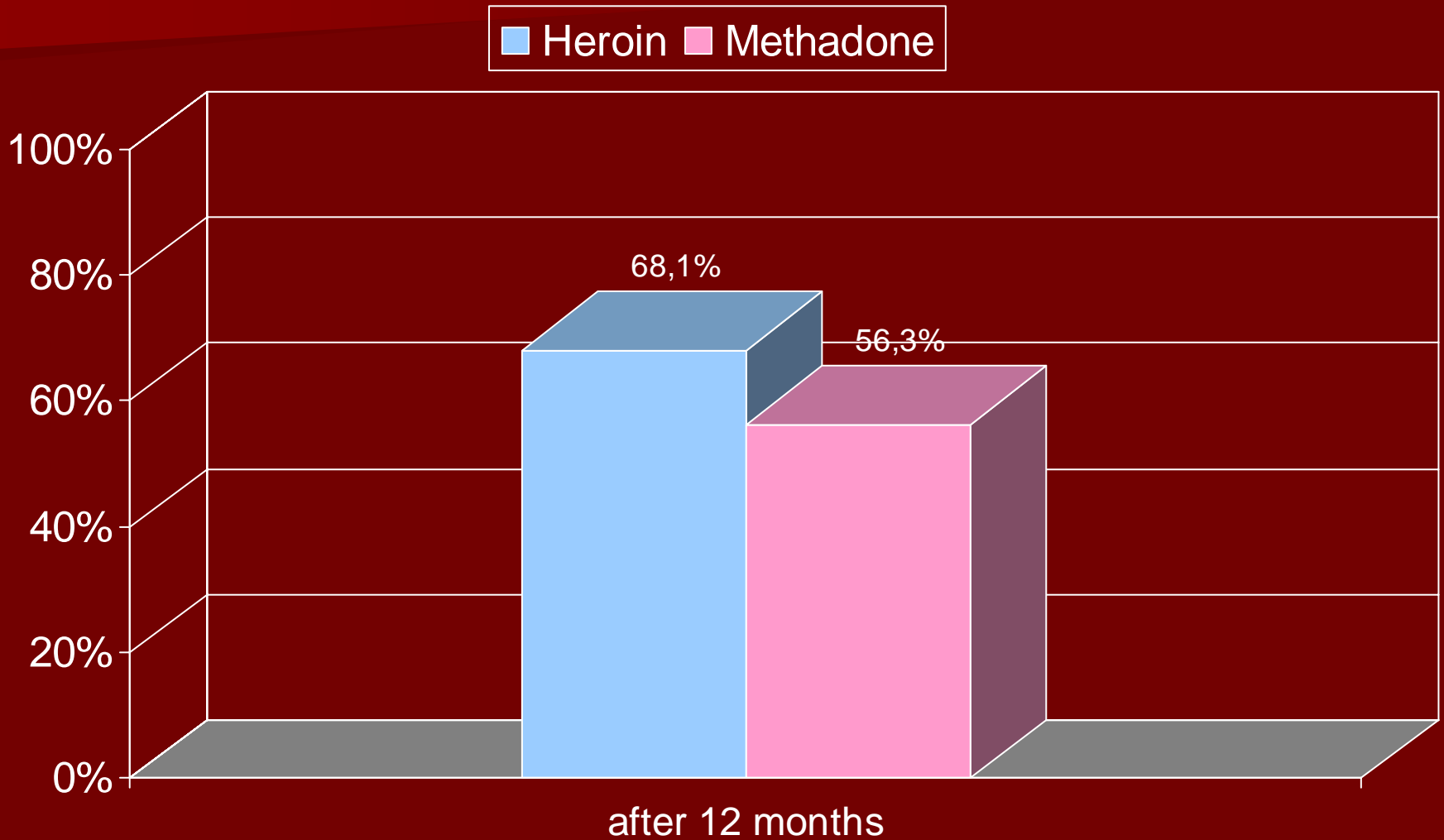




Who initiated treatment?



Retention rate ("treatment-initiated" sample)

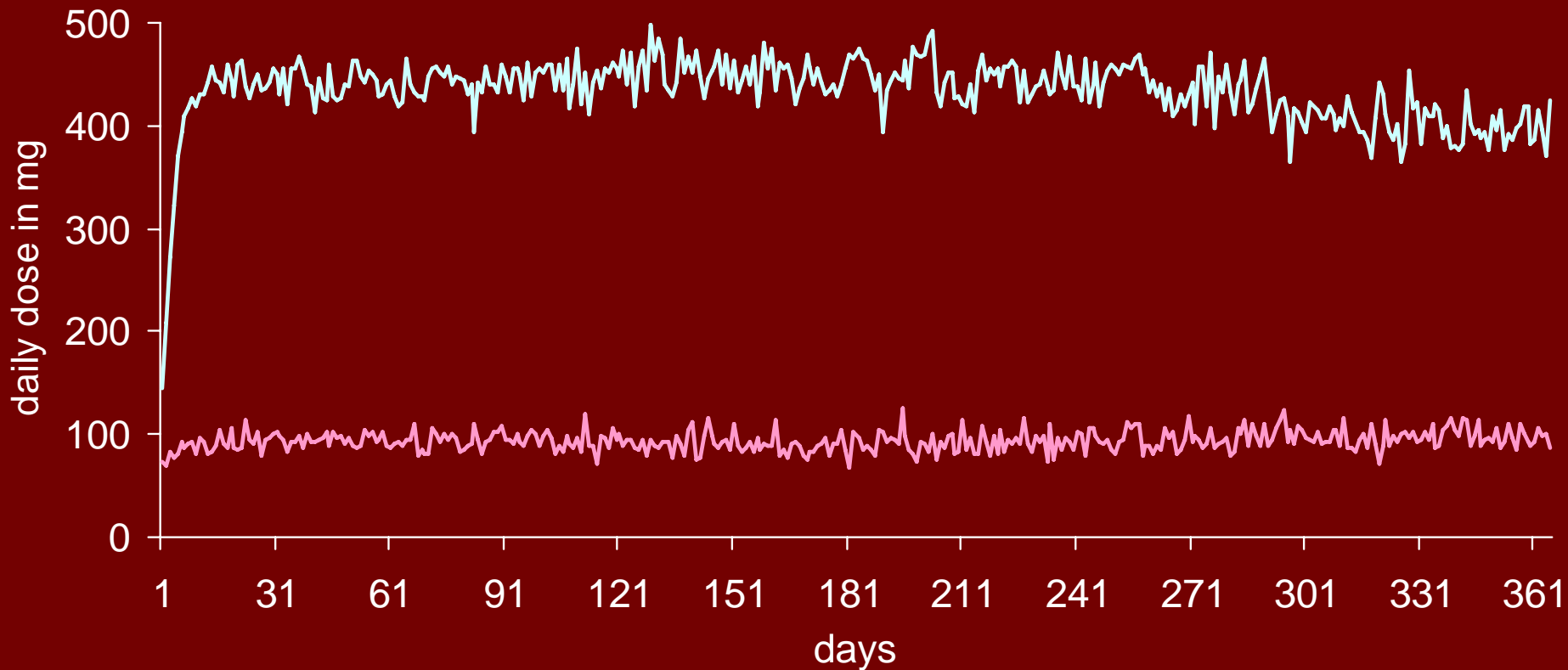


Treatment drop-outs: status after 12 months

- 40% of drop-outs in both groups change to other addiction treatment
- 10% of drop-outs in both groups change to abstinence-based treatment
- Higher total percentage of methadone group returned to illicit drug use

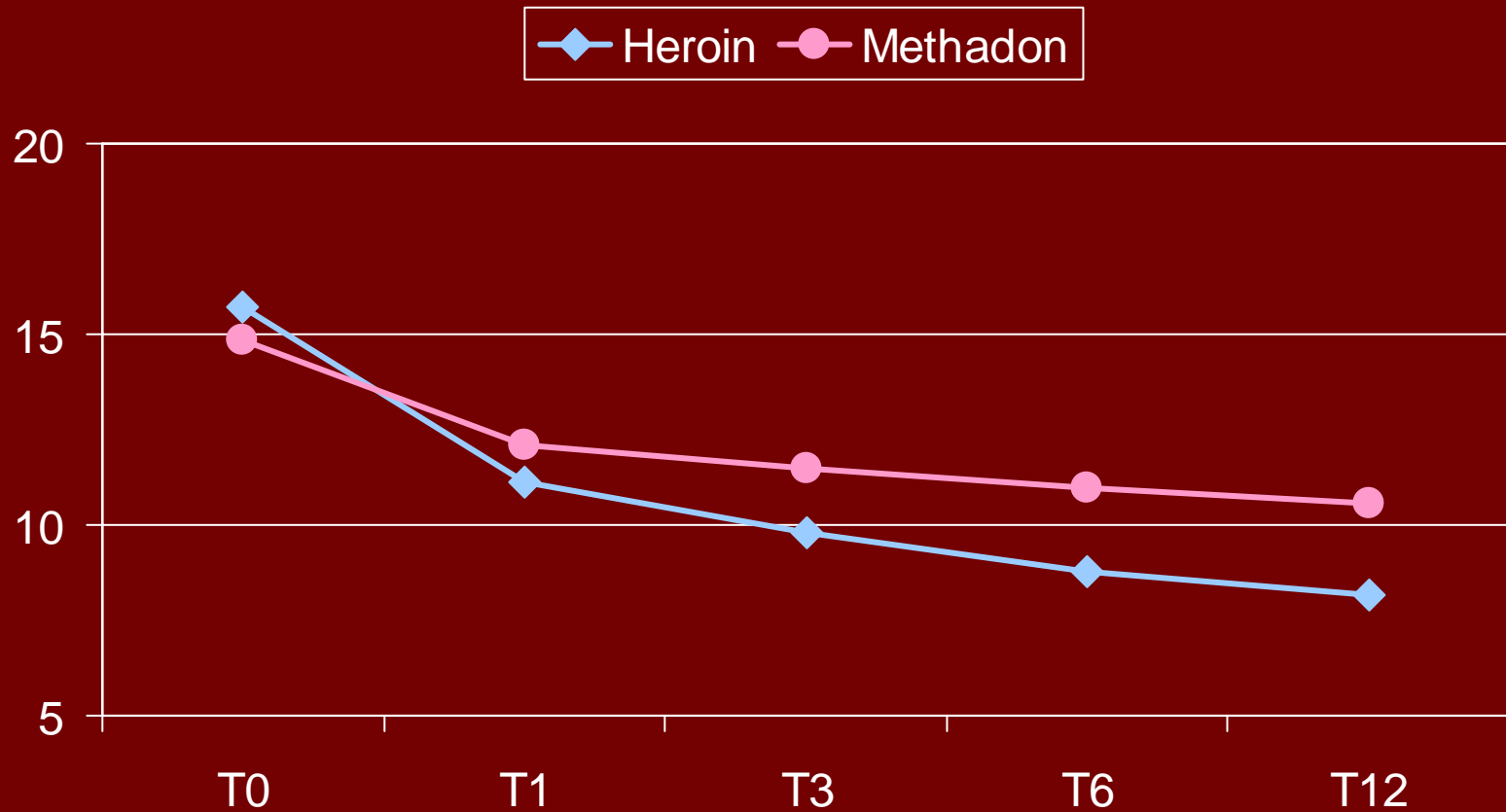
Daily dosage over 365 days

— Heroin patients H-dose — Methadone patients M-dose

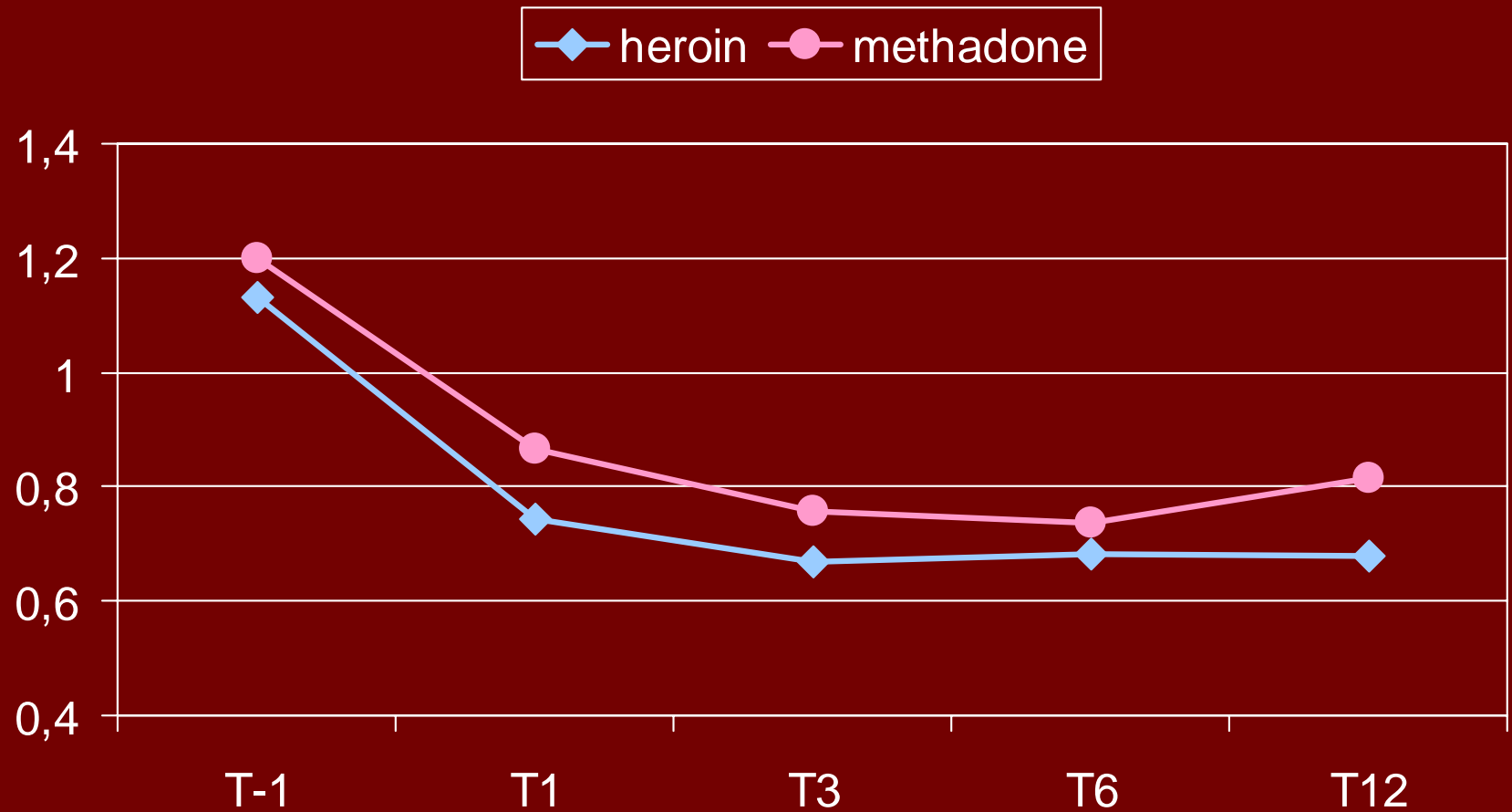


Mean: Heroin: H-dose: 442 mg, Methadone: M-dose: 99 mg

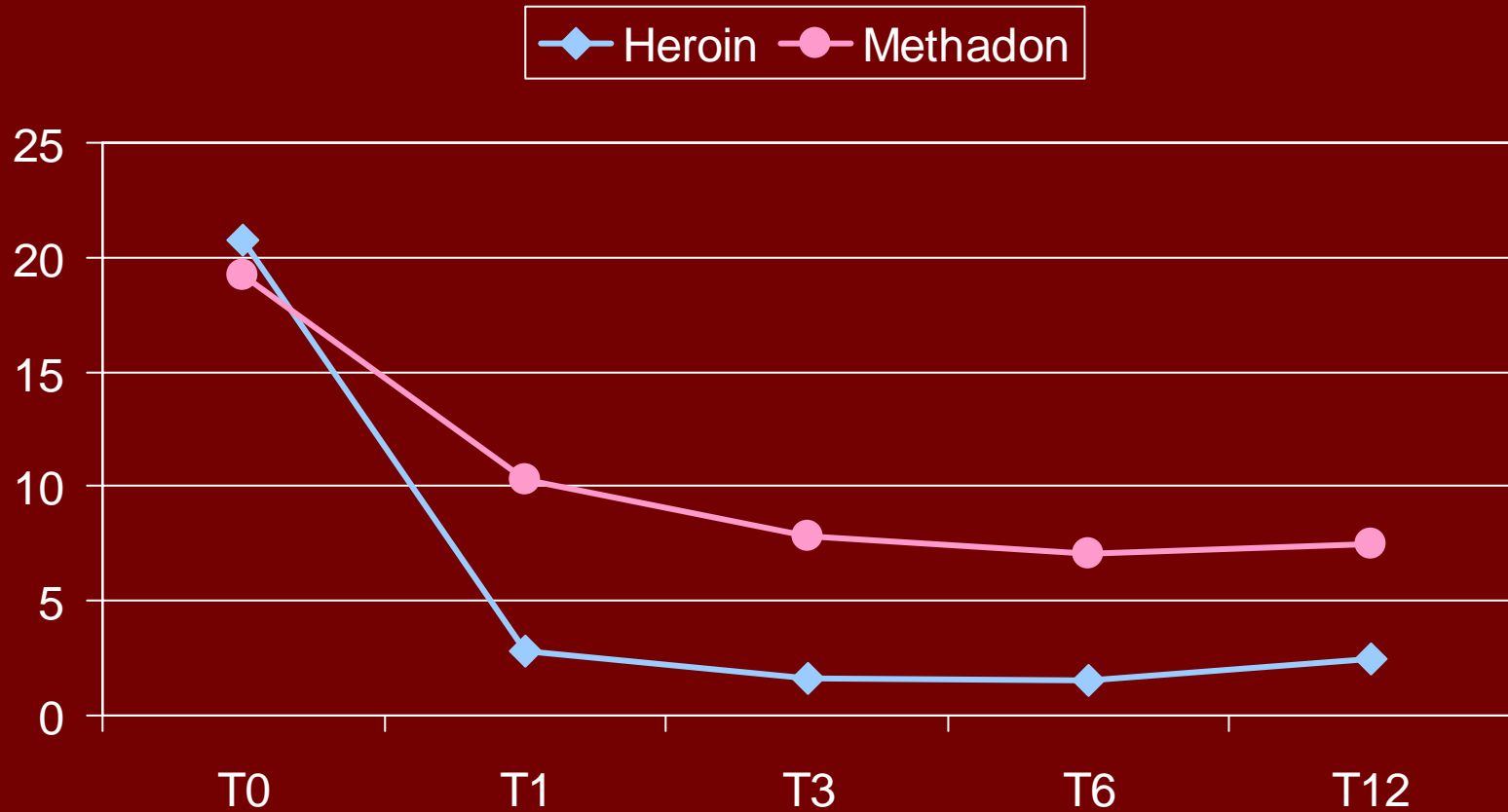
Physical health complaints (OTI health scale)



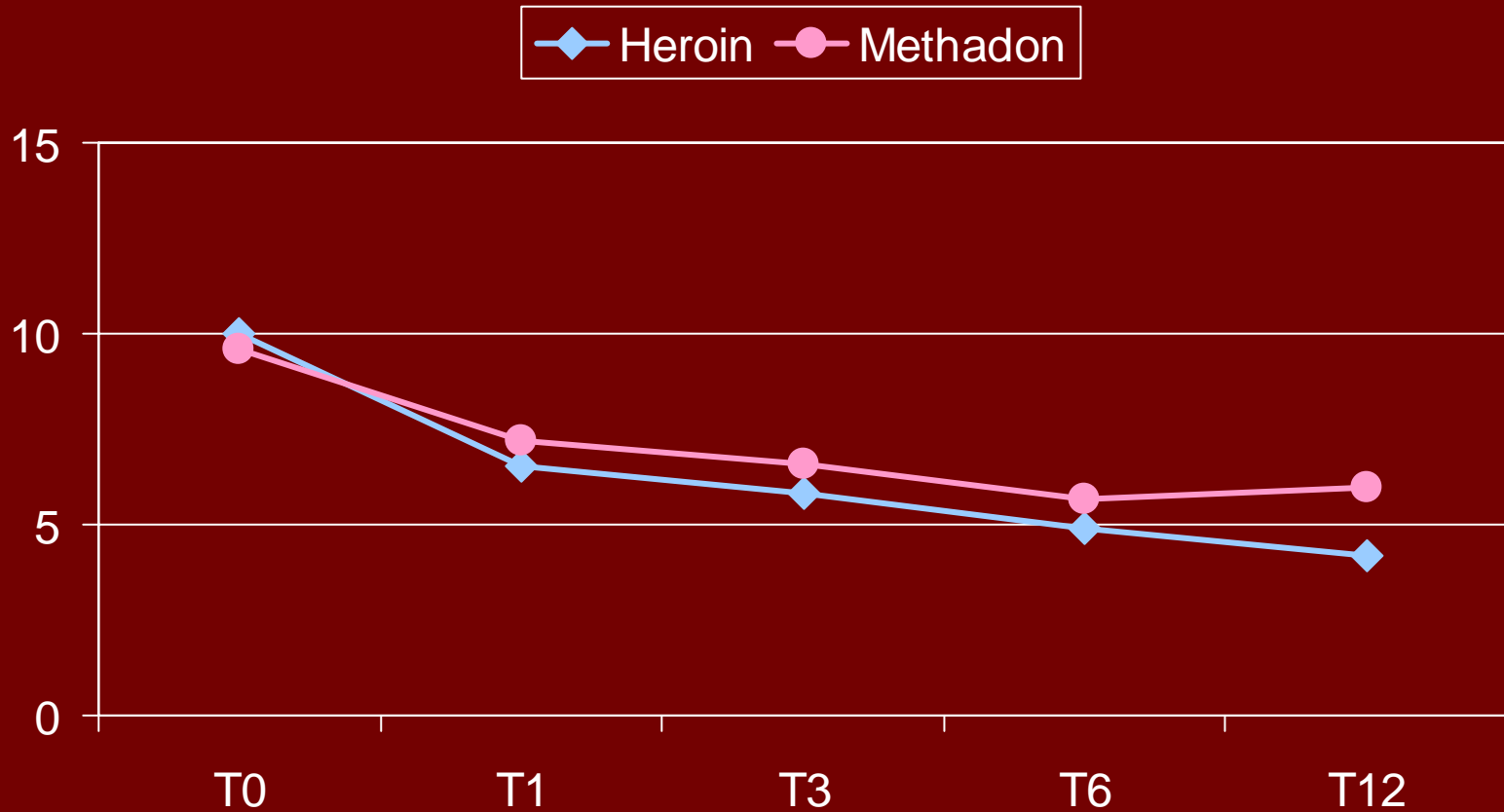
Mental health distress (SCL-90-R, GSI)



Use of street heroin in the past 30 days



Cocaine use past 30 days



Response-Definition: Primary outcome measures (POM)

- ***Improvement of physical or mental health***

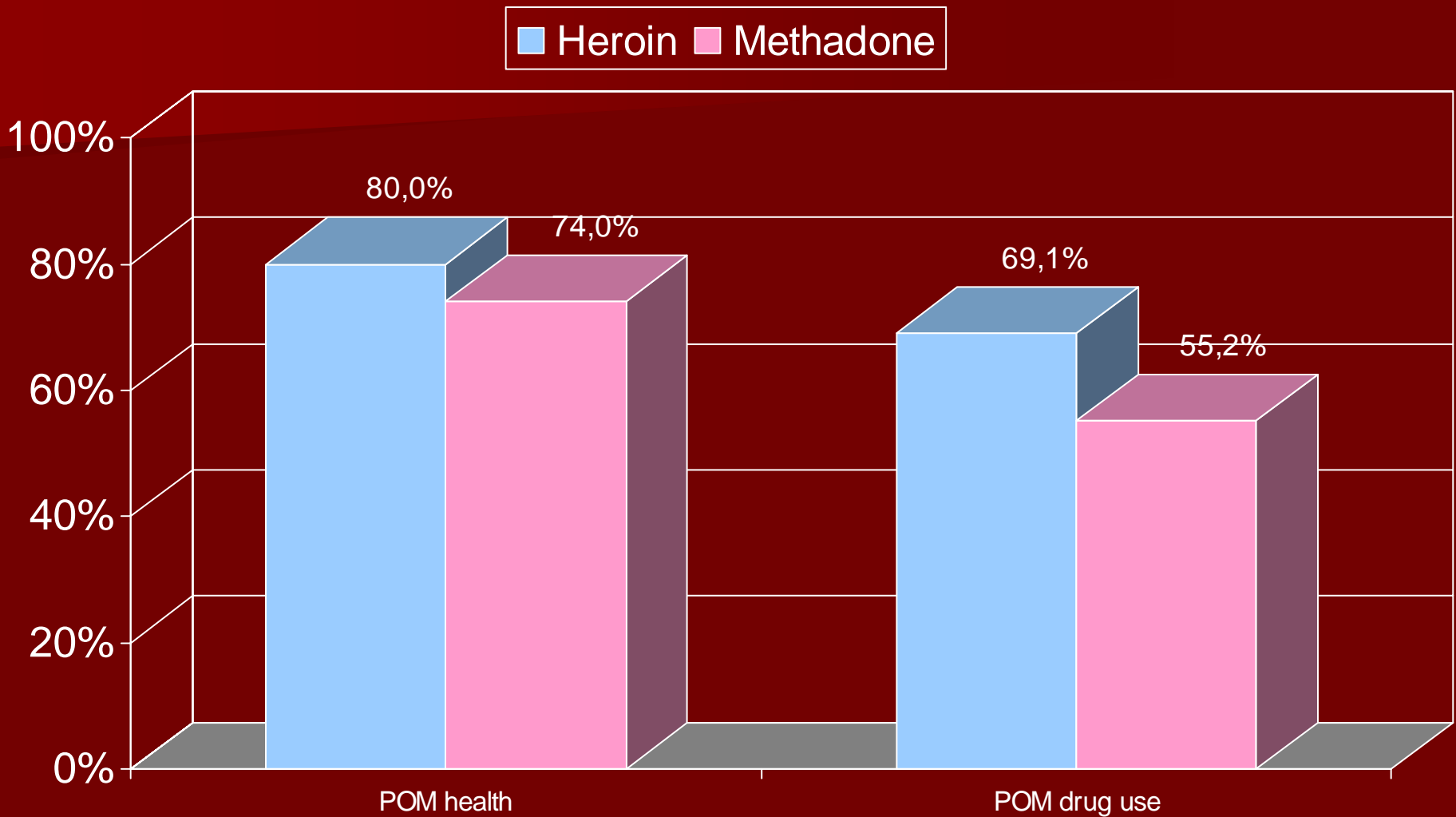
→ Response in POM (A)

- ***Reduction of illicit drug use***

→ Response in POM (B)

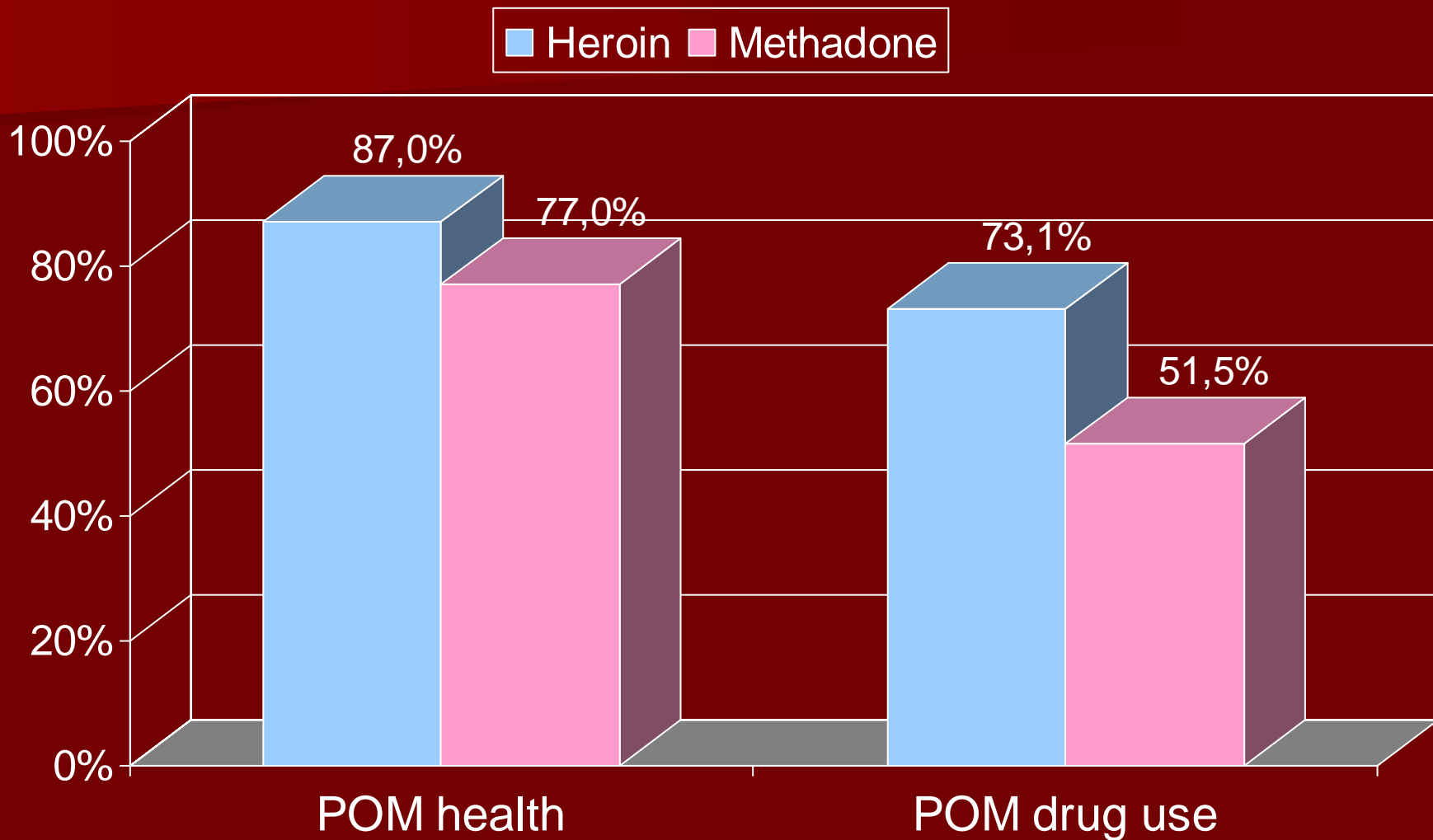
Differences in response rates are tested for significance

Primary analysis (ITT) – Response by POM



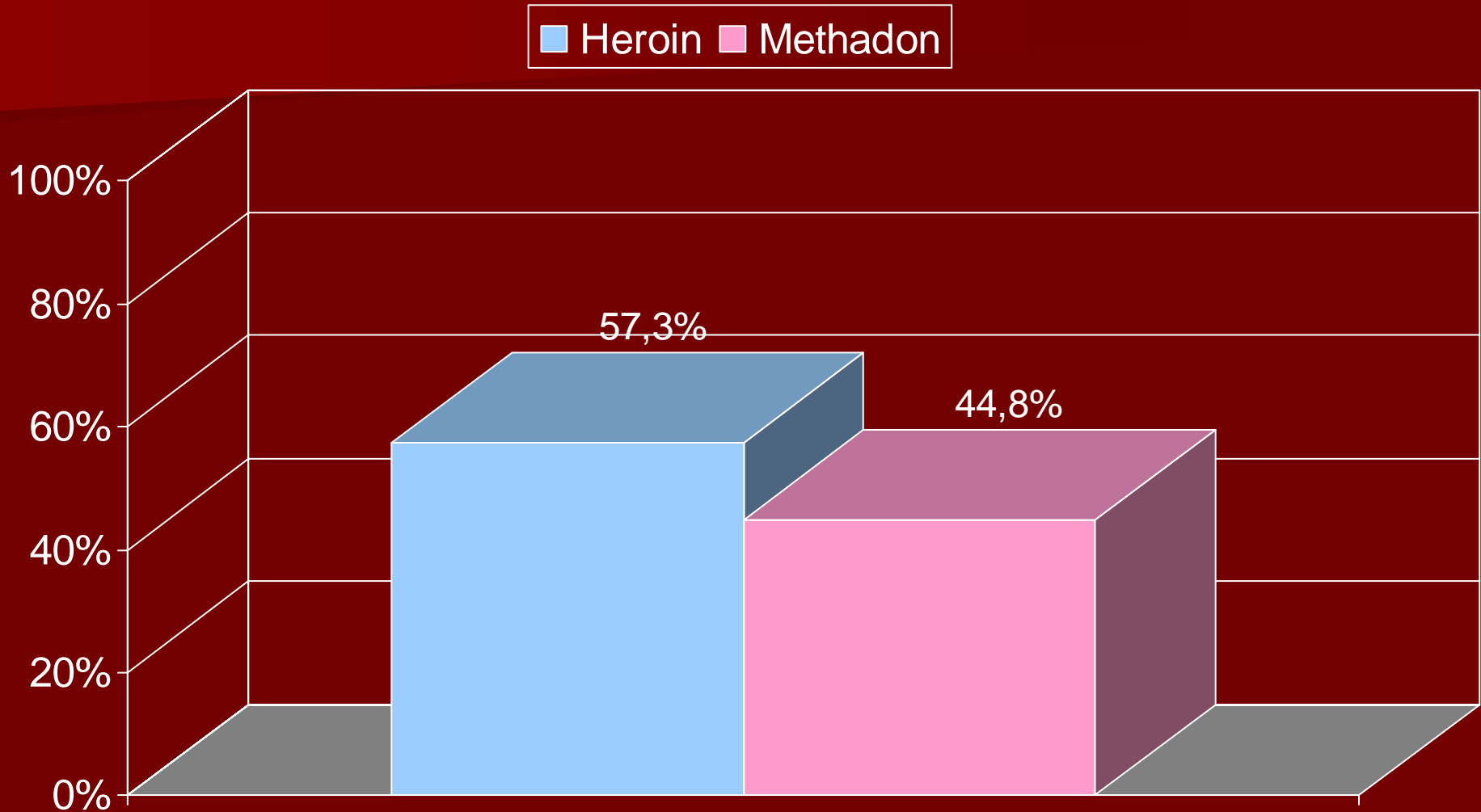
Health: OR = 1.41 * (1.05-1.89), Drug use: OR = 1.85 *** (1.43-2.40)

Response for treatment completers (per-protocol analysis)



Health: OR = 2.05 ** (1.28-3.27), Drug use: OR = 2.64 *** (1.80-3.88)

Response in *both* POM

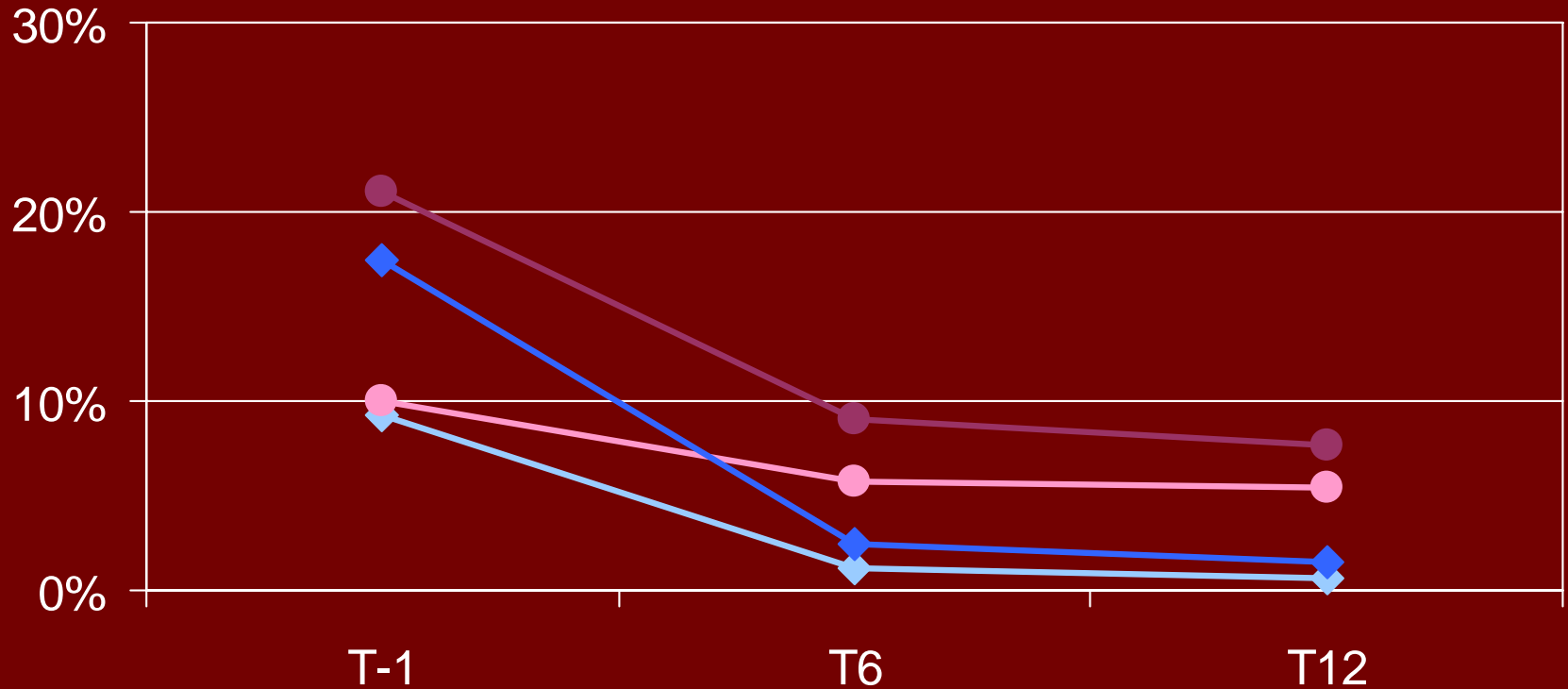


OR = 1.67 *** (95%-CI: 1.30-2.14); NNT=8

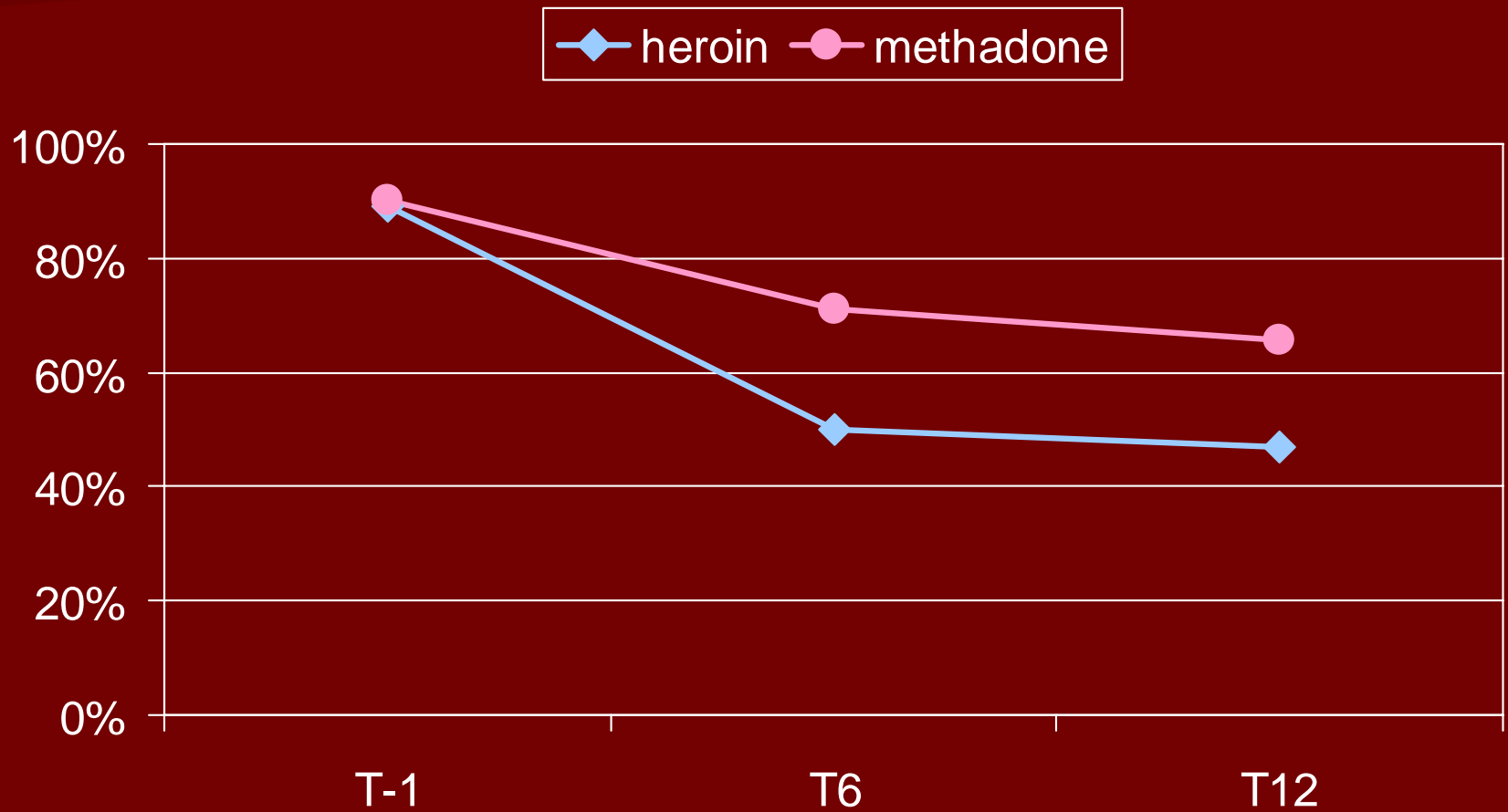
Criminality

- Offences:
 - 79% of patients in year prior to treatment
 - 45% of heroin, 63% of methadone group in first year of treatment
- Significant advantage of heroin group in reduction of criminality, both in number of days with criminal offences and in number of offences

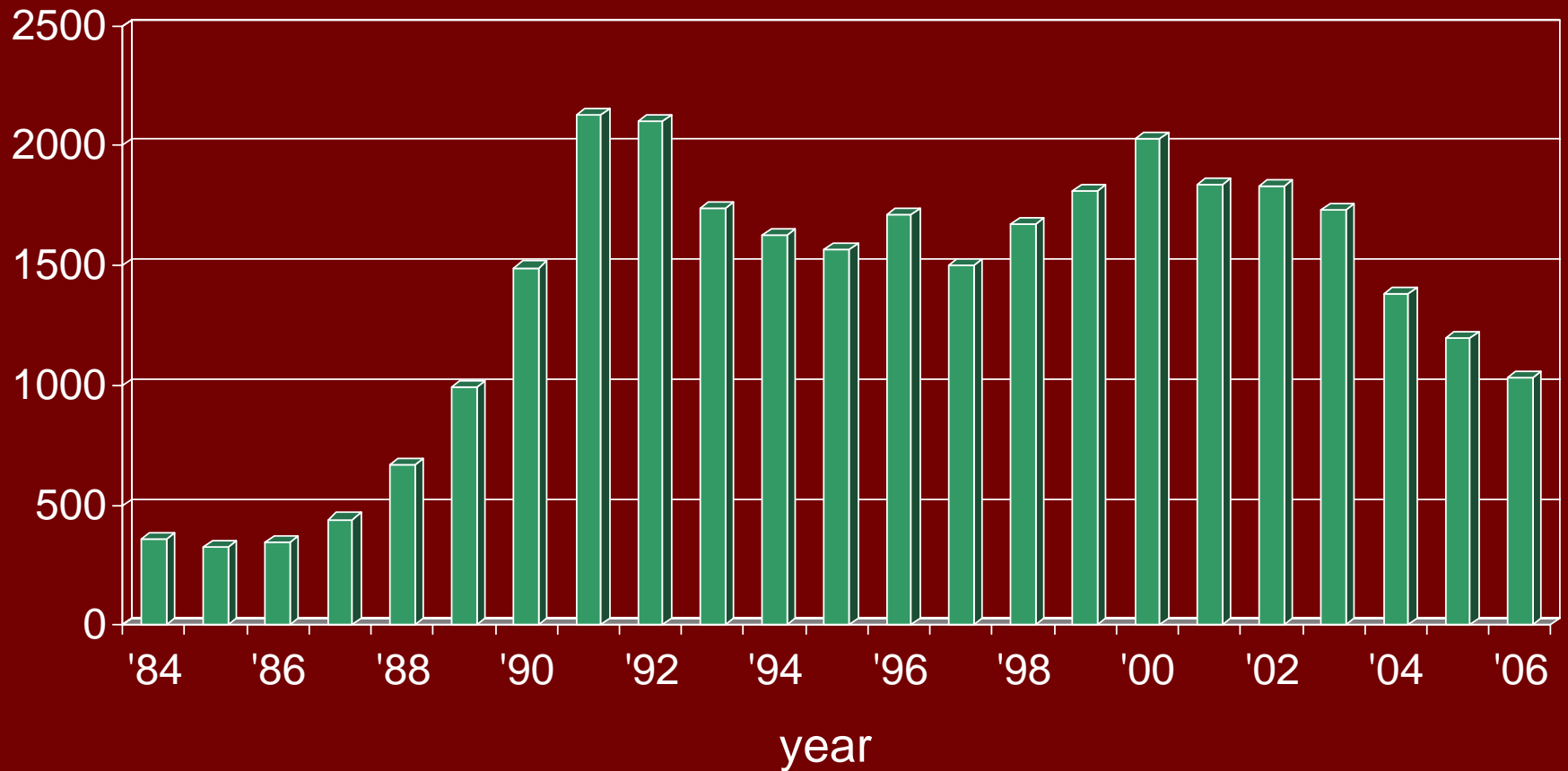
Risk Behaviour



Contacts to Drug Scene



Drug-related mortality in Germany since 1984



Present status in Germany

- Around 300 patients still in follow-up heroin treatment
- Registration status: positive review, heroin could be registered if laws are changed
- Conservative party in government (CDU) still not convinced of effectiveness of heroin treatment



Thank you!

www.heroinstudie.de

Haasen et al.: Heroin-assisted treatment for opioid dependence: a randomised, controlled trial.
British Journal of Psychiatry, 2007; 191:55-62