

What Service Users Want from Treatment: How is this addressed in policy and Treatment Planning?

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The Questions

- What do service users want from treatment?
- How well placed are we to elicit this information?
- How inclined are we to use the information on drug users wishes/views in shaping treatment?

Drug Users Aspirations from Treatment

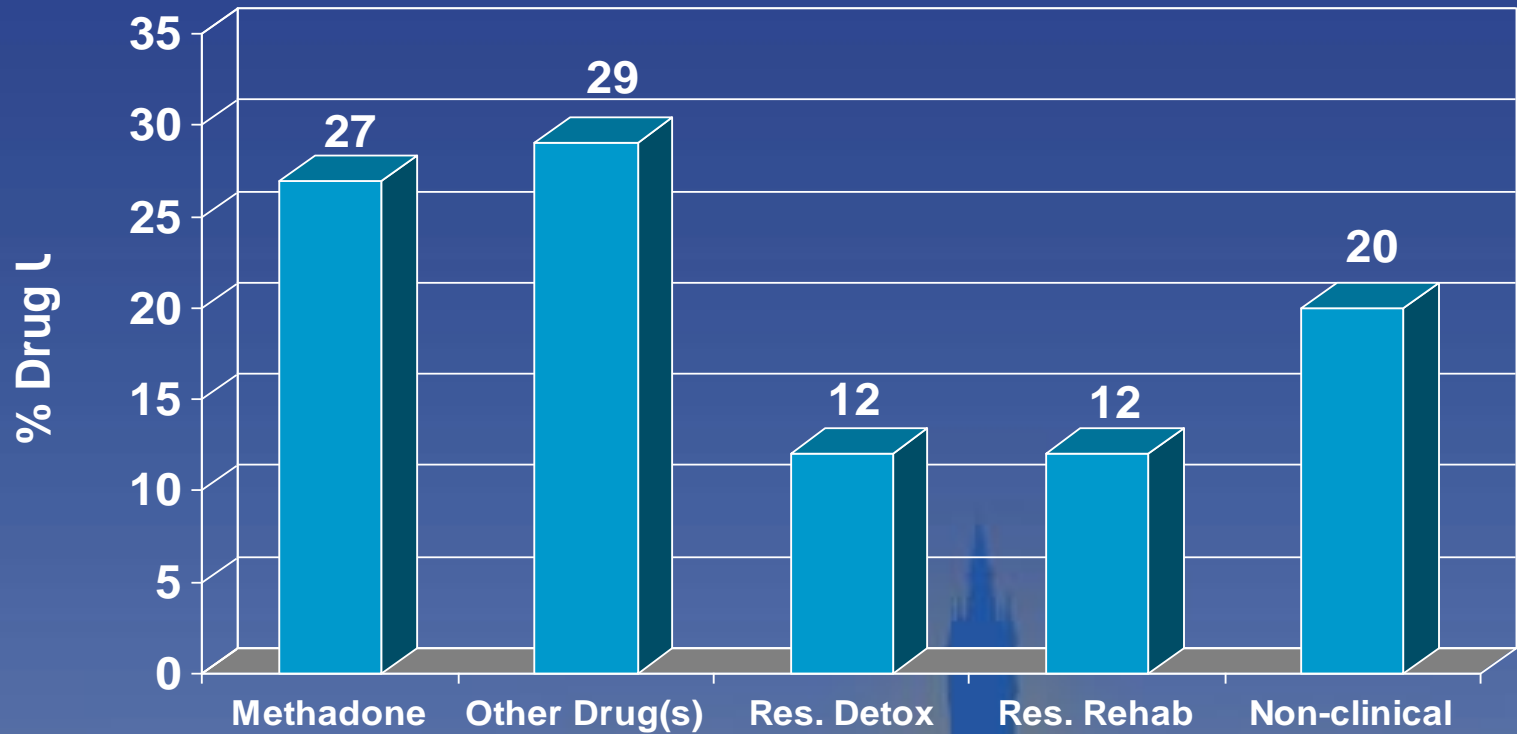
- Drug Outcome Research in Scotland Study
- Scottish equivalent to NTORS



Drug Outcome Research in Scotland Study

- Stage One: Baseline Interview 1007 drug users interviewed in 2001
- Stage Two: 8 month interview -85% follow up
- Stage Three: 16 month interview -83% follow up
- Stage Four: 33 month interview -70% follow up

Treatments started at DORIS 1



Biographical Details

	DORIS 1
Male	69%
Female	31%
White British	99%
Mean Age	28 years

Drug Use Profile of Respondents

	DORIS 1
Used heroin in last three months	87%
Used crack in last three months	25%
Injected in last three months	59%
Homeless	15%

What do drug users want to get out of treatment

What change or changes in your drug use are you hoping to achieve on the basis of contacting this agency?

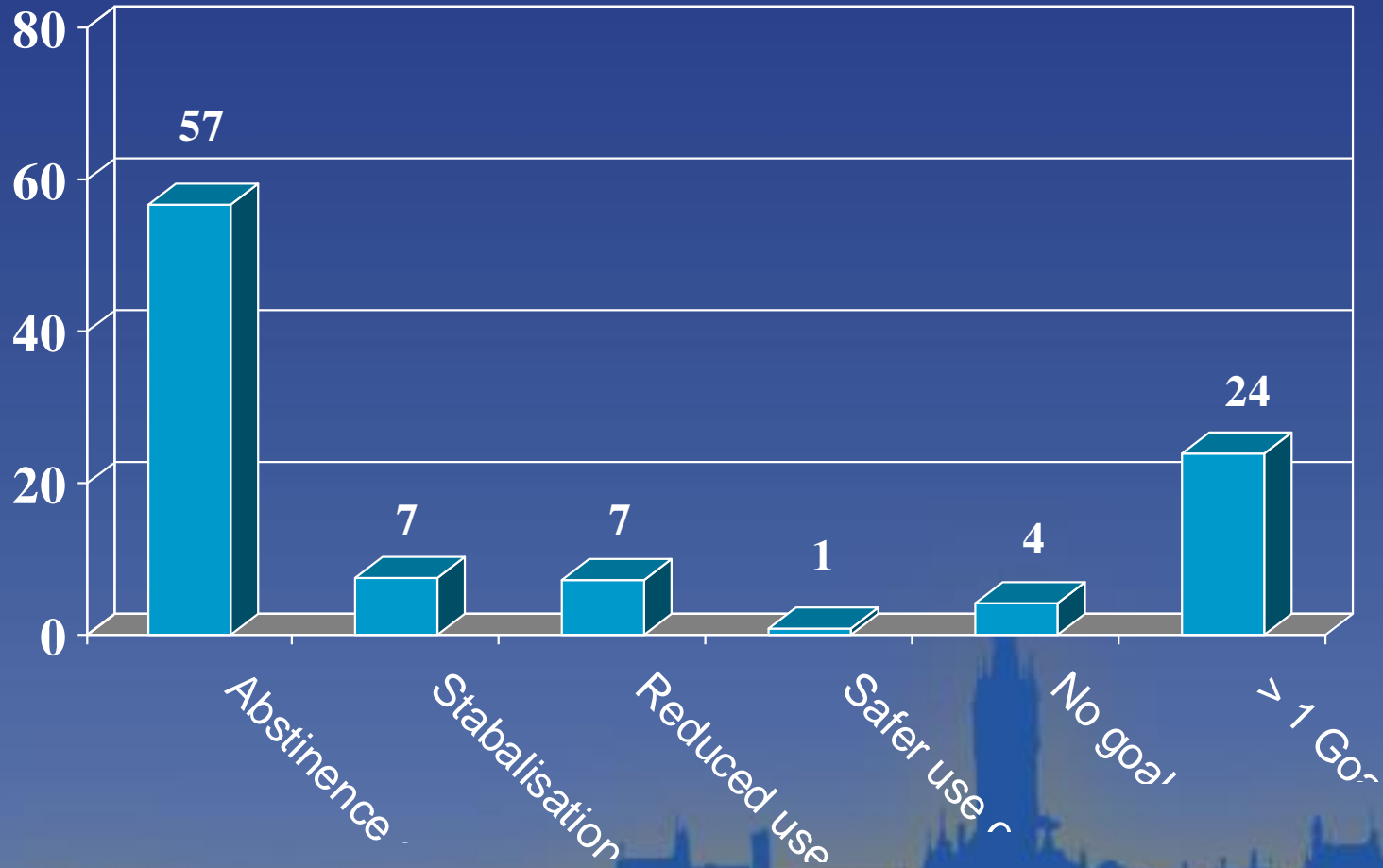
1. Abstinence / drug free
2. Reduced drug use
3. Stabilisation
4. Safer drug use
5. No goals
6. Other goals

Aspirations of Drug Users on Contacting Drug Treatment Services

- 76% of drug users questioned identified a single goal for their treatment

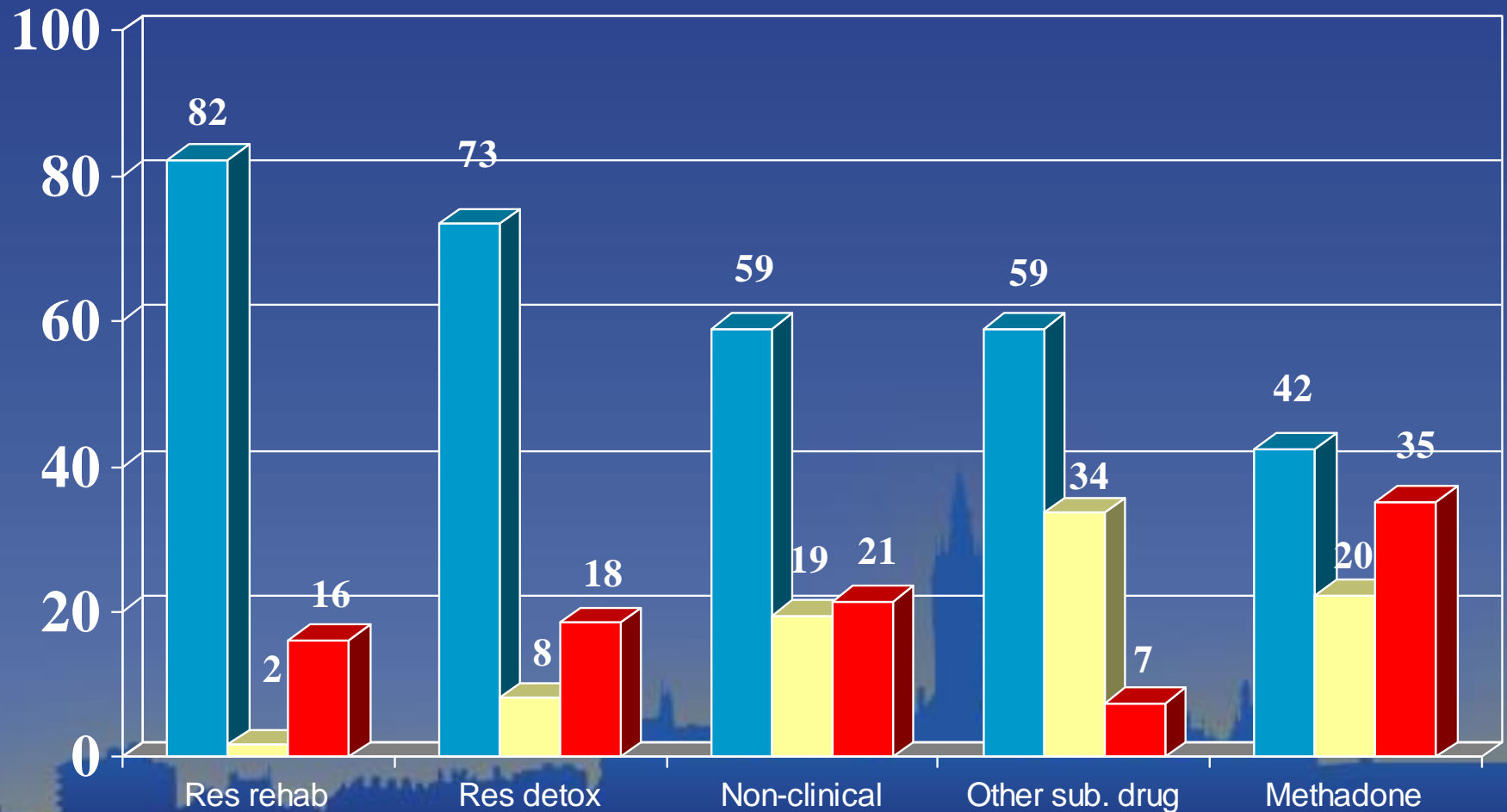


Treatment Goals

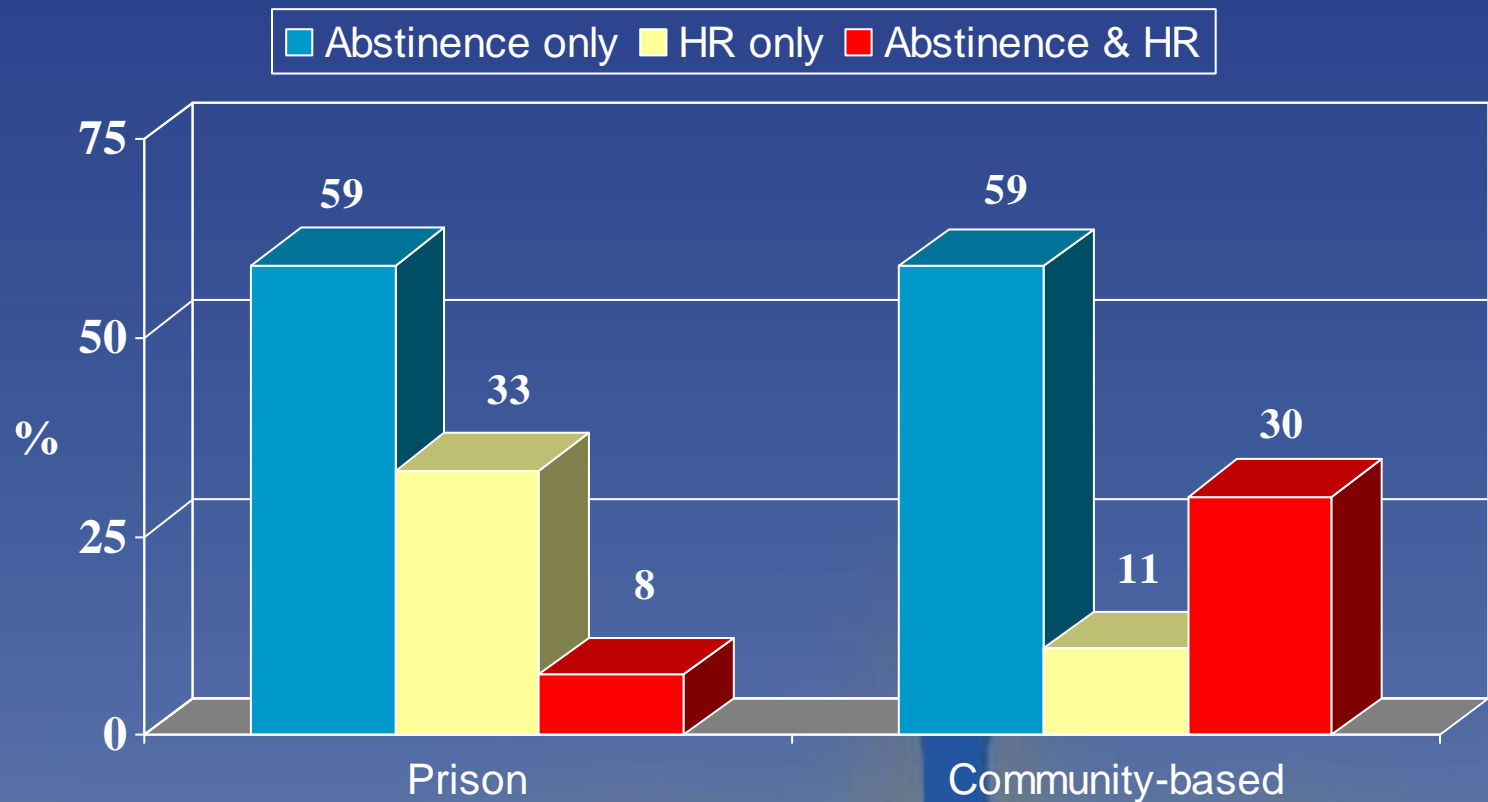


Aspirations by Treatment Type

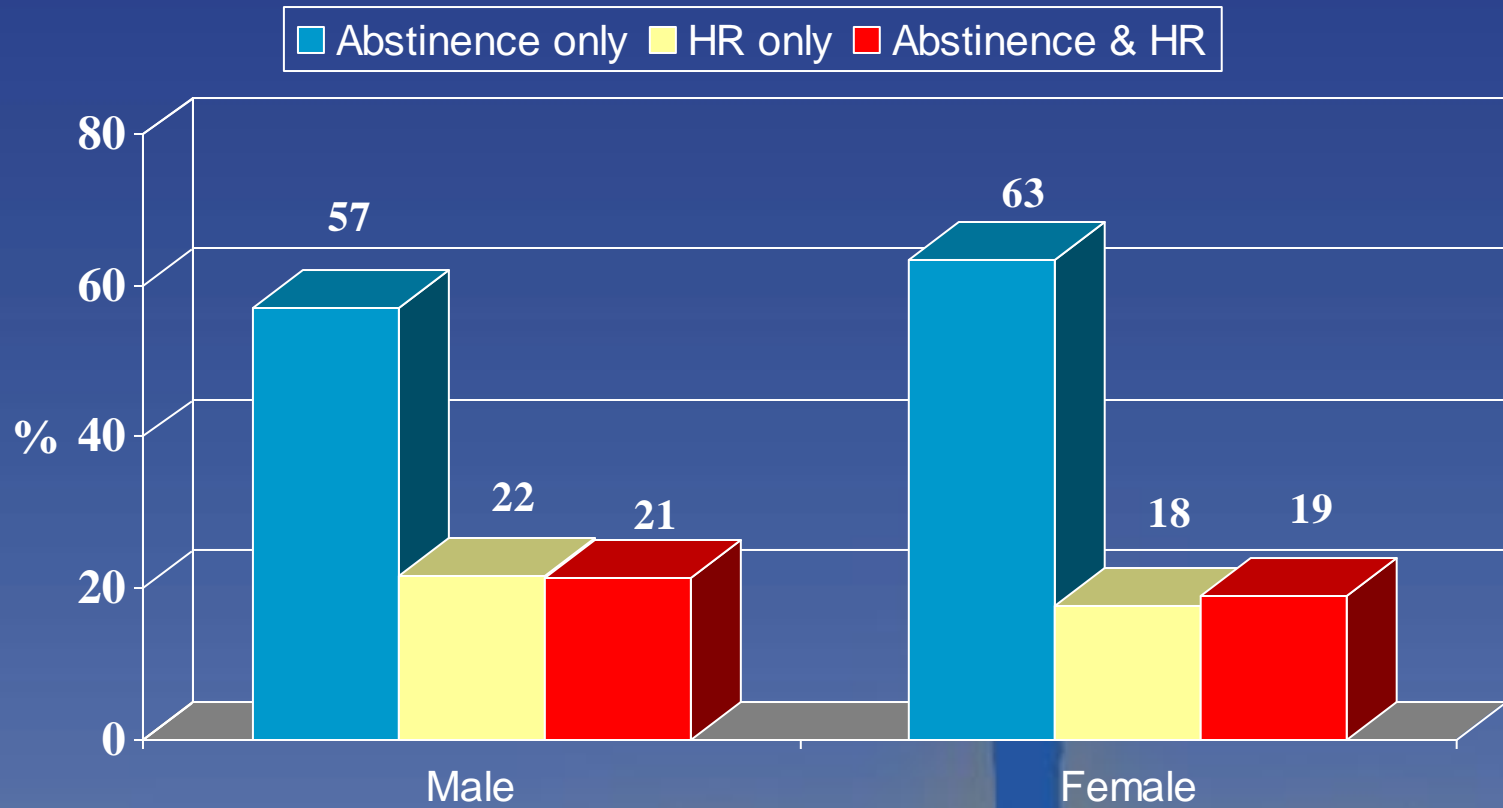
■ Abstinance only ■ HR only ■ Abstinance & HR



Aspirations by Treatment Setting



Aspirations by Gender



Reactions to Findings

- Drug users starting treatment want to become drug free
- Findings regarded as deeply controversial, stating the obvious, disregarded on the basis that addicts would say that wouldn't they.

The Medics Response

Addicts who embrace an ultimate goal of enduring abstinence should be assisted in every way possible, but they must be advised with brutal frankness of the low prospect of success - and the grim, potentially fatal, consequences of failure.

Robert Newman,
Drugs Education Prevention and Policy, 2005

The Policy/Treatment Analyst Response

For most clients independence and self respect will be found in the successful steps made towards abstinence

Mike Trace, Former Deputy Drug Czar, 2005



The Drug User Rights Response

This research tells us something that we should know already that there are people who want to stop using drugs and who are seeking help to do this. And it would seem obvious to me that if someone is consistently and clearly asking for help to stop using drugs that a well thought out attempt at this should be facilitated as quickly as possible

Bill Nelles, Executive Director, The Alliance, 2005

The Recovery Response

All substance misuse treatment should adopt a recovery orientation even harm reduction. By fostering independence instead of creating further dependence and by accepting a holistic approach to drug treatment and not just client management through prescribing substitute drugs we will be able to respond to clients, raise aspirations and meet their needs.

Peter Martin, Chief Executive, Addaction 2005

The Executive Response

- It is high time we ended the unhelpful obsession in trying to prove whether abstinence or harm reduction strategies are best. The most effective treatment will always depend on the circumstances of the individual addict: there is no one size fits all solution. (Scottish Executive Spokesperson Sept 5/2005)

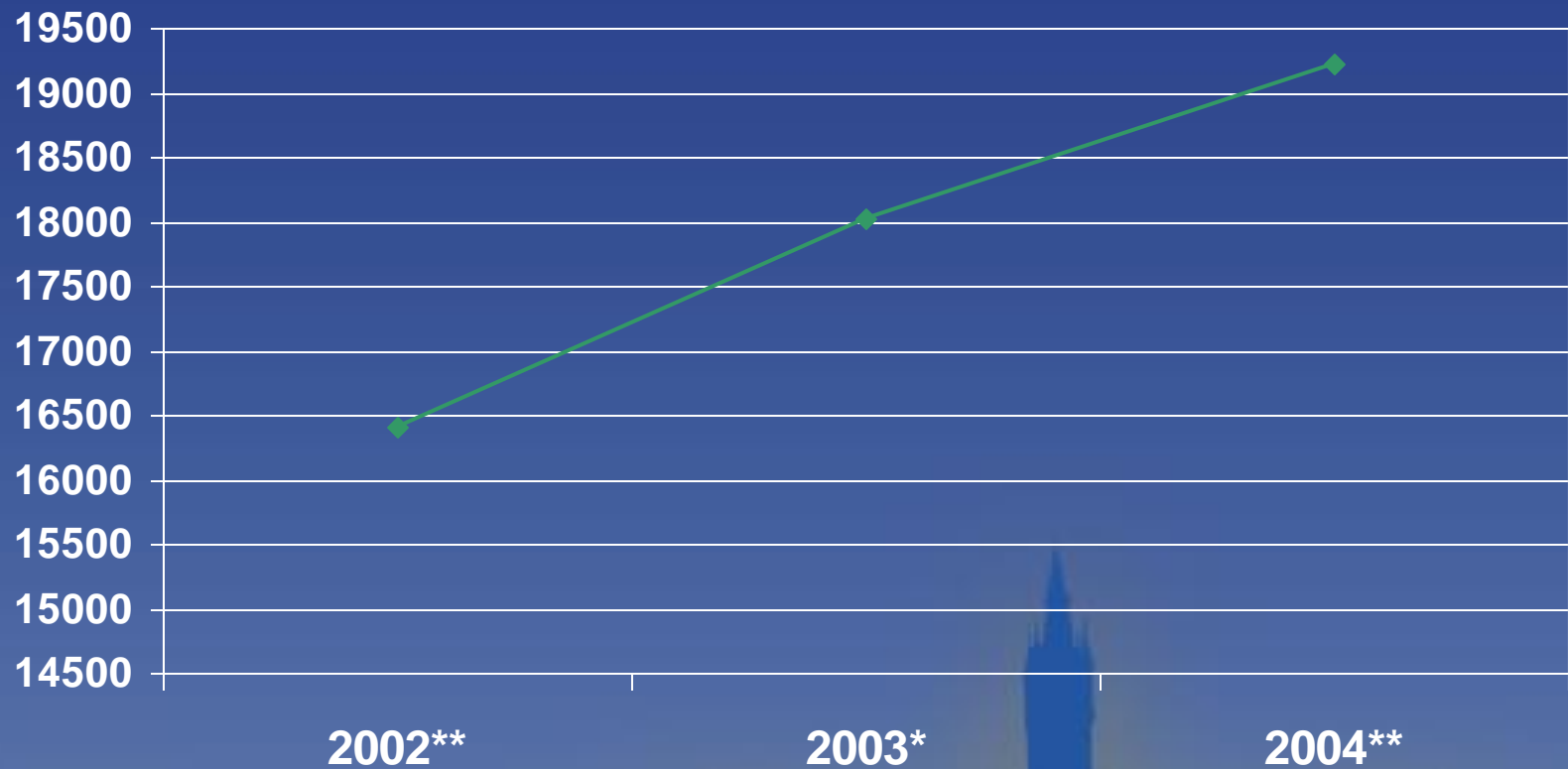
Drugscope Response

- A proper responsiveness to users of drugs and medical services is about hearing what they say and want as part of a process of discussion and negotiation that should be framed by the evidence base and the professional competencies of service providers and informed by the stated goals and desires of service users which are indispensable data but not unassailable prognoses. (Roberts 2004)

What do drug users get by way of treatment in Scotland



Estimated number of methadone clients in June-July 2002, 2003 and 2004



* - Core estimate

** - Extrapolated estimate

Conclusions

- Drug users are looking to become drug free through contacting drug treatment services but predominantly what we are giving them is access to methadone.
- We need to ensure a greater array of treatment services and we need to ensure that those services can assist drug users in becoming drug free.
- It is evident in the reaction to the findings on abstinence that within the drug treatment sphere there is by no means a universal acceptance of the voice of the client.
- We need more innovative in ensuring user involvement in the design, implementation and the operation of drug treatment services.