

# • European Conference on Drug-Related Violence

- This presentation was delivered at the European Conference on Drug-Related Violence on 26-27 November 2024 in Brussels. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

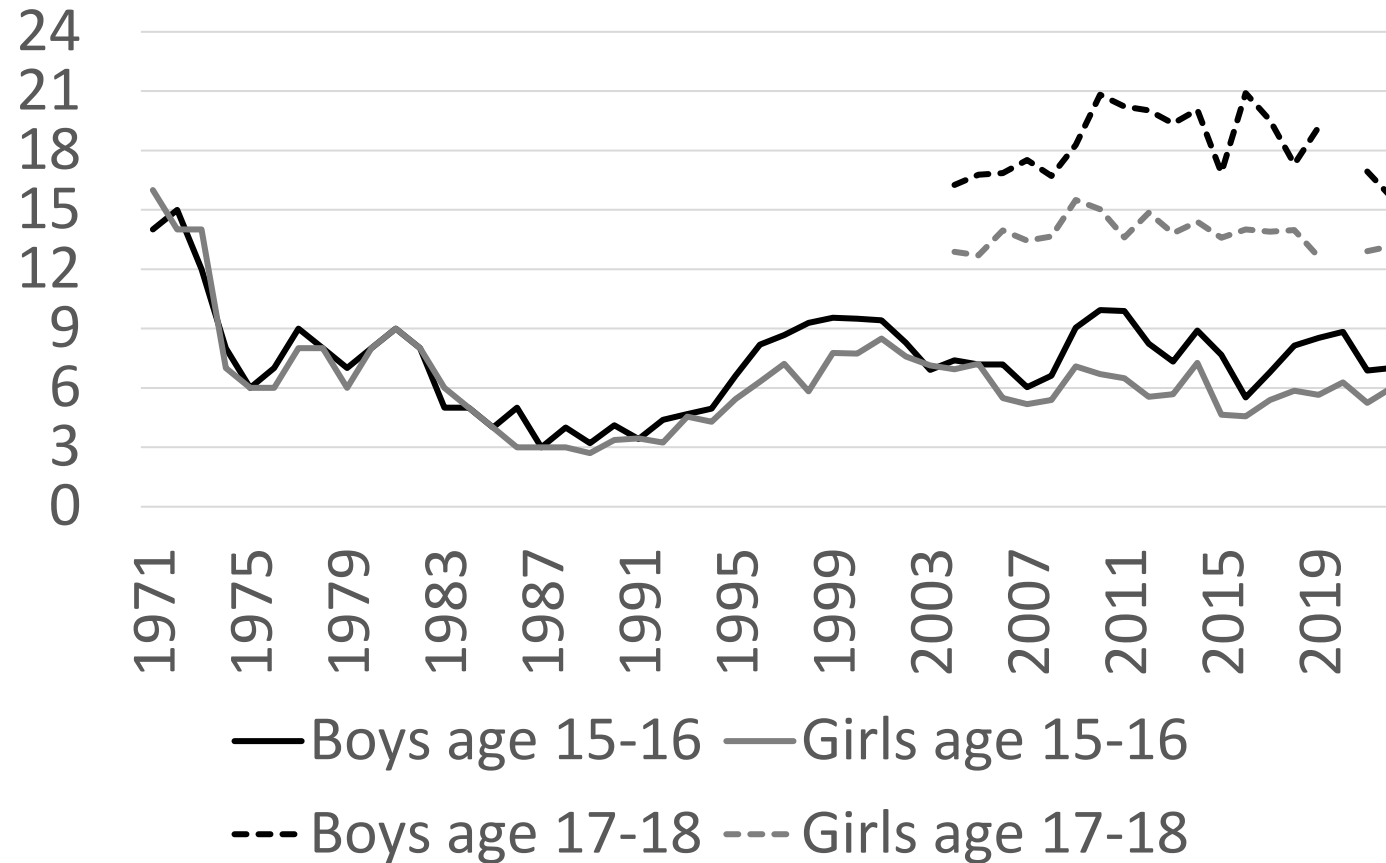
# Criminalization of use of drugs in Sweden

## Results and costs

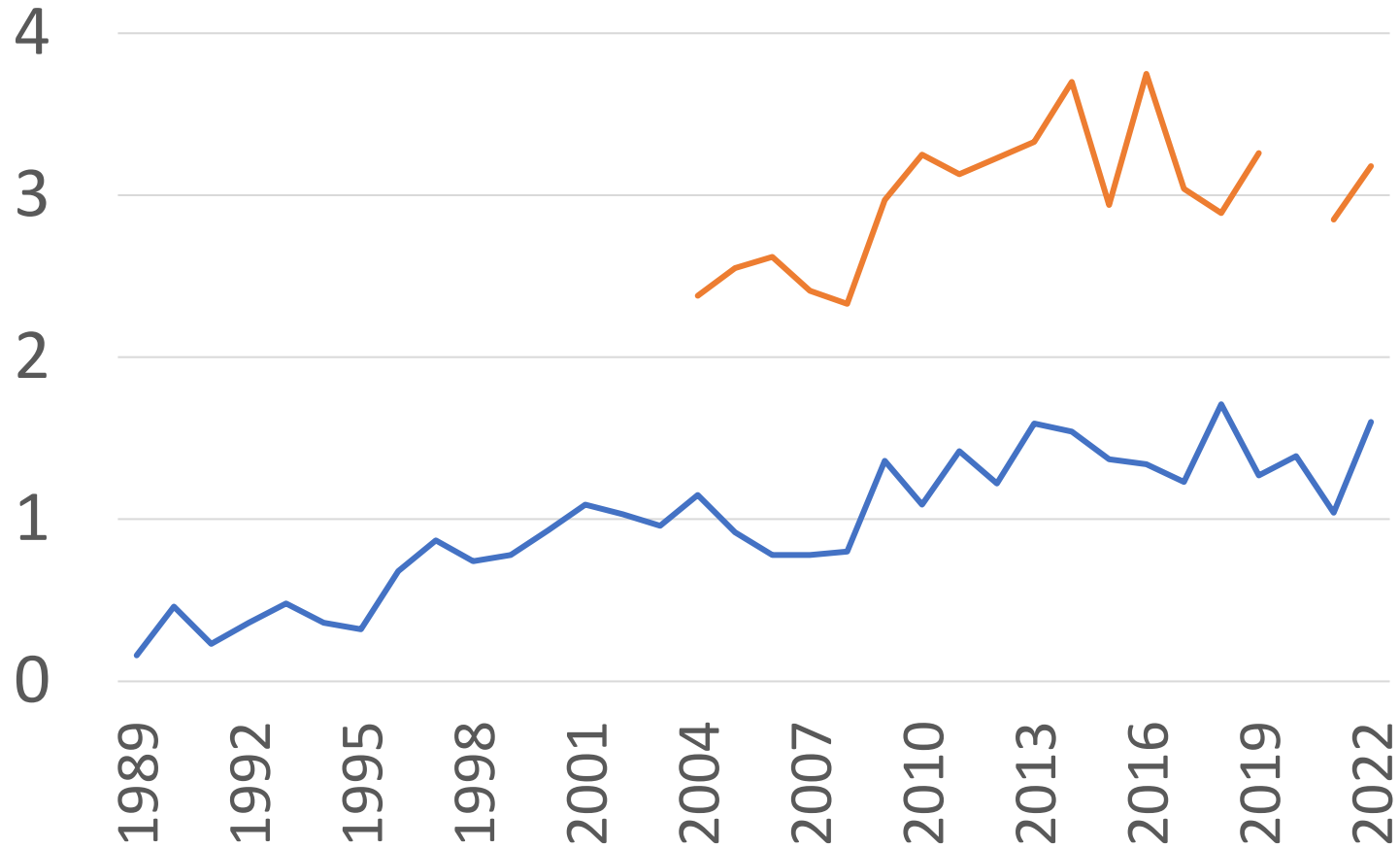
European Conference on Drug-Related Violence  
Brussels, 26-27 November 2024

Henrik Tham

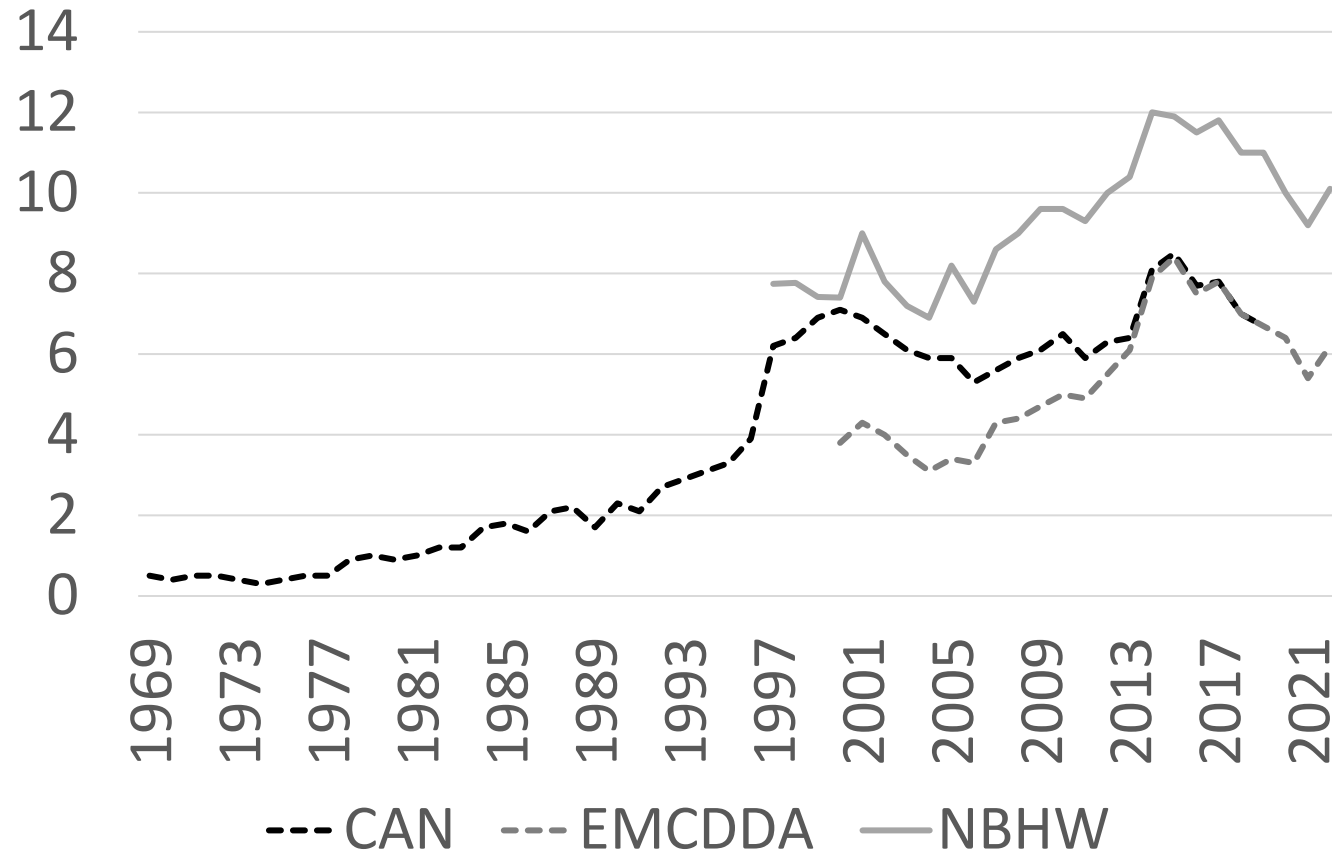
# Proportion (%) of boys and girls who report ever having tried drugs, 1971 – 2022 and 2004 - 2022



**Proportion (%) of pupils who have used drugs more than 20 times, 1989–2022 (15-16 years) and 2004–2022 (17-18 years)**



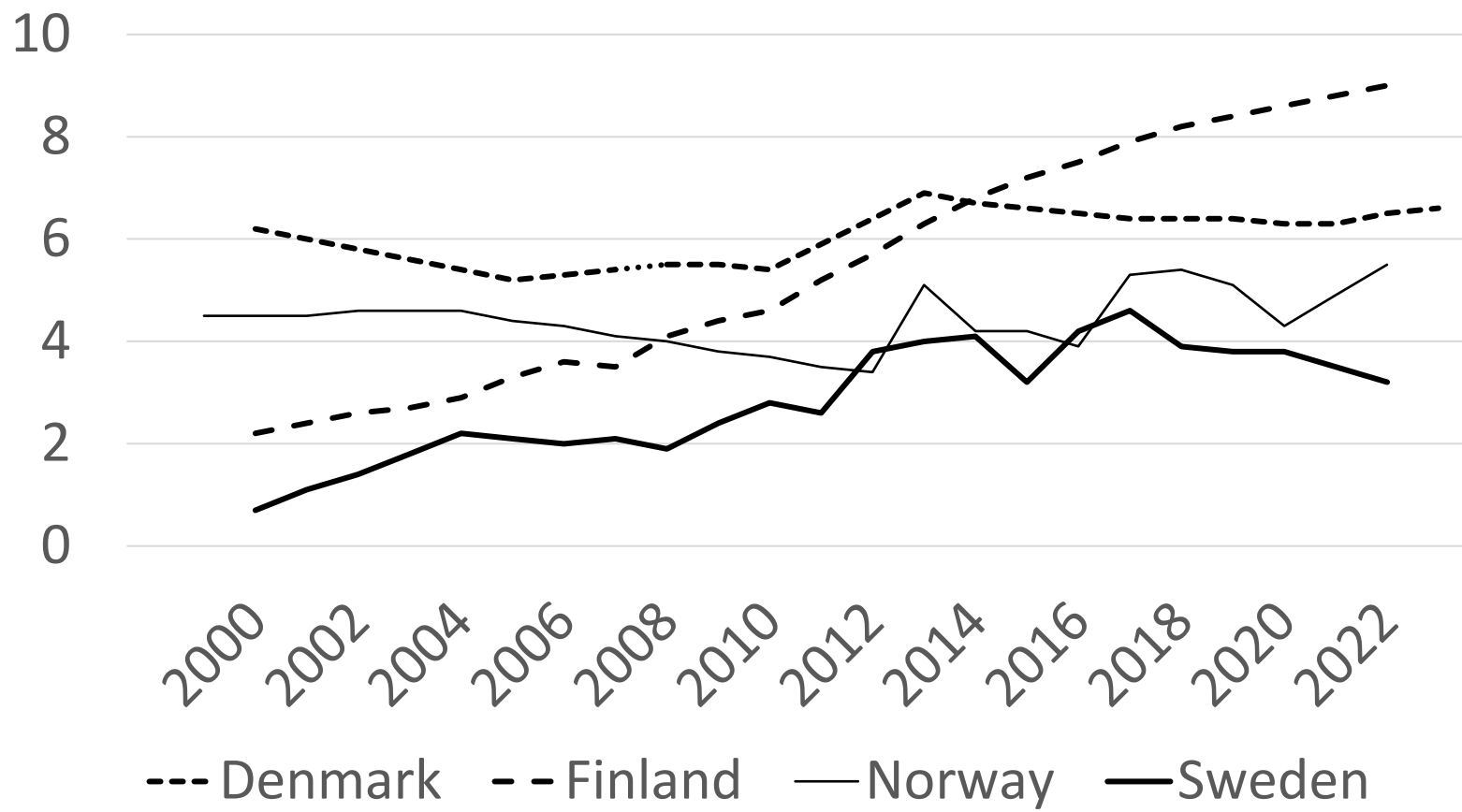
# Drug-related mortality according to different indicators per 1000 000 inhabitants



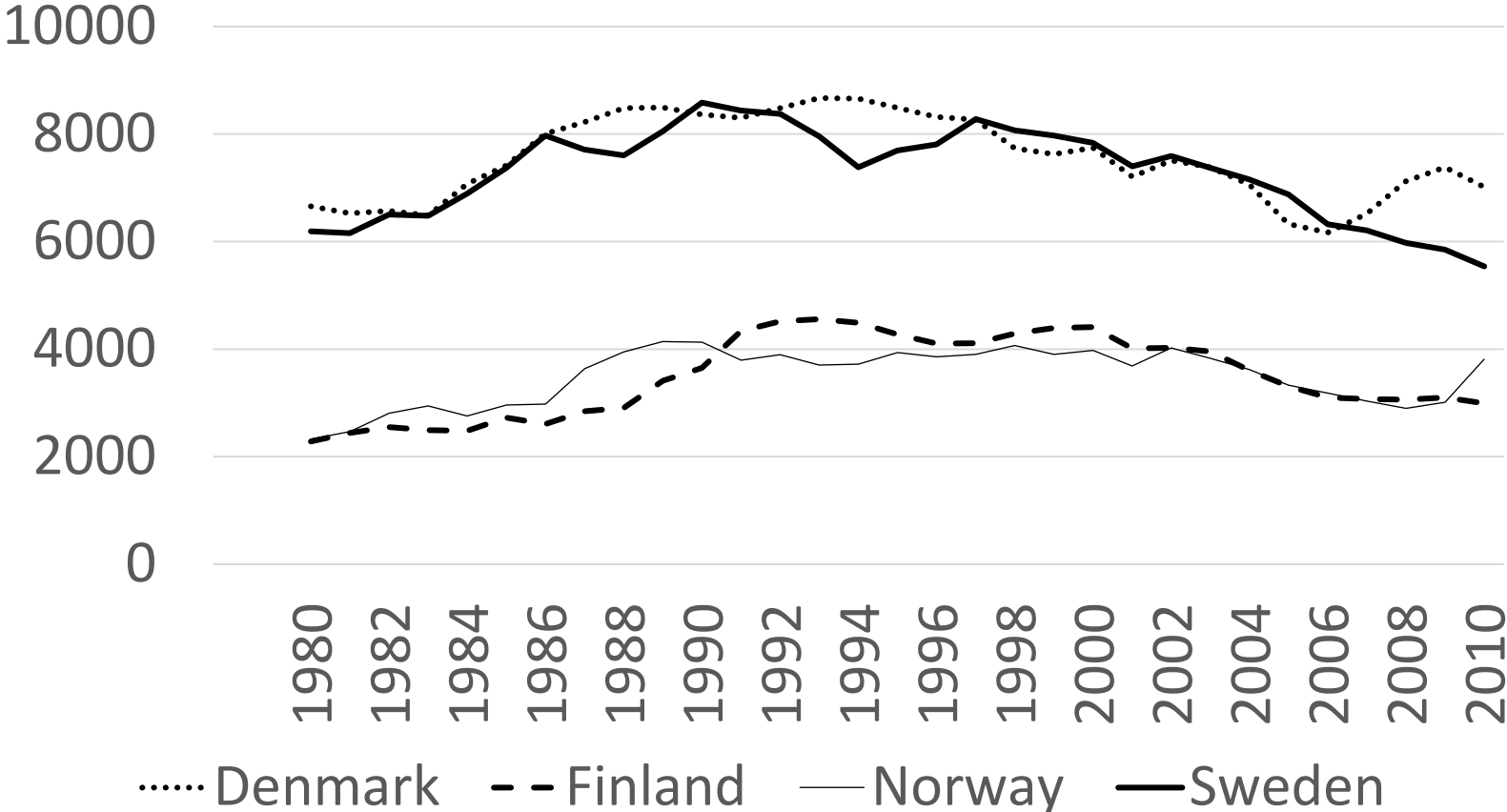
# Use of different programs and penal practice in drug policy in the Nordic countries

	• Denmark	Finland	Norway	Sweden
• A drug-free society	no	no	no	yes
• Substitution treatment	yes	yes	yes	yes
• Needle provision	yes	yes	yes	yes
• Heroin prescription	yes	no	yes	no
• Drug consump. Rooms	yes	no	yes	no
• Personal use criminalized	no	yes	yes	yes
• Blood/urin testing	no	no	no	yes

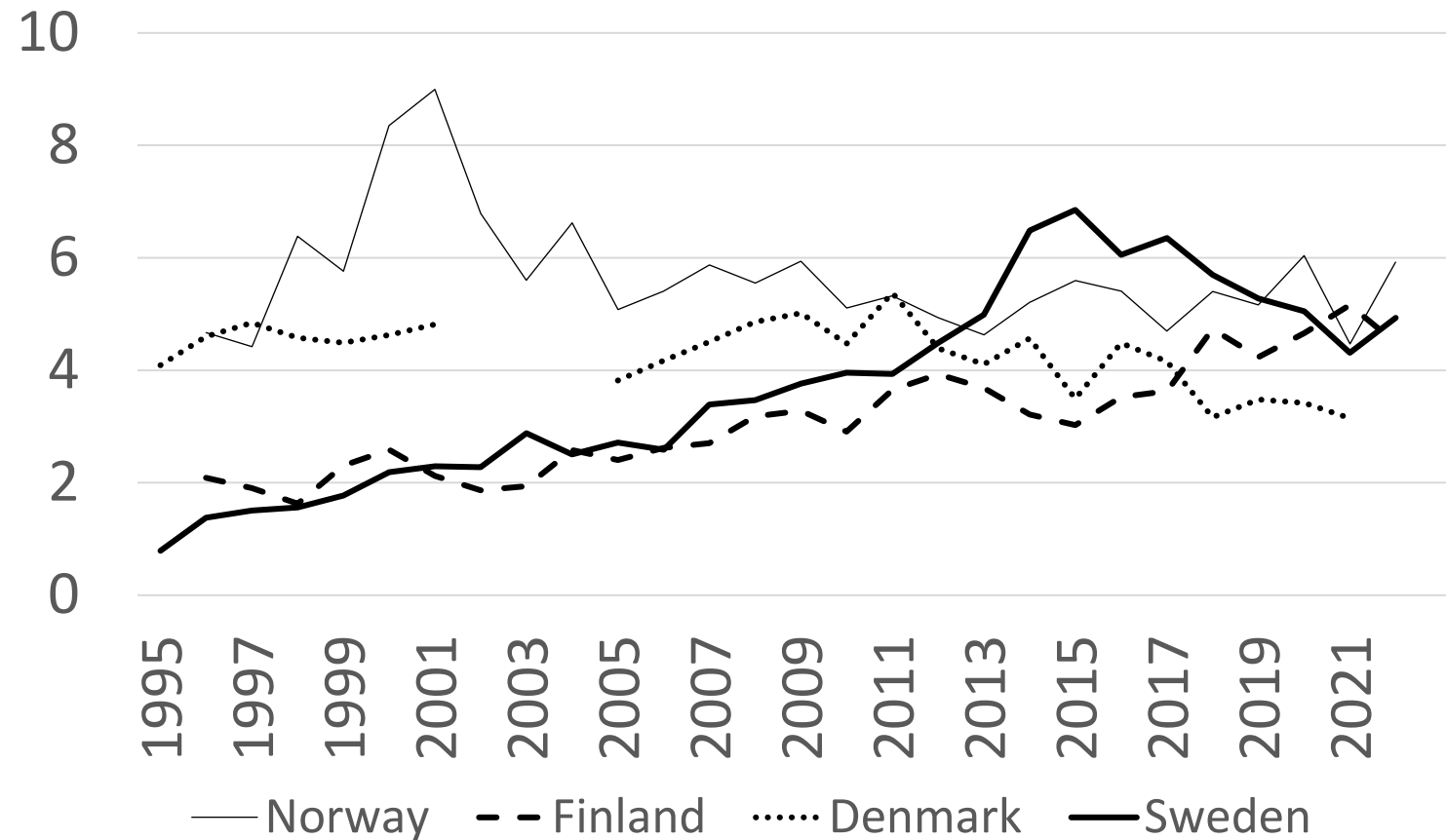
# Proportion of 15 – 64-years-old who have used cannabis in the Nordic countries, 1999/2000 – 2022/2023



# Theft reported to the police in the Nordic countries, 1980 - 2010



# Drug-related mortality in the Nordic countries, 1995/1996 – 2021/2022



# Control costs

- Resources and prioritisations of the criminal justice system
- Legal certainty
- Discrimination and legitimacy
- Criminal record
- Gang-related murders?

The drug policies of the Nordic countries have been relatively strict. Since this seems to contradict the internationally recognized liberal criminal policy in general, analyses have been devoted to try to understand this gap. The new question in relation to drug policy is, however, if and how the Nordic countries will adapt to a new situation when several countries all over the world are questioning 'the war on drugs' and orienting themselves in the direction of decriminalization and legalization.

The Nordic project on the possible change in drug policies tries to answer, or at least illuminate, different questions, such as: What signs are there of changing drug policies in the direction of the reduced use of penal law? What arguments are used in the public discourse to challenge earlier policies? What obstacles are there to change in terms of justifications, fears and actors?

The volume is of interest to anyone who is engaged, practically, politically or intellectually, in the question of drug policy in a situation where the scenes are changing quickly.

The 14 authors from the five Nordic countries have great experience in conducting research in the field of drug policy and represent different disciplines: criminology, sociology, social work, history and law.

Retreat or Entrenchment? Henrik Tham (ed.)

# RETREAT OR ENTRENCHMENT?

Drug policies in the  
Nordic countries  
at a crossroads

Edited by Henrik Tham

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