

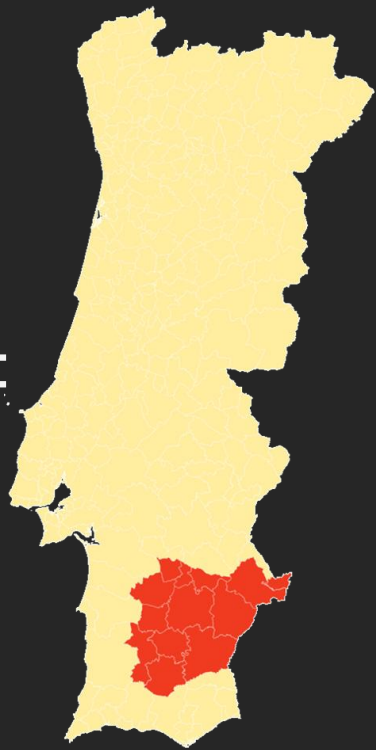
Overview of Emergency Department visits for Suicidal Behaviour from 2006 to 2016 in Baixo Alentejo, Portugal

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Baixo Alentejo
(NUTS III)

8 543 Km²

Population (2011):
126 692



Objective

To analyze sociodemographic data from patients who visited the Emergency Department for suicidal behavior from 2006 to 2016.

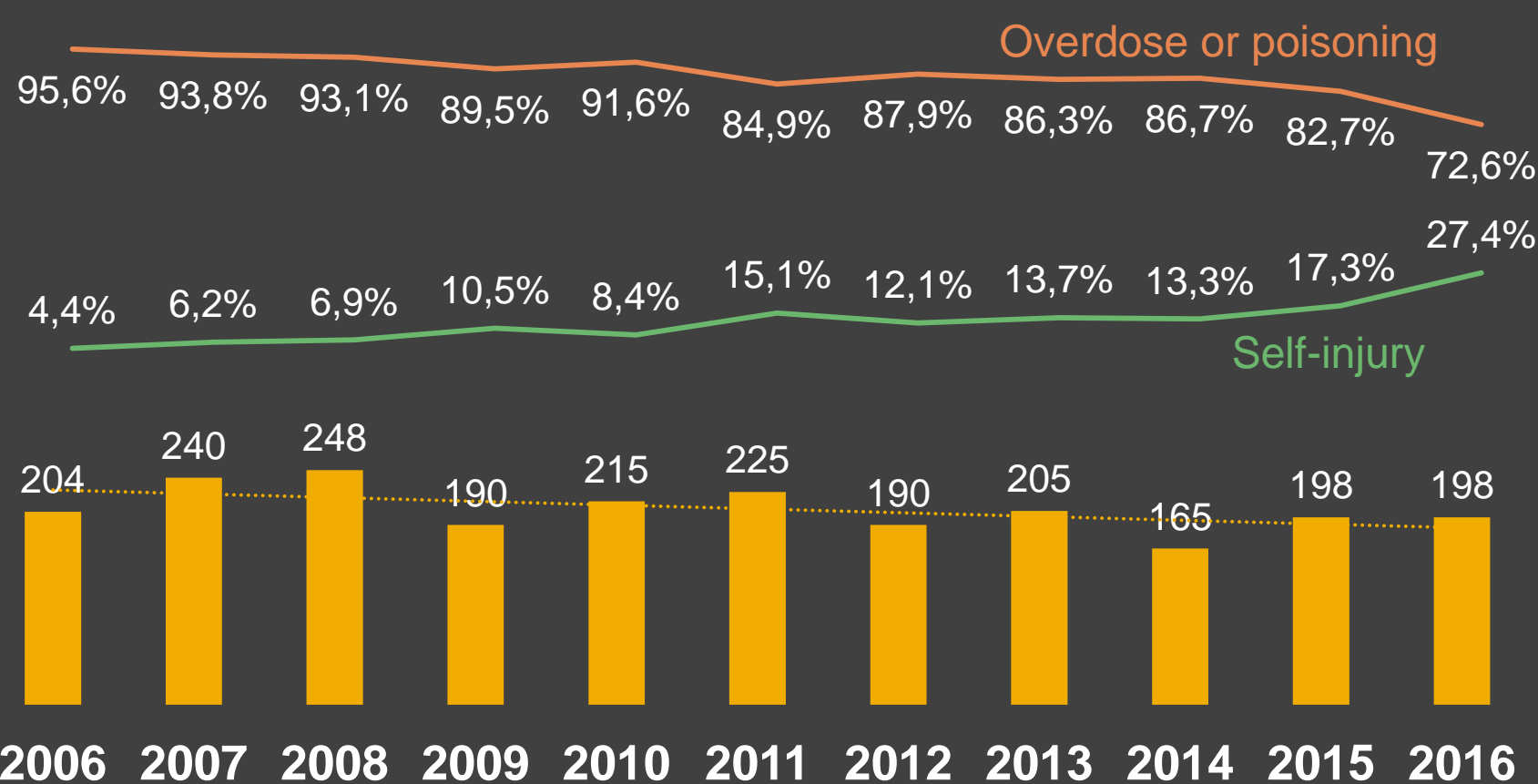
Methods

The sample includes visits to the ER assigned the following Manchester Triage System flowcharts: "Overdose or poisoning" and "Self-injury" (n=2271). The data analysis was performed in SPSS.

➤ **Manchester Triage System** ➤ **"Overdose or poisoning"**
"Self-injury"

Highlights:

- "Overdose or Poisoning" and "Self-injury" accounted for 0.4-0.5% of the ED admissions, on a 9:1 ratio.
- 68,8% were female and 63,7% were 20 to 49 years old.
- The geographic dispersion of individuals is not even and the age distribution varies by location.
In certain municipalities suicidal behavior is more common in younger people and in others it is more observed in the elderly.

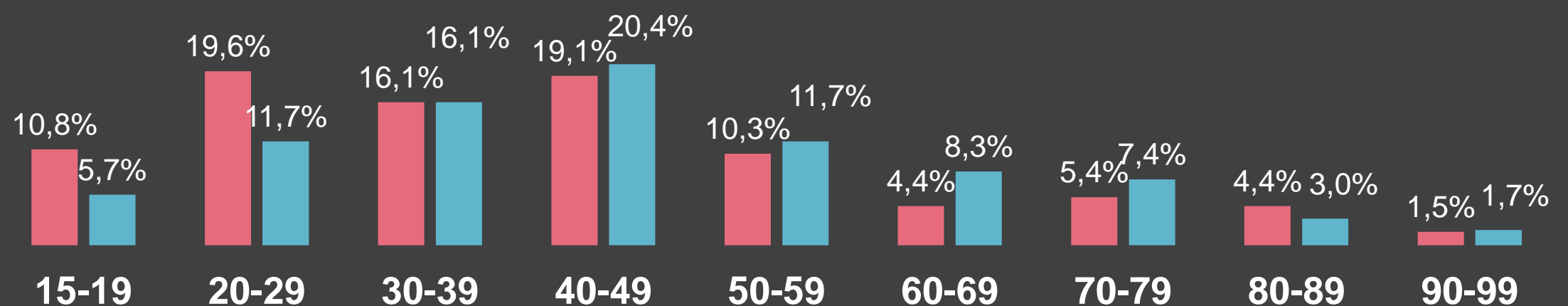


Evolution of Emergency Department visits assigned with "Overdose or poisoning" or "Self-harm" flowcharts.

The bars show the absolute frequency of visits and the lines represent the assignment of "Overdose or poisoning" (orange) and "Self-injury" (green) flowcharts

Admissions for "Self-injury" did not increase in absolute value, but there was a gradual change in gender distribution. Initially it was more observed in men, but since 2011 women present with auto-aggression methods in higher number.

Distribution by age in 2006 (pink) and in 2016 (blue)



Conclusions:

- Suicidal behaviour demographics in Baixo Alentejo have changed in the last decade
- It is important to continuous evaluate over time, both for studying the behavior itself and for developing preventive intervention strategies in the community.
- We also need to determine the validity of using the Manchester Triage System to retrospectively study suicidal behaviour in the Emergency Department.

