



HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS
AND PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

“In full compliance with human rights standards and norms, the United Nations advocates a careful re-balancing of the international policy on controlled drugs. We must consider alternatives to criminalization and incarceration of people who use drugs and focus criminal justice efforts on those involved in supply. We should increase the focus on public health, prevention, treatment and care, as well as on economic, social and cultural strategies.”

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

26 JUNE 2015

Cost-effectiveness of harm reduction and incarceration of people who use drugs



US\$ 1 spent on harm reduction in Australia returns **US\$ 5.50** in averted health-care costs.

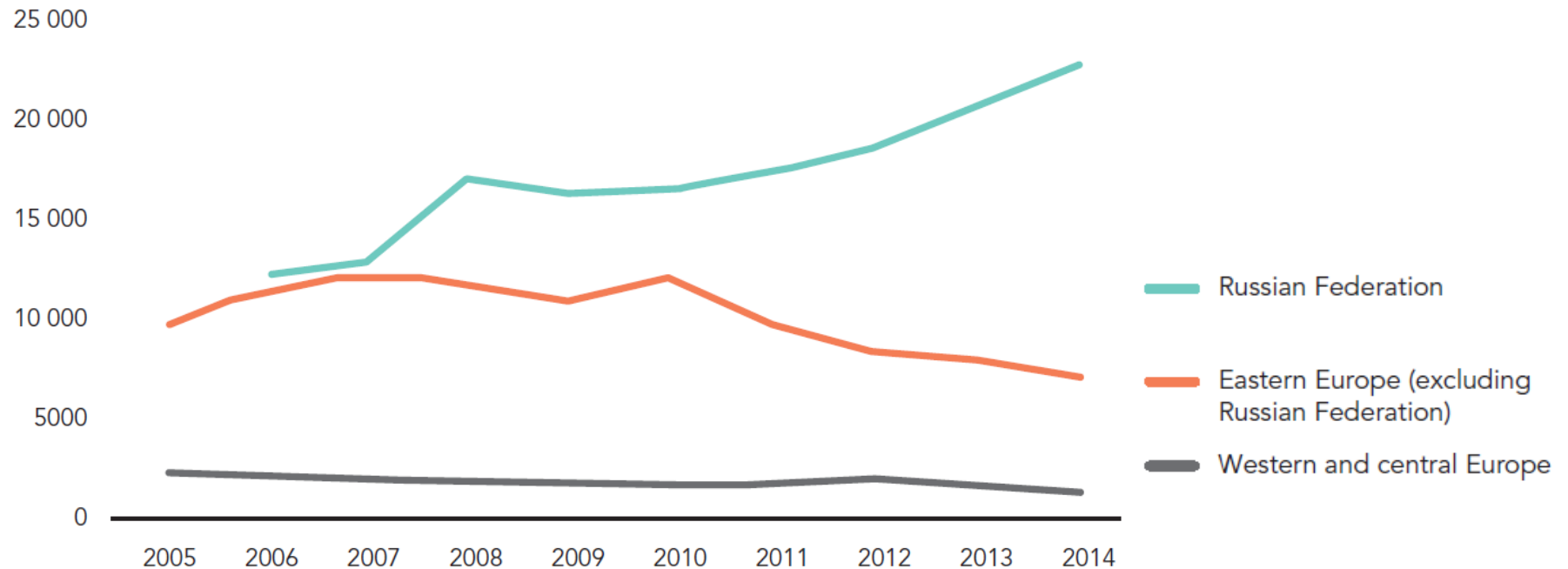


US\$ 1 spent on the incarceration of people who use drugs in the United States of America generates **US\$ 0.33** in public safety gains.

People who inject drugs: estimated population size and incidence of HIV infection, by region, 2014

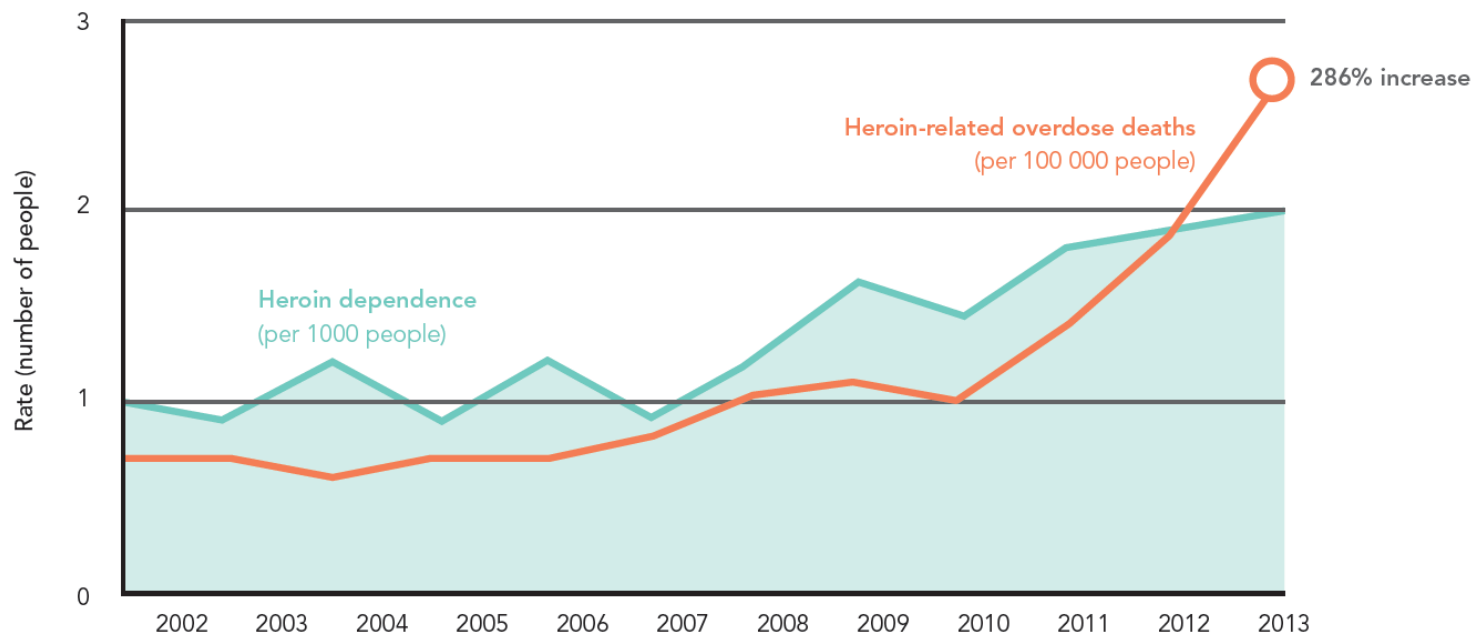
REGION	INCIDENCE PER YEAR	POPULATION SIZE ESTIMATE
Asia and the Pacific	1.4% [0.7–2.6%]	4 012 000 [2 796 000–5 302 000]
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.3% [0.1–0.7%]	721 000 [312 000–1 375 000]
Eastern and southern Africa	2.9% [1.0–19.5%]	333 000 [128 000–2 055 000]
Eastern Europe and central Asia	2.0% [1.1–3.8%]	3 159 000 [2 054 000–5 005 000]
Middle East and North Africa	1.2% [0.5–4.4%]	462 000 [299 000–1 128 000]
Western and central Africa	1.4% [0.3–15.0%]	155 000 [32 000–1 484 000]
Western and central Europe	0.8% [0.4–1.4%]	800 000 [719 000–914 000]
North America	0.3% [0.1–0.5%]	2 104 000 [1 819 000–2 413 000]

Number of people who inject drugs reported to be newly diagnosed with HIV in Europe,* 2005–2014



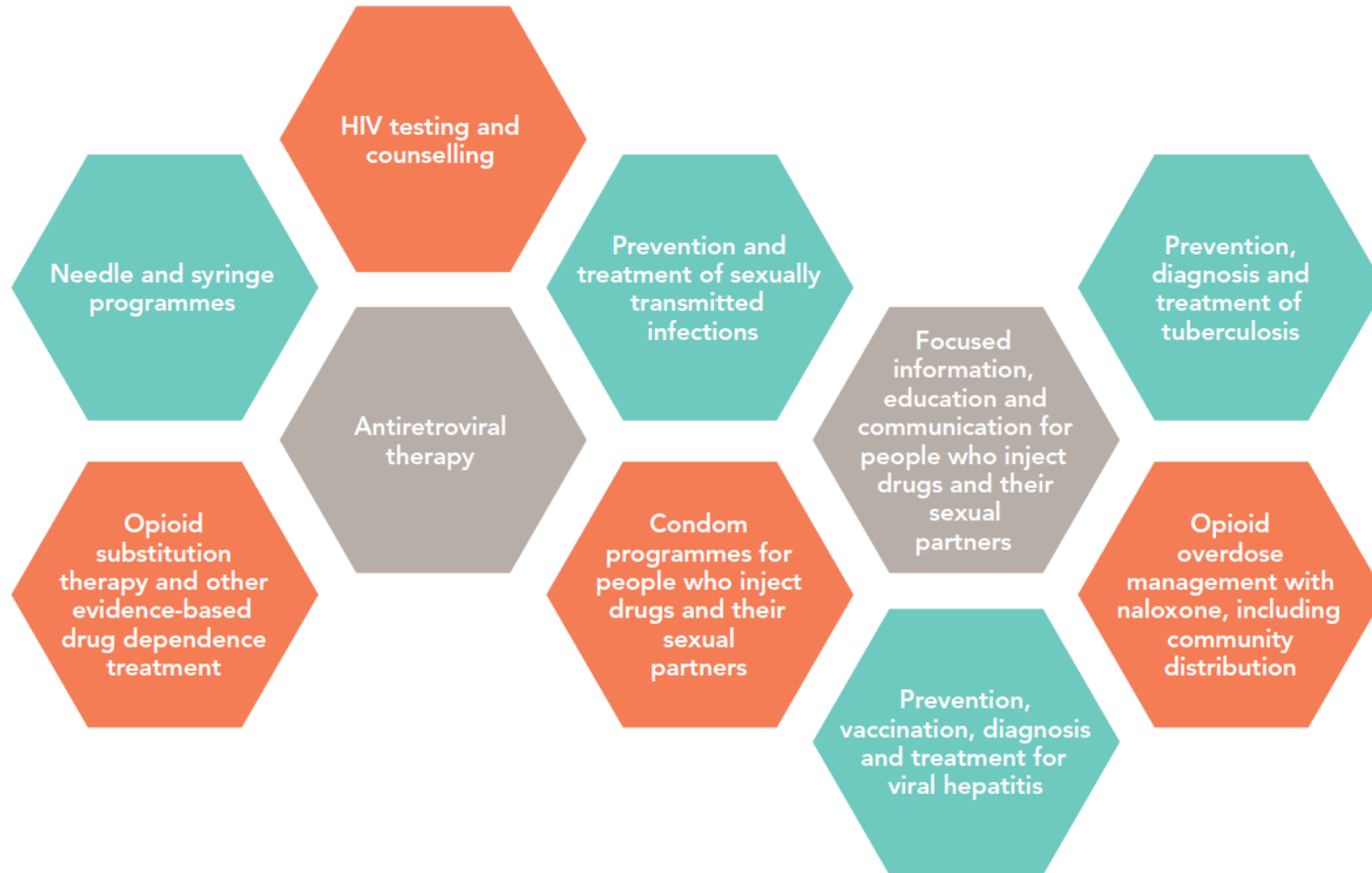
* Subregional classification according to European Centre for Disease Control norms.

Increases in heroin dependence and heroin-related overdose deaths in the United States of America, 2002–2013



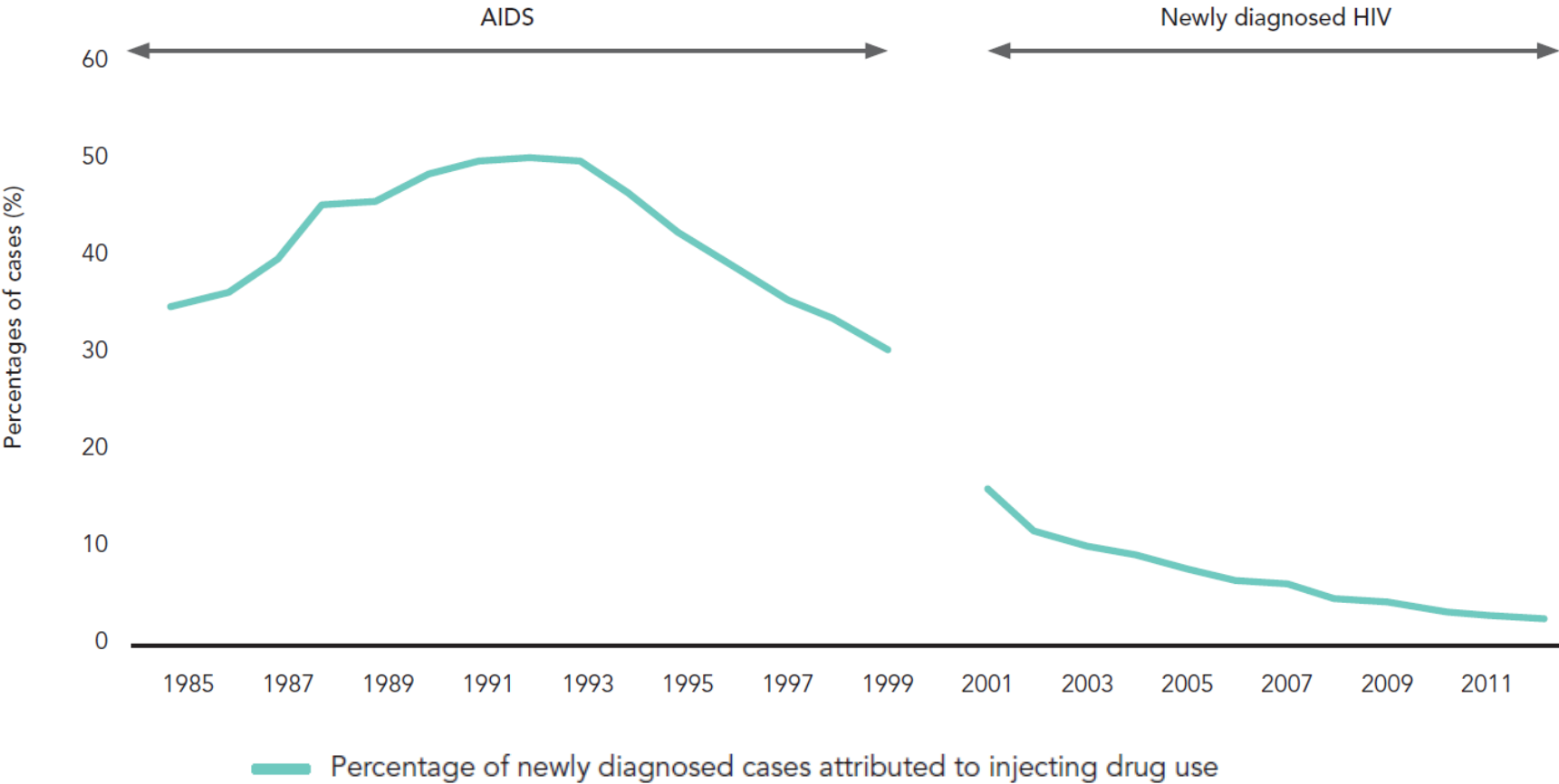
Reproduced from: Today's heroin epidemic: more people at risk, multiple drugs abused. Atlanta: United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2015 (CDC Vital Signs).

The comprehensive package for HIV prevention and reducing other harms associated with drug use*



* The first nine of these interventions are from: Technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users. Geneva: World Health Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/ AIDS; 2012. The tenth intervention was recommended in: Consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014.

Percentage of newly diagnosed HIV and AIDS cases attributed to injecting drug use, New York State, 1985–2012



Source: AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health, 2014.

Costs of needle–syringe programmes versus antiretroviral therapy

NEEDLE–SYRINGE
PROGRAMMES

US\$ 23–71

PER PERSON, PER YEAR

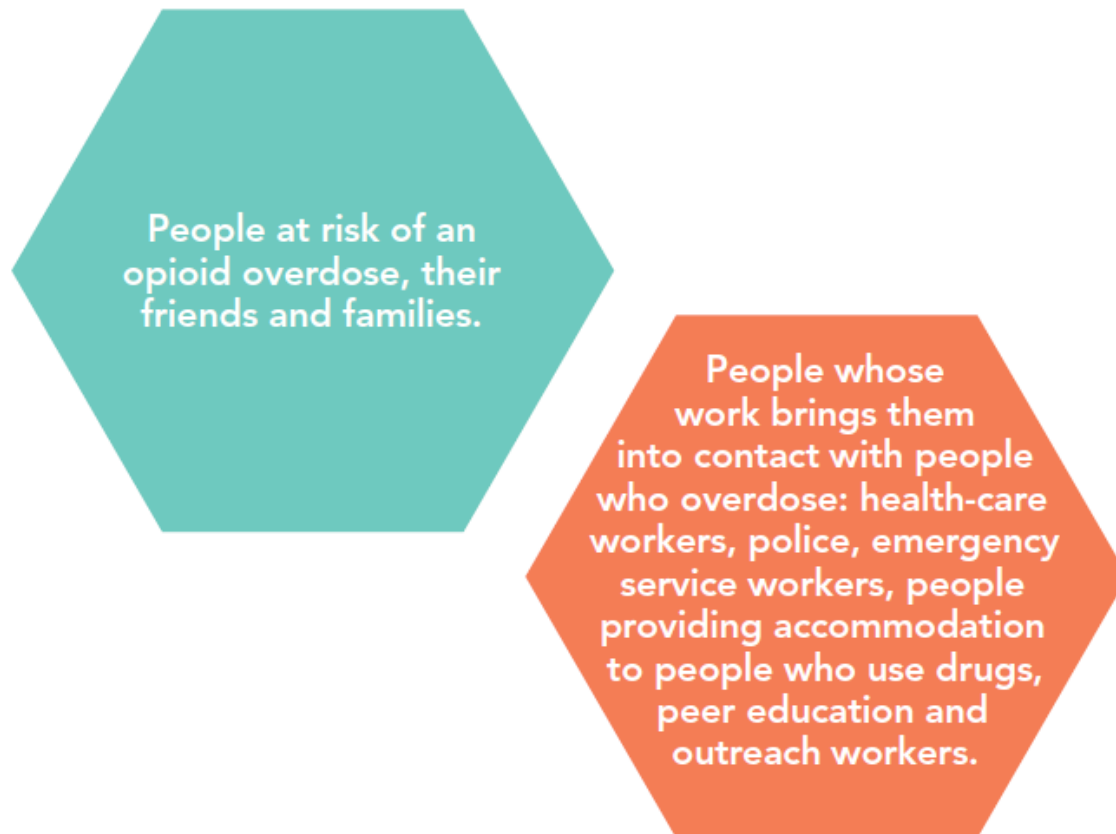
ANTIRETROVIRAL
THERAPY

US\$ 141–481

PER PERSON, PER YEAR

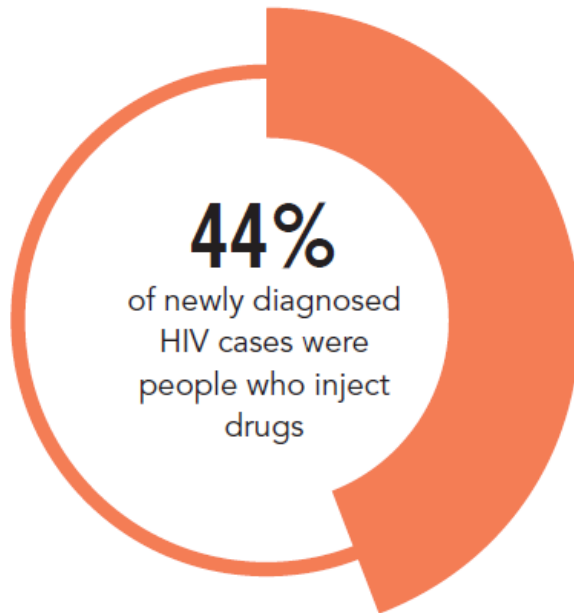
Who should have access to naxolone?

WHO recommends expanding naloxone access to

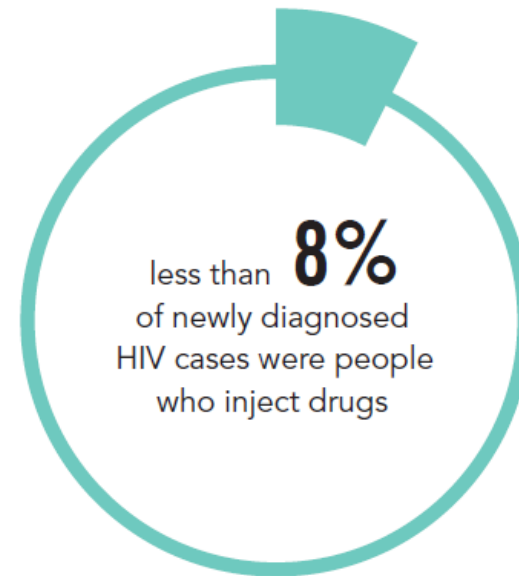


Percentage of new HIV diagnoses attributed to injecting drug use, China, 2003 and 2013

2003



2013



Number of newly reported HIV cases among people who inject drugs, Islamic Republic of Iran, 2005 and 2013

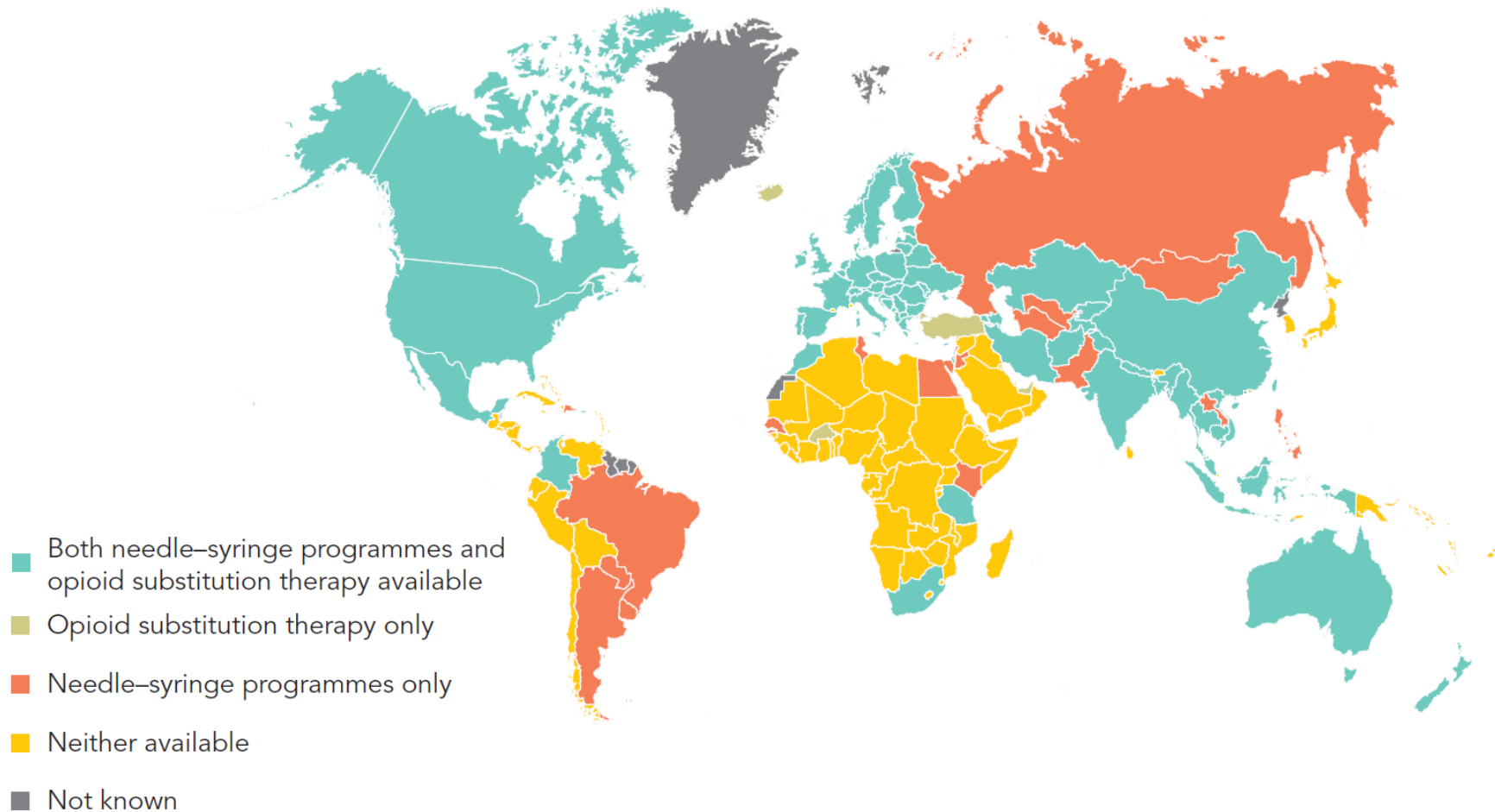
2005



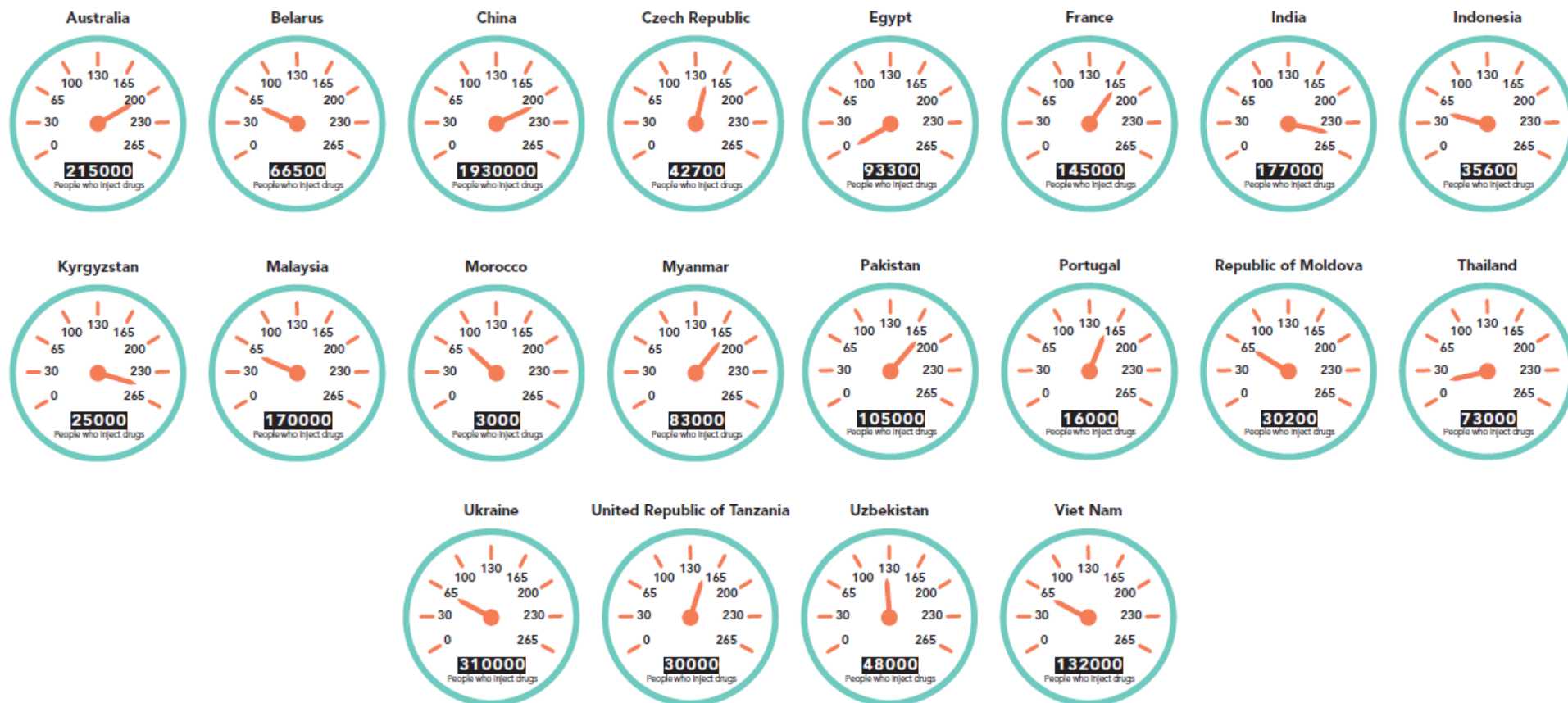
2013



Availability of needle–syringe exchange programmes and opioid substitution therapy, 2014



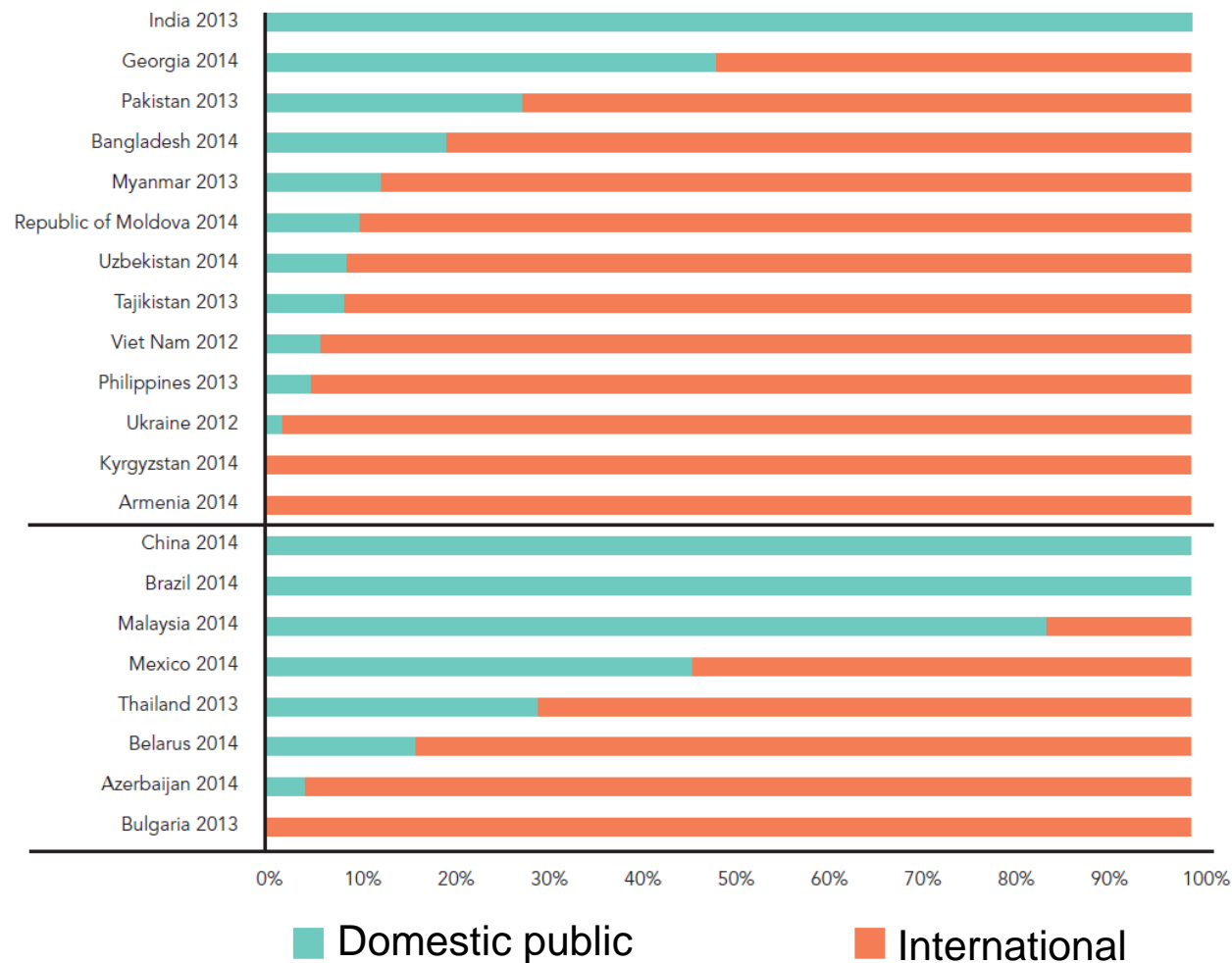
Needles and syringes distributed per person who injects drugs per year in selected countries, 2014 or latest year available



Source: Various national data collected by UNAIDS country and regional offices. See country profiles for more detailed information.

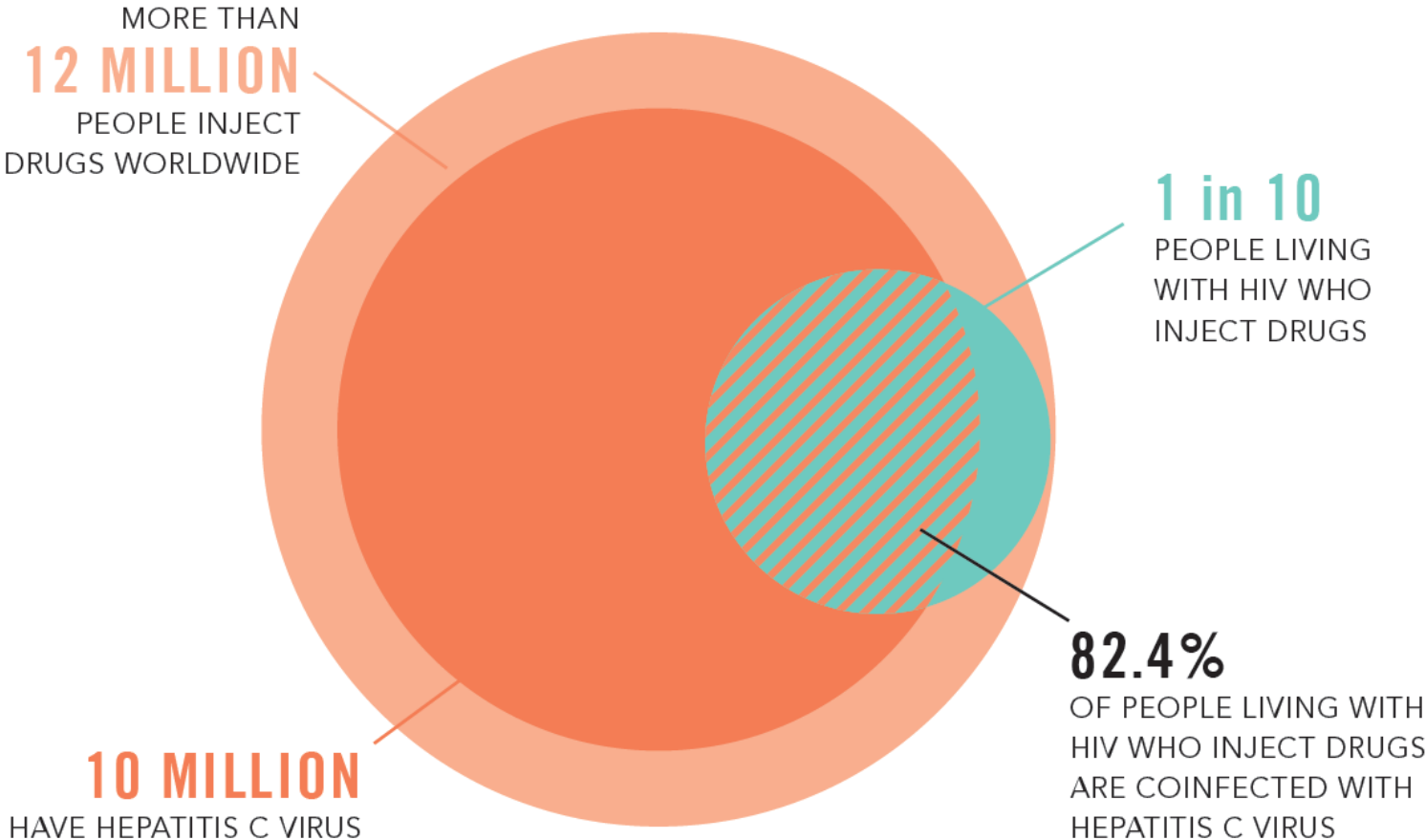
Donor funding as percentage of total expenditure on harm reduction programmes for people who inject drugs, 2012–2014

**Lower-
middle-income**



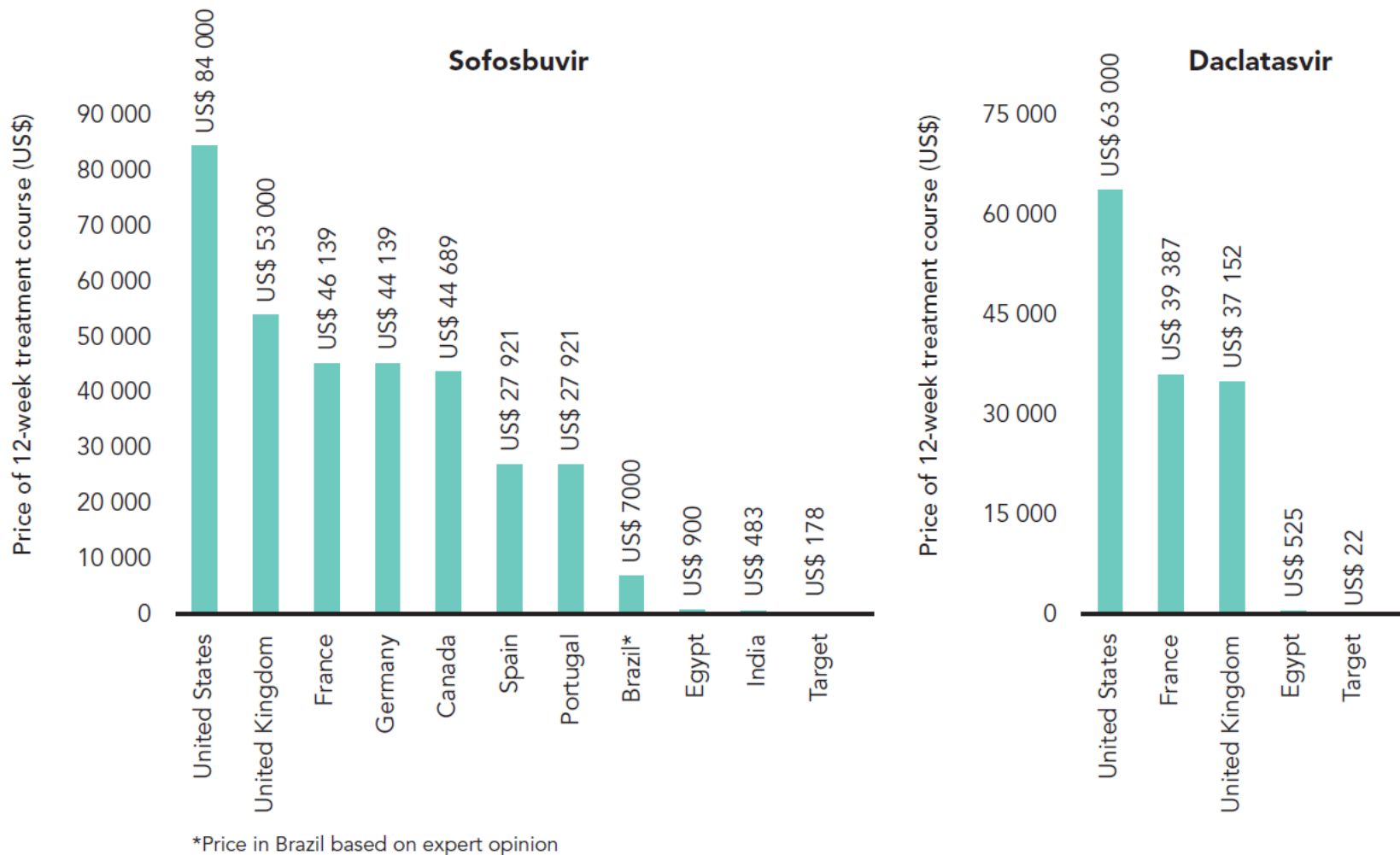
**Upper-
middle-income**

HIV and hepatitis C virus coinfection, globally, 2014

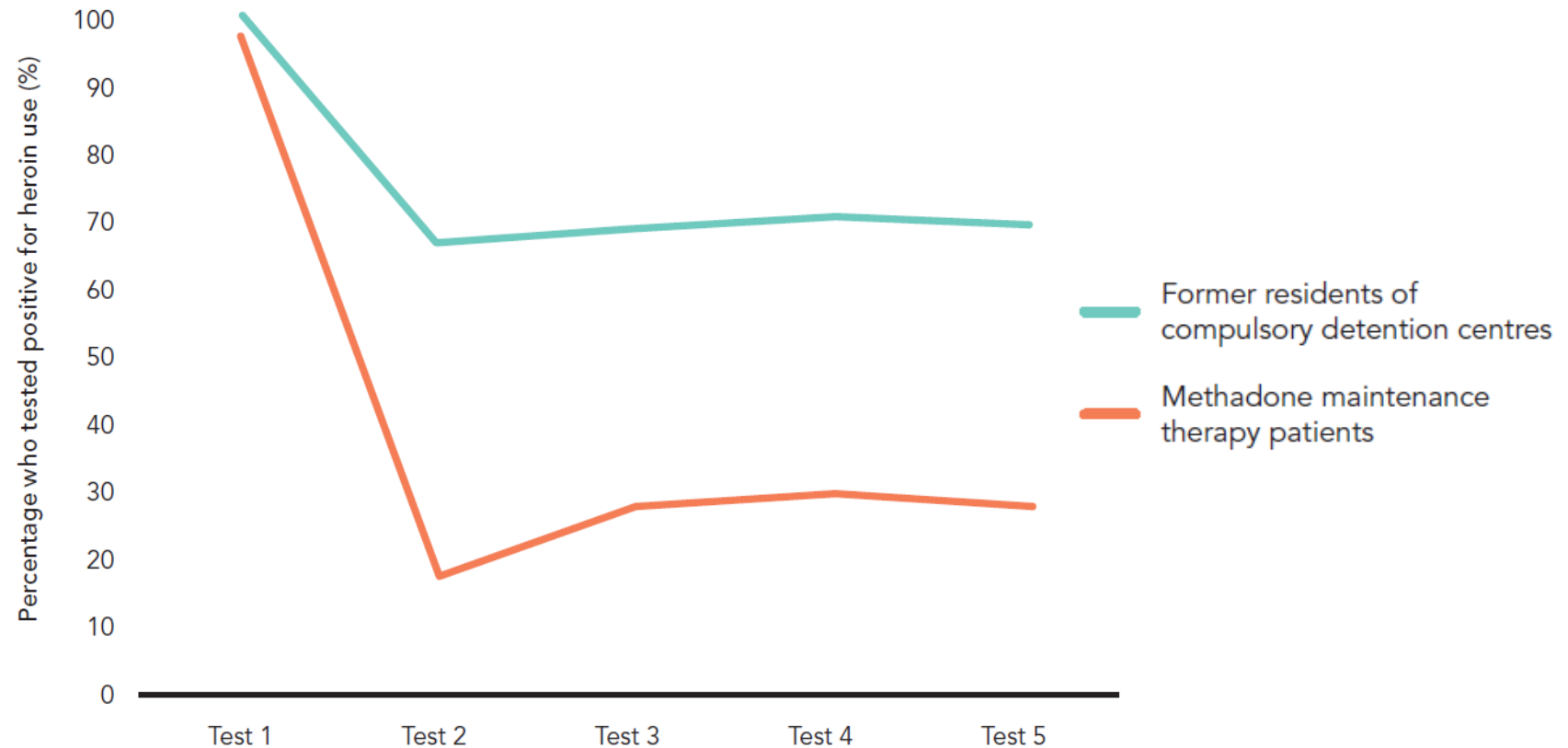


Sources: UNAIDS estimates, 2015; Hepatitis fact sheets. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2015; Platt L, Easterbrook P, Gower E, McDonald B, Sabin K, McGowan C et al. Prevalence and burden of HCV co-infection in people living with HIV: a global systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet Infect Dis. 2016;10.1016/S1473-3099(15)00485-5.

Costs of 12-week hepatitis C virus antiviral treatment courses in different countries, 2015



Percentage of people who tested positive for heroin use* among former residents of compulsory detention centres and methadone maintenance therapy patients, Hai Phong, Viet Nam, 2009–2013

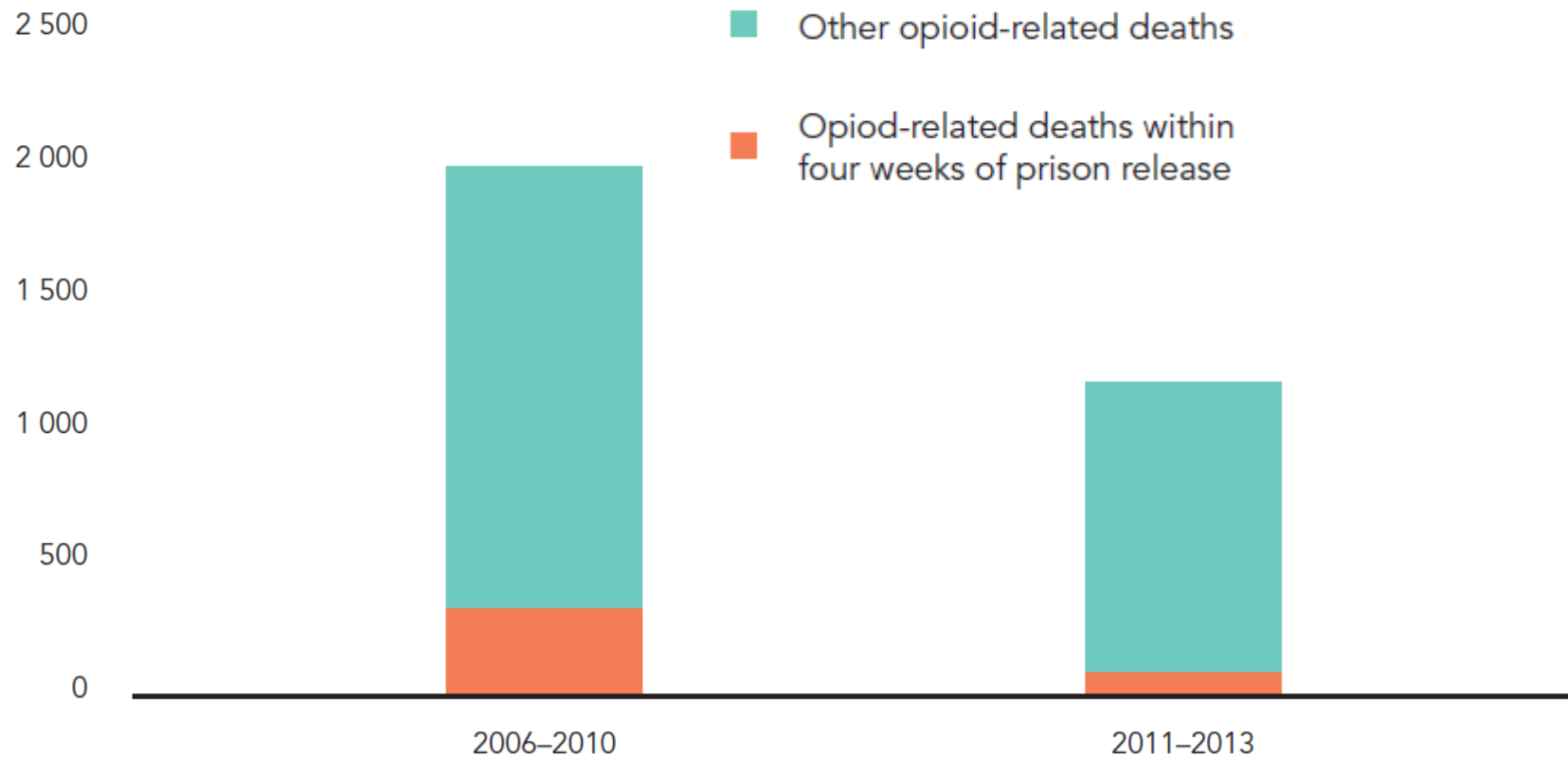


* based on urine screening

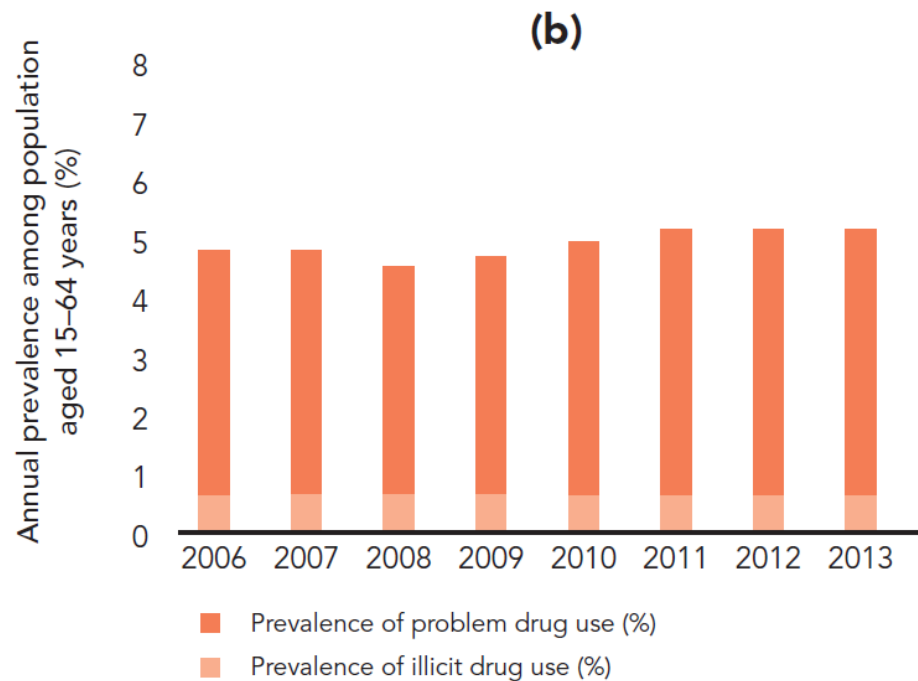
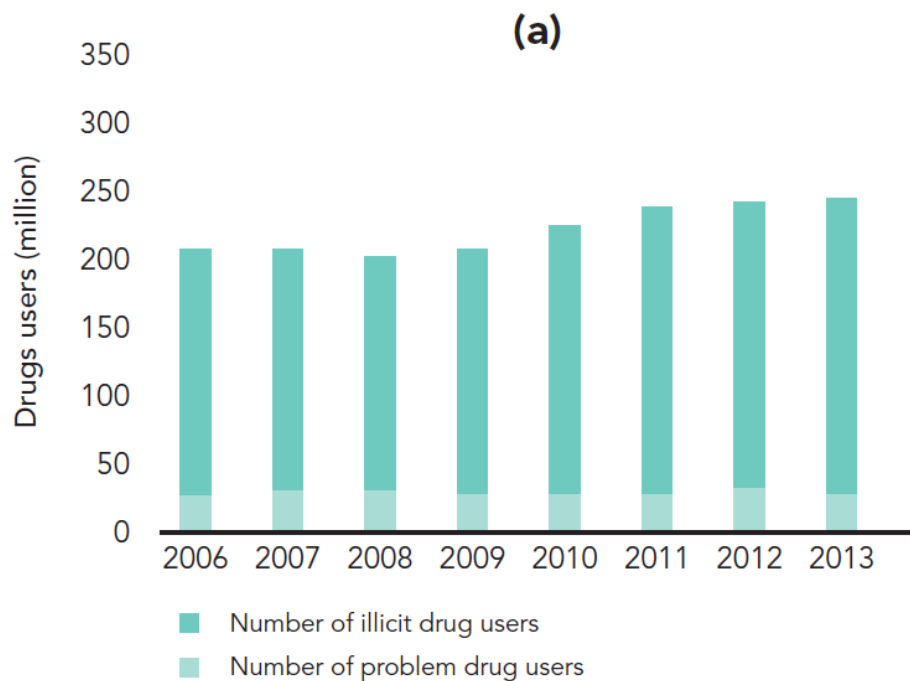
Number of people in compulsory detention centres for drug users in seven Asian countries, 2012–2014

COUNTRY	2012	2013	2014
Cambodia	2600	2713	3249
China	319 000	319 000	319 000
Lao People's Democratic Republic	3915	4718	5339
Malaysia	5473	5136	5753
Philippines	2744	3266	4392
Thailand	112 589	131 496	96 680
Viet Nam	27 920	29 273	21 401
Total	474 241	495 602	455 814

Opioid-related deaths before (2006–2010) and after (2011–2013) naloxone, Scotland, United Kingdom



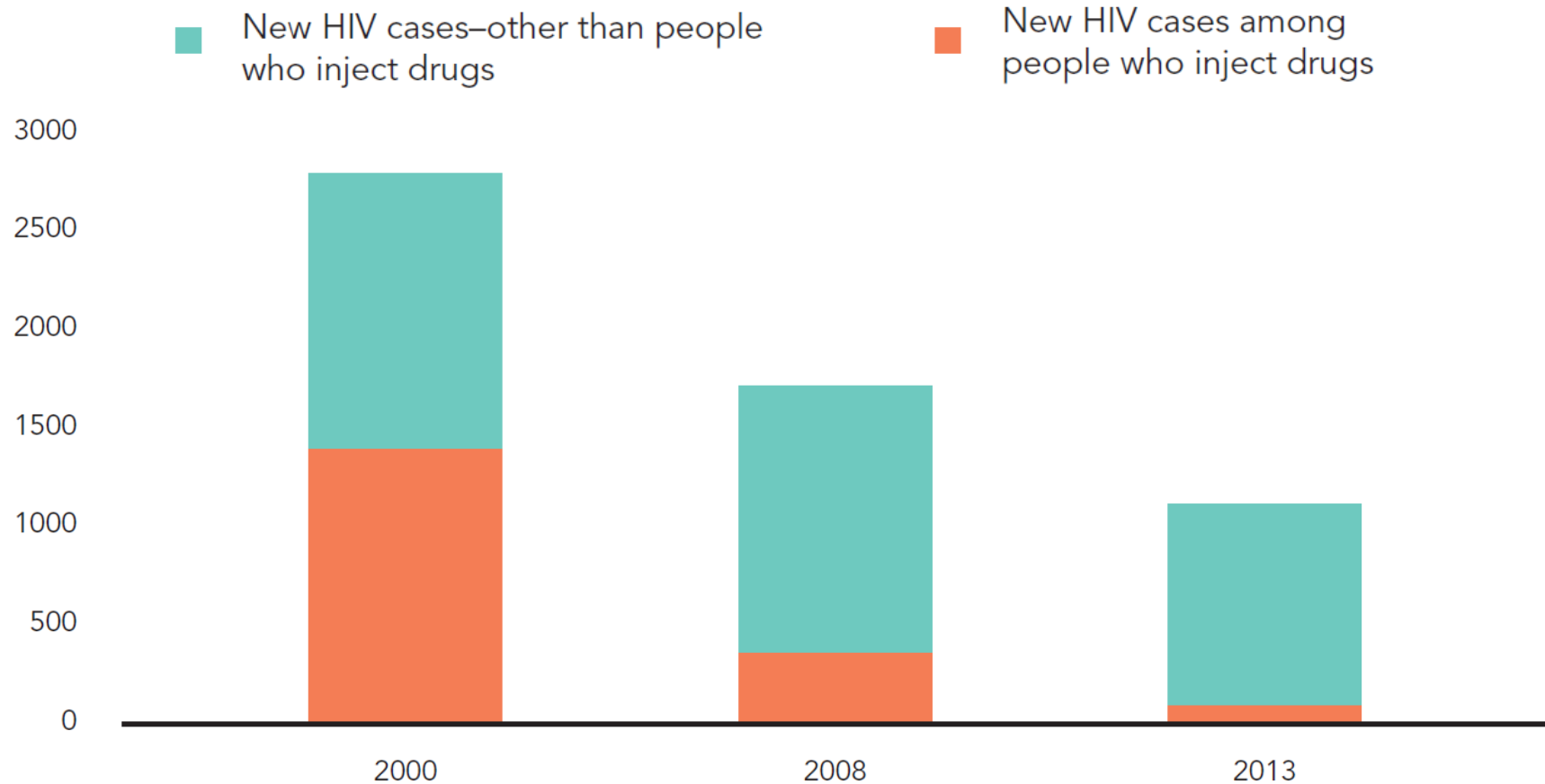
Global trends in (a) the estimated number of drug users^a, and (b) prevalence of use^b, 2006–2013



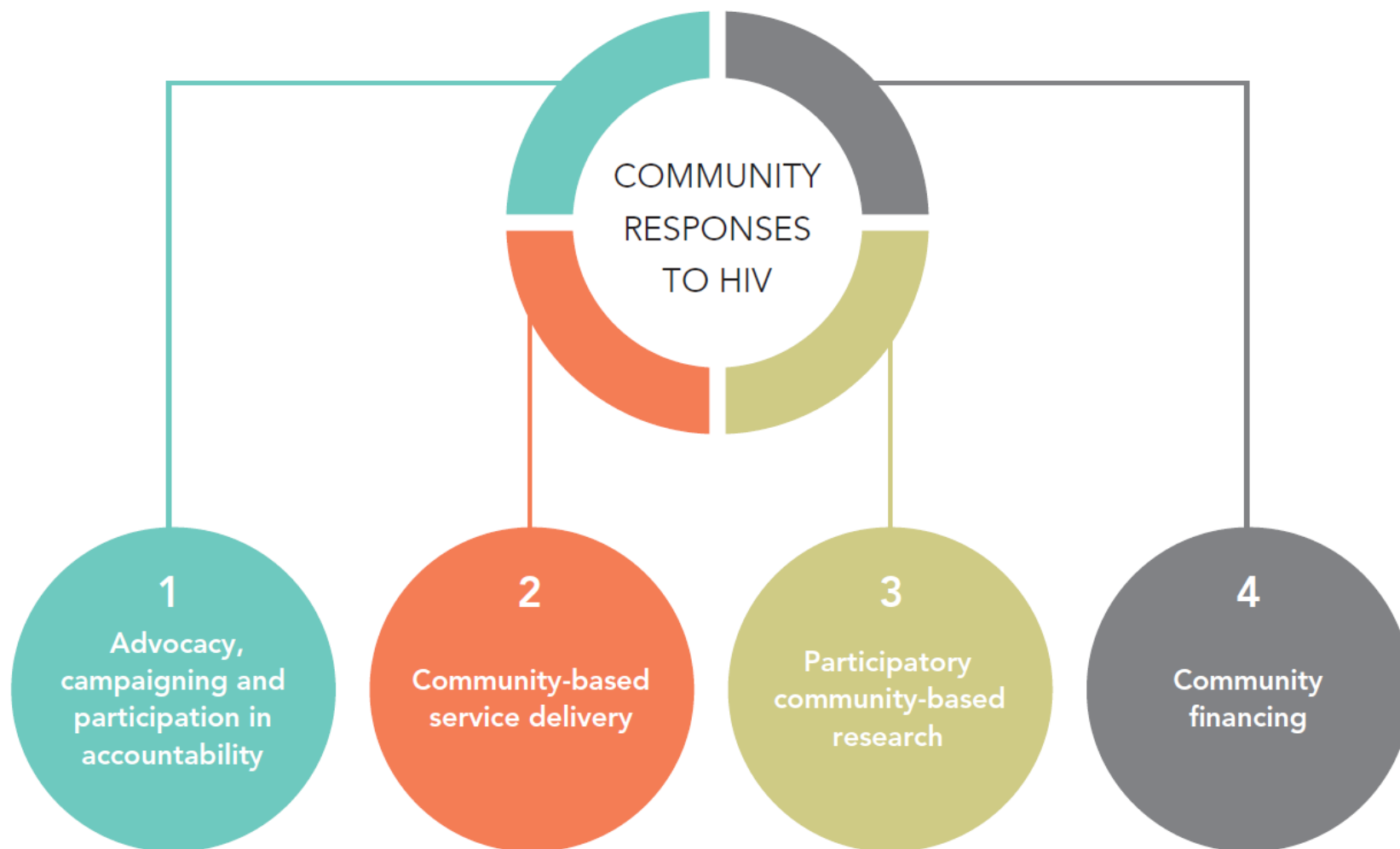
^a Estimates percentage of people aged 15–64 years who used drugs in the past year

^b Estimates are for people aged 15–64 years in the past year

Numbers of people newly diagnosed with HIV in Portugal since the decriminalization of drug use, 2000–2013



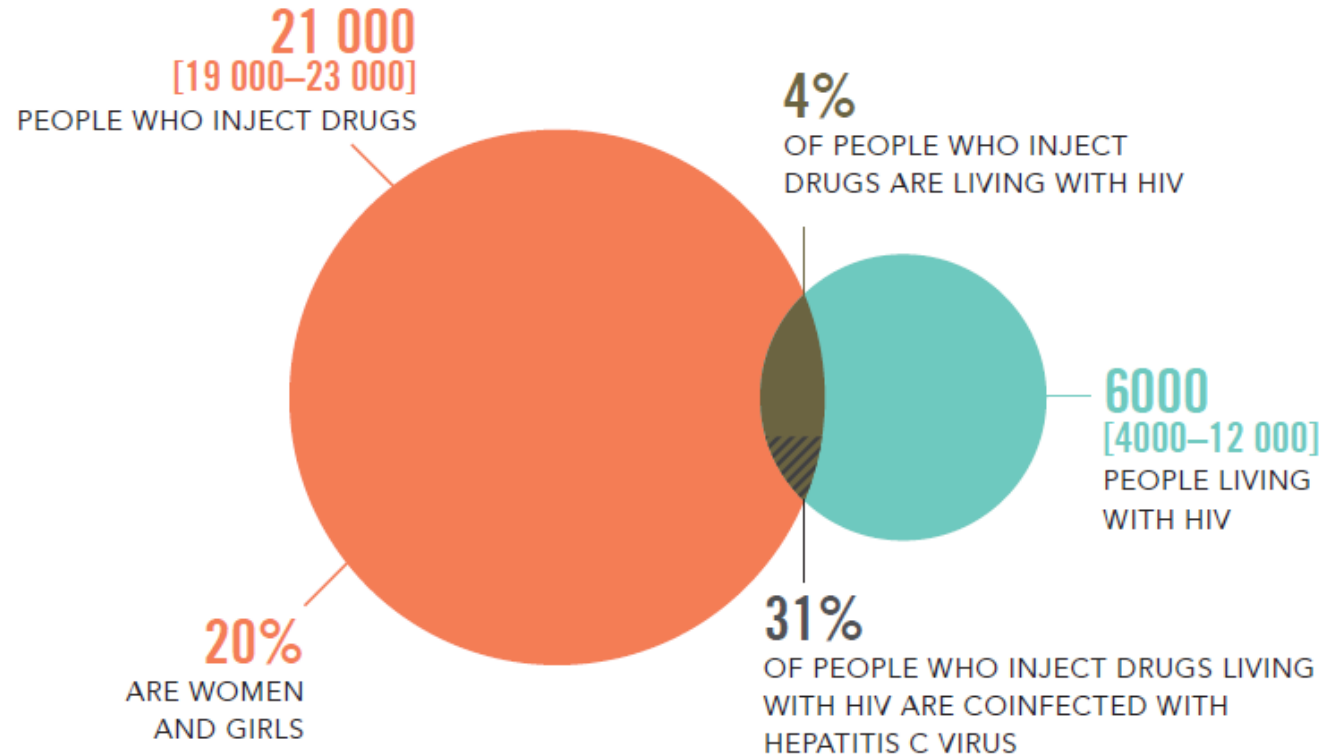
Four components of community responses to HIV



COUNTRY PROFILES

Thirty-two countries are home to approximately three quarters of the world's people who inject drugs.

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

The National Harm Reduction Policy guides the provision of needles and syringes, condoms and opioid substitution therapy.



POLICING

There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needle/syringes and other drug paraphernalia.

HARM REDUCTION



159

syringes distributed per person who injects drugs per year



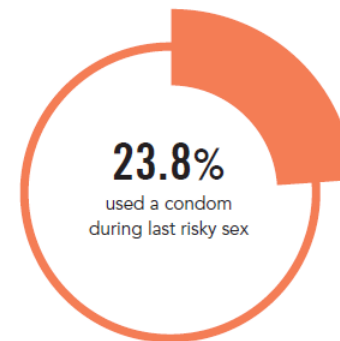
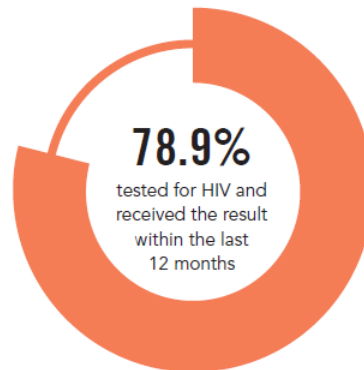
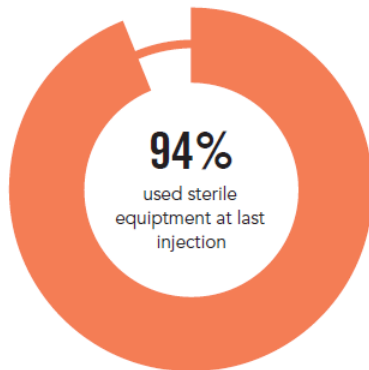
<1000

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

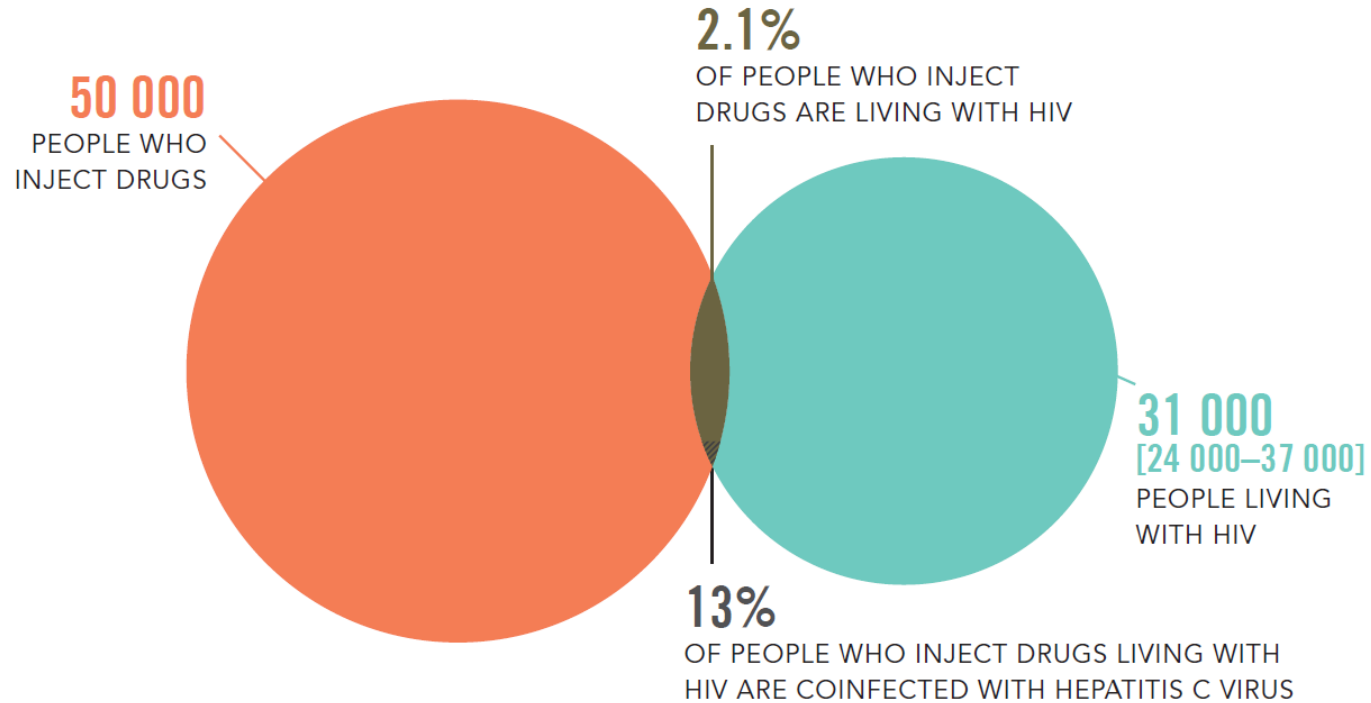


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Harm reduction features strongly in the national hepatitis C strategy and the national drug strategy.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needles, syringes or other drug paraphernalia.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of small quantities of drugs other than cannabis for personal use is a criminal offence punishable by a large fine and imprisonment (sentences vary by state).
-  **OVERDOSE TREATMENT**
Naloxone is available without prescription to people likely to witness an overdose.

HARM REDUCTION



203

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



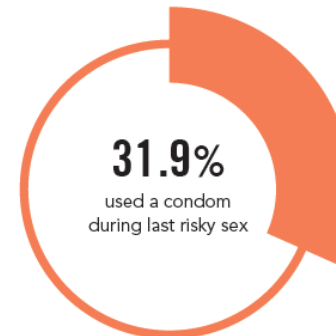
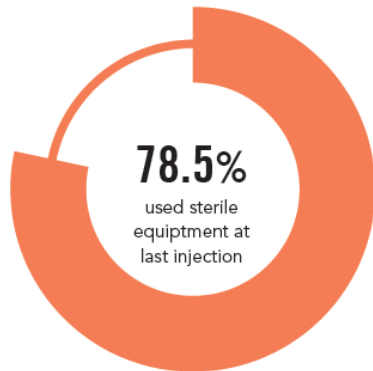
48 393

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



1

safe injecting facility



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

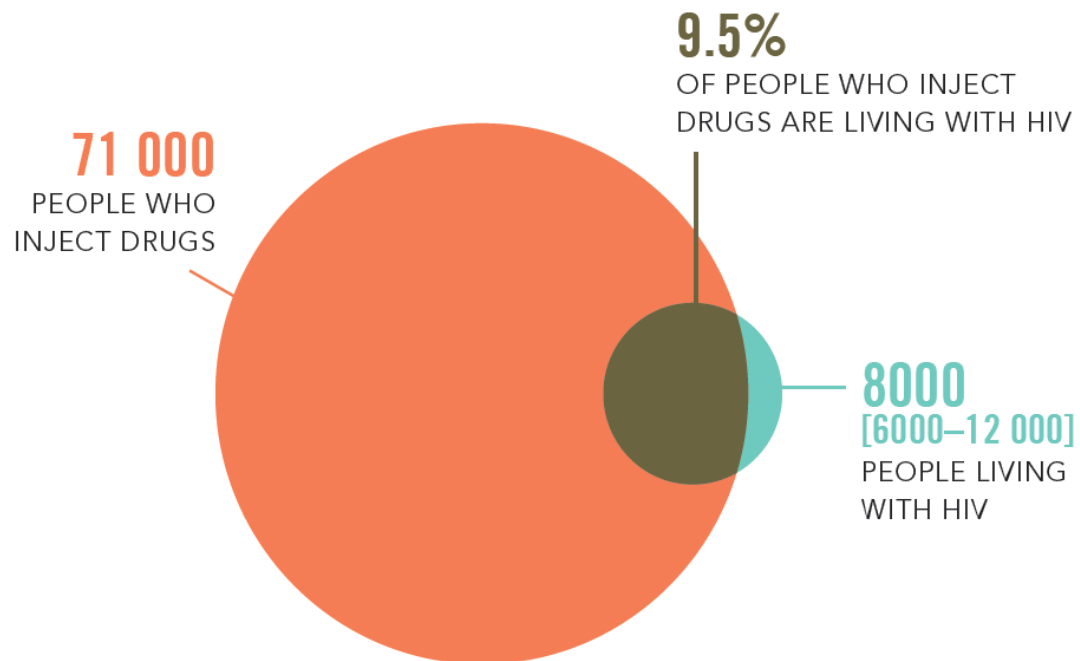


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



INSUFFICIENT ENABLING POLICY

The country's policy framework does not have explicit supportive reference to harm reduction, but needle and syringe distribution and opioid substitution therapy are available.



DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

The financing of harm reduction in this lower-middle-income country is highly reliant on external funding, accounting for 96% of all funding in 2014.

HARM REDUCTION

**78.5**

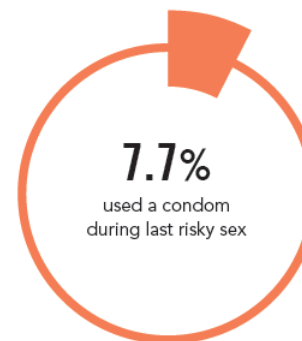
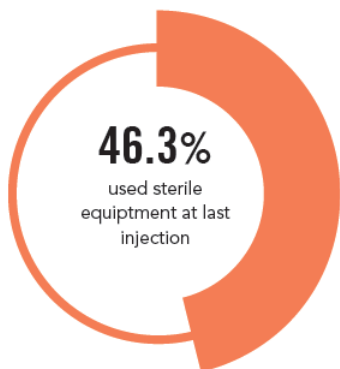
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**-**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

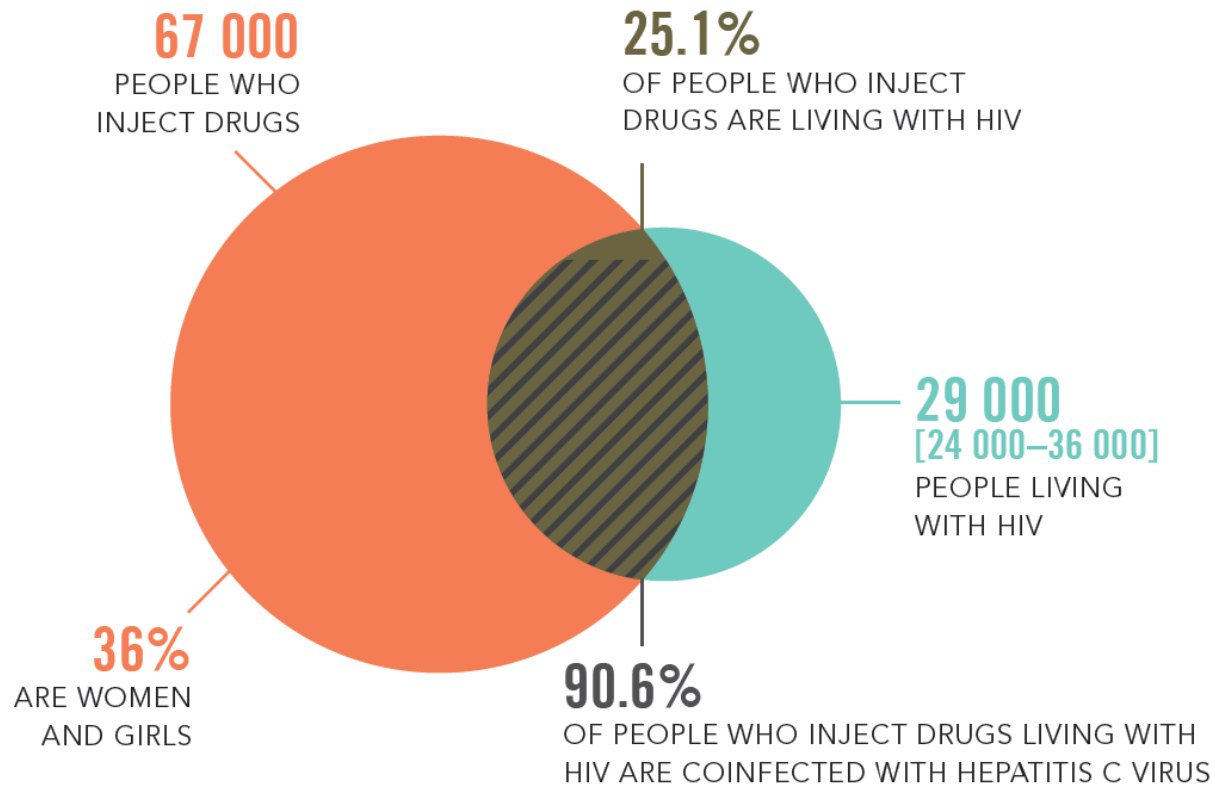


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



REGISTRATION OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

The Narcological Service of the Ministry of Health routinely registers known people who use or who are dependent on drugs. Since 2015 new registrations are routinely reported by health-care facilities to law enforcement agencies.



CRIMINALIZATION

A 2015 Presidential decree toughens criminal penalties for the production, transport and sale of illegal drugs and introduces administrative sanctions for drug use.



DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

The financing of harm reduction is being steadily transitioned from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to domestic sources. Opioid substitution therapy is almost completely funded by the state budget.

HARM REDUCTION



56.7

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



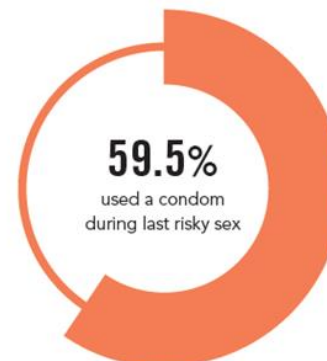
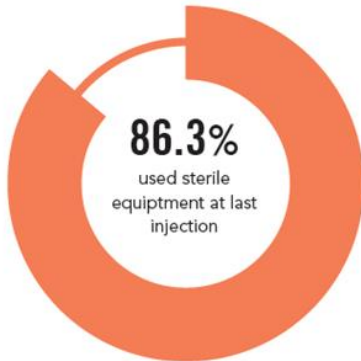
<1000

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

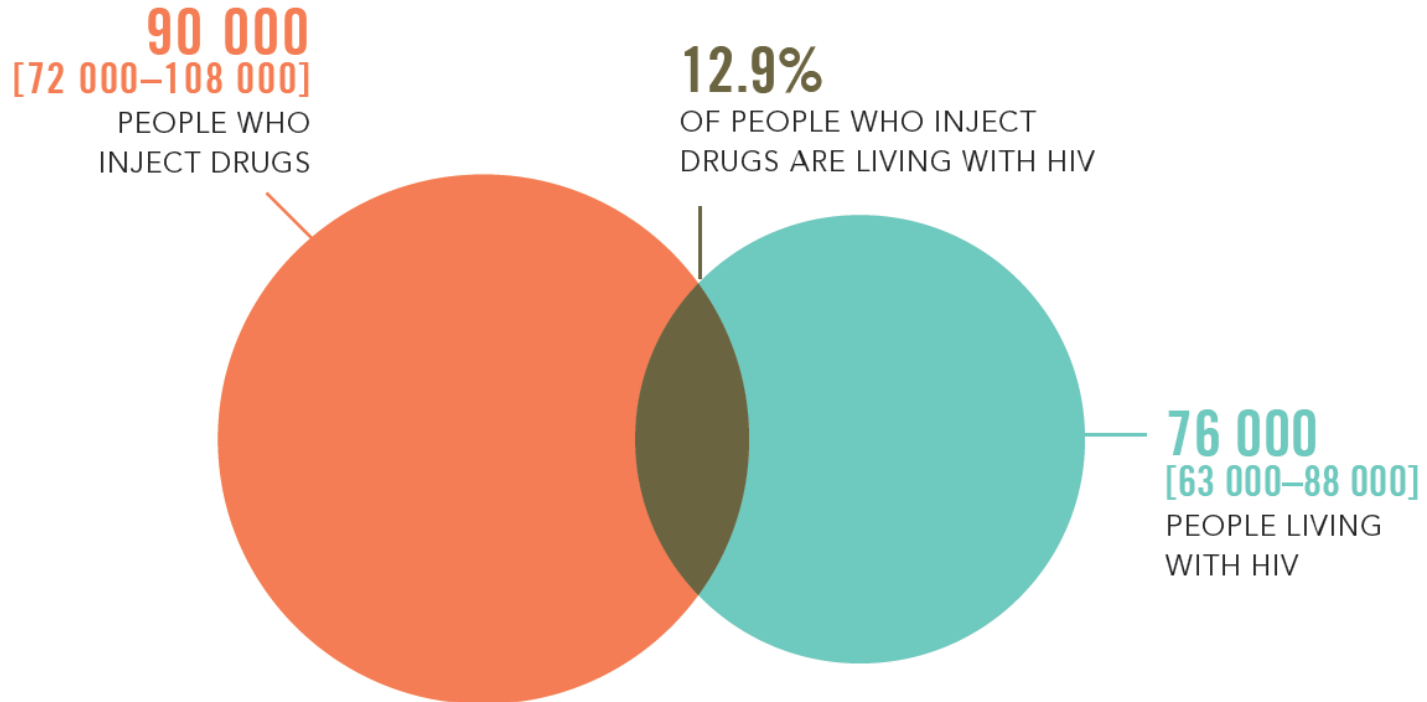


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
A national harm reduction framework developed by the Canadian Government guides action to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and substances from the national to the community level.
-  **OVERDOSE TREATMENT**
Naloxone was delisted by national authorities in March 2016 to make it more easily available to people likely to witness an opioid overdose; it is up to individual provinces to make naloxone available without a prescription.
-  **REACHING THE MOST MARGINALIZED**
Drug consumption rooms and heroin-assisted drug dependence treatment are available in cities with large populations of people who inject drugs.

HARM REDUCTION



-

syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year



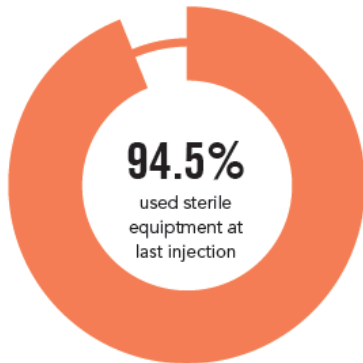
-

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy



2

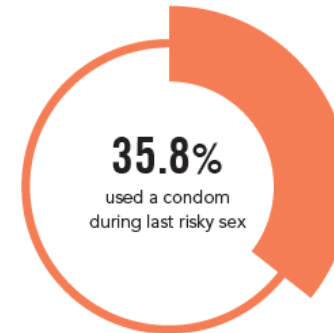
safe injecting
facilities

**94.5%**

used sterile
equipment at
last injection

**79.6%**

tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months

**35.8%**

used a condom
during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

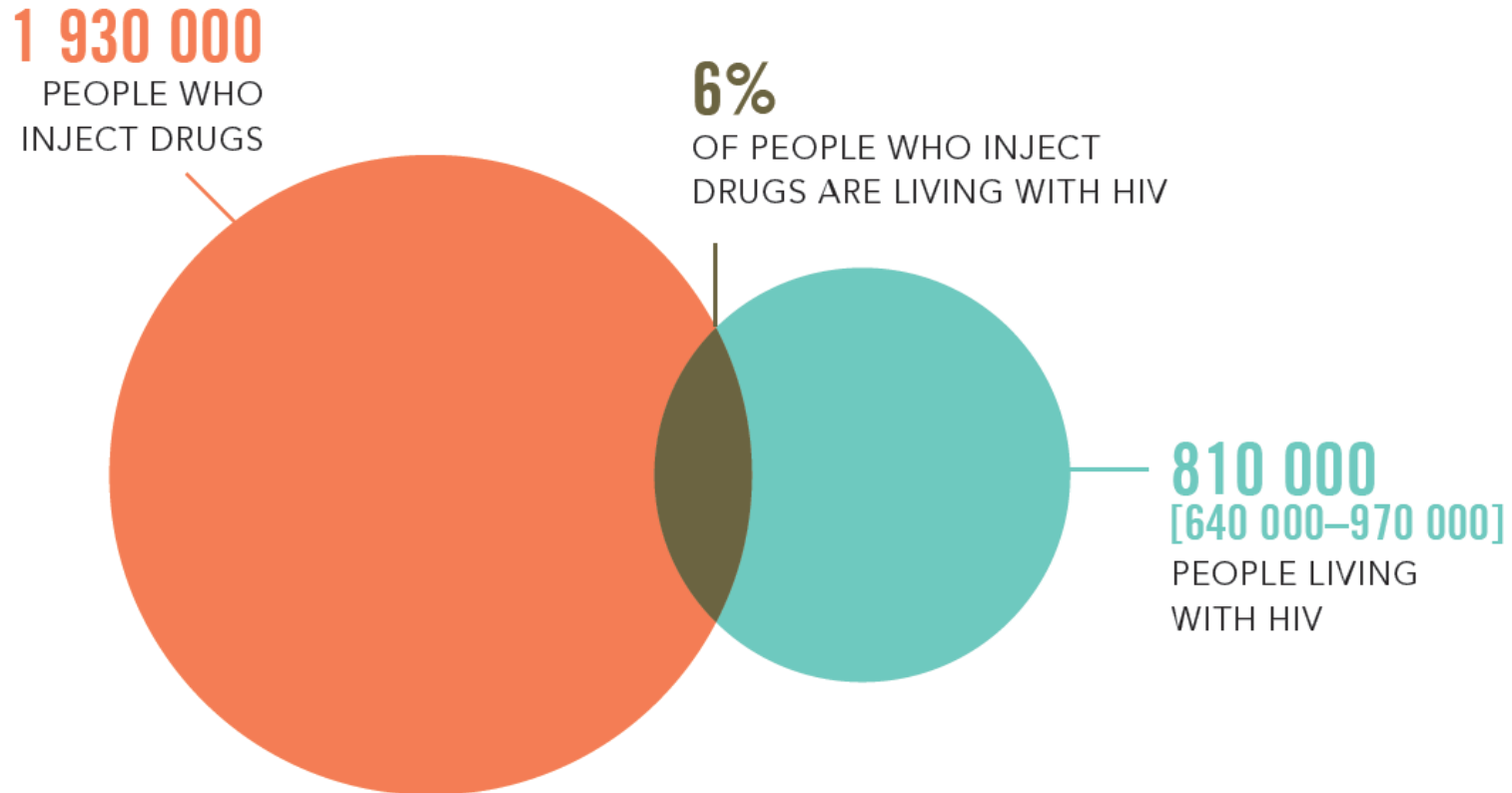


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES








OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
The National Health and Family Planning Commission, the Ministry of Public Security and the State Food and Drug Administration jointly formulated guidelines for methadone maintenance therapy that are guiding the expansion of one of the world's largest opioid substitution therapy programmes.
-  **REGISTRATION OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**
Individuals dependent on heroin or other narcotic drugs are permanently registered in a government tracking system, even if they successfully undergo drug dependence treatment.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of more than 200 grams of opium, 10 grams of methamphetamines and 10 grams of heroin can result in up to three years in prison.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needle/syringes and other drug paraphernalia.
-  **COMPULSORY DETENTION**
In 2015, 264 000 people who use drugs were newly detained in compulsory detention centres.

HARM REDUCTION

**204**

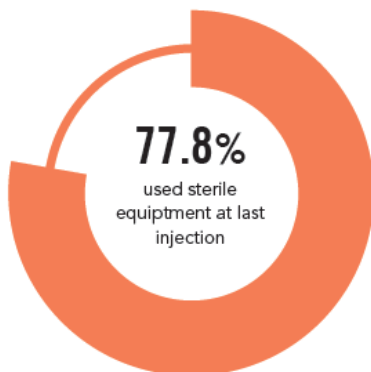
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**184 000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

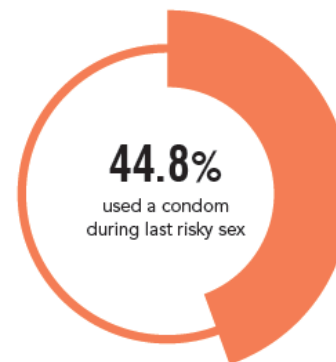
safe injecting
facilities

**77.8%**

used sterile
equipment at last
injection

**40.5%**

tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months

**44.8%**

used a condom
during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

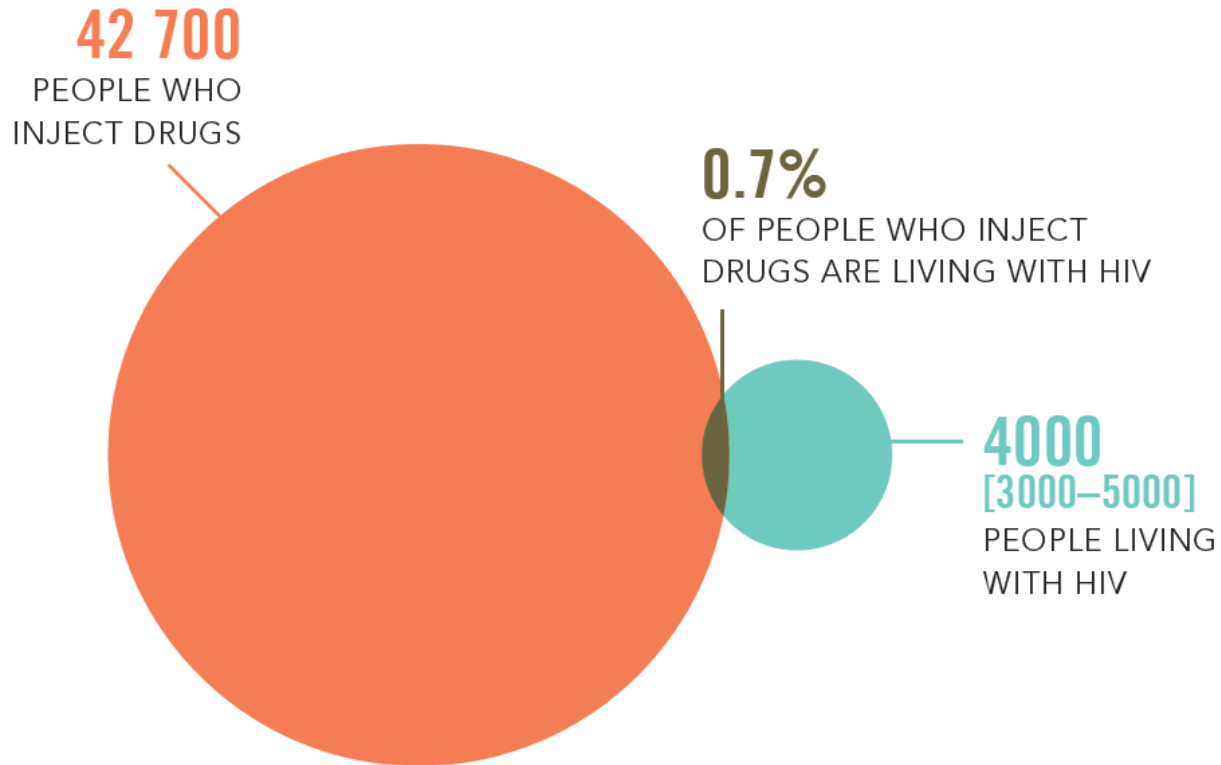


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Harm reduction has been a core part of the national drug policy since it was first established in 1992.
-  **DECRIMINALIZATION**
Decriminalization of the use and possession of small quantities of drugs combined with relatively high coverage of needle–syringe programmes and opioid substitution therapy have been credited with the country’s remarkably low rates of HIV among people who inject drugs.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needle/syringes and other drug paraphernalia.

HARM REDUCTION



138

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



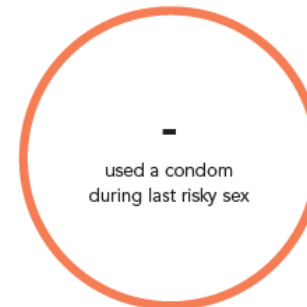
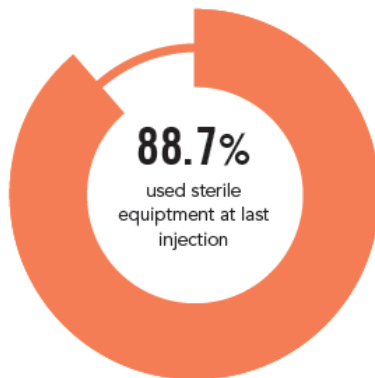
4000

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

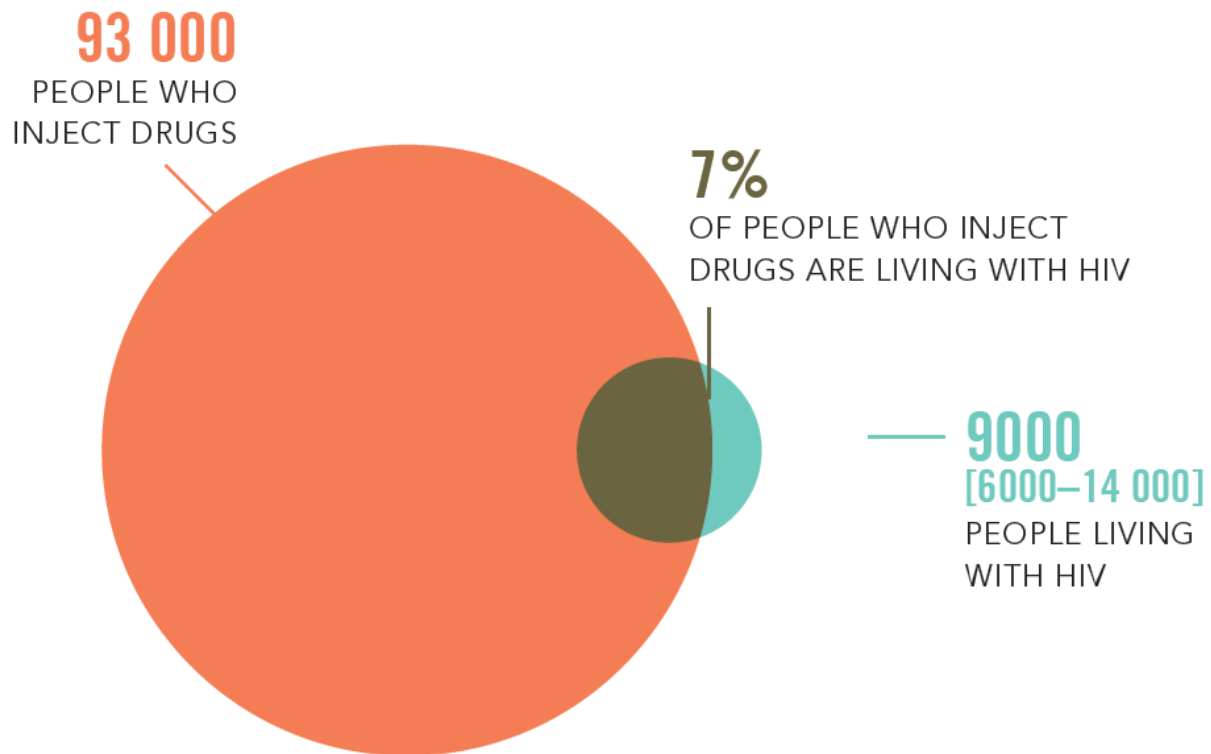


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **INSUFFICIENT ENABLING POLICY**
Needle and syringe distribution is limited to a network of nongovernmental organizations funded by international assistance and opioid substitution therapy is not among the drug dependence treatment options approved by health authorities.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
People caught in possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use face heavy fines and lengthy incarceration.
-  **POLICING**
Possession of needle/syringes and other drug paraphernalia can be considered evidence of drug use and drug dealing.

HARM REDUCTION

**1.3**

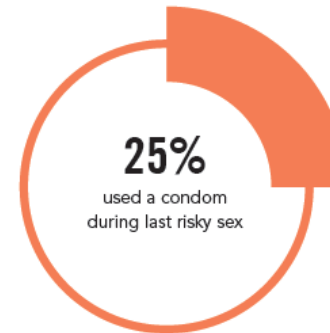
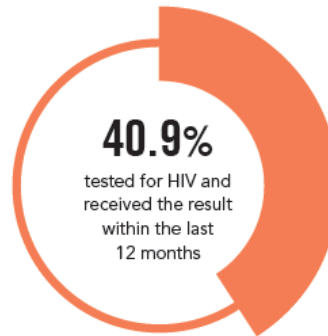
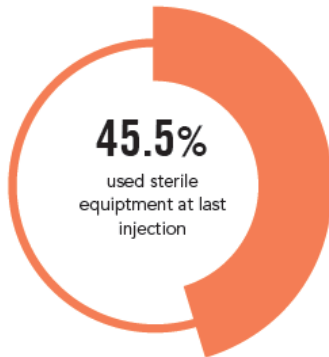
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**-**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

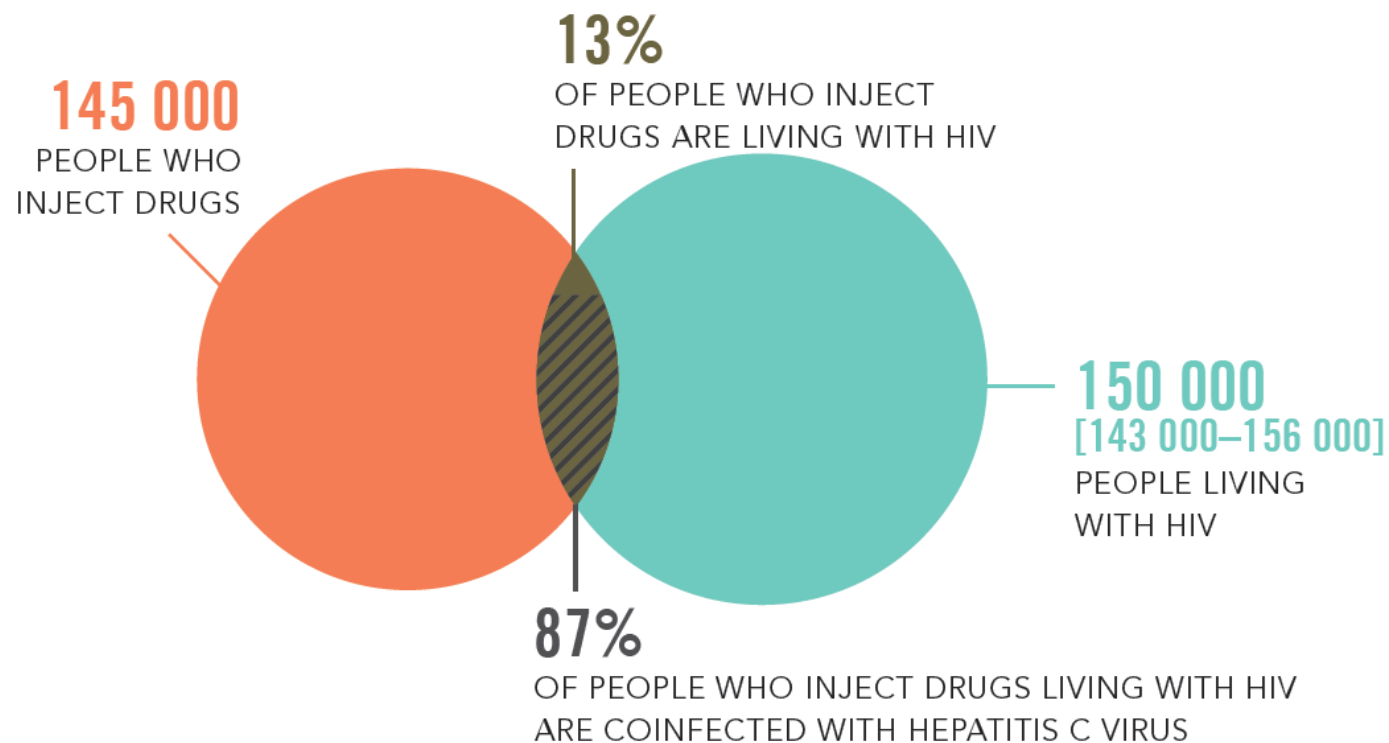


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Since 2004 harm reduction policies have been incorporated in public health regulations and state jurisdiction. A network of 154 low-threshold agencies receive funding directly from the social security system for needle and syringe distribution.
-  **DEPENALIZATION**
Use or possession of narcotic drugs is a criminal offence. Directives issued in 2008 and 2012 established depenalization measures, including cautions, compulsory drug awareness courses and court-ordered drug dependence treatment.
-  **MOBILE METHADONE**
Two buses provide mobile methadone maintenance therapy to improve access to opioid substitution therapy.
-  **OVERDOSE PREVENTION**
A nasal spray formulation of naloxone was approved in February 2015. A take-home naloxone programme will be launched in 2016.

HARM REDUCTION

**170**

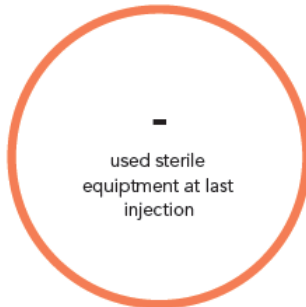
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**160 000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

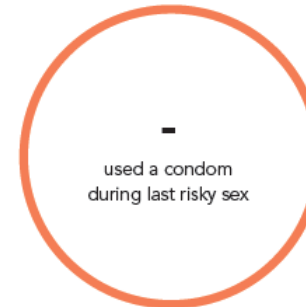
safe injecting
facilities



-
used sterile
equipment at last
injection



65%
tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months



-
used a condom
during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

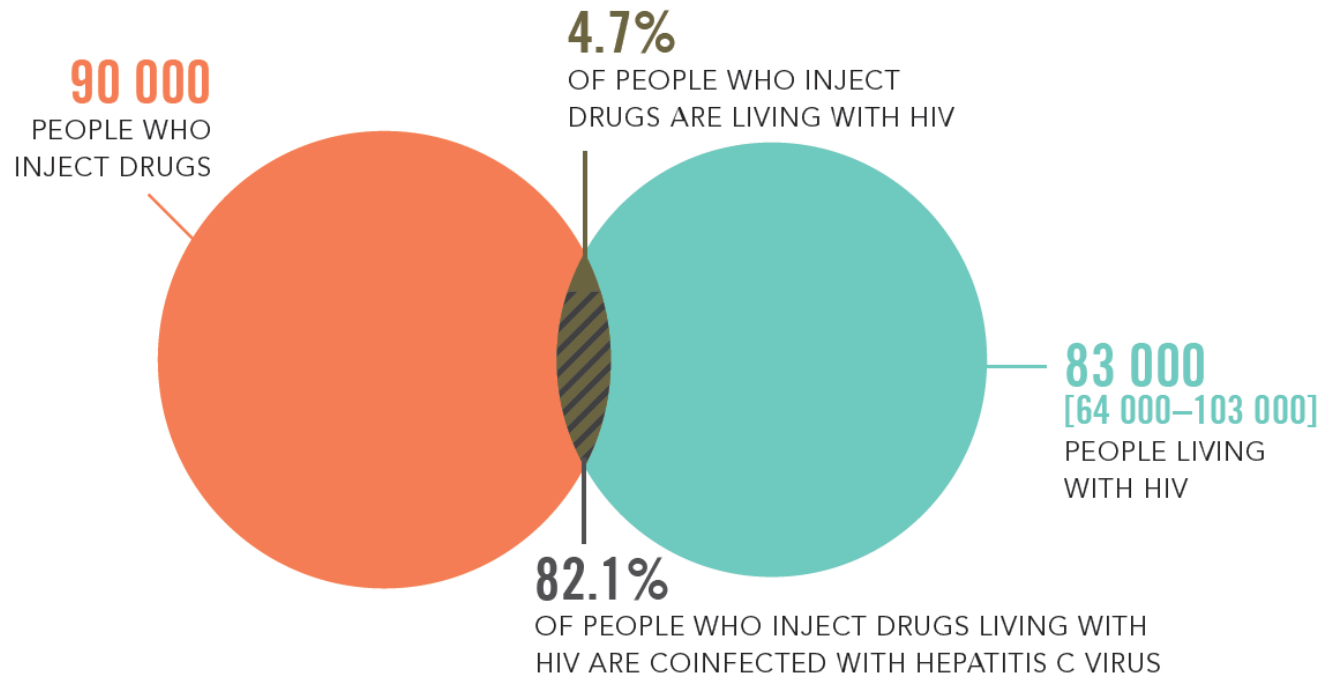


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Needle and syringe programmes were legalized in 1992, and substitution-based drug dependence treatment has been nationally regulated since 2001. Harm reduction is one of the four pillars of the national drug strategy.
-  **DEPENALIZATION**
Drug use is not a criminal offense, and since 1992 public prosecutors have had the option to refrain from prosecuting individual caught in possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needle/syringes. Germany has the highest number of syringe vending machines in the world.

HARM REDUCTION



-

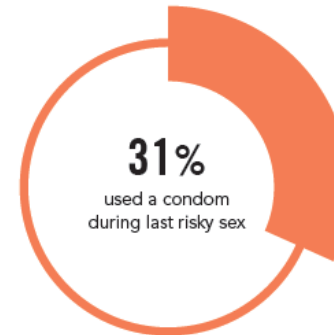
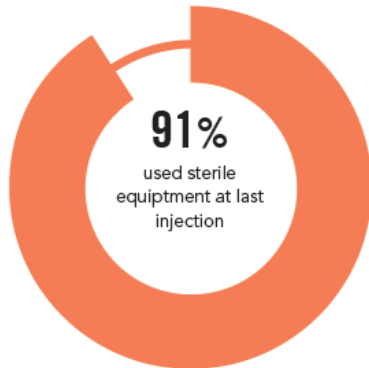
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**77 000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**23**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

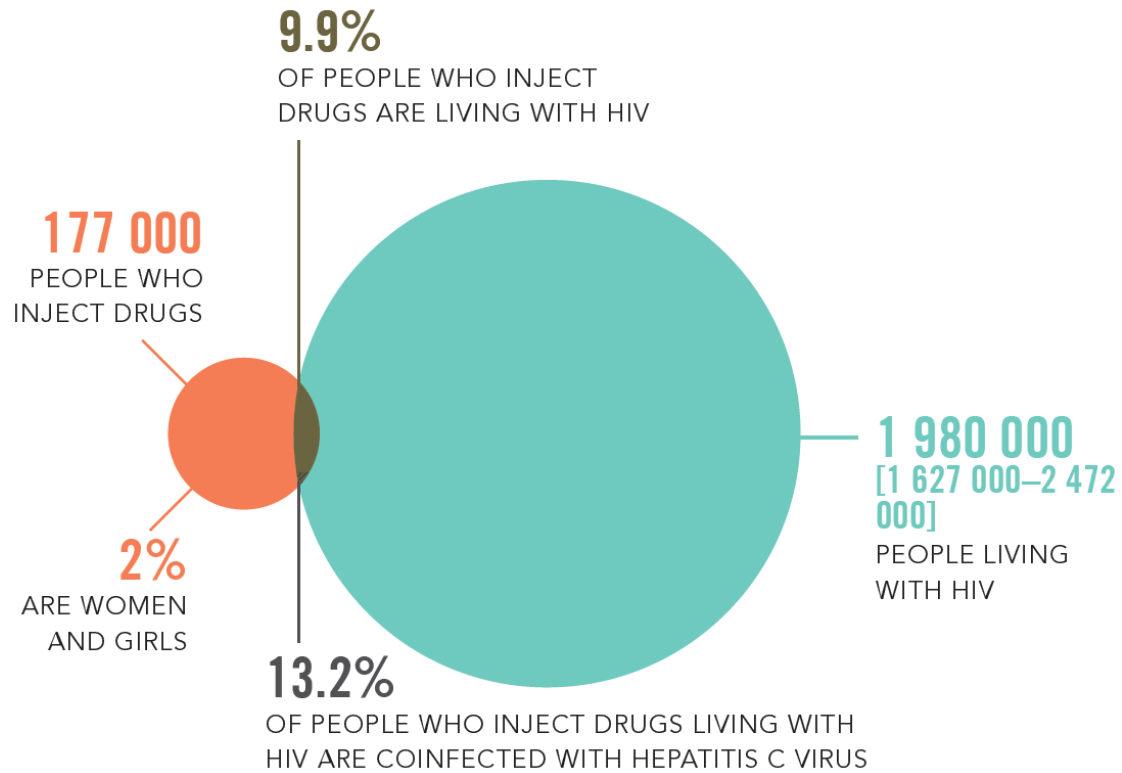


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Amendments to the Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substance Act in 2014 enabled further scale-up of opioid substitution therapy, needle–syringe programmes and other harm reduction services.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Use of cannabis can result in up to six months of imprisonment, and use of heroin, morphine or cocaine can result in up to one year of imprisonment.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needle/syringes.

HARM REDUCTION

**240**

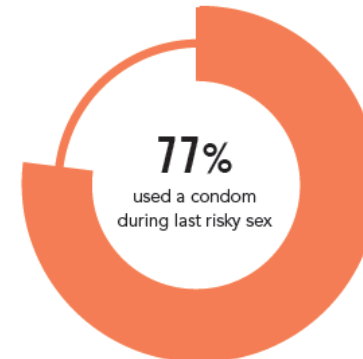
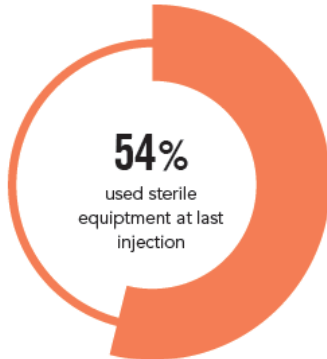
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**22 000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

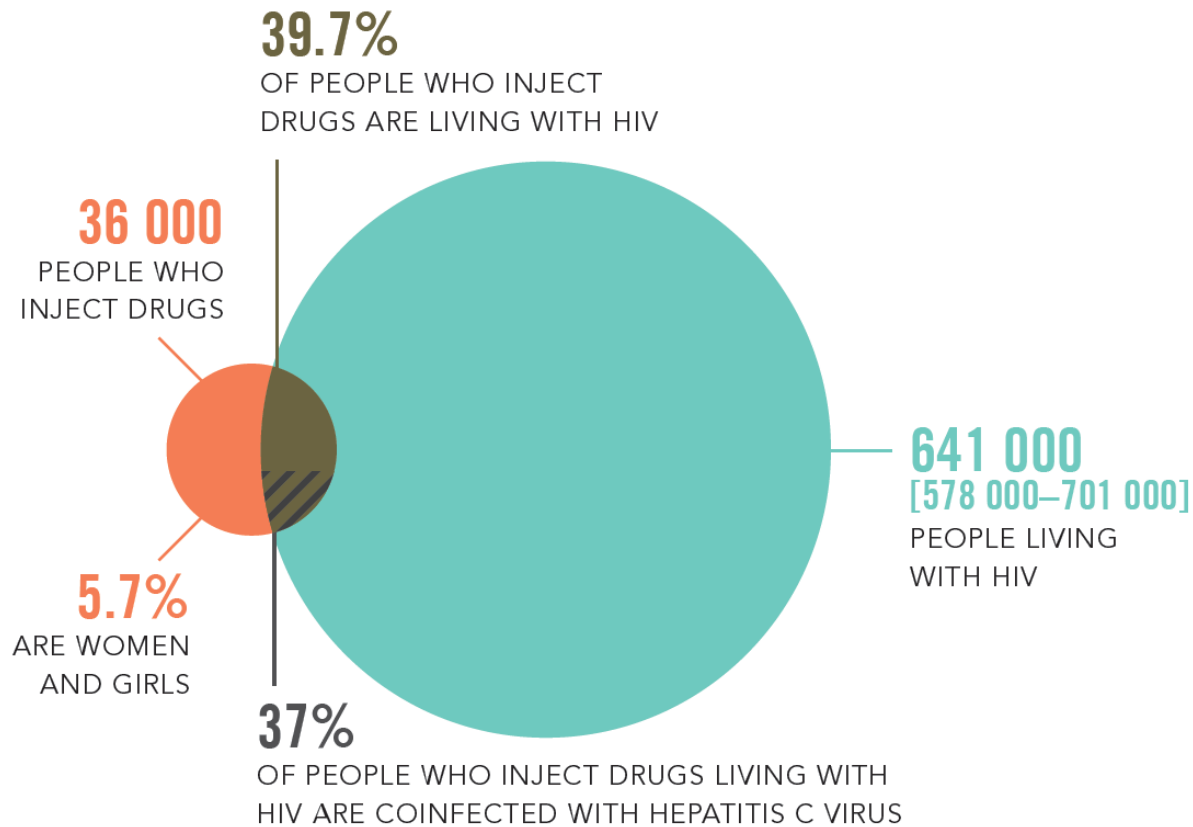


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
National-level legislation was enacted in 2011 in support of harm reduction, including regulations that facilitate the diversion of drug users into drug treatment.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use can result in heavy fines and lengthy prison sentences. Incarceration due to narcotics-related offences accounts for about 37% of the total prison population.
-  **HEALTH CARE**
Health insurance regulations consider drug use a “self-inflicted” condition that can disqualify an individual from receiving health insurance benefits. The estimated coverage of antiretroviral treatment among people who inject drugs is 6%.
-  **COMPULSORY DETENTION**
There are 1300 people who use drugs in compulsory detention centres.

HARM REDUCTION

**44**

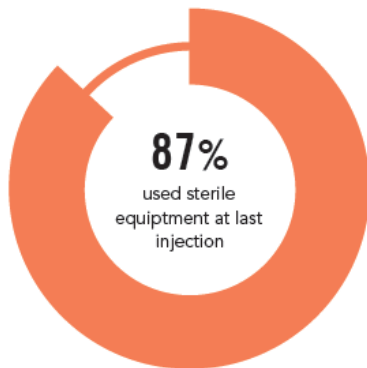
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**2000**

people actively enrolled in
opioid substitution therapy

**0**

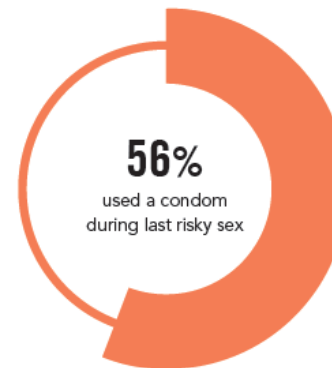
safe injecting
facilities

**87%**

used sterile
equipment at last
injection

**63%**

tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months

**56%**

used a condom
during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

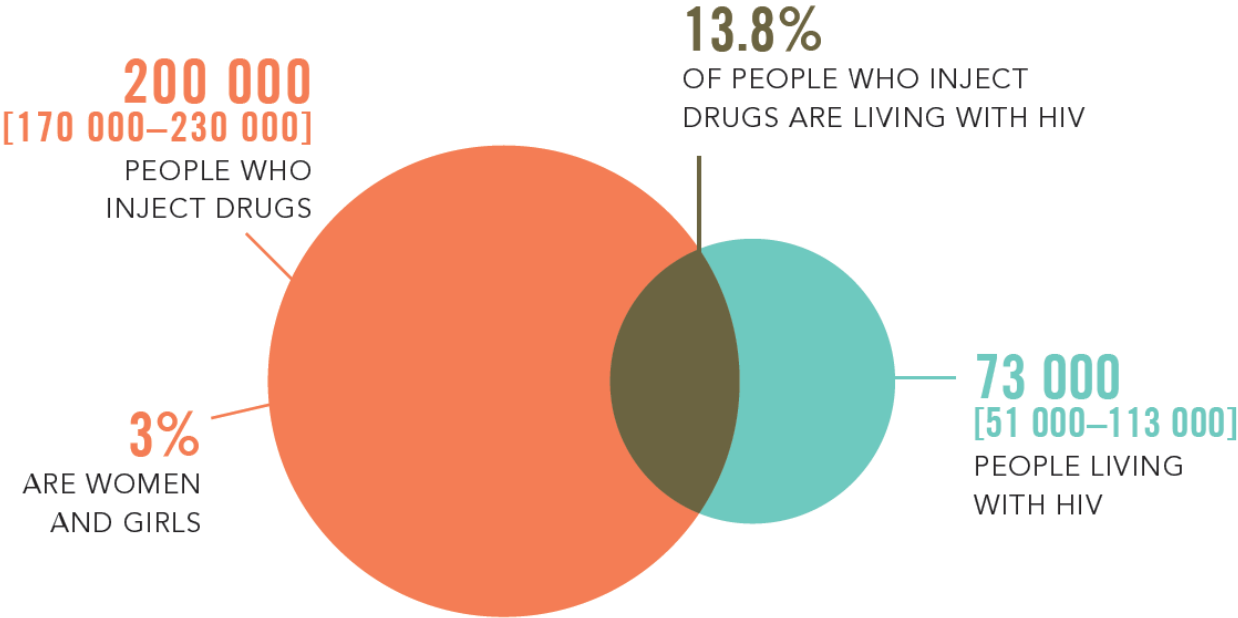


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



Sources: Rapid Situation Assessment, Iran, 2007; Spectrum files, 2015; Integrated biological and behavioural survey, Iran, 2014; Global AIDS response progress reporting. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2015; J Pak Med Assoc. 2014;64:134-137; Iran J Public Health. 2014;43:229-234; Hepat Mon. 2012;12:442-447; Med Glas (Zenica). 2012;9:299-303; Hepat Mon. 2010;10:26-30; Int J Infect Dis. 2010; 14:e28-33.

LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

Ministry of Health guidelines for methadone maintenance therapy have been available since 2002; buprenorphine maintenance treatment is also offered; opium tincture solution maintenance treatment has been delivered as a pilot project.



POLICING

There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needles and syringes.

HARM REDUCTION



44–60

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



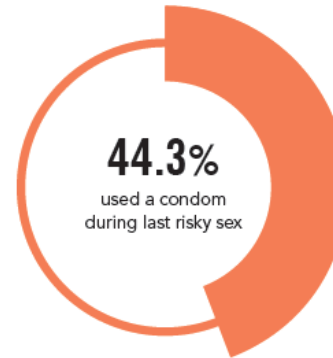
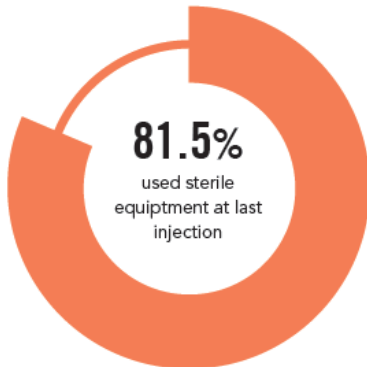
599 000

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

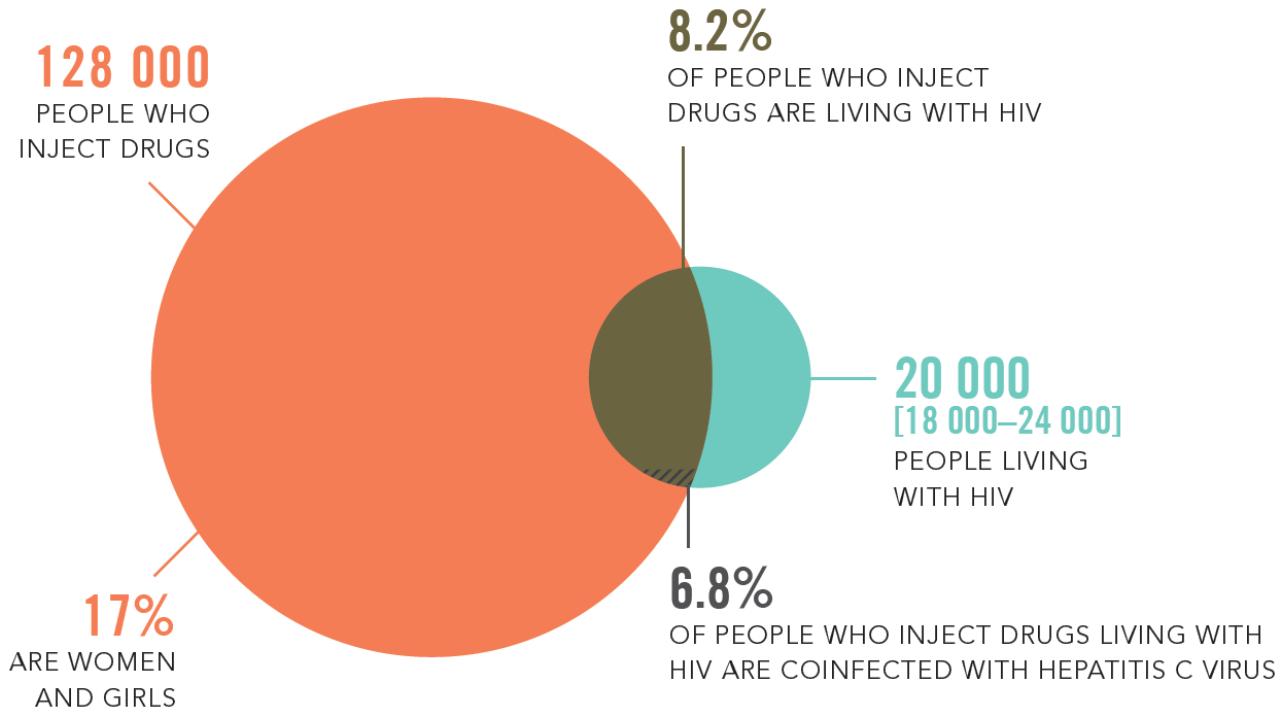


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
A Republican AIDS Centre decree provides guidance on the delivery of a comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment and care of HIV for people who use drugs, including needle and syringe distribution; opioid substitution therapy remains a pilot programme.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Non-medical use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is punishable by fines, correctional labour and incarceration for 45 days.
-  **DOMESTIC INVESTMENT**
The Government of Kazakhstan is gradually replacing donor funding with domestic funding.

HARM REDUCTION



264

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



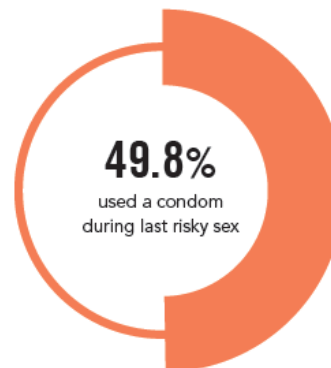
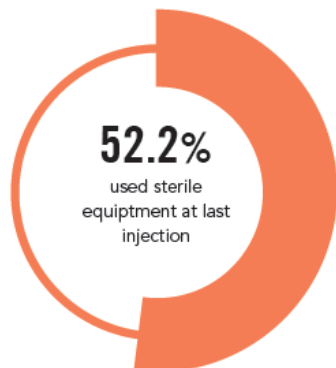
<1000

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

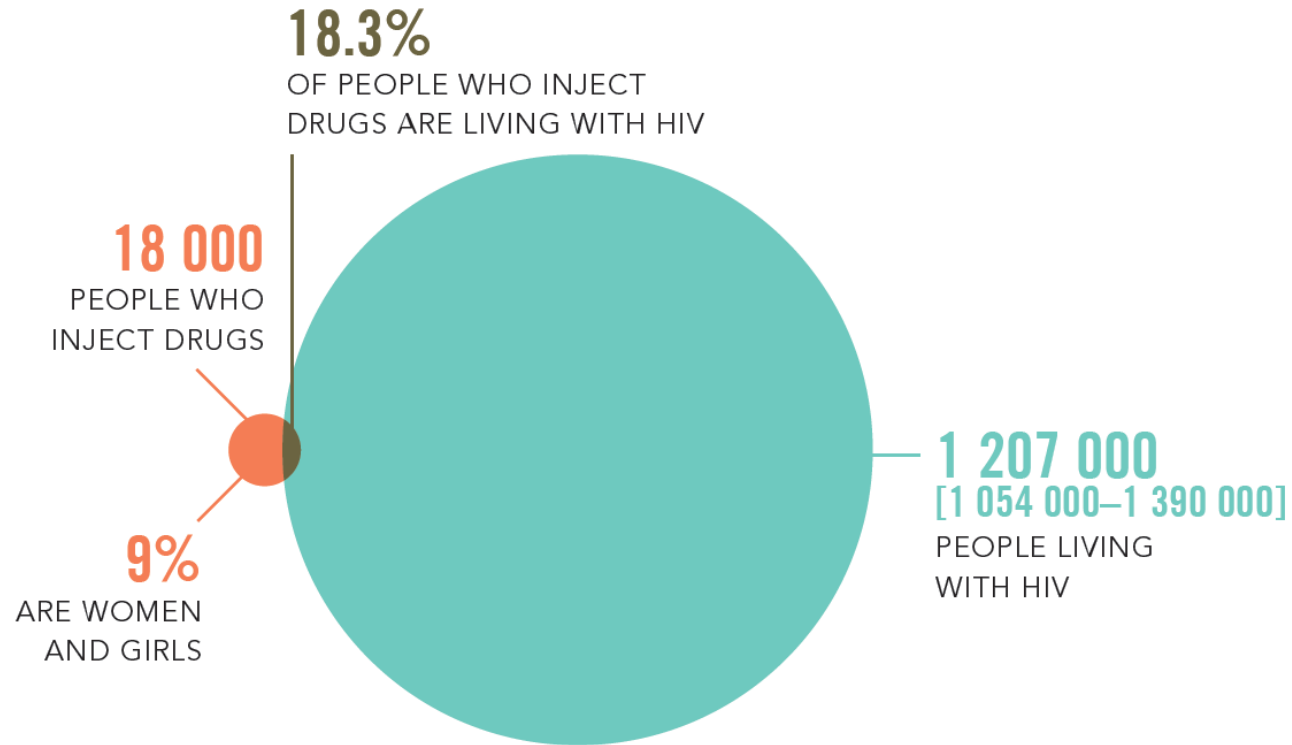


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
The Kenyan National AIDS Control Council introduced a harm reduction strategy in 2011, and the Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework for 2015–2020 promotes the comprehensive package for harm reduction recommended by WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS.
-  **POLICING**
Police have discretionary powers in favour of harm reduction, but many continue to arrest and prosecute people who use drugs for the possession of drug paraphernalia.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of any illicit narcotic or psychotropic substance is a criminal offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

HARM REDUCTION

**20**

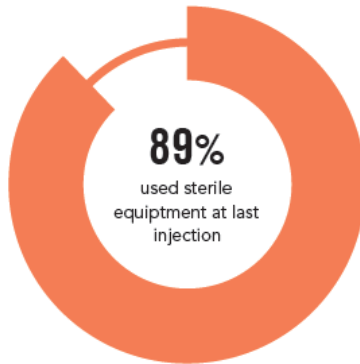
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**1100**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities

**89%**

used sterile
equipment at last
injection

**-**

tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months

**48%**

used a condom
during sex with a
non-paying partner
within the past
month

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS



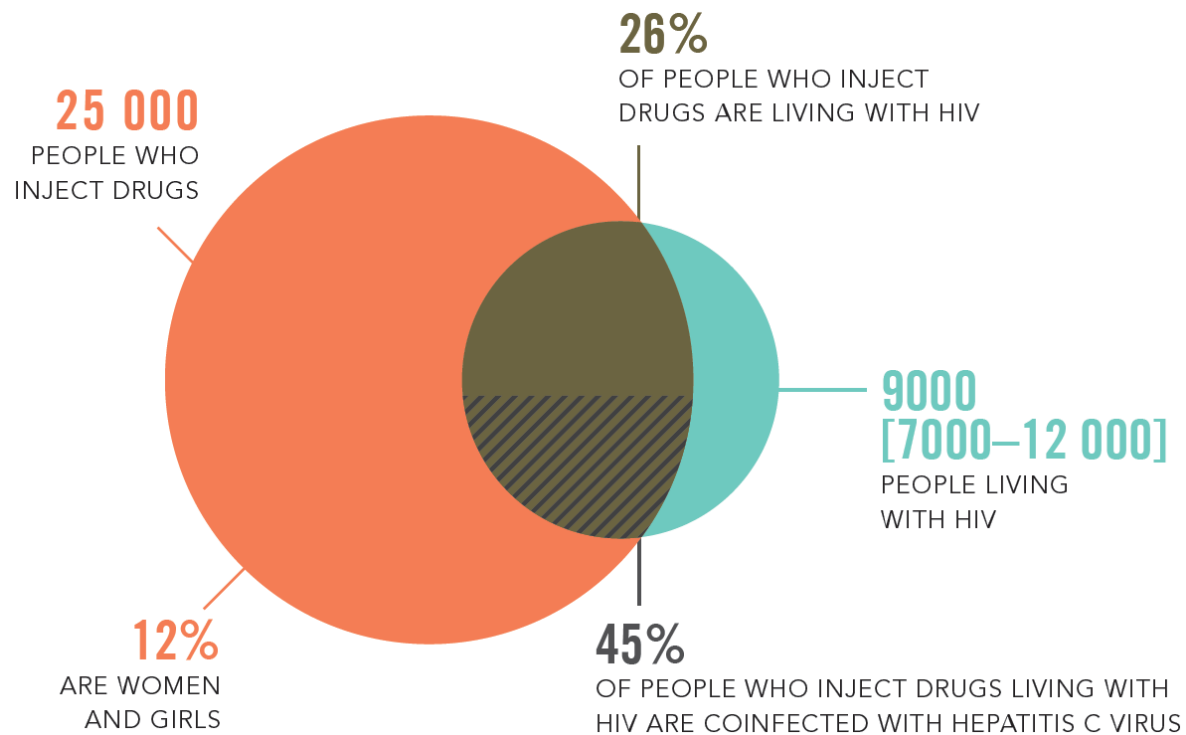
NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY*

* In some prisons, arrangements are made for people who use drugs who were enrolled in opioid substitution therapy before their incarceration to continue treatment through daily visits to the local clinic.

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Harm reduction has been part of the national drug strategy since 2011.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of more than 1 gram of a narcotic drug is a criminal offence punishable by a fine and up to two years in prison; the fines for drug possession have been increased in recent years.
-  **DOMESTIC INVESTMENT**
The financing of harm reduction in this lower-middle-income country is highly reliant on external funding; only 16% of expenditure for needle and syringe distribution and opioid substitution therapy came from domestic sources in 2013.

HARM REDUCTION



252

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



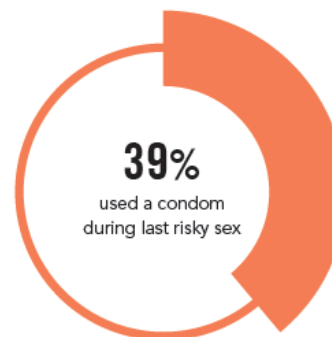
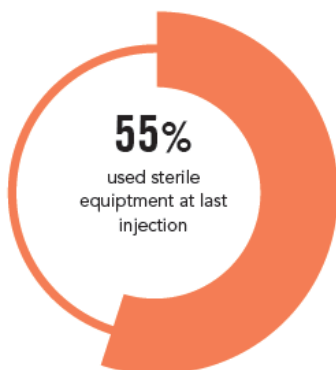
1227

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

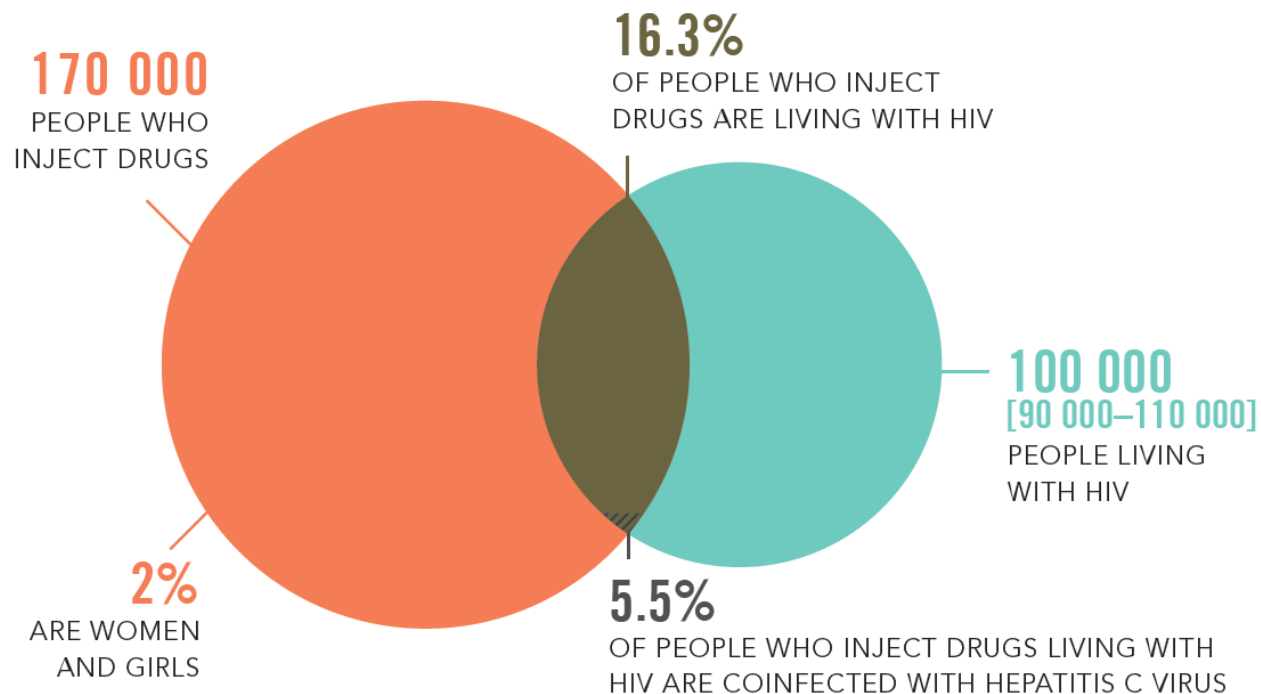


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

The country's needle and syringe exchange programme and opioid substitution therapy are cornerstones of the national HIV prevention strategy.



POLICING

Section 37 of the Dangerous Drug Act 1952 states that possession of needles and syringes can result in up to two years in prison; a 2006 police standard operating procedure instructs police not to target needle and syringe exchange sites for arrest, but adherence to the standard operating procedure appears uneven.



COMPULSORY DETENTION

Under Malaysia's drug control laws, anybody with a positive urine screen for narcotic drugs can be deemed to be drug dependent by a government medical officer and sent to a detention centre for compulsory treatment followed by community supervision following release.

HARM REDUCTION

**61**

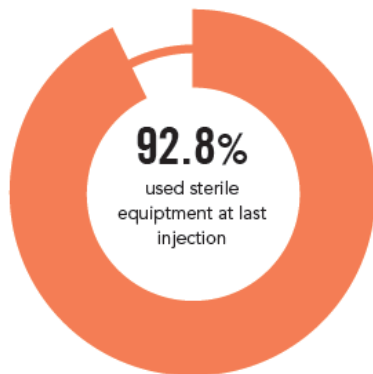
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**75 000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

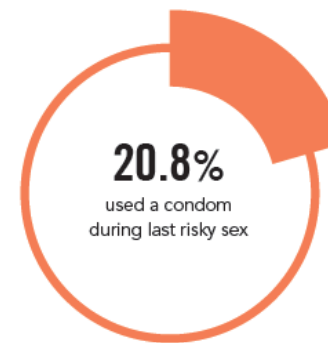
safe injecting
facilities

**92.8%**

used sterile
equipment at last
injection

**37.8%**

tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months

**20.8%**

used a condom
during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

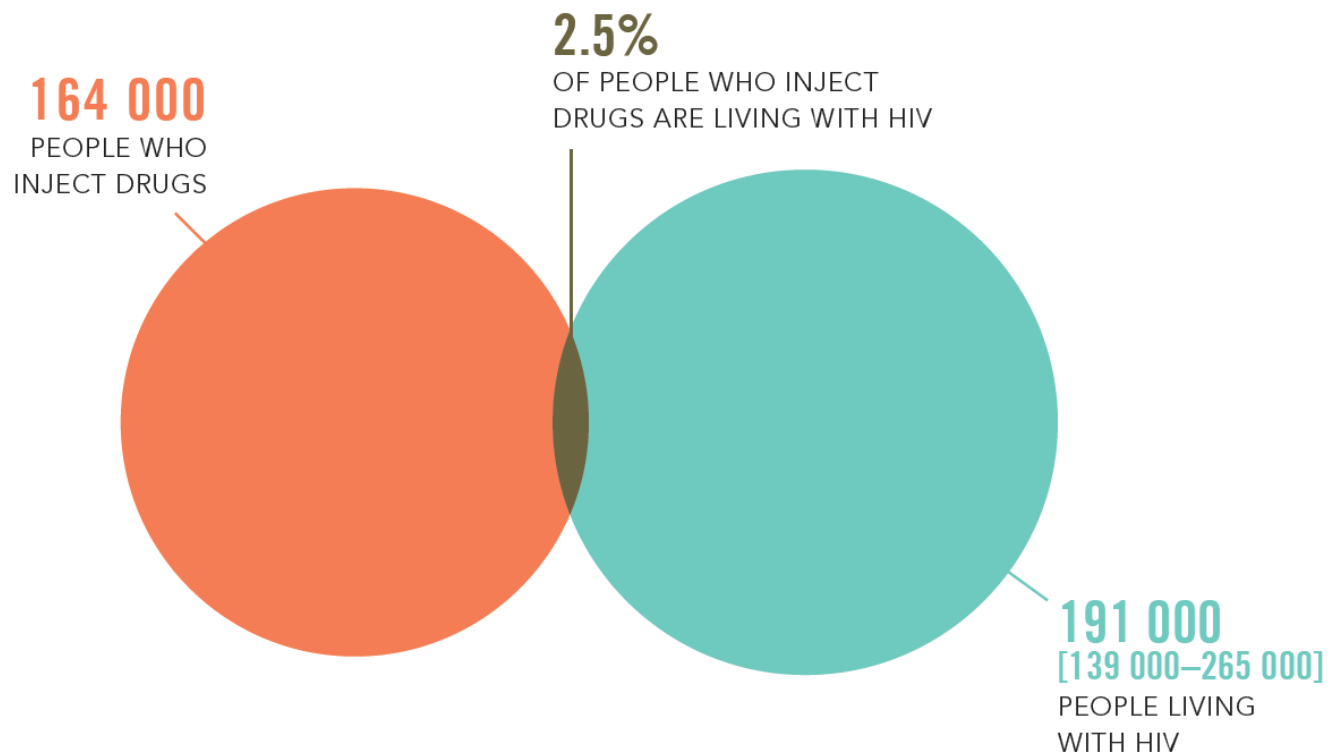


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



DECRIMINALIZATION

In August 2009 Mexico's federal government partially decriminalized possession of small quantities of drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines and heroin.



POLICING

Policing practices such as crackdowns, targeted patrols of harm reduction services and syringe confiscation may reduce access to services and increase risky drug-related behaviours among people who inject drugs.

HARM REDUCTION

**3.9**

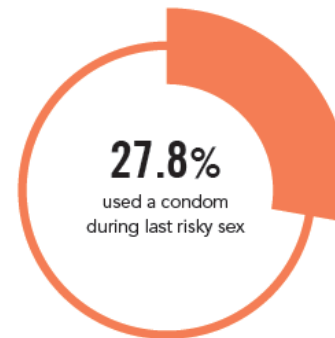
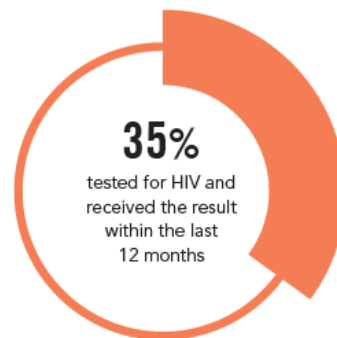
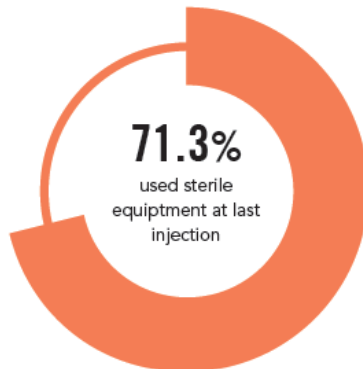
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**-**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

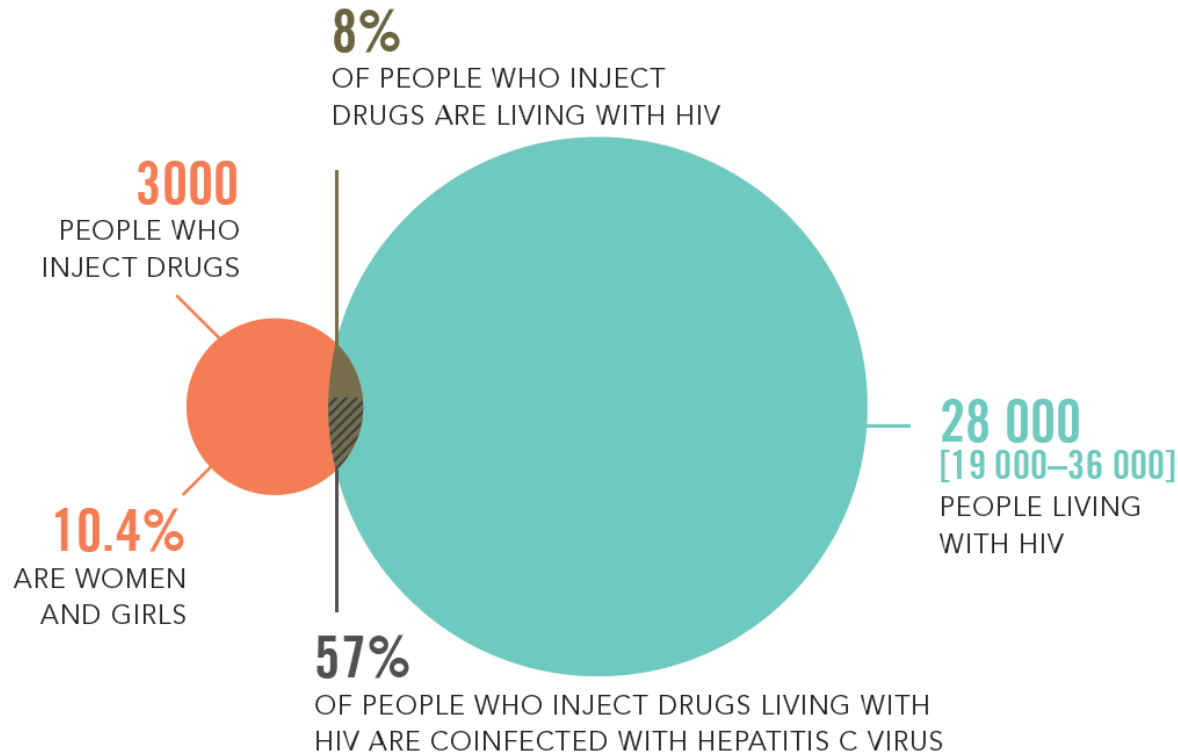


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
A national harm reduction plan guides implementation of needle and syringe distribution and opioid substitution therapy.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of small quantities of drugs is a criminal offence that is strictly enforced, with penalties including fines and up to one year in prison.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needles, syringes or other drug paraphernalia.

HARM REDUCTION

**88**

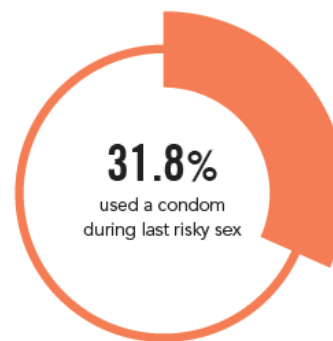
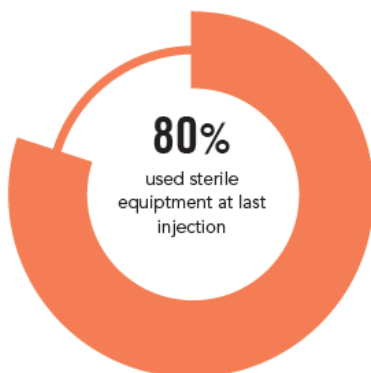
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**<1000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

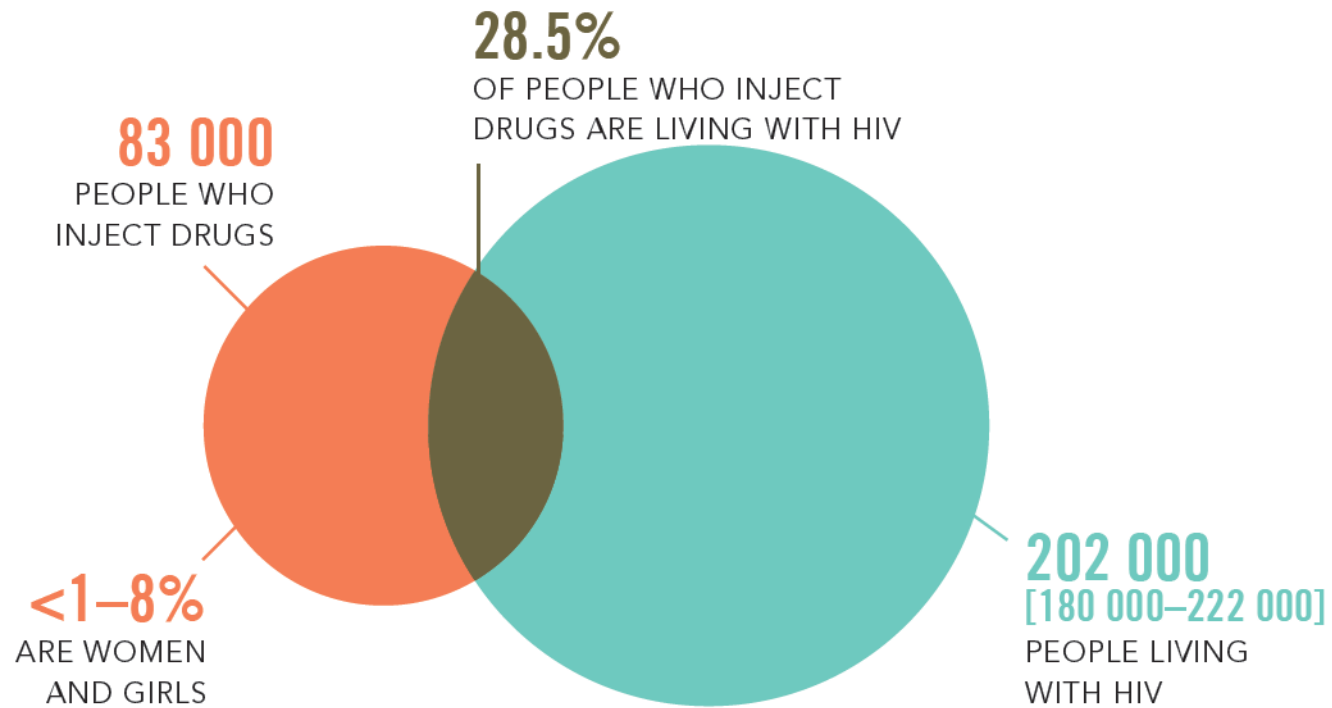


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
Harm reduction is included in the national strategic plan for HIV developed by the national AIDS programme under the Ministry of Health.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993) makes little distinction between drug users and traffickers; penalties are severe and sentences are not proportional to crimes (e.g. 3–5 years in prison for “small time offenders”).
-  **POLICING**
Sections of a nearly 100-year-old excise act that made possession of needles and syringes illegal were repealed in 2015.
-  **REGISTRATION OF DRUG USERS**
The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993) establishes mandatory registration for drug treatment, undermining the strengthening of harm reduction interventions; failure to register for drug treatment can result in a prison sentence of up to five years.

HARM REDUCTION



168

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



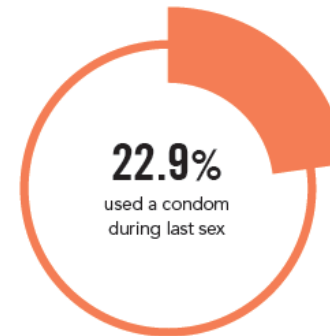
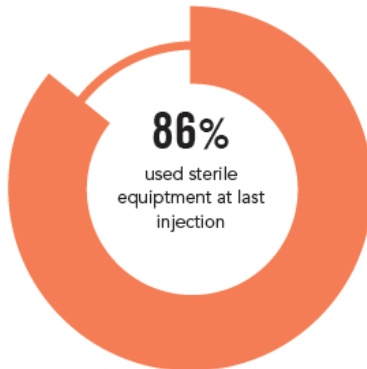
10 000

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

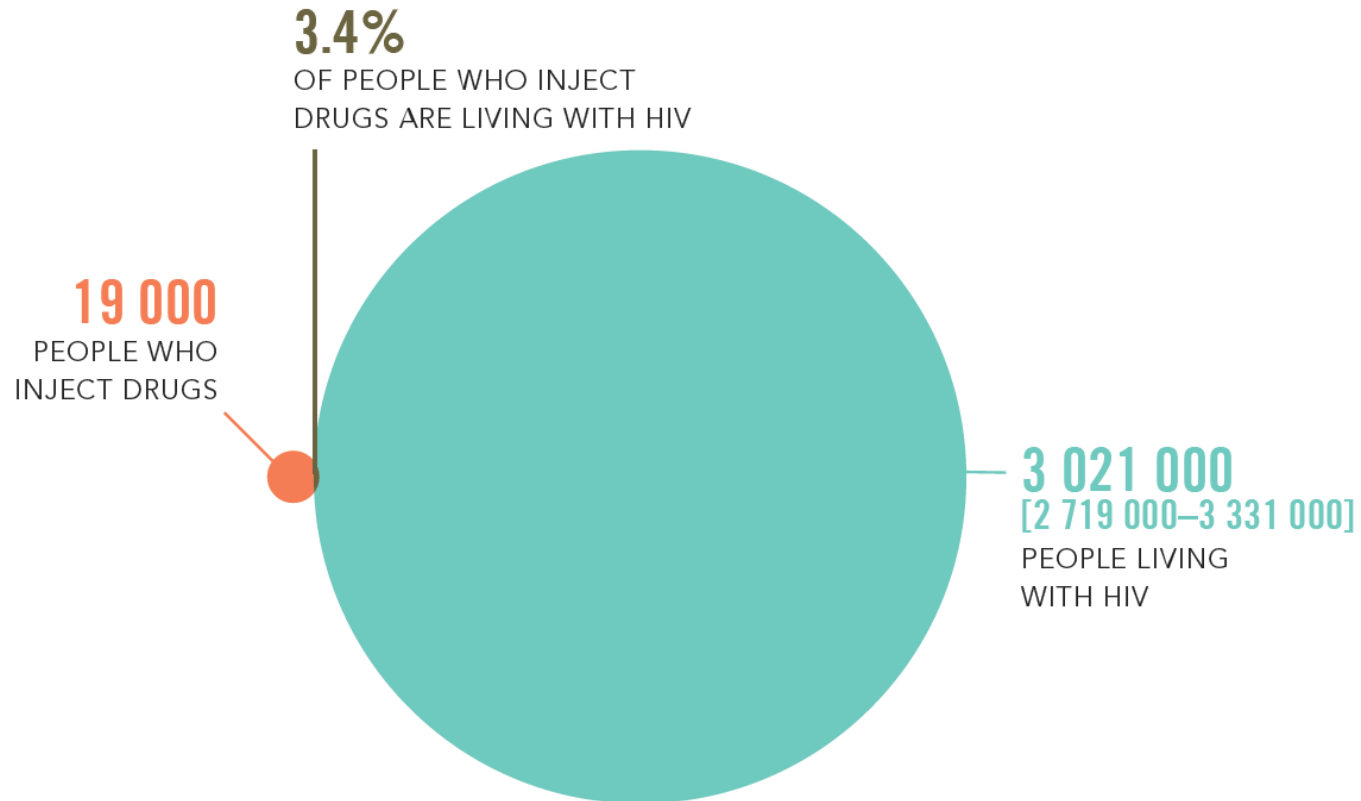


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

The National Policy for the Control of Viral Hepatitis in Nigeria, published in July 2015, calls for a combination approach to disease prevention among people who inject drugs, including needle–syringe exchange and opioid substitution therapy.



LACK OF SERVICES

There are currently no needle–syringe or opioid substitution therapy programmes in the country.

HARM REDUCTION



-

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



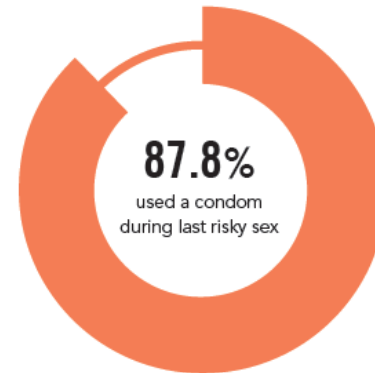
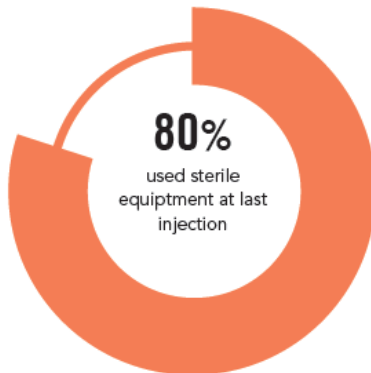
-

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

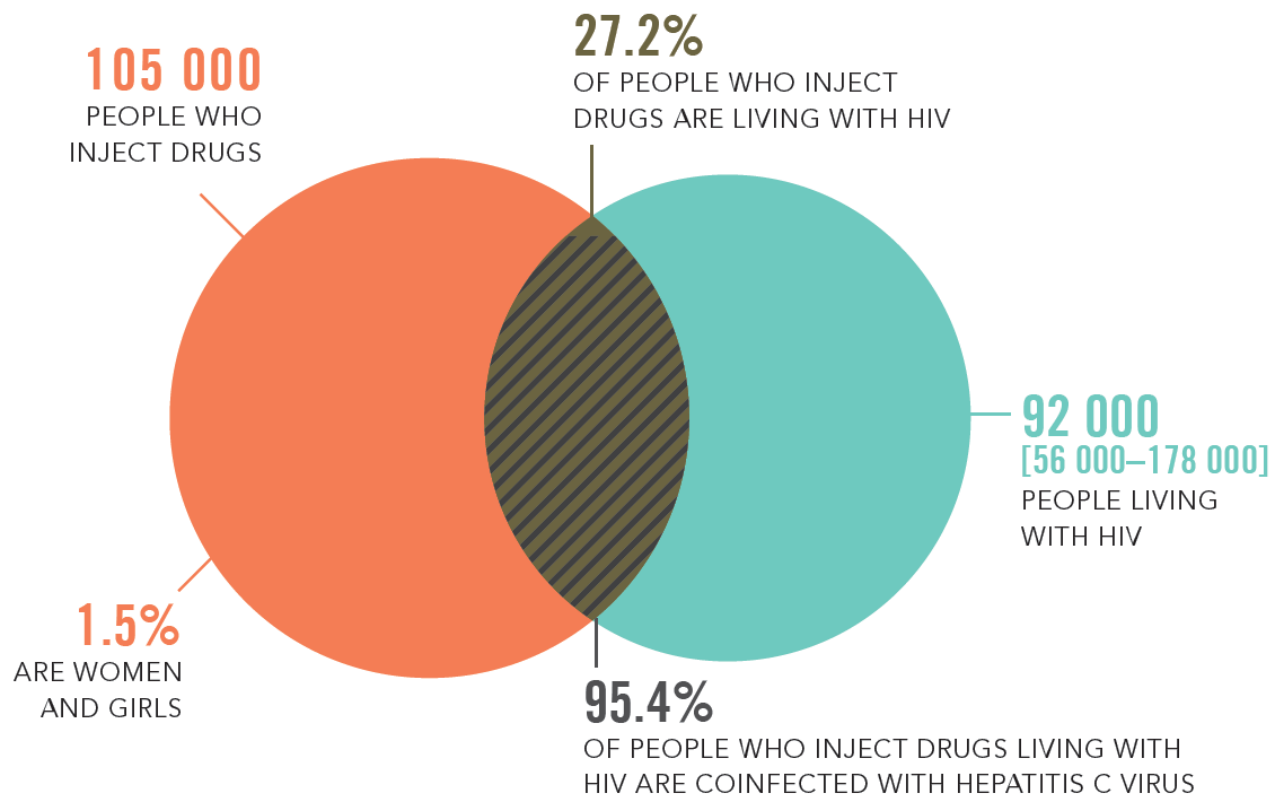


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Under the Controlled Narcotic Substances Act, possession of less than 100 grams of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is punishable by fines and up to two years in prison.
-  **POLICING**
The Controlled Narcotic Substances Act does not punish drug use per se, and the possession of needles and syringes or other drug paraphernalia is not objectionable.
-  **REGISTRATION OF DRUG USERS**
Provincial governments are required to register all people who use drugs within their respective jurisdictions.
-  **DOMESTIC INVESTMENT**
The financing of harm reduction in this lower-middle-income country is highly reliant on external funding, accounting for 72% of all funding in 2013.

HARM REDUCTION



178

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



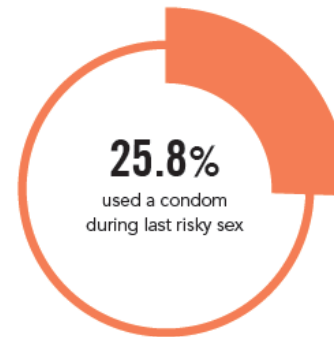
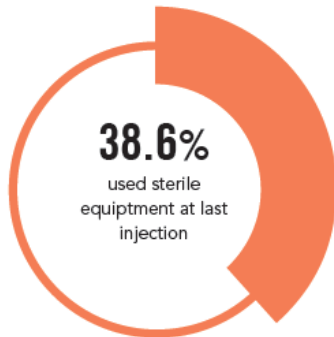
0

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

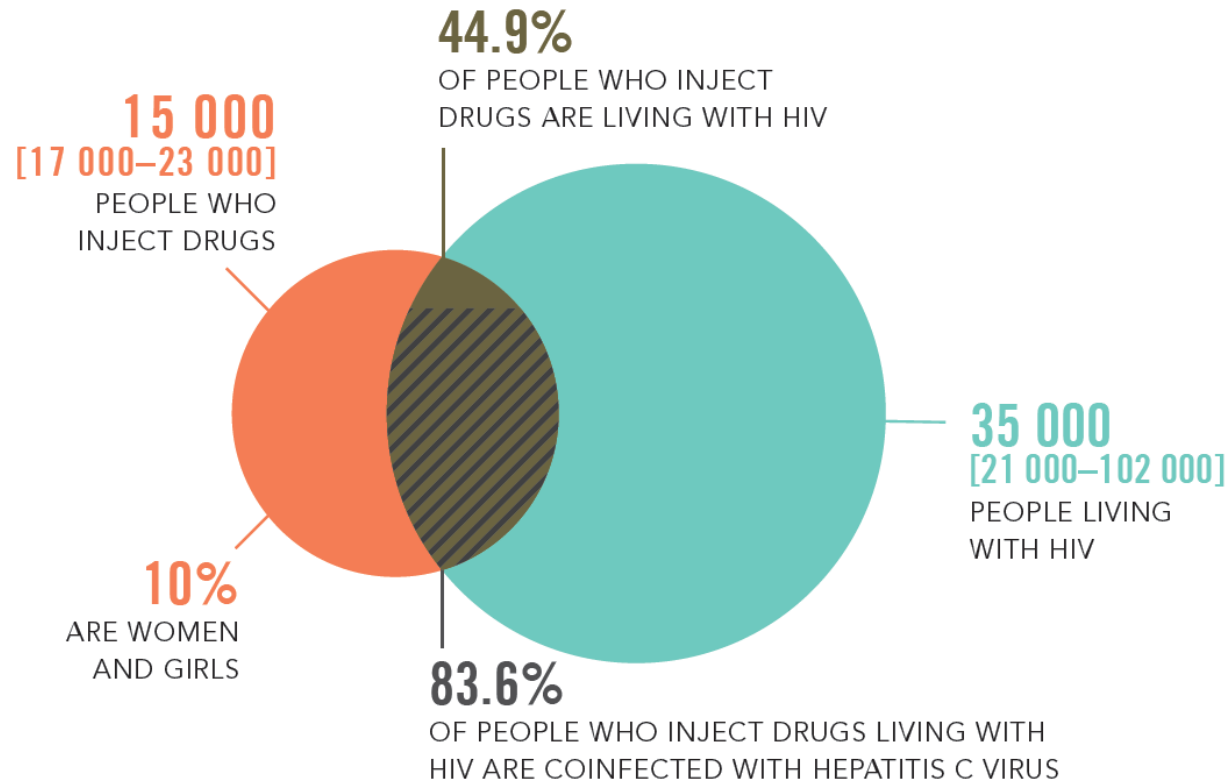


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
The Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 supports harm reduction and the provision of health and social services to people who use drugs.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of narcotic drugs for personal use is punishable by fines or imprisonment.
-  **POLICING**
Possession of needles, syringes or other drug paraphernalia can result in a fine and up to one year in prison.
-  **COMPULSORY DETENTION**
Detention and coercive treatment is currently the dominant approach to drug use and drug dependence.

HARM REDUCTION



-

syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year



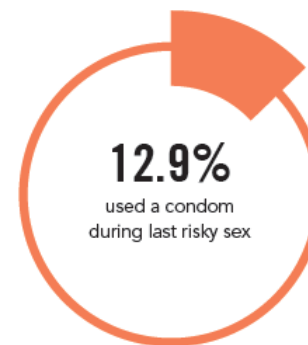
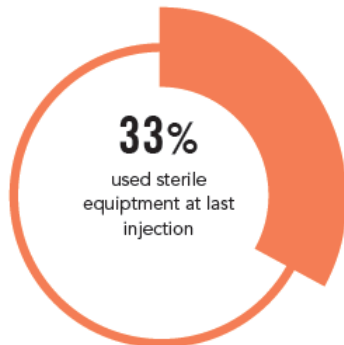
-

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy



0

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

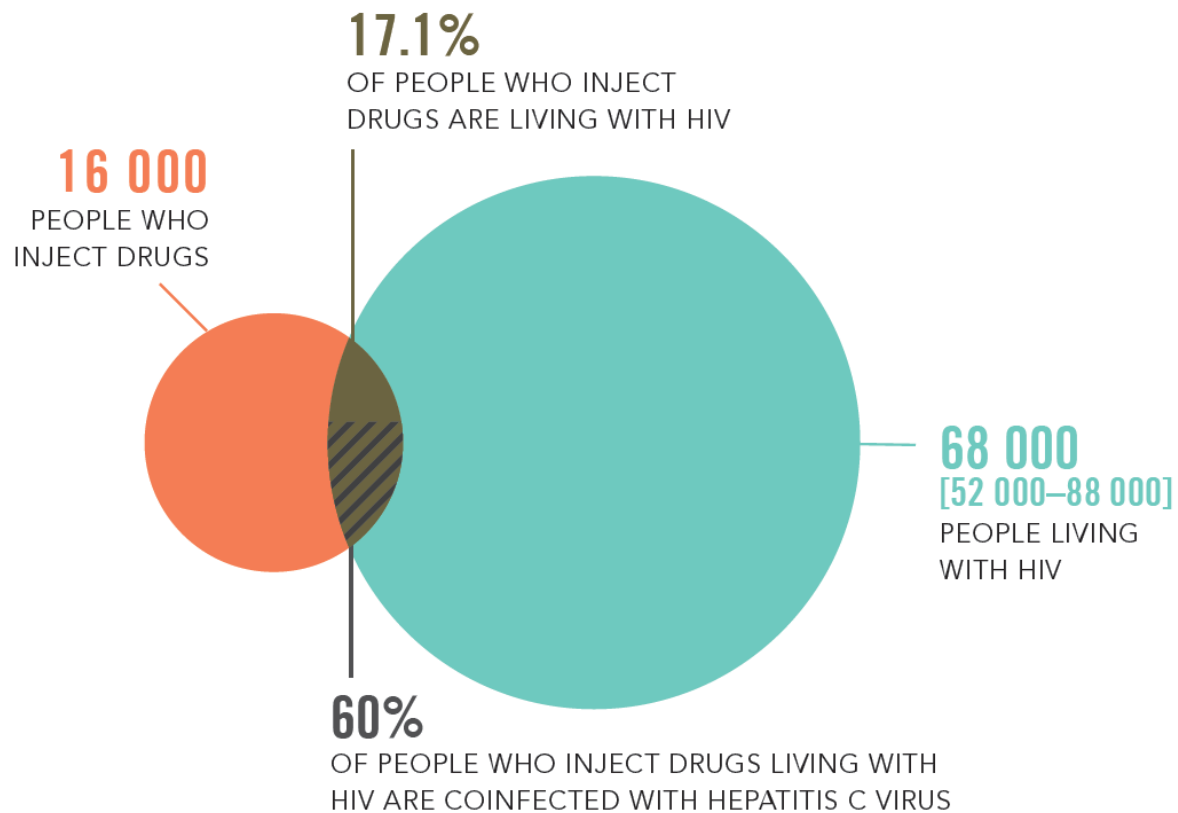


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

Risk and harm reduction is a pillar of the National Plan Against Drugs and Drug Addictions 2013–20; a network of comprehensive harm reduction programmes has been consolidated throughout the country in critical zones of intensive drug use.



DECRIMINALIZATION

In 2000 Portugal passed a new drug law that downgraded the purchase, possession and consumption of small amounts of narcotic drugs from criminal to administrative offences; under the law an individual can possess a 10-day supply of drugs before facing criminal charges as a drug dealer.



POLICING

There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needles and syringes.

HARM REDUCTION



150

syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year



17 000

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy



0

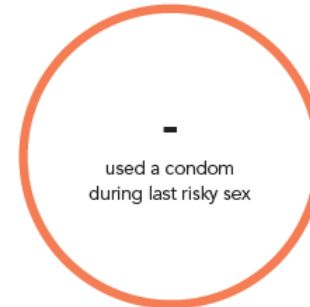
safe injecting
facilities



-
used sterile
equipment at last
injection



-
tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months



-
used a condom
during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

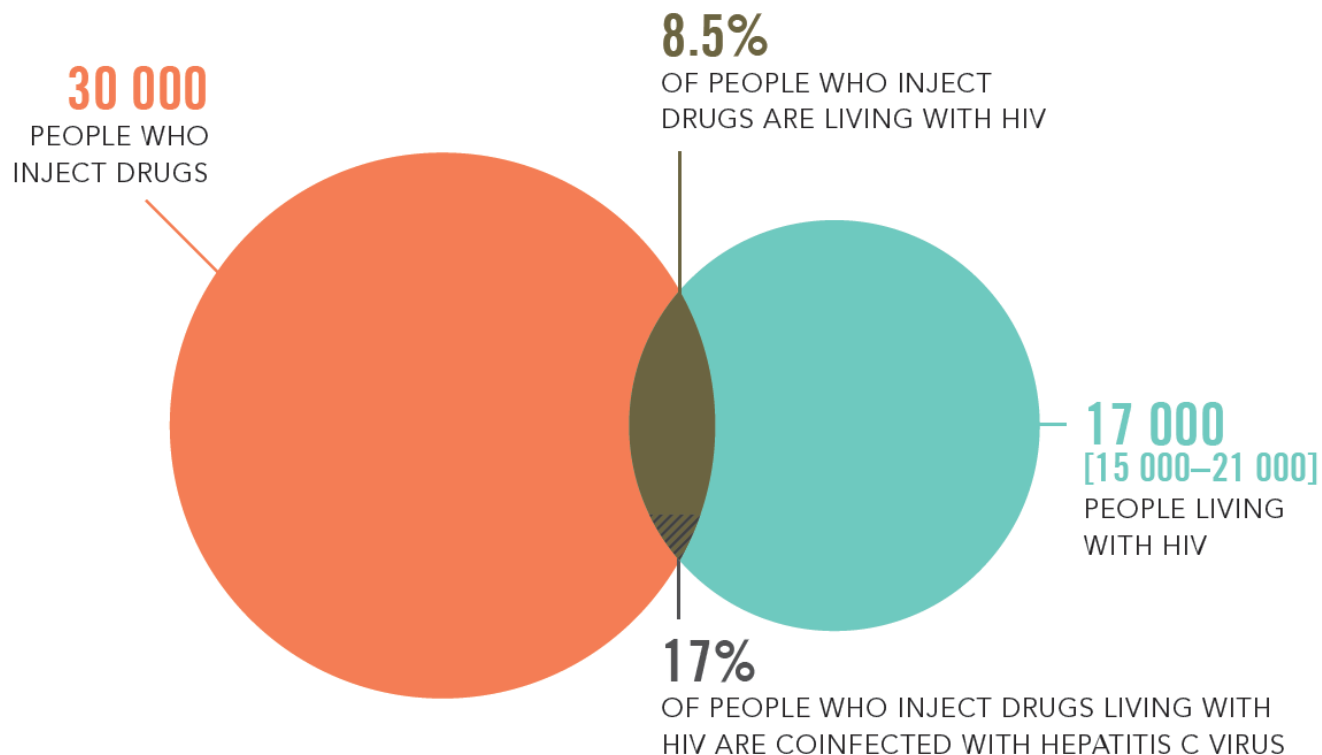


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES






OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC*



* HIV and HCV prevalence data for people who inject drugs in Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldova.

LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
A revised HIV law issued in 2012 contains specific clauses on harm reduction for people who use drugs in communities and prisons.
-  **DECRIMINALIZATION**
Simple drug use is an administrative offence according to Article 85 of the Administrative Offences Code passed in 2008; under the code, purchase or possession of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in small amounts without the purpose of distribution, as well as their consumption without a medical prescription, is sanctioned with a fine.
-  **REGISTRATION OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**
A positive drug test conducted at the request of police or by an individual voluntarily accessing the health-care system can result in registration into a narcological register database.

HARM REDUCTION*



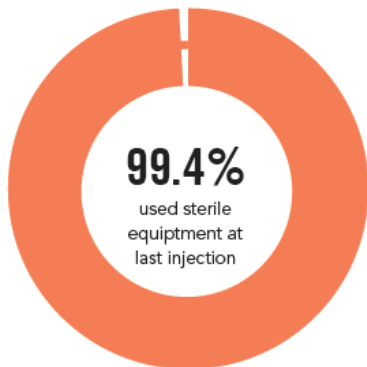
67.5
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year



<1000
people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy



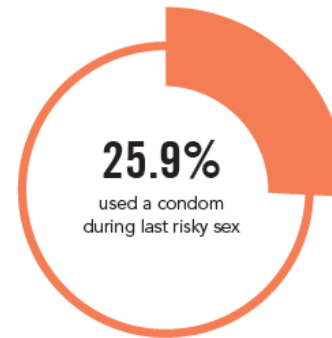
0
safe injecting
facilities



99.4%
used sterile
equipment at
last injection



47.3%
tested for HIV and
received the result
within the last
12 months



25.9%
used a condom
during last risky sex

* Behaviour data is for Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldova.

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

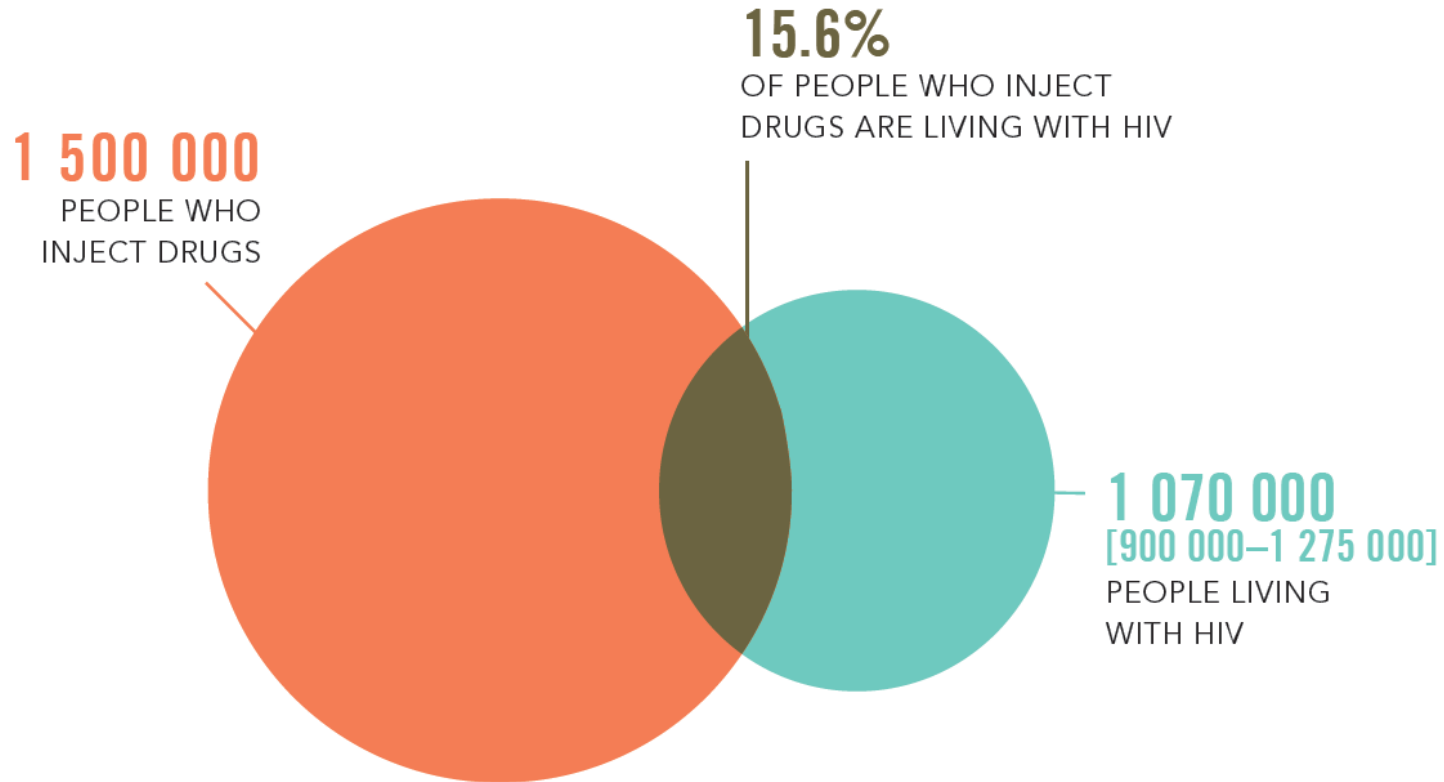


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



INSUFFICIENT ENABLING POLICY

The country's policy framework does not have explicit supportive reference to harm reduction, and opioid substitution therapy is not available in the country.



CRIMINALIZATION

Drug use is an administrative offence punishable by a fine of 4000–5000 roubles or up to 15 days incarceration; possession of drugs can be an administrative or criminal offence depending on the amount in possession (Section 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).



POLICING

Syringe possession is not illegal, and needle and syringe programmes exist; however, cases of arrests for possession of needles and syringes have been documented in some cities.

HARM REDUCTION



-

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



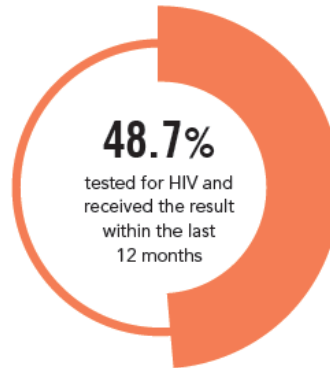
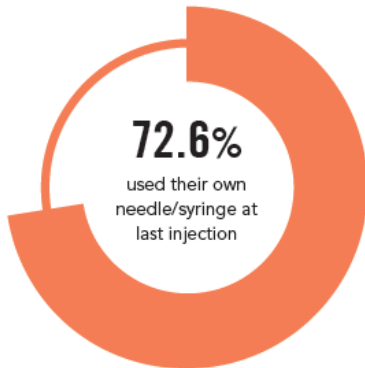
-

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

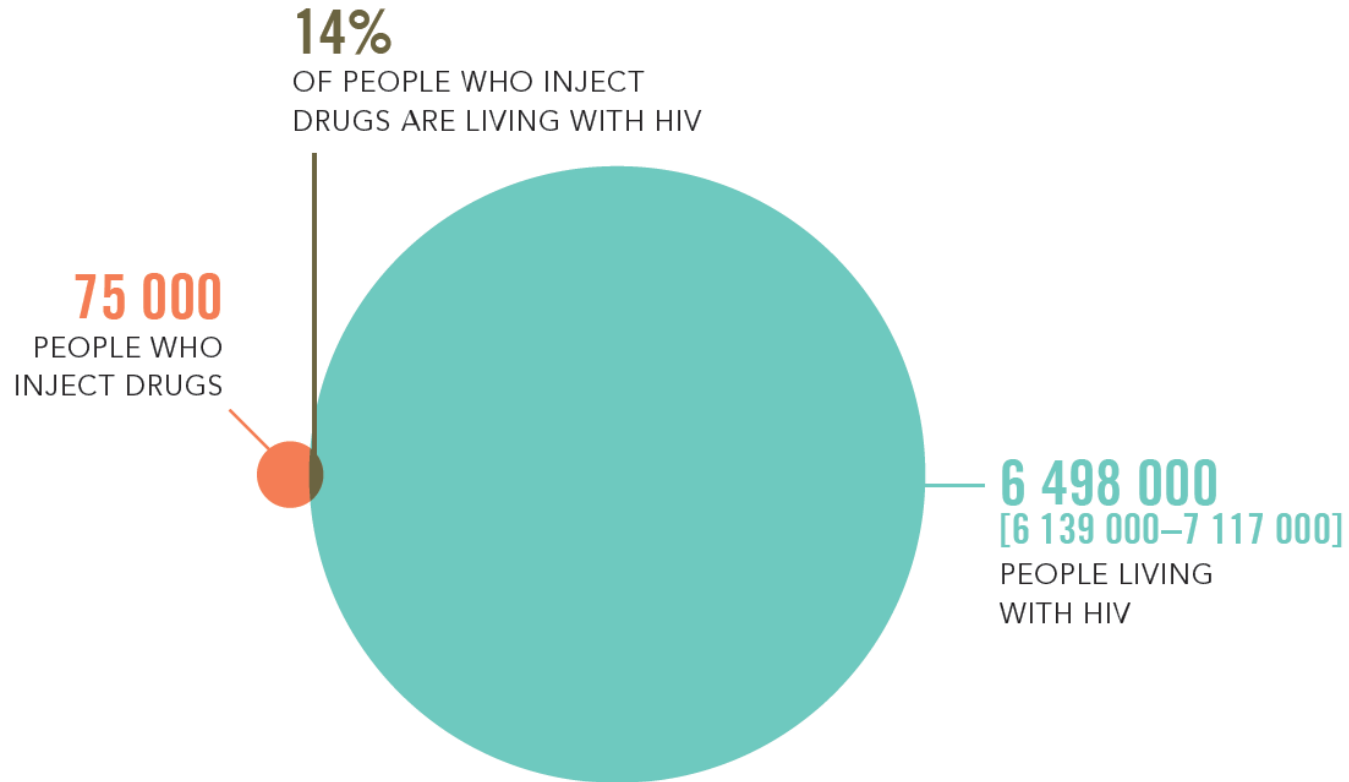


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



CRIMINALIZATION

Possession of narcotic drugs for personal use is punishable by fines or imprisonment.



POLICING

Awareness of harm reduction among law enforcement is low, leading to discouraging practices such as confiscation of needles and syringes; two thirds of people who inject drugs who were surveyed during a formative assessment in two metropolitan areas reported their engagement with law enforcement as being “abusive”.

HARM REDUCTION



6

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



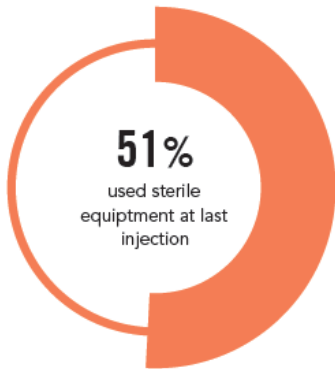
178

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

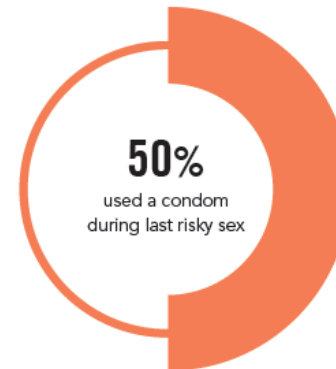
safe injecting facilities



51%
used sterile equipment at last injection



55%
tested for HIV and received the result within the last 12 months



50%
used a condom during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

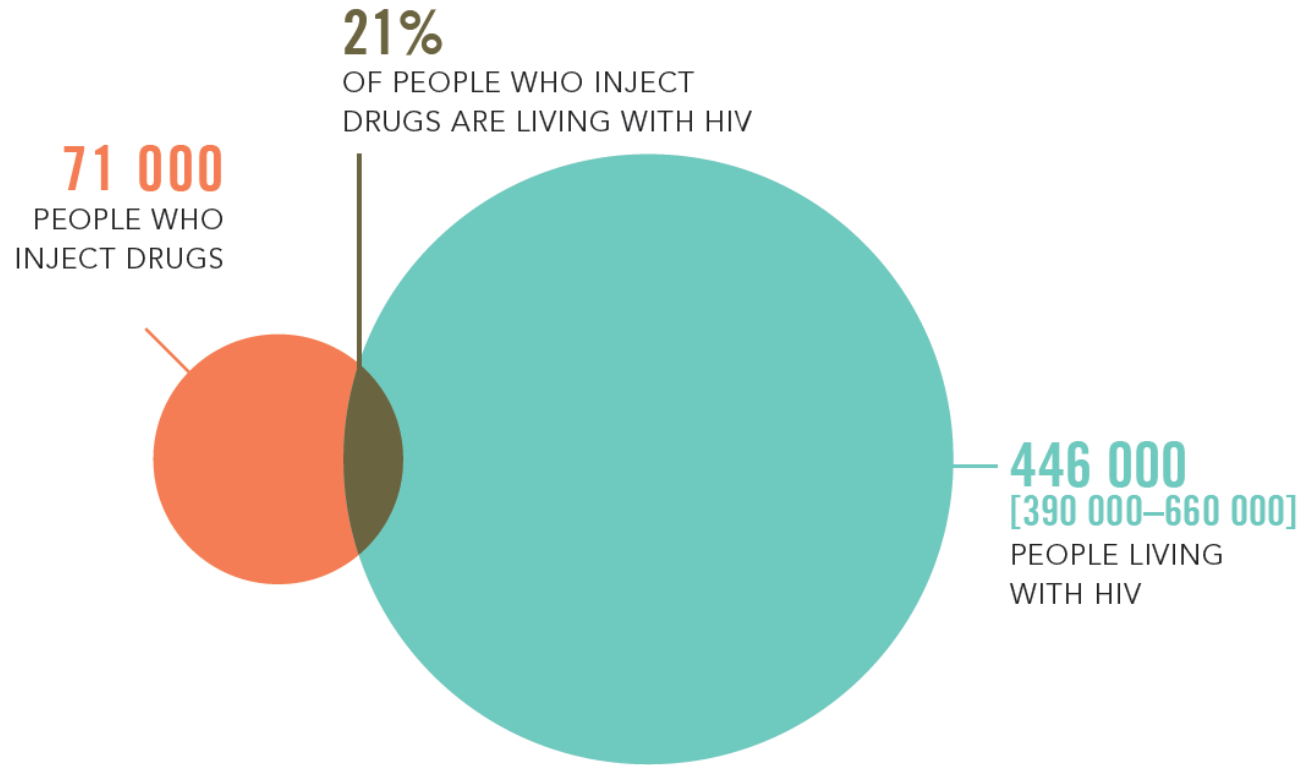


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

In 2014 the national narcotics control board launched a new harm reduction strategy that calls for collaboration between government agencies and civil society in the delivery of services, and the National AIDS Committee has endorsed the policy and strategies on harm reduction for drug use.



CRIMINALIZATION

Under the 1979 Illicit Drug Act, substance use is a criminal offence; consumption of small amounts of type 1 substances, such as heroin, is punishable by fines and up to three years in prison.



POLICING

Since 2003, there have been periodic police crackdowns on people who use drugs.



COMPULSORY DETENTION

In 2014, 96 680 people arrested for drug use were placed in compulsory detention; a recent revision to the national drug policy (Order No. 108/2014) aims to enrol more people who use drugs in voluntary drug dependence treatment provided by public health services.

HARM REDUCTION



14

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



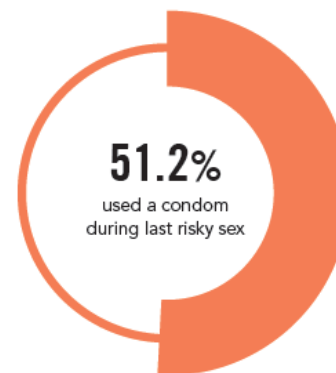
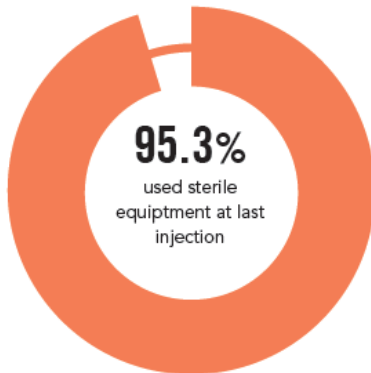
5956

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

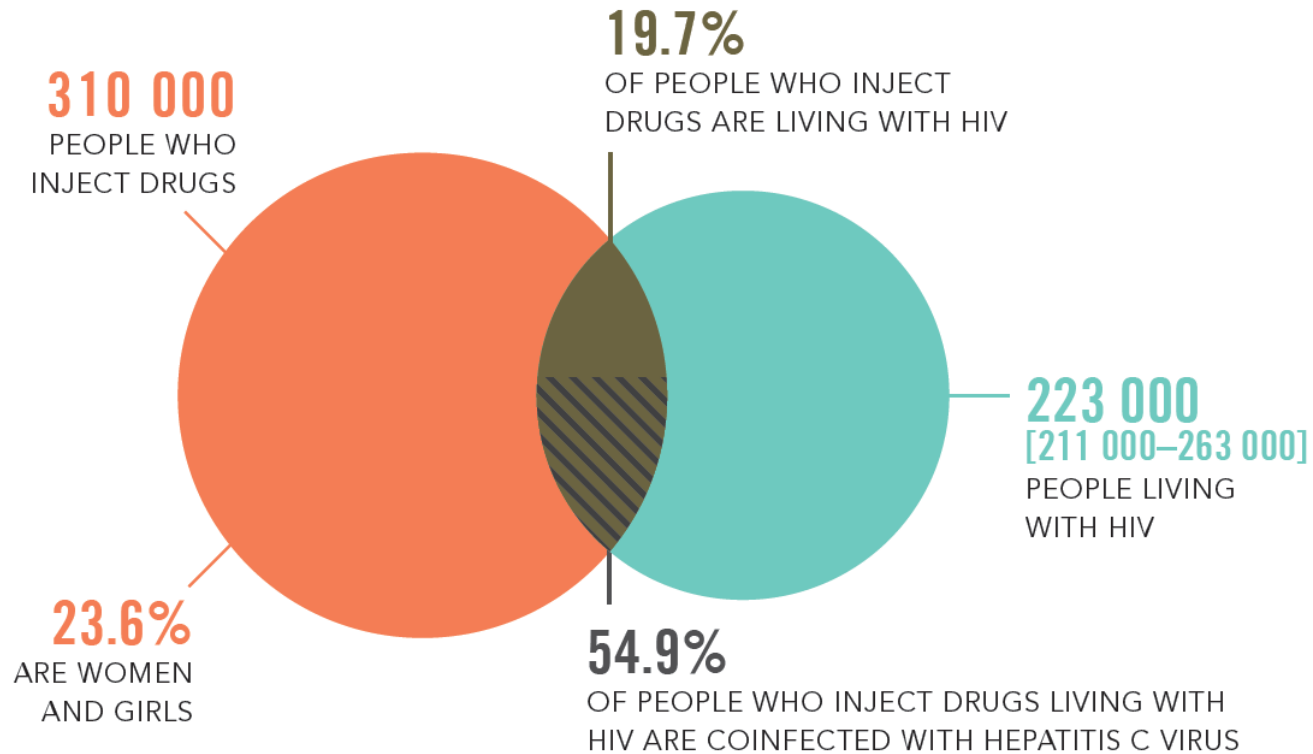


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

Needle and syringe distribution and opioid substitution therapy are supported by the Law on the National AIDS Programme for 2014–2018.



CRIMINALIZATION

In 2010 the threshold amounts between administrative and criminal charges for opioid drug possession were lowered; nongovernmental organizations believe this intensified criminalization of small amounts of drugs negatively affects the performance of harm reduction programmes.



POLICING

There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needles, syringes or other drug paraphernalia.



DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

The financing of harm reduction in this lower-middle-income country is almost completely reliant on international assistance.

HARM REDUCTION



66

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



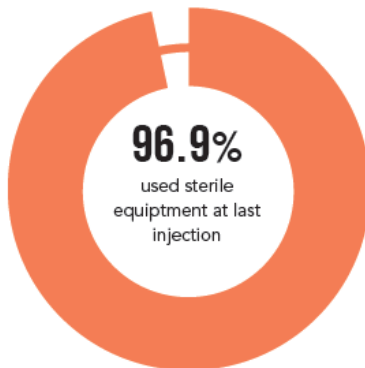
8407

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

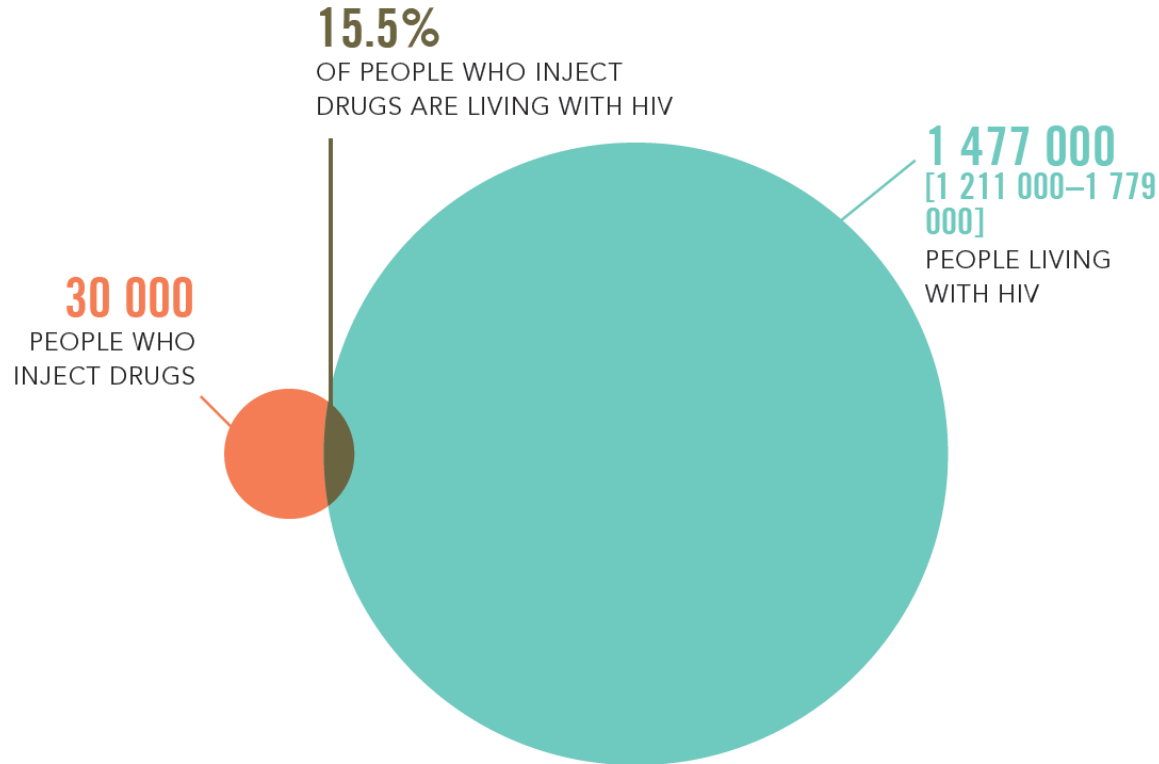


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

Small-scale harm reduction services such as syringe distribution, bleach kits for decontamination and methadone maintenance therapy are being implemented through the national AIDS response.

HARM REDUCTION



155

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



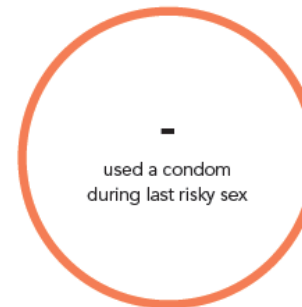
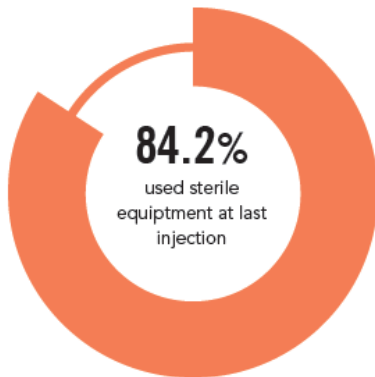
3376

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

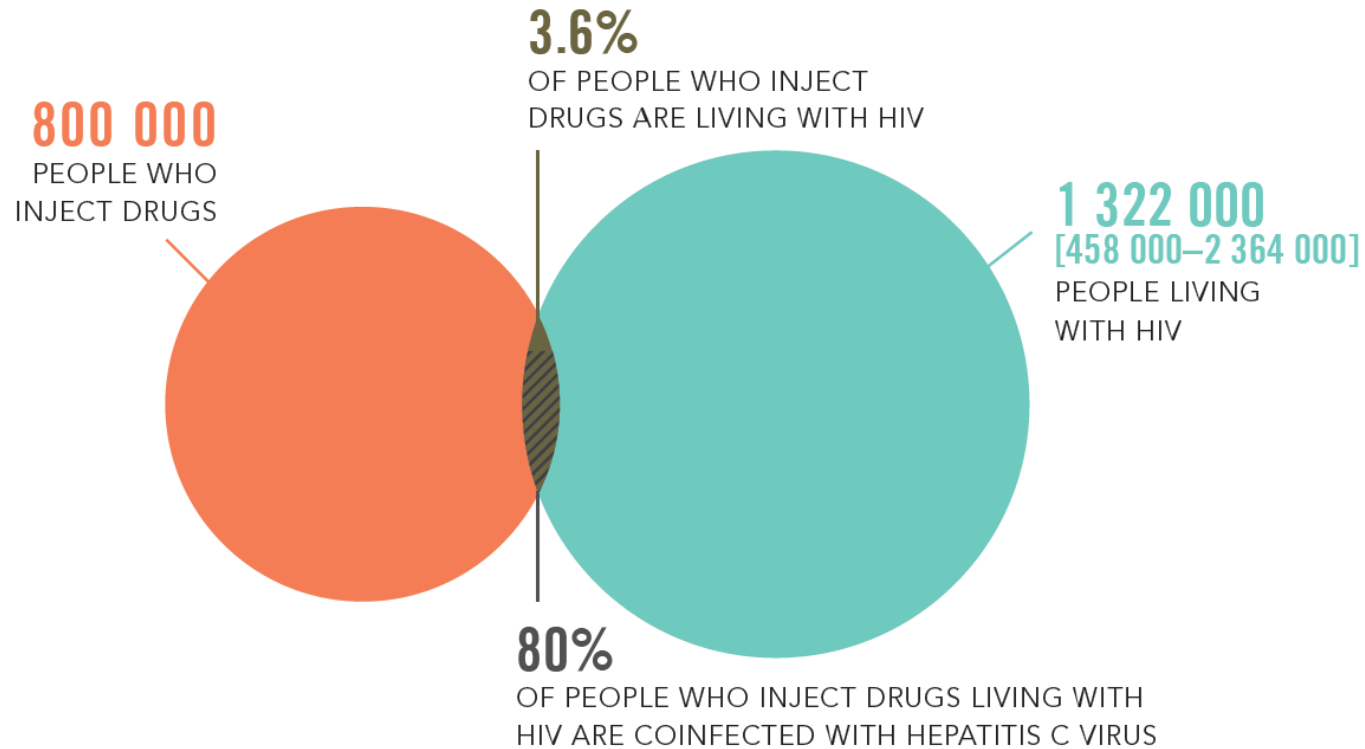


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 gives states and local communities the opportunity to use federal funds to support certain components of needle–syringe programmes.



CRIMINALIZATION

Possession of narcotic drugs for personal use is often punishable by fines or imprisonment; penalties vary by state.



OVERDOSE TREATMENT

By September 2015, 43 of 50 states had passed legislation to provide naloxone to people who are likely to witness an overdose, including family members and caregivers of people who use drugs.

HARM REDUCTION



59

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



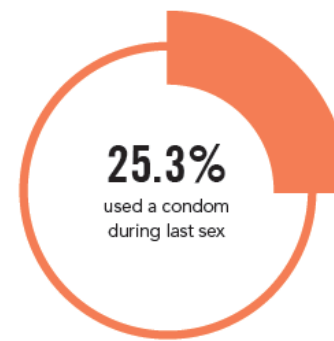
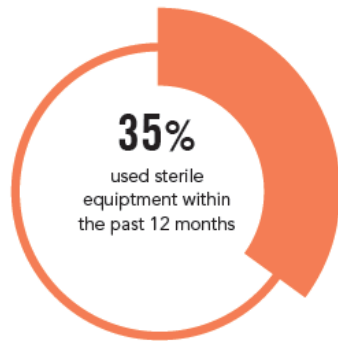
382 237

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS*



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS



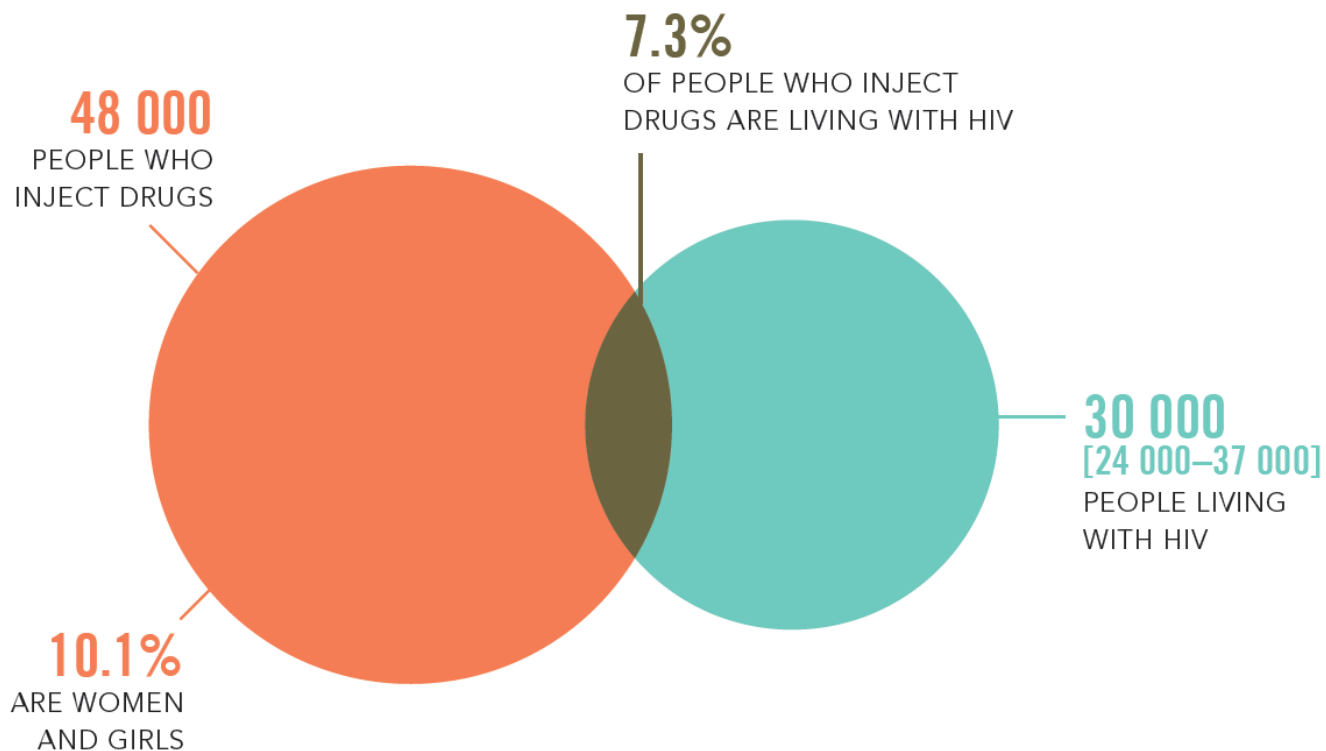
NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

* Service availability is for federal prisons.

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT



ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY

There is explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents, but opioid substitution therapy is unavailable.



CRIMINALIZATION

Possession of small quantities of drugs is punishable by fines and incarceration, starting from one to two times the minimum salary or 15 days of incarceration.



REGISTRATION OF DRUG USERS

Under a 2005 Ministry of Health order, people diagnosed with drug dependence are registered in a narcological register database; individuals are subject to regular medical check-ups and dynamic observation in outpatient substance abuse treatment units; exclusions apply to people who apply voluntarily for anonymous drug treatment.

HARM REDUCTION



127.5

syringes distributed per person who inject drugs per year



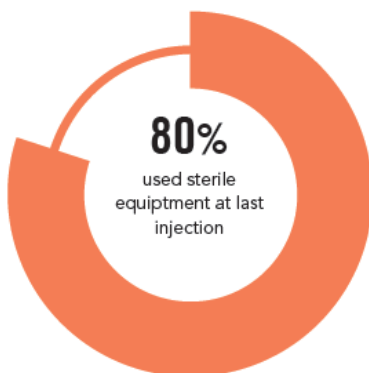
0

people enrolled in opioid substitution therapy



0

safe injecting facilities



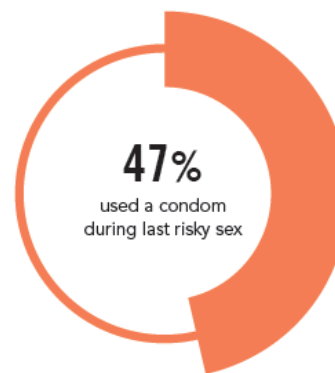
80%

used sterile equipment at last injection



30%

tested for HIV and received the result within the last 12 months



47%

used a condom during last risky sex

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS

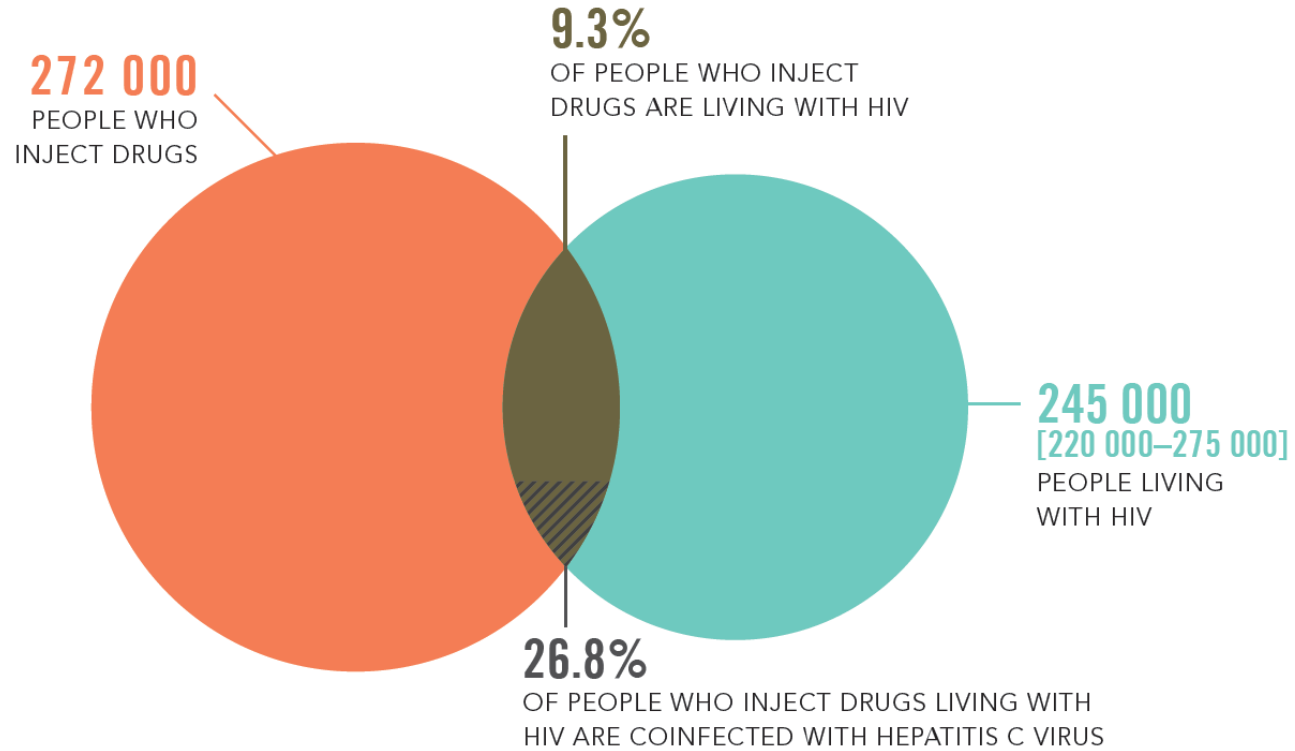


NEEDLES AND SYRINGES







OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

HIV EPIDEMIC



LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

-  **ENABLING NATIONAL POLICY**
The Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control authorizes harm reduction, including the provision of needles and syringes, peer outreach support and methadone maintenance therapy.
-  **POLICING**
There are no criminal penalties or other sanctions for the possession of needles, syringes or other drug paraphernalia.
-  **CRIMINALIZATION**
Possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use is a criminal offence punishable by up to five years in prison.
-  **COMPULSORY DETENTION**
For most of the past 20 years, the primary approach to drug dependence treatment has been compulsory detention within centres, which has raised serious human rights concerns; in recent years, as methadone maintenance therapy has scaled up, the number of people in compulsory detention has decreased.

HARM REDUCTION

**62**

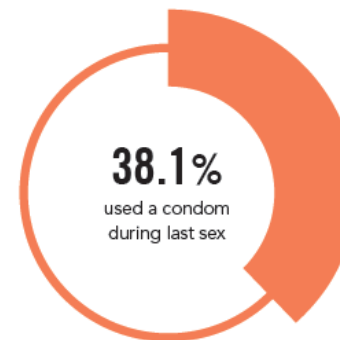
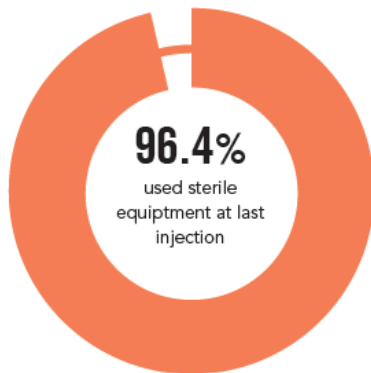
syringes distributed per person
who inject drugs per year

**44 000**

people enrolled in opioid
substitution therapy

**0**

safe injecting
facilities



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PRISONS



HIV TESTING



ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY



CONDOMS



NEEDLES AND SYRINGES



OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY