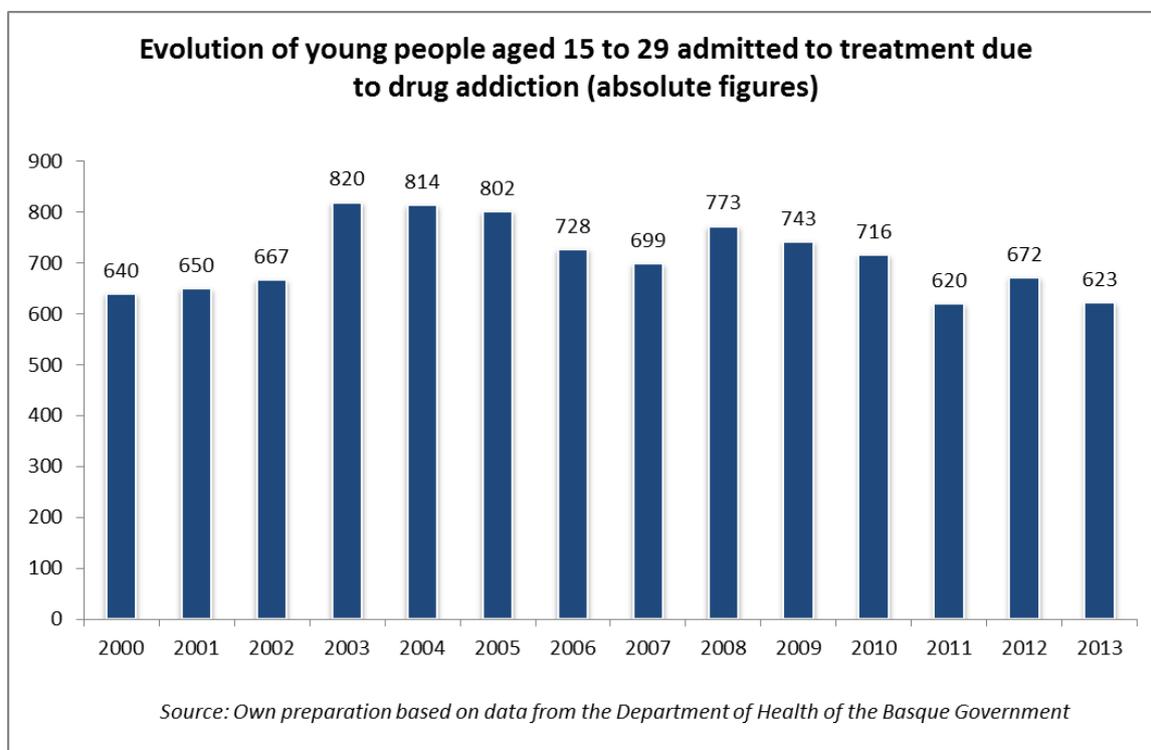


First drug addiction treatments among Basque youths are decreasing

In 2013, two out of every one thousand young people aged 15 to 29 had to start treatment for drug addiction

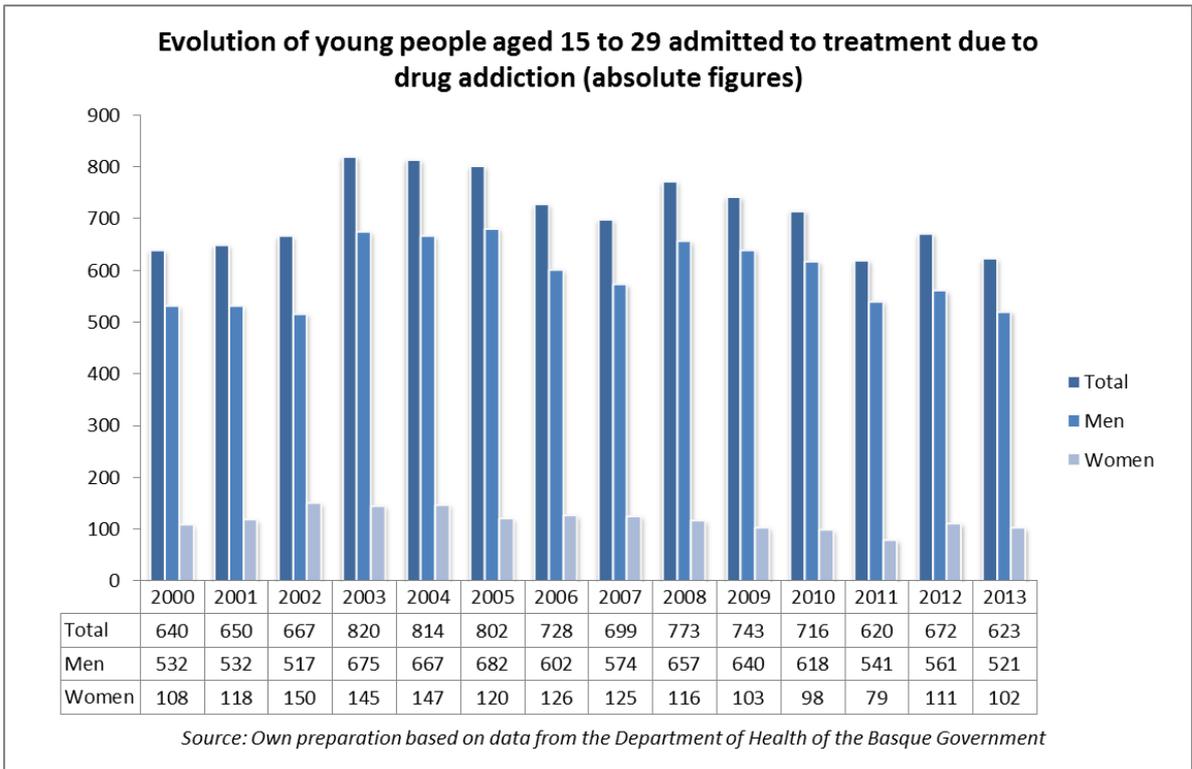
The First Treatment for Drug Addiction is a key indicator of the impact of drug use among the population. This indicator reports the annual number of people who start treatment due to the abuse of or dependence on psychoactive substances in a given year and is produced by the SIT, Drug Abuse Information System of the Knowledge Management and Assessment Unit of the Basque Government's Health Department.

In 2013, six hundred and twenty-three (623) young people aged 15 to 29 started treatments for drug addiction in the Basque Country. Over the last decade we witnessed a maximum number of treatments in 2003, with 820 cases, and since then, numbers have fallen gradually.



In addition to the smaller number of cases, we must also highlight that young people aged 15 to 29 account for 23% of all the people who began drug abuse treatments in 2013.

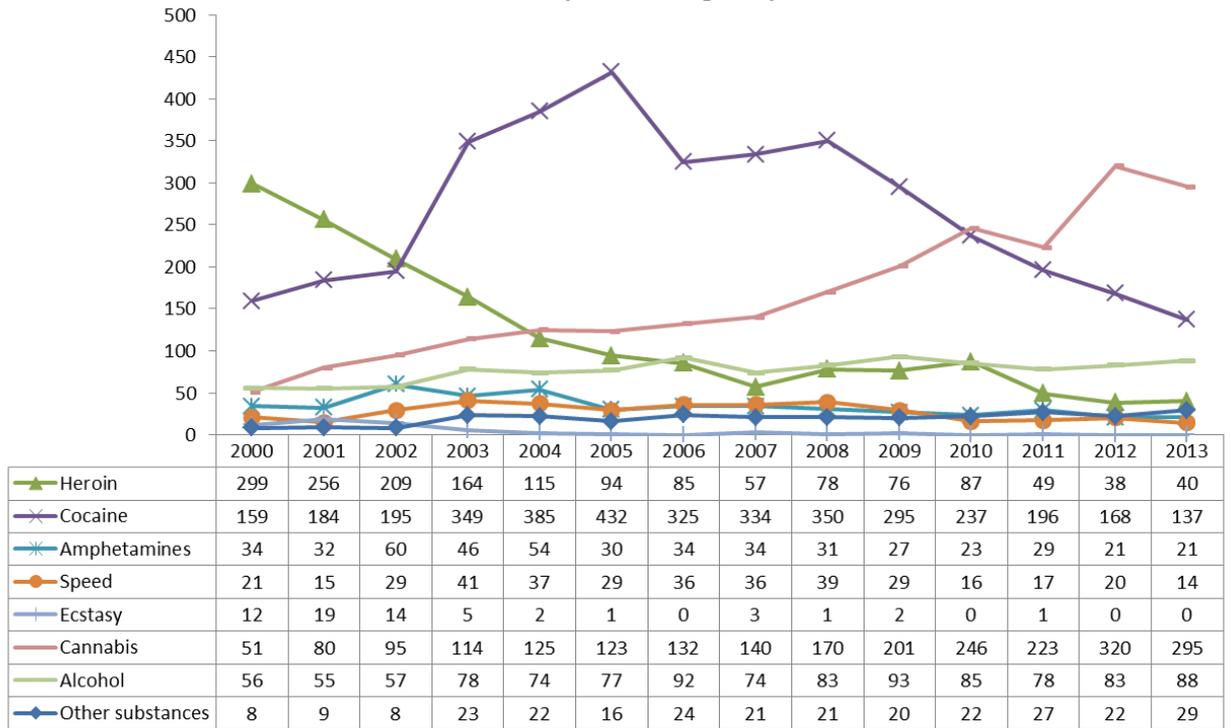
In line with the higher rate of illegal drug use among men, **the vast majority (84%) of young people who started treatments were men**, a proportion that has remained stable throughout the period studied.



If we calculate first treatment rates, i.e. how many people aged 15 to 29 for every 1000 people in that age group started drug abuse treatments in 2013 due to issues related to alcohol or other drugs, we find that two out of every 1000 young people in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country started some type of drug abuse treatment (2.03 per 1000 young people aged 15 to 29 compared with 1.2 for the total population). The rate is considerably higher among men (3.4 per 1000) than among women (0.7 per 1000 women in that age range).

The main drug that led to people seeking treatment in 2013 was cannabis, with 295 cases, resulting in 47% of first treatment cases. **It was followed by cocaine**, with 34% of cases and 137 first treatments in 2013. The evolution of first treatments for the two main substances has changed in recent years. Between 2000 and 2013, cannabis-related cases gradually increased until it became the main cause for first treatments in 2010, taking the place of cocaine, which has seen a reverse evolution in recent years.

Evolution of young people aged 15 to 29 admitted to treatment due to drug addiction (absolute figures)



Source: Own preparation based on data from the Department of Health of the Basque Government

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