

HARMFUL INJECTION DRUGS USE

IN THAILAND

SCOPE

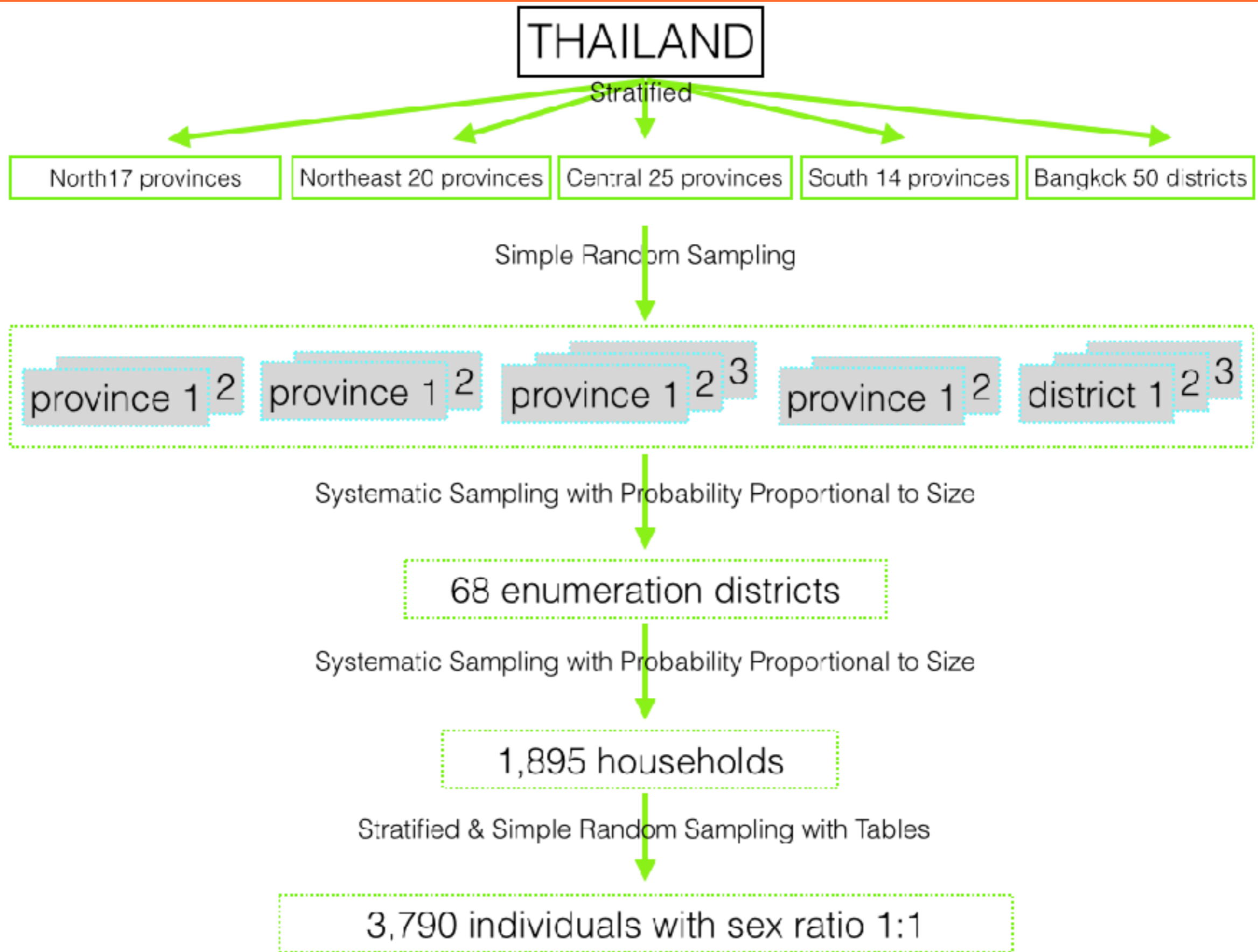
This study aimed to examine an indirect method for estimating the size of IDU population, and to explore pattern of drugs use in Thailand.

This was combined research design; size estimation through cross-sectional survey, and phenomenology through qualitative study.

A household survey was conducted among 3,790 individuals who was 12-65 years old, at least 3 months stayed in the sample households within past year. Through reference groups and summation procedure, a personal network size was estimated. The participants were asked to identify the number of their acquaintances whom they perceived to be IDU. Using the network scale-up method, IDU population size was estimated.

From index cases within 2 study sites, 66 IDUs were selected through snowball techniques and studied qualitatively

SIZE ESTIMATION



SIZE ESTIMATION

In this study, an acquaintance was a person who met all of the following criteria: 1) a person other than oneself, including family and relatives; 2) a person who has either met directly or can recognize by name (including first name or nickname); 3) a person who can be contacted directly; and 4) a person with whom one has had contact within the past year, either in person, by phone or mail (including internet communication such as e-mail).

For summation method, sociometry procedure was used to list the types of social relationship, 19 types of social relationships such as parent, relatives, friends from school, co-workers etc. were identified. For reference group method, 87 characteristics were summarized. Of these, 42 groups appeared in Thailand annual official statistics with public access. Only 19 groups such as disable people, dead people, monks, divorce registration, etc.. were selected.

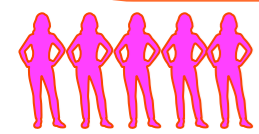
For standardization of the tool, 50 individual of both sex (10 from each statum) were recruited for a four weeks test-retest. Correlation between the two tests were 0.96.

SIZE ESTIMATION

The personal network size was estimated to be 71,000 IDUs.

The estimated prevalence total population in Thailand was 110 IDUs in 100,000 population.

QUALITATIVE STUDY



5

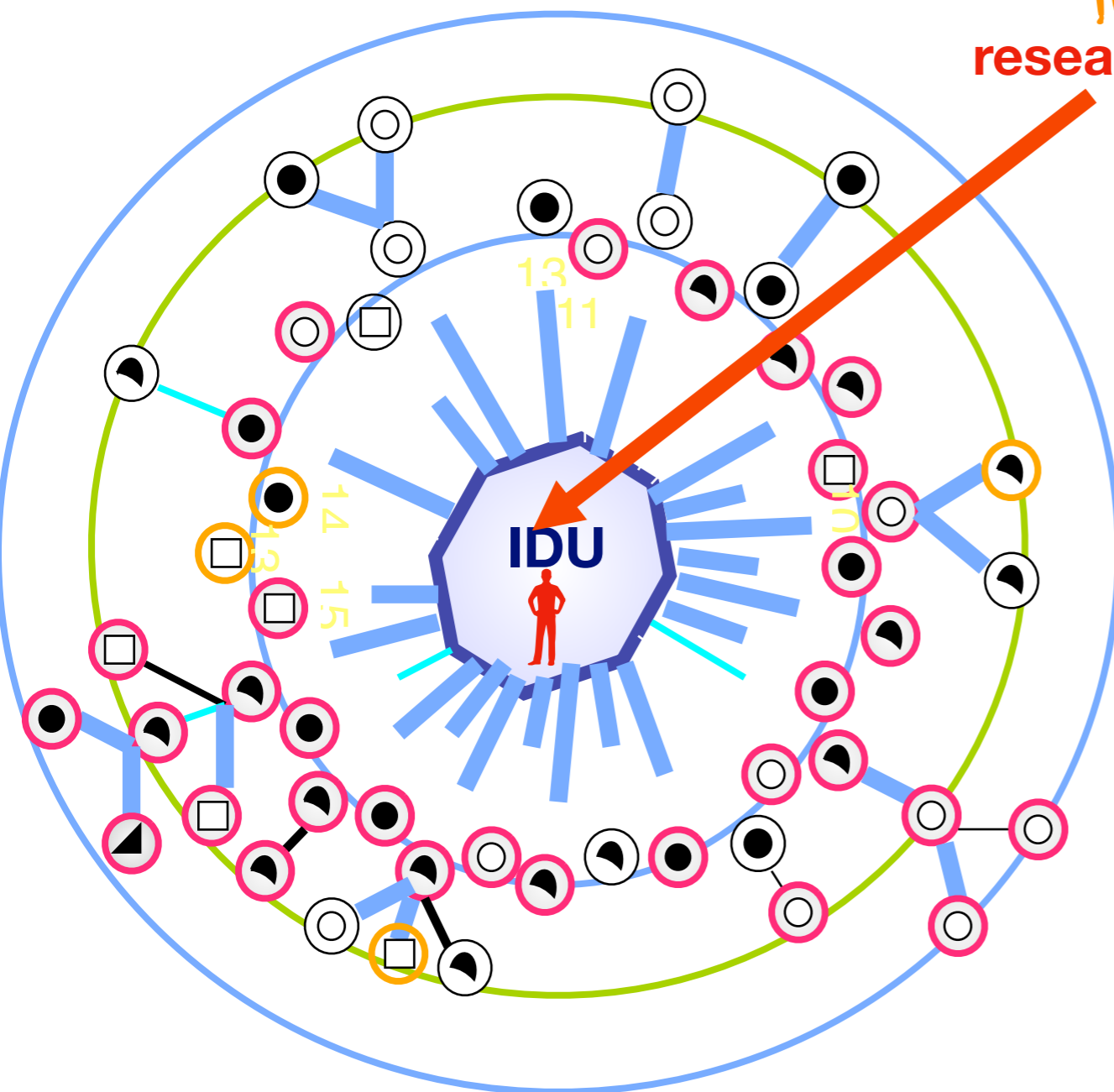


30

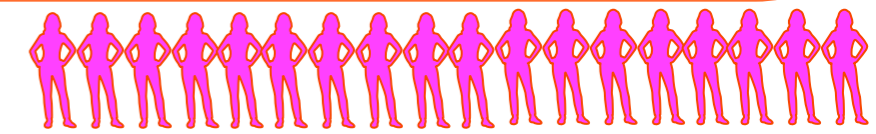
site 1



researchers



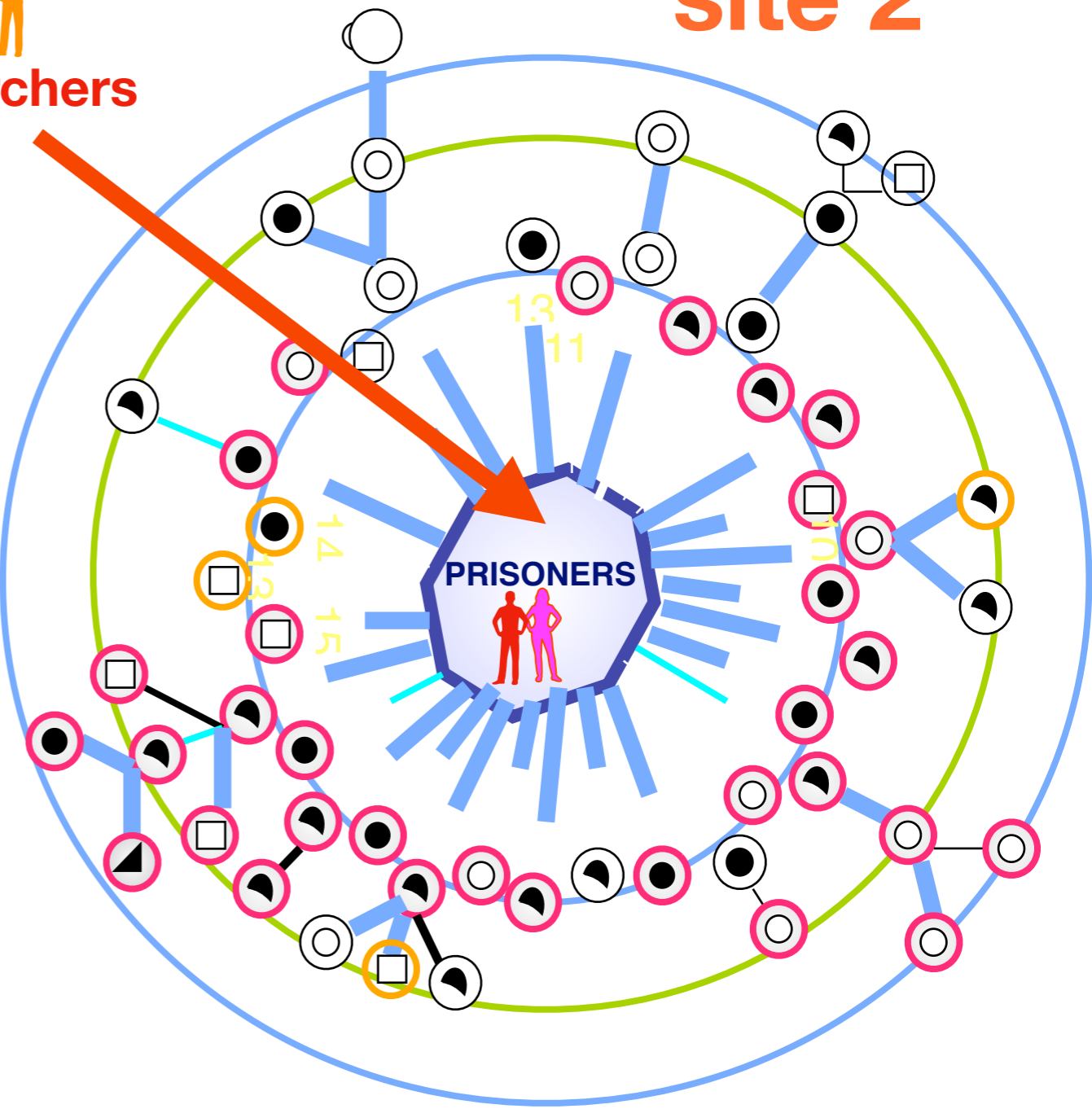
18



13

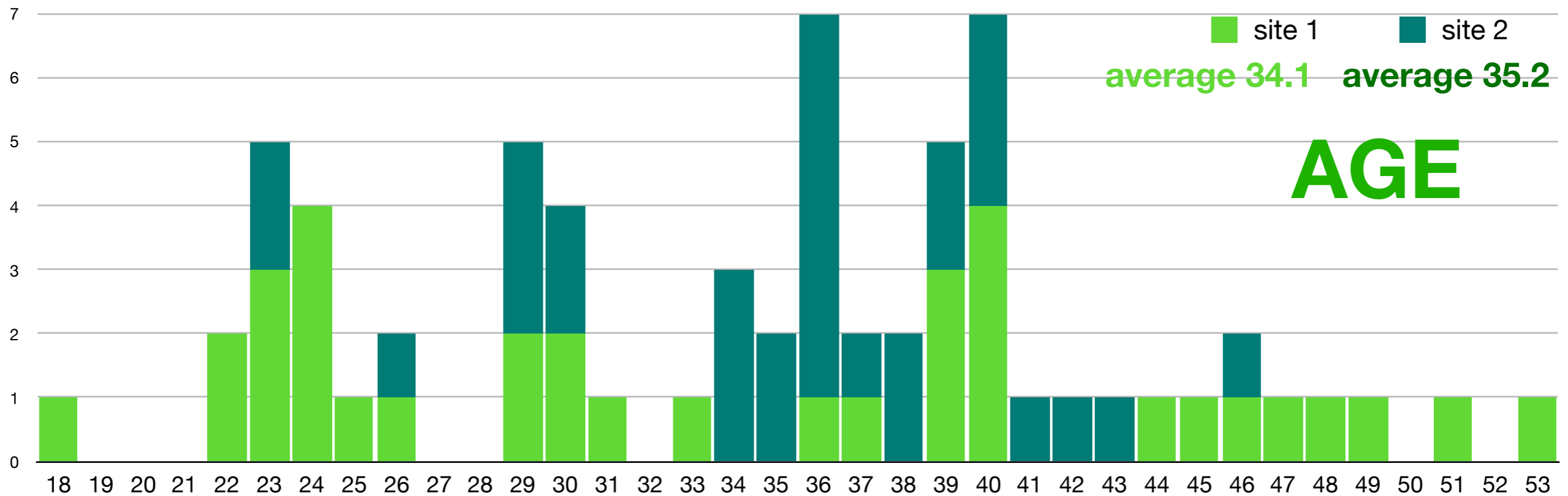


site 2

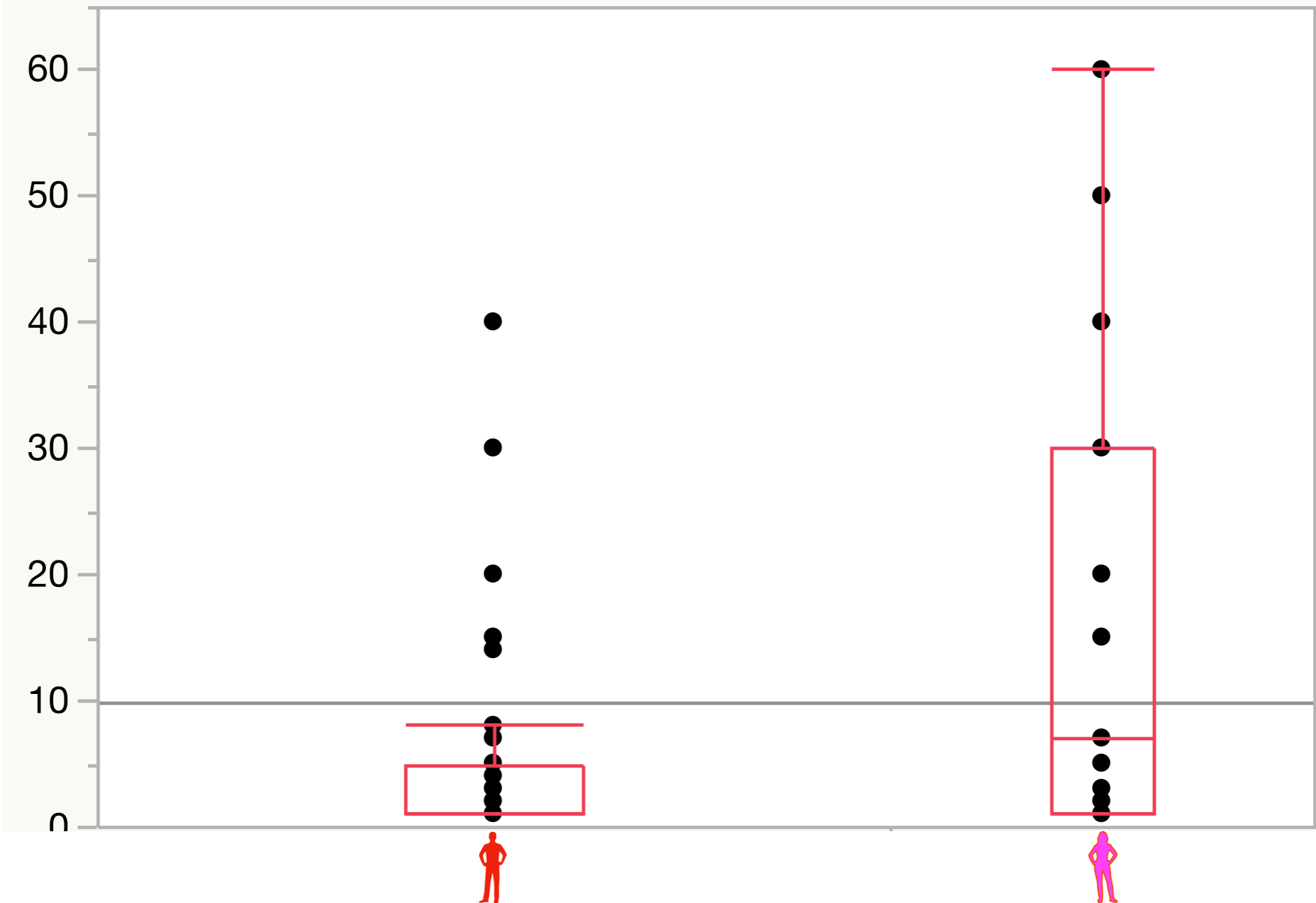


ID users

OCCUPATION	site 1	site 2	TOTAL
	35	31	66
drivers	1	1	2
self employed	8	7	15
vocational	3	2	5
entertainers	1	4	5
agri Sectors	4	1	5
professionals	1	2	3
labours	11	10	21
unemployed	0	2	2
illegal	6	2	8

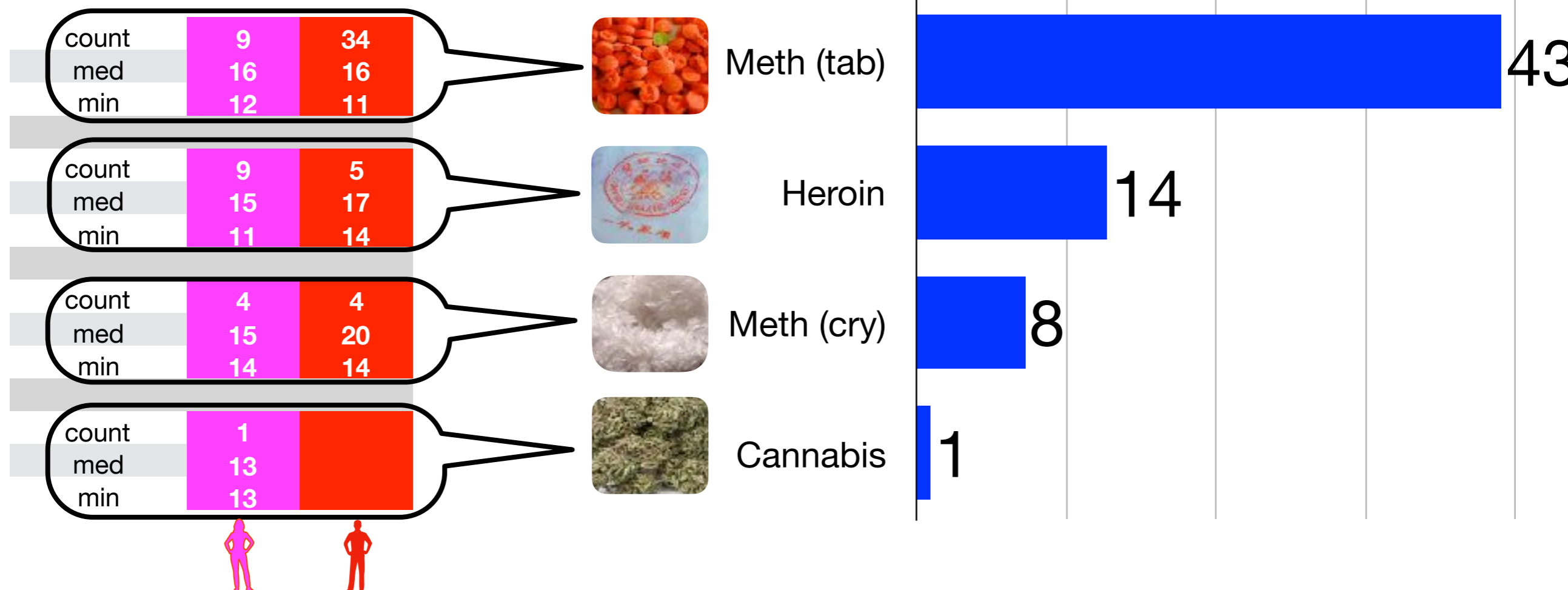
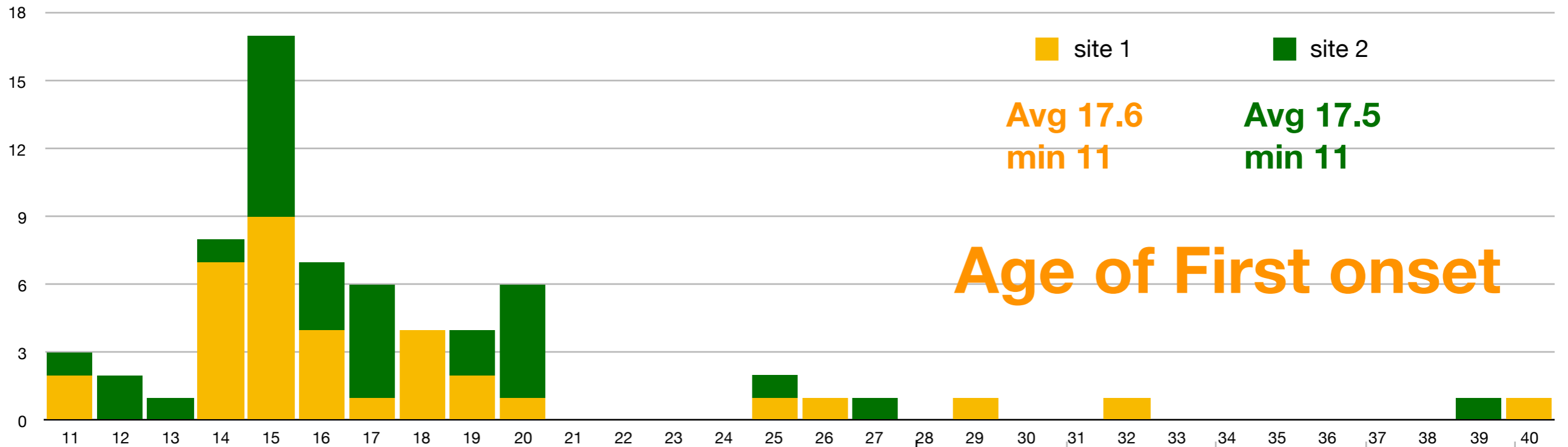


Networks










	Min	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%	Max
male	1	1	1	1	5	18	40
female	1	1	1	7	30	56	60

First Drug












Drugs used before Injection






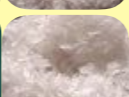






















33

			23+4
			2
			4

18

			2
			2
			8+2

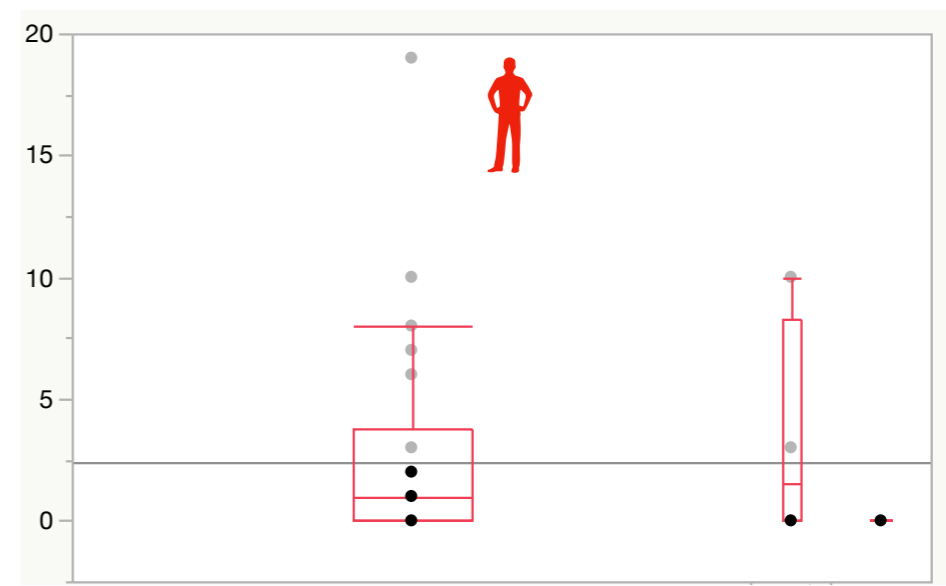
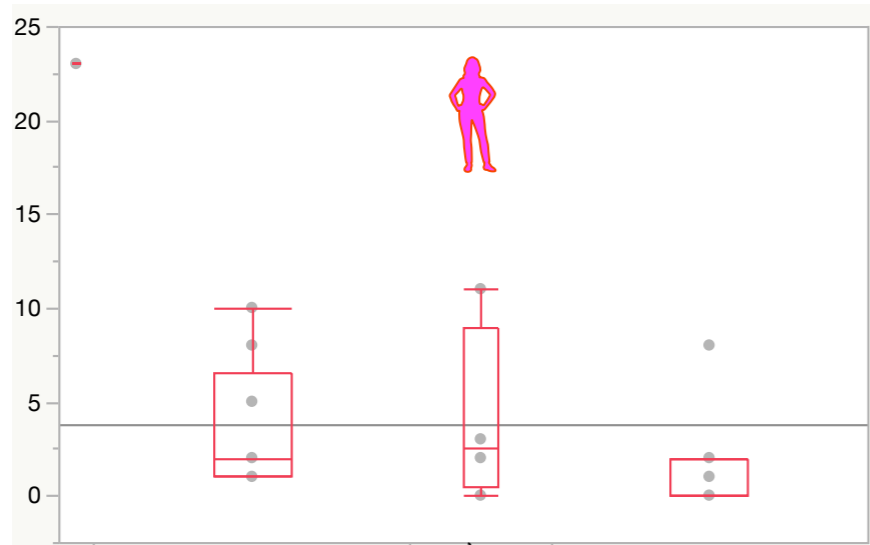
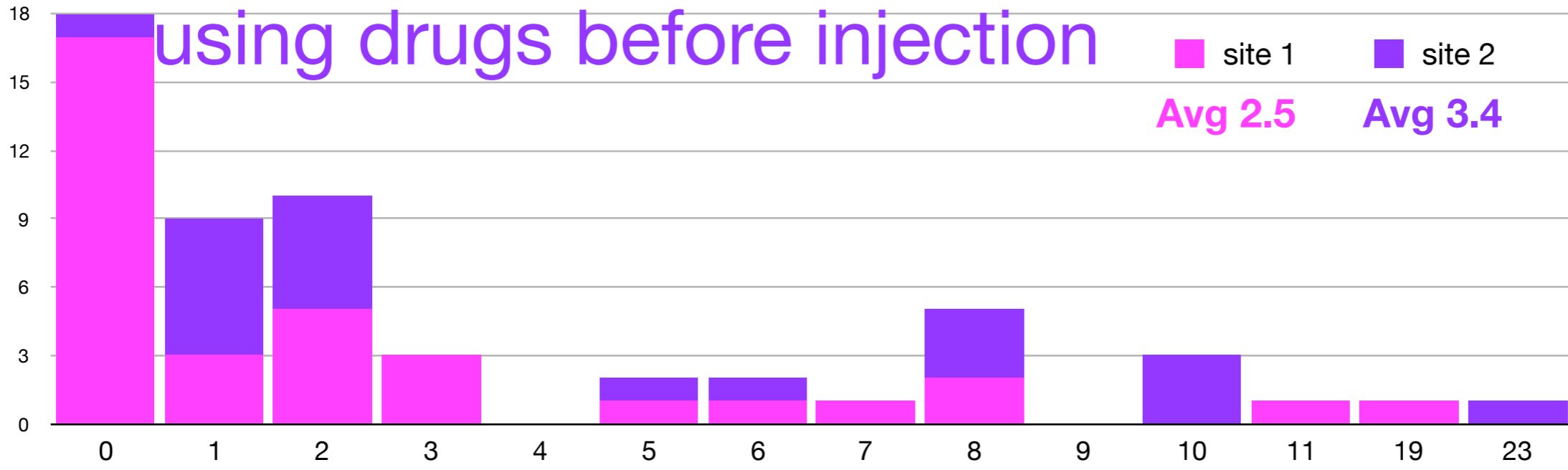
13

				1
				1
				1
				1
				4
				2
				1

2

	+					1	
	+						1

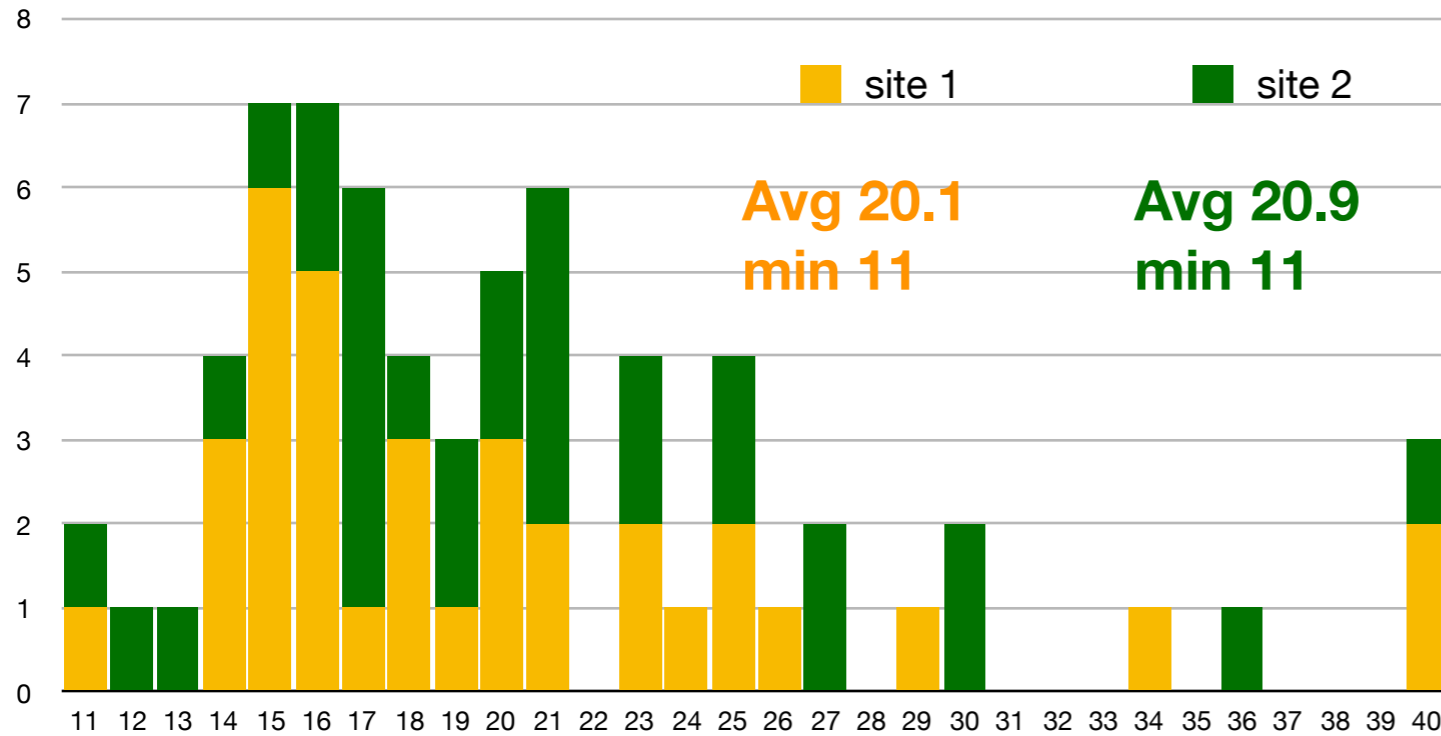
Duration



Level	Min	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%	Max
Cannabis	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Meth tab	1	1	1	2	6.5	10	10
Meth cry	0	0	0.5	2.5	9	11	11
Heroin	0	0	0	0	2	8	8

	Min	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%	Max
Meth tab	0	0	0	1	3.75	8	19
Meth cry	0	0	0	1.5	8.25	10	10
Heroin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Age of First Injection



count	9	20
med	21	19
min	13	14



Meth tab

29

count	4	17
med	21.5	19
min	17	11



Meth cry

21

count	10	6
med	17	18
min	11	14

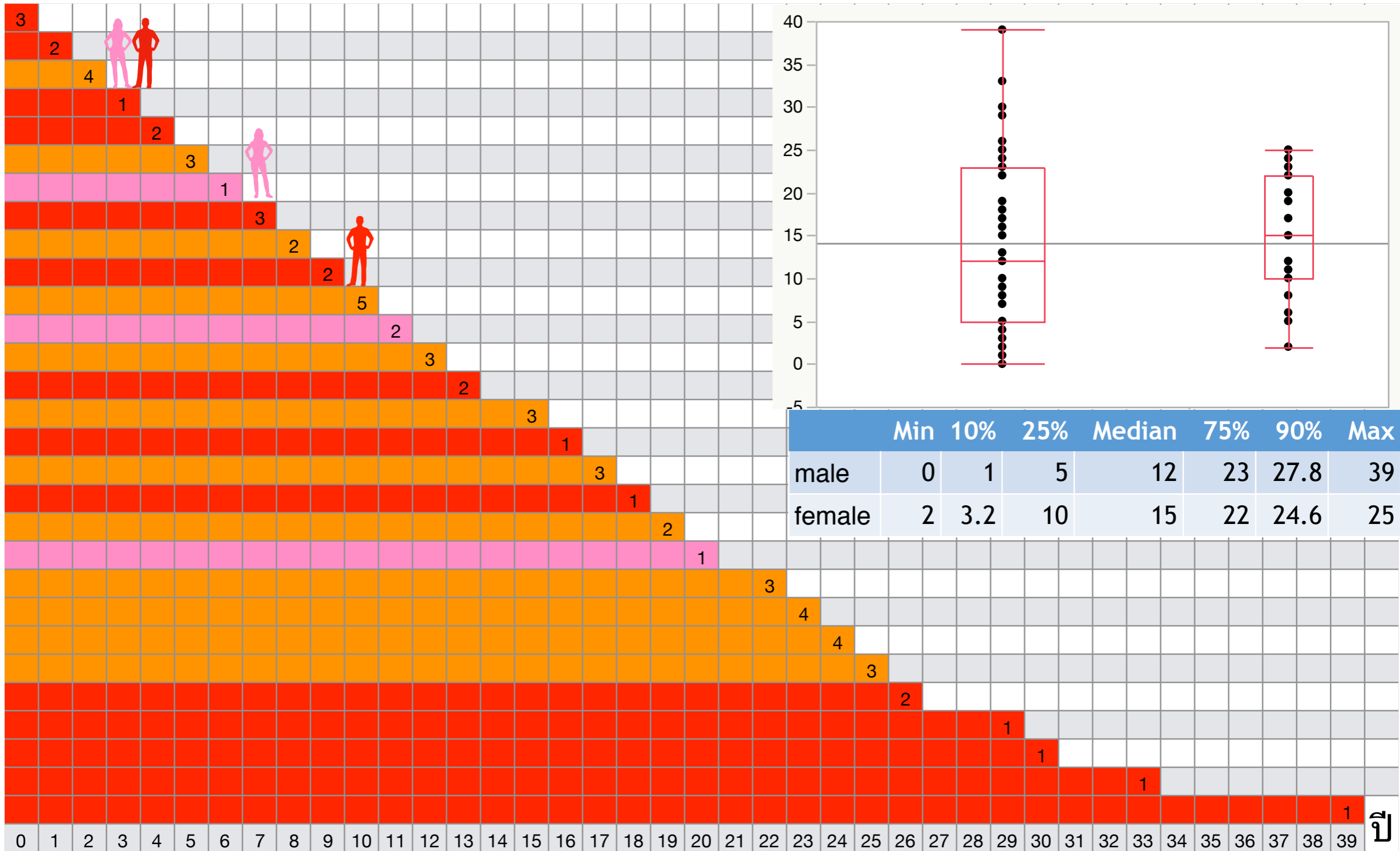


Heroin

16



Injection Experiences



single drug



52

Diagram illustrating the composition of 52 units of a single drug. It features a blue syringe icon on the left. The composition is shown in three rows of images: 30 orange pills, 6 white pills, and 6 white pills. To the right of these images are human icons: 30 red icons, 6 red icons, and 6 pink icons. On the far right, the numbers 30+8, 6+2, and 6 are displayed in red and pink.

5

Diagram illustrating the composition of 5 units of a single drug. It features a blue syringe icon on the left. The composition is shown in three rows of images: 1 green pill, 1 white pill, and 1 white pill. To the right of these images are human icons: 1 red icon, 1 pink icon, and 1 red icon. On the far right, the numbers 1, 1, and 1+2 are displayed in red and pink.

8

Diagram illustrating the composition of 8 units of a single drug. It features a blue syringe icon on the left. The composition is shown in four rows of images: 1 green pill, 1 white pill, 1 white pill, and 1 white pill. To the right of these images are human icons: 1 pink icon, 1 pink icon, 1 red icon, and 4 red icons. On the far right, the numbers 1, 1, 1, and 4+1 are displayed in pink and red.

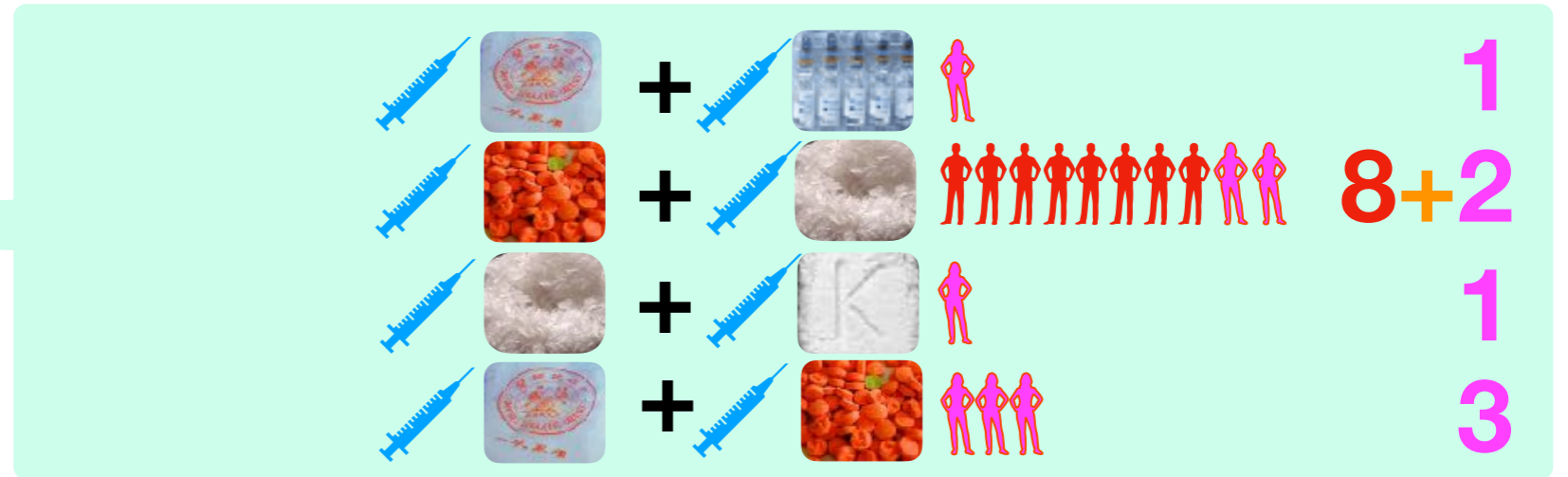
1

Diagram illustrating the composition of 1 unit of a single drug. It features a blue syringe icon on the left. The composition is shown in a single row of images: 1 green pill, 1 white pill, 1 white pill, 1 white pill, and 1 white pill. To the right of these images is 1 pink icon. On the far right, the number 1 is displayed in pink.

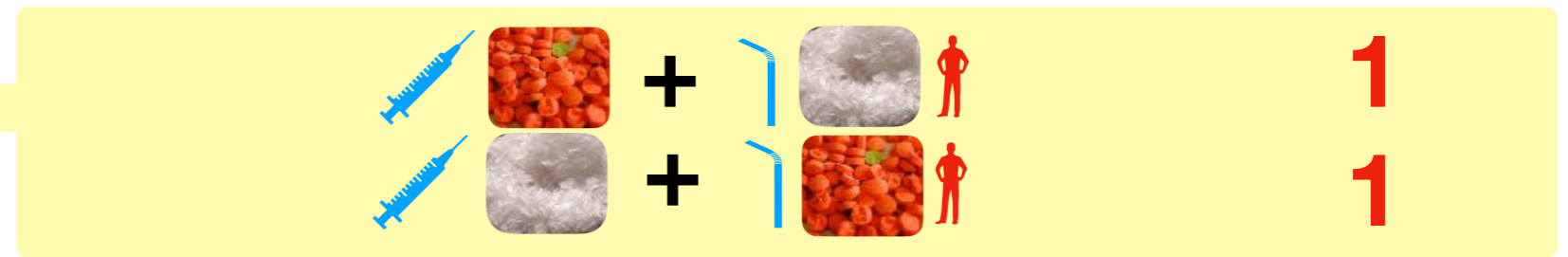
polydrugs



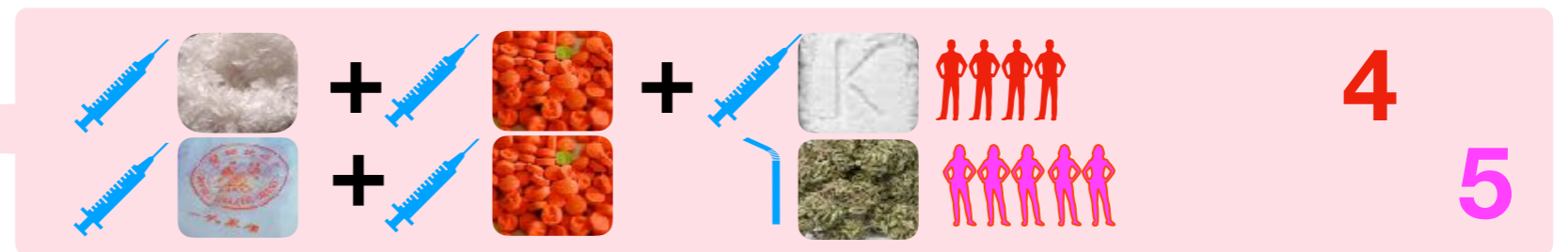
15



2



9



syringe & needles



Yellow	Green	Black	Sea Green	Red	Blue
G-20	G-21	G-22	G-23	G-24	G-25



mixture



Water



Normal Saline



Glucose



Vit K



Vit B



Diazepam



Instruments



43



Insulin needle



32



11

10



Syringe 3cc



2



8

10



Needle #25



5



5

5



Syringe 5cc



3



2

3



Needle #21



2



1



Preparation



lid of energy drink

drugs

lighter

mixture

needle



position



neck

brachial vein

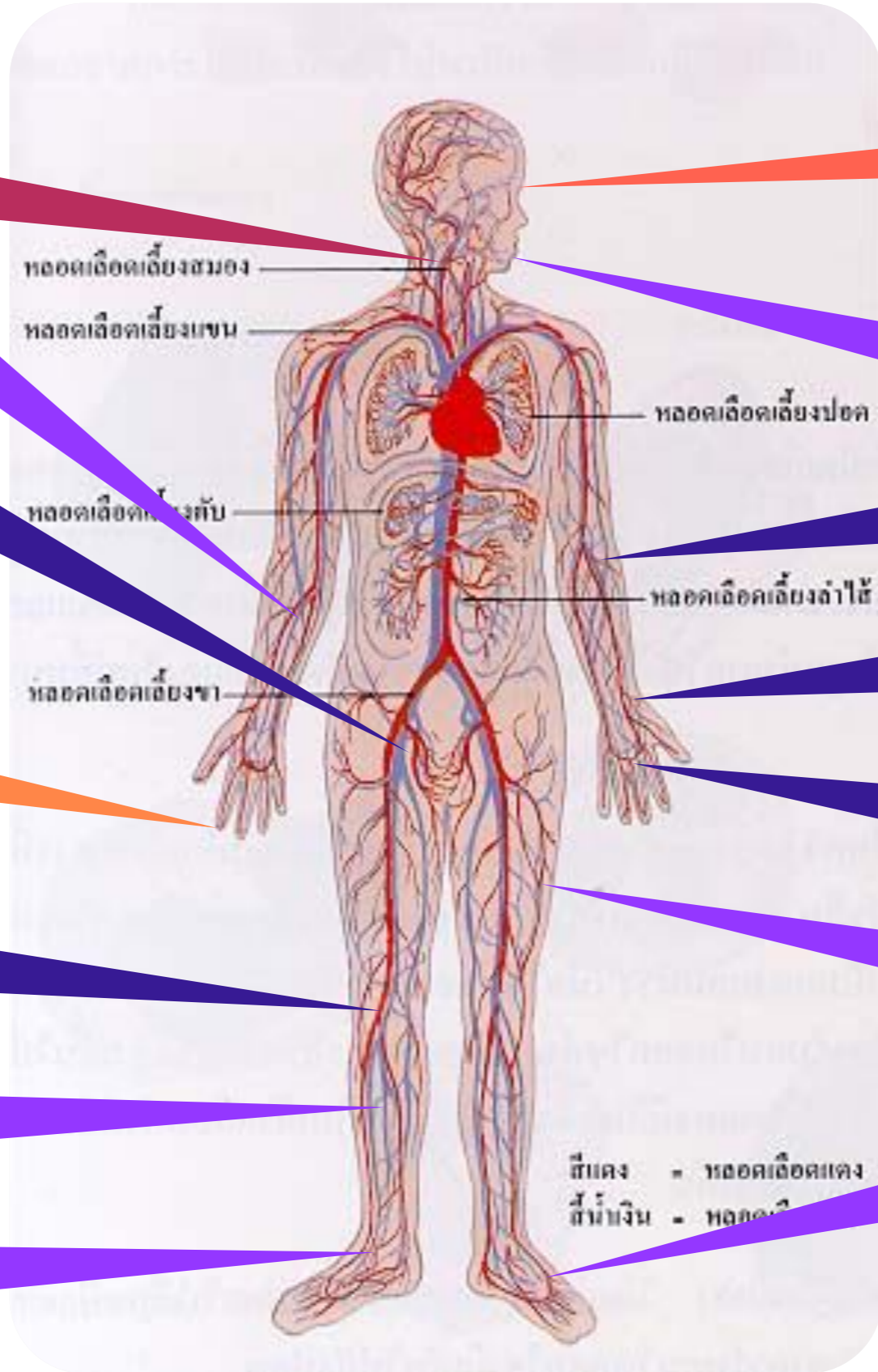
femoral vein

nail

popliteal vein

leg vein

ankle vein



eyelid (capillary)

lingual vein

capital fossa vein

radial vein (wrist)

basilic vein (backhand)

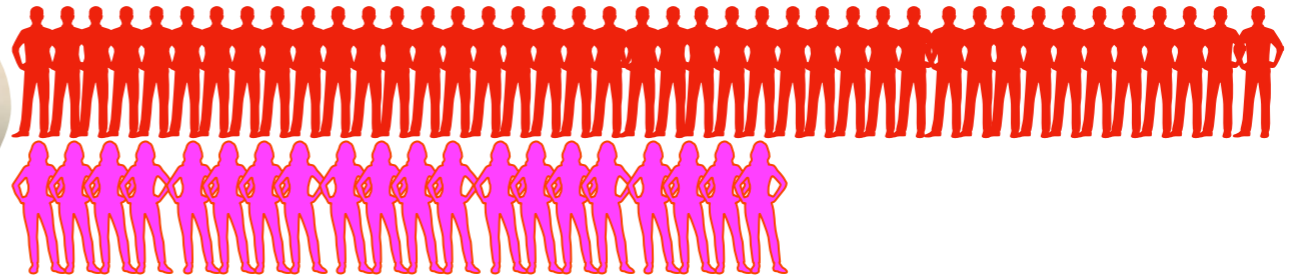
thigh capillaries/muscle

dorsalis pedis venous

position



cubital fossa vein
61



41
20

basilic vein
6



6

fingernail
2



2

radial vein
4



1
3

dorsalis pedis venous
3



1
2

brachial vein
1



1

position



neck

1



1

lingual

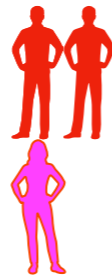
1



1

popliteal vein

1



2

1

thigh capillaries

1



1

femoral

1



1

leg

1



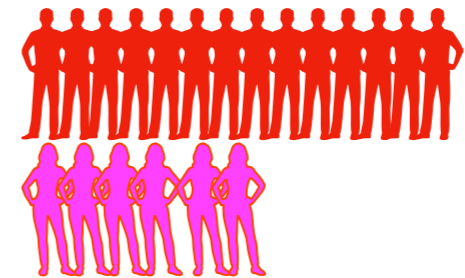
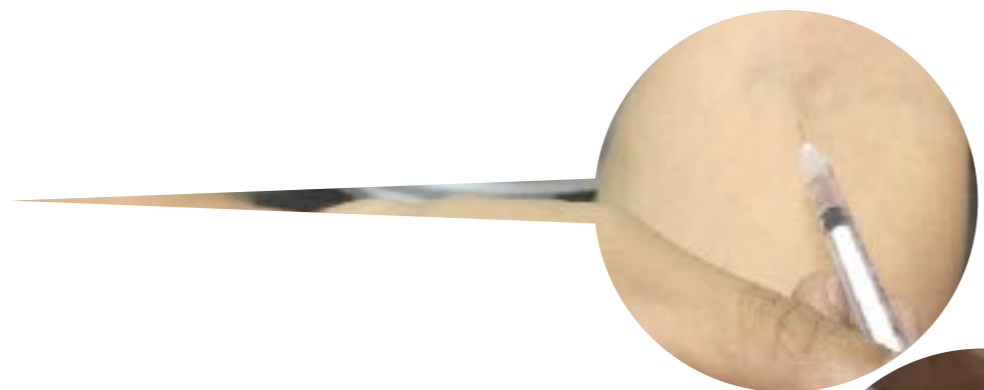
1



Injection Behaviour

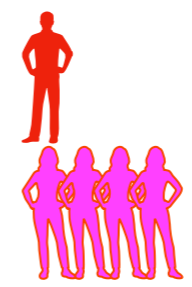
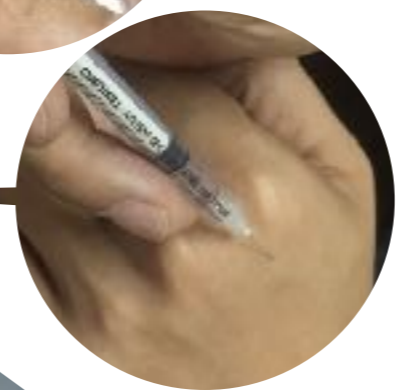


once
20



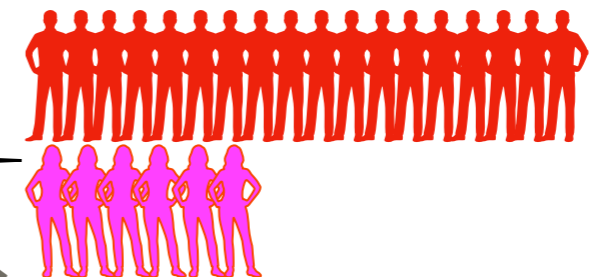
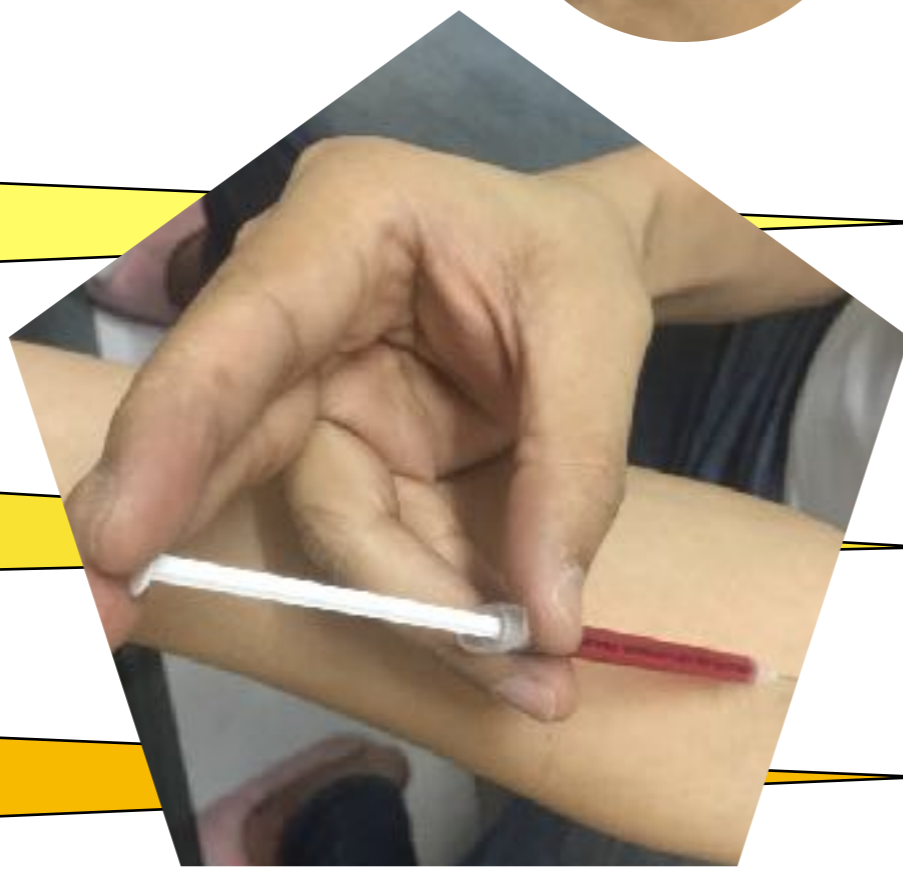
14
6

2-3cc stop 3-4 seconds
5



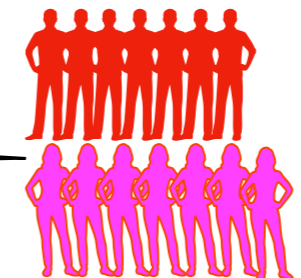
1
4

shoke 1
24



18
6

shoke 2
14



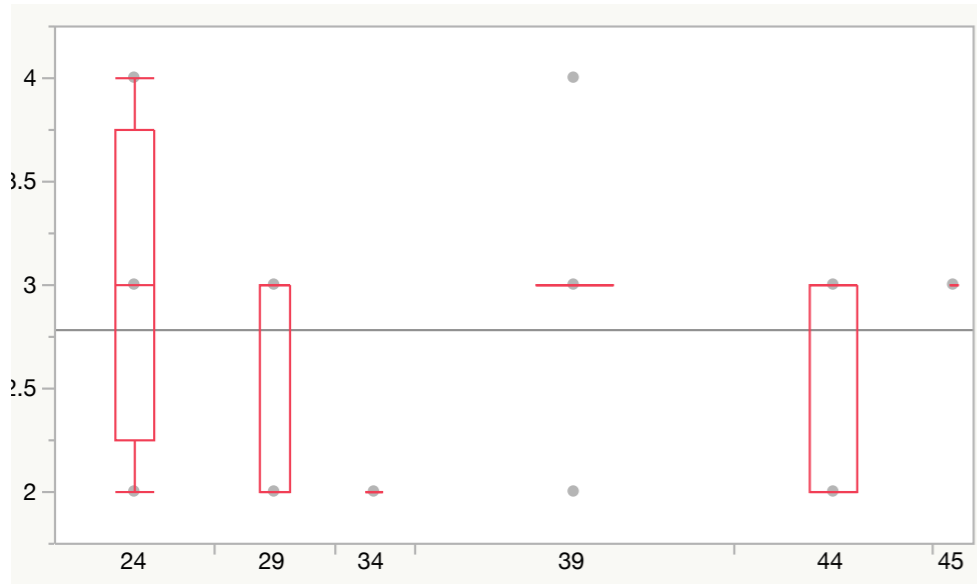
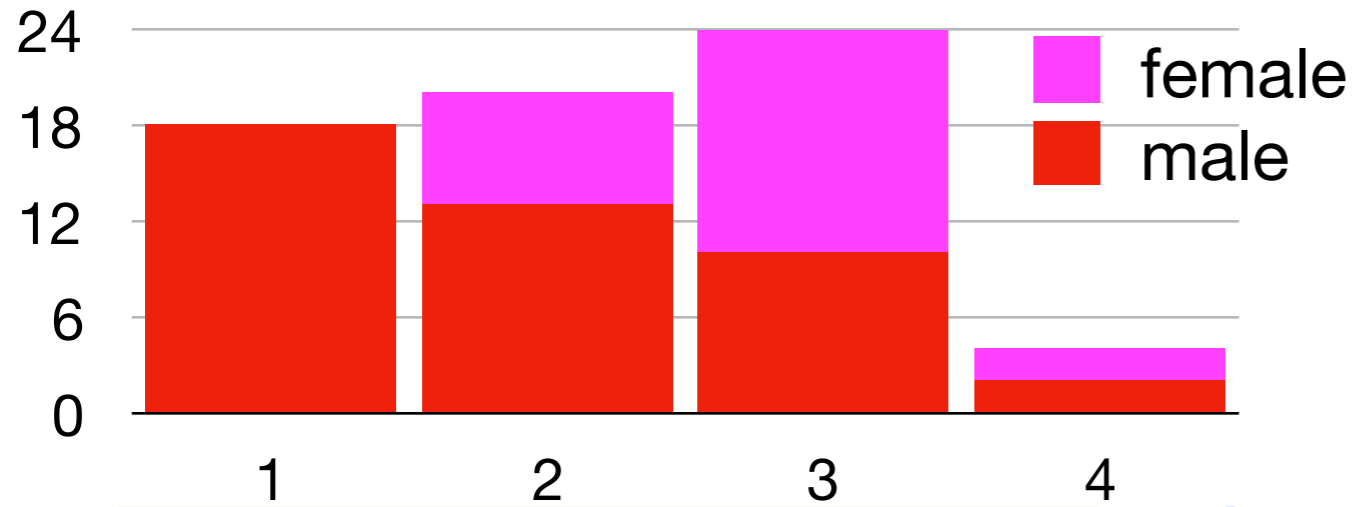
7
7

shoke 3-4
3

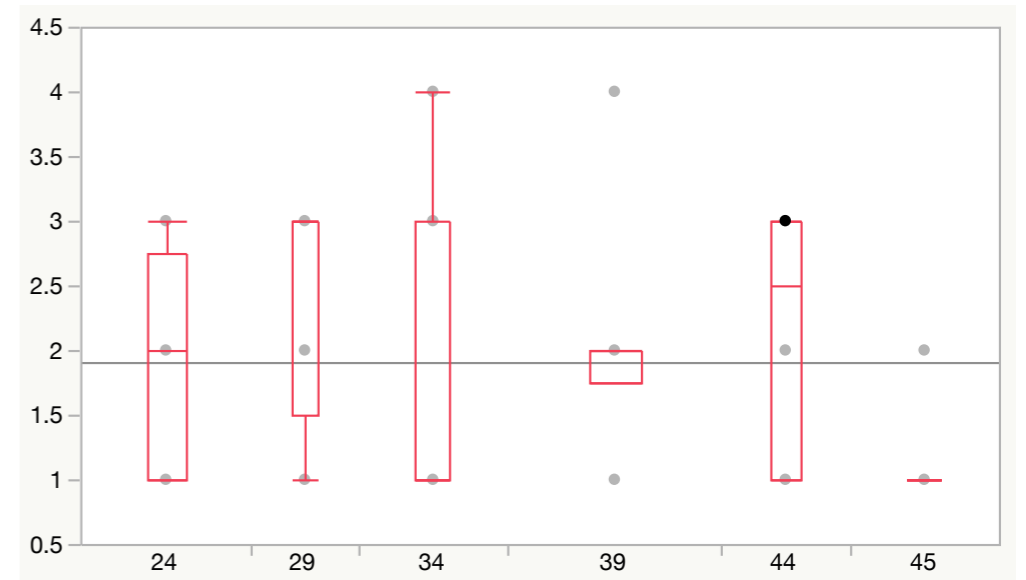


3

times a day



Avg 2.2
 Male 1.9
 Female 2.8




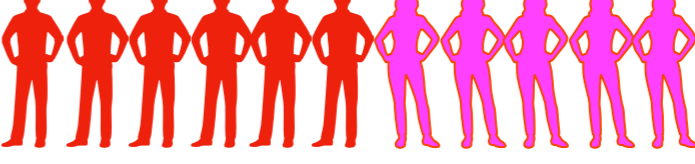

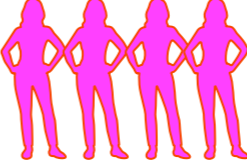
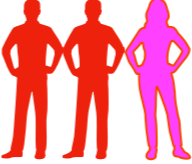




กลุ่มอายุ	Min	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%	Max
24	2	2	2.25	3	3.75	4	4
29	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
34	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
39	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
44	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
45	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

กลุ่มอายุ	Min	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%	Max
24	1	1	1	2	2.75	3	3
29	1	1	1.5	3	3	3	3
34	1	1	1	1	3	4	4
39	1	1	1.75	2	2	3.8	4
44	1	1	1	2.5	3	3	3
45	1	1	1	1	1	2	2

TOXIC



3	5-10 min. shock		3
1	suffocate		1
1	nose bleeding		1
11	cold		6+5
1	dizzy		1
4	lost conscious		4
3	shaking		2+1
1	vomiting		1
1	hearing		1

SUMMARY

Age average of IDUs was 34.6 years. 65.1% was males. 39.4% was married. 12.1% earned income from selling drugs.

The first onset of using drugs was as young as 11 years old. Two-third of IDUs used methamphetamine tablet as the first drugs. Age average of injecting drugs was 20.5 years with the lowest of 11 years old (injecting drugs during the same year as first drug used). The longest duration of injecting drugs was 23 years.

39.4% injected only one drugs. 21.2% switching their injection among several drugs at the time. 39.4% was poly drugs users (combined more than one drugs to inject each time). Heroin was popular among IDUs in the past. With the price increased at present, IDUs changed to methamphetamine injectors both Yaba and ICE. Most IDUs injected several drugs, switched or combined more than one drugs or combined with other psychoactive substances at the time of injection.

Most of IDUs were not scare needles, and needed fast drugs effects. IDUs was not the poor, had purchasing power, and were better off