

HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA):

Closing the Gap Between Evidence and Routine Practice

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July 30, 2025

Tools to Control and End HIV Epidemic

HIVST

HIV self-testing increases uptake in key populations

ART

~100% reduction in sexual transmission

NSP

58-75% reduction in HIV transmission
Better ART outcomes

OAT

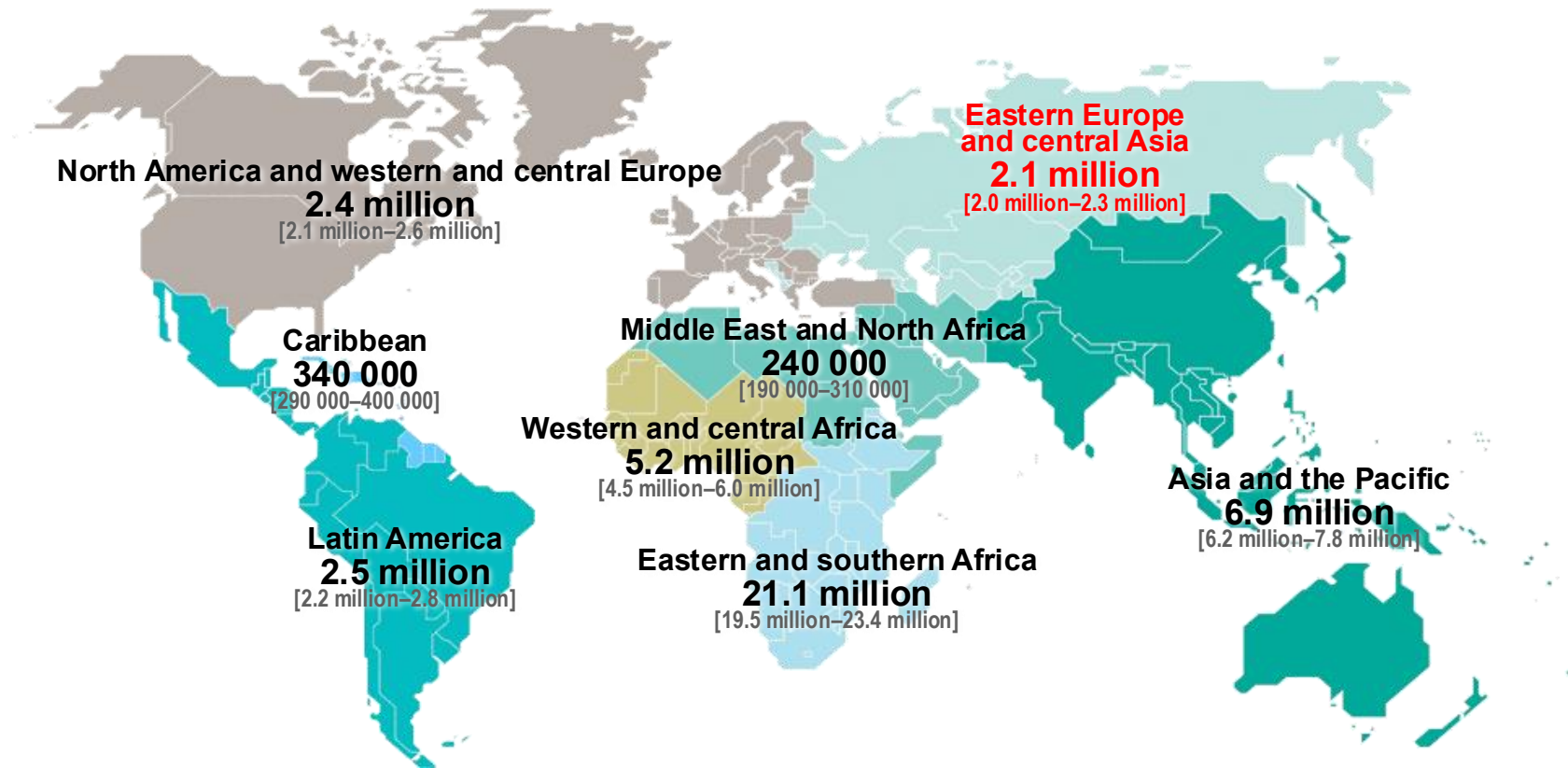
PrEP

99% reduction in sexual transmission
74-84% reduction in PWID

PEP

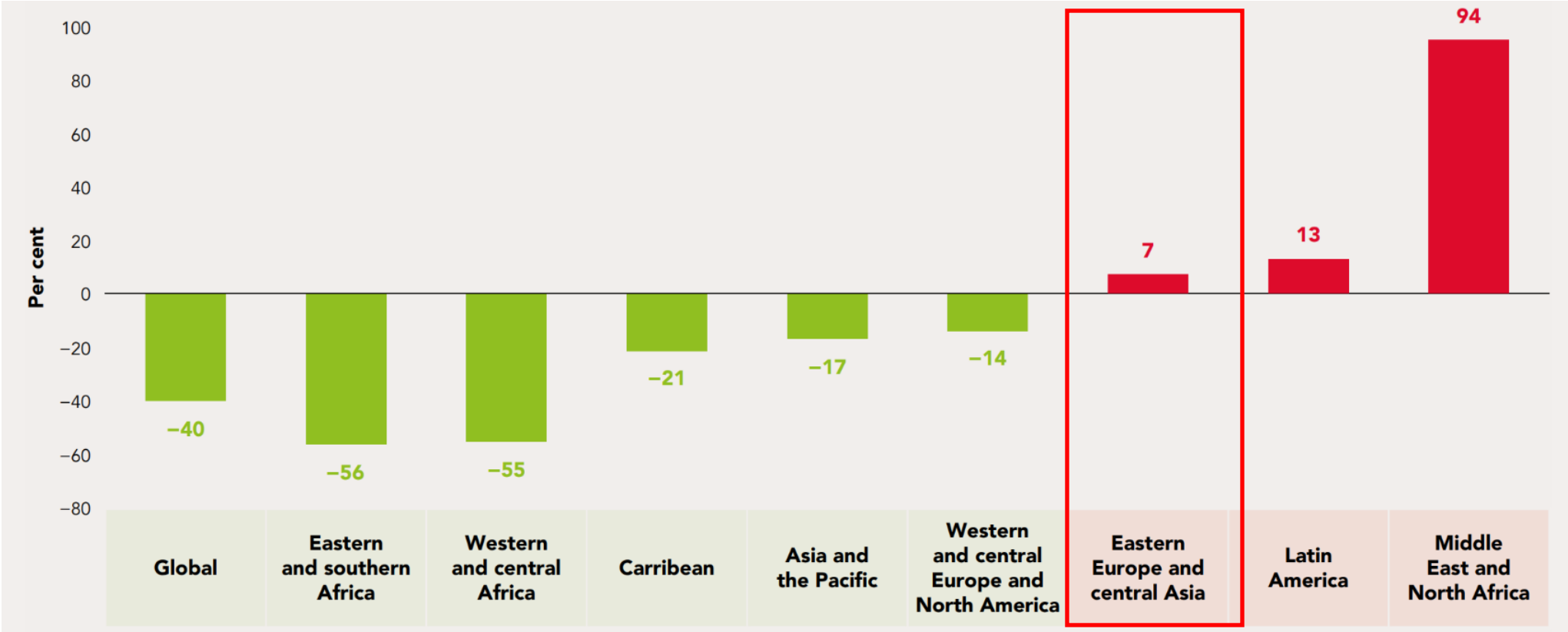
Post-Exposure Prophylaxis reduces the risk infection at least by 80%

Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV | 2024



Total: 40.8 million [37.0 million–45.6 million]

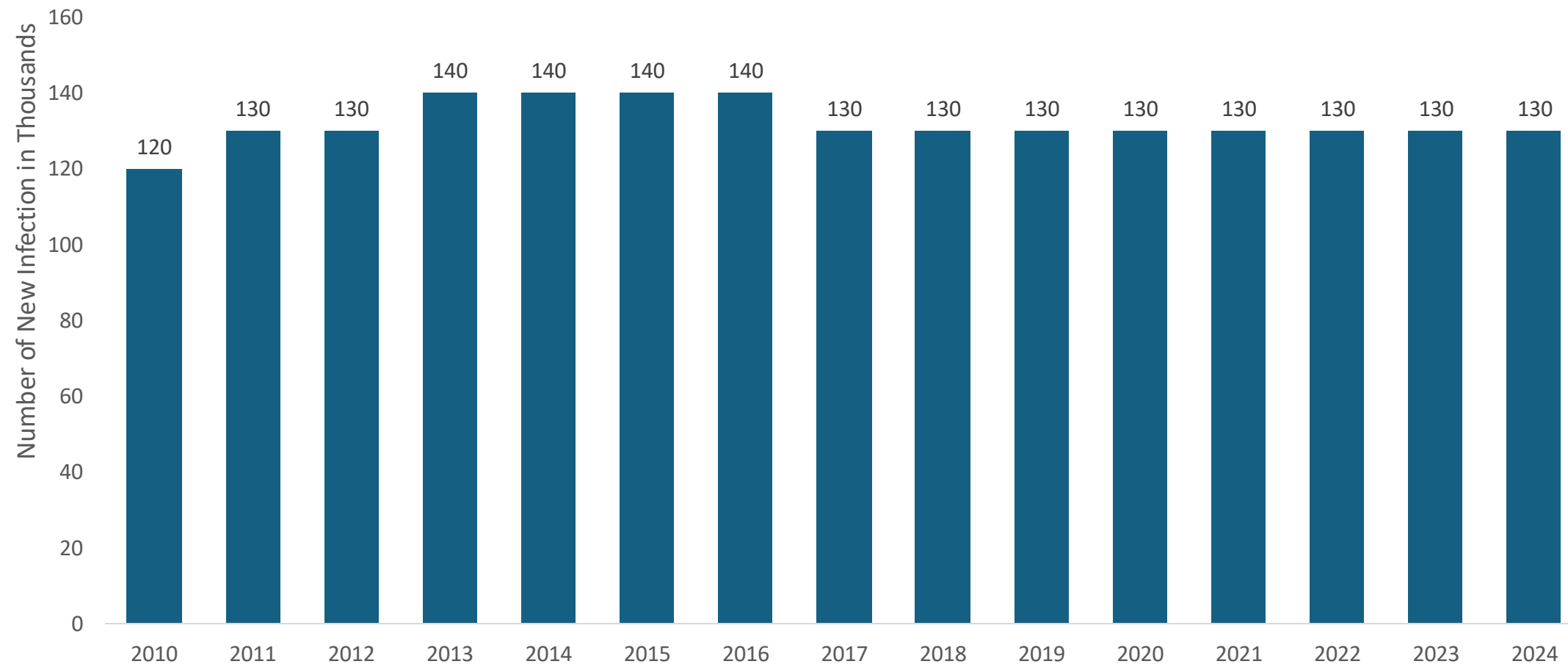
Percentage Change in Annual Number of New HIV Infections Between 2010 and 2024



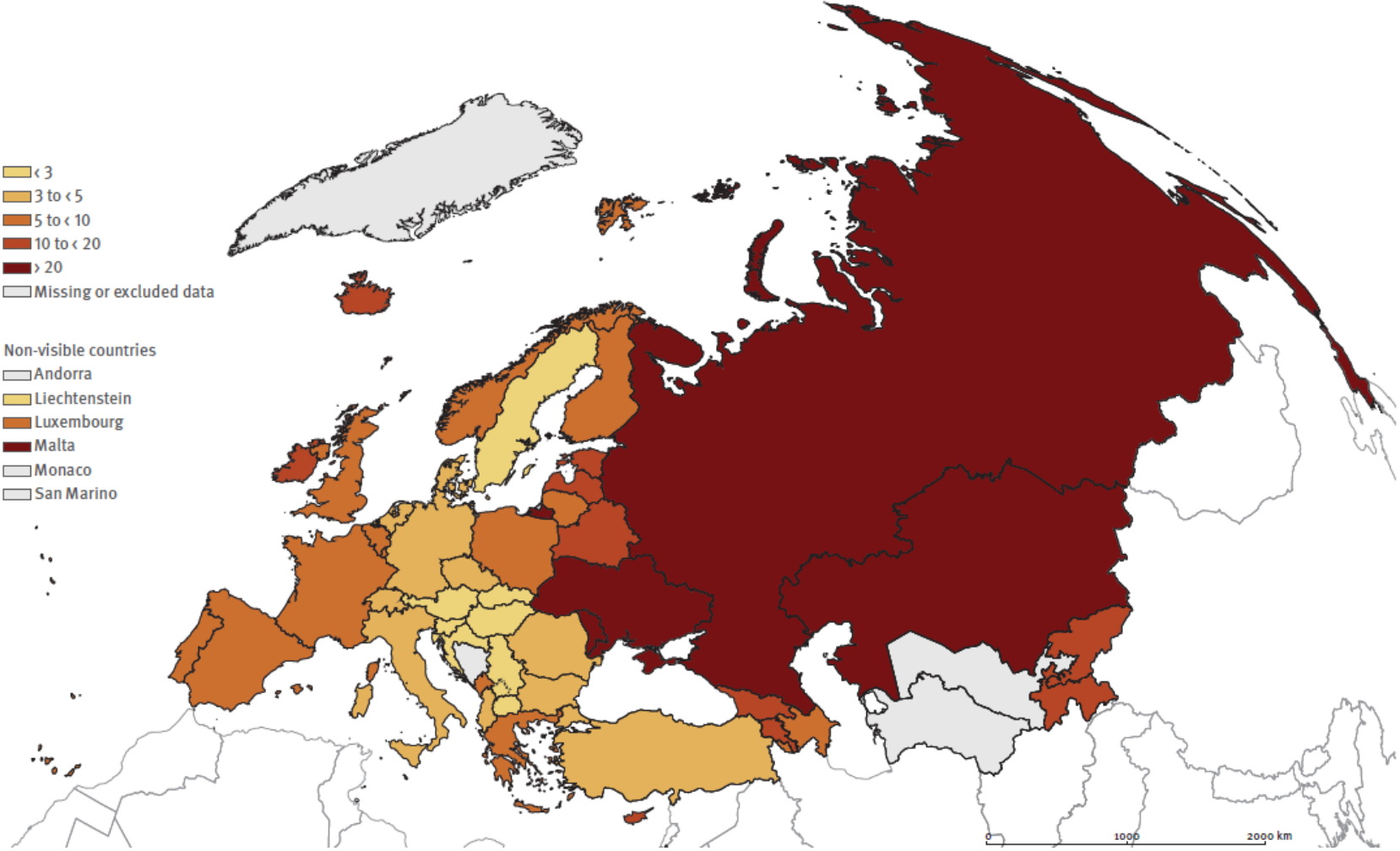
New infections in 2024: 1.2 million, 490,000, 160,000, 15,000, 300,000, 62,000, 130,000, 120,000, 23,000

Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates 2025 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Trends in New HIV Infections in EECA

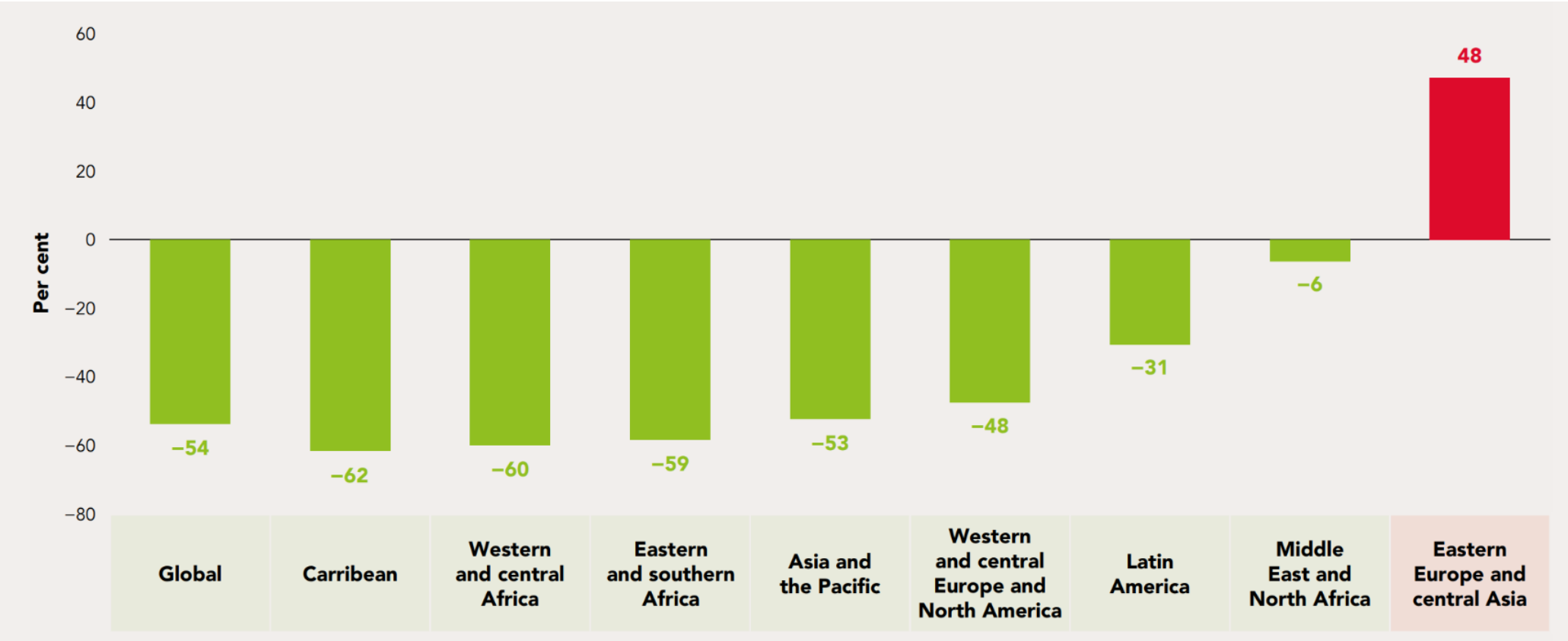


HIV Diagnoses in Europe per 100,000 Population



Source: ECDC: HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Europe 2024

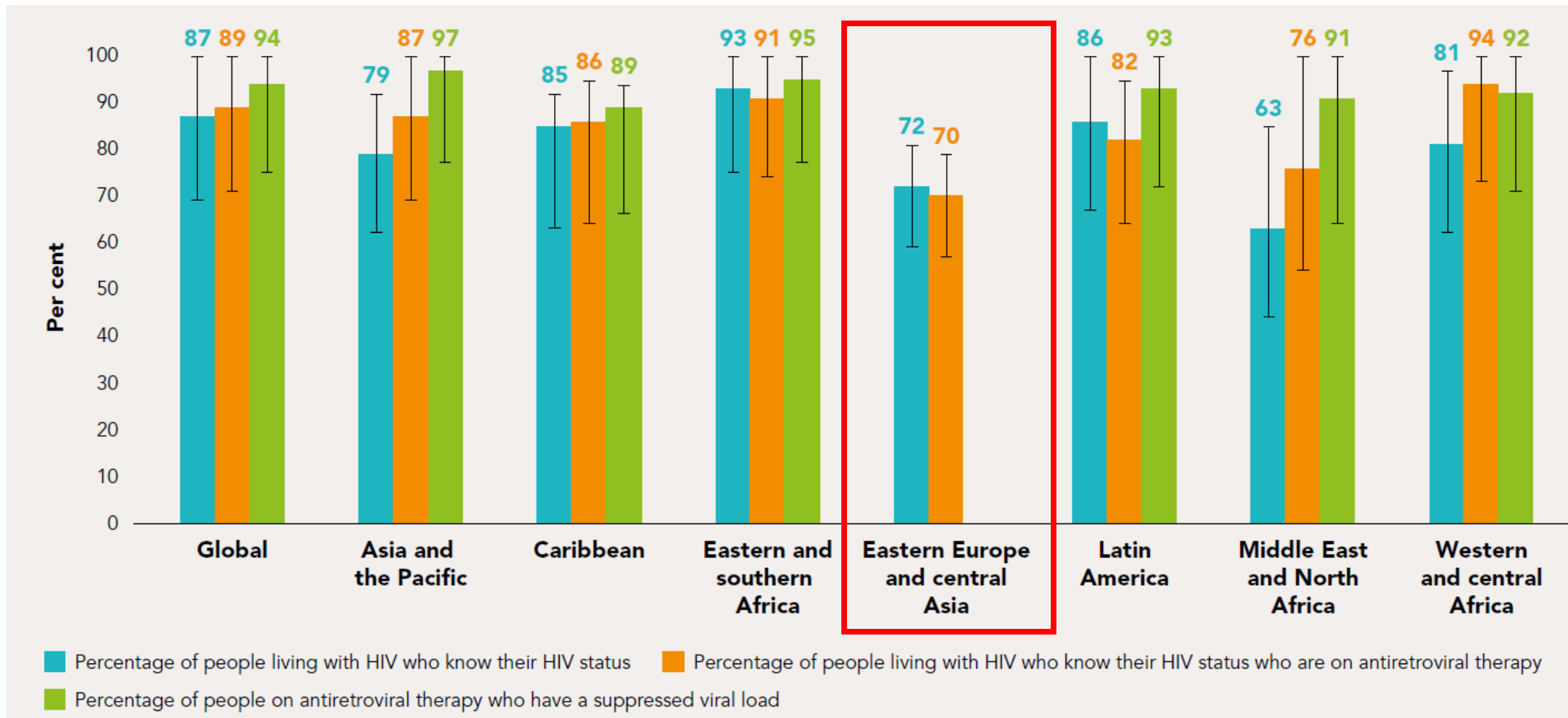
Percentage Change in Annual Numbers of AIDS-related Deaths Between 2010-2024



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates 2025 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Progress Towards 95-95-95 Goals

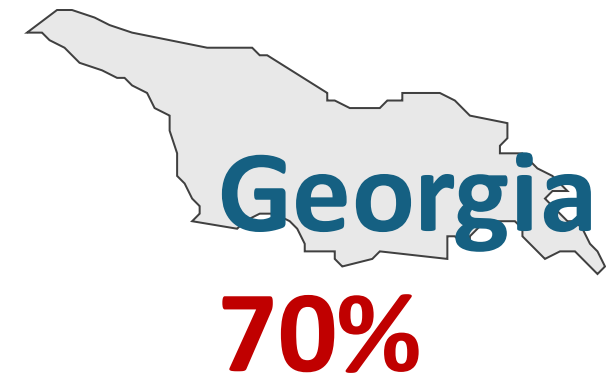
95% of PLHIV are diagnosed, 95% of those diagnosed are on ART, 95% of those on ART are suppressed



Understanding the Epidemic in EECA

Proportion of heterosexually acquired infections among newly diagnosed persons in the region increased from 48% in 2010 to 76% in 2023

Heterosexual transmission among new diagnoses in 2023



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

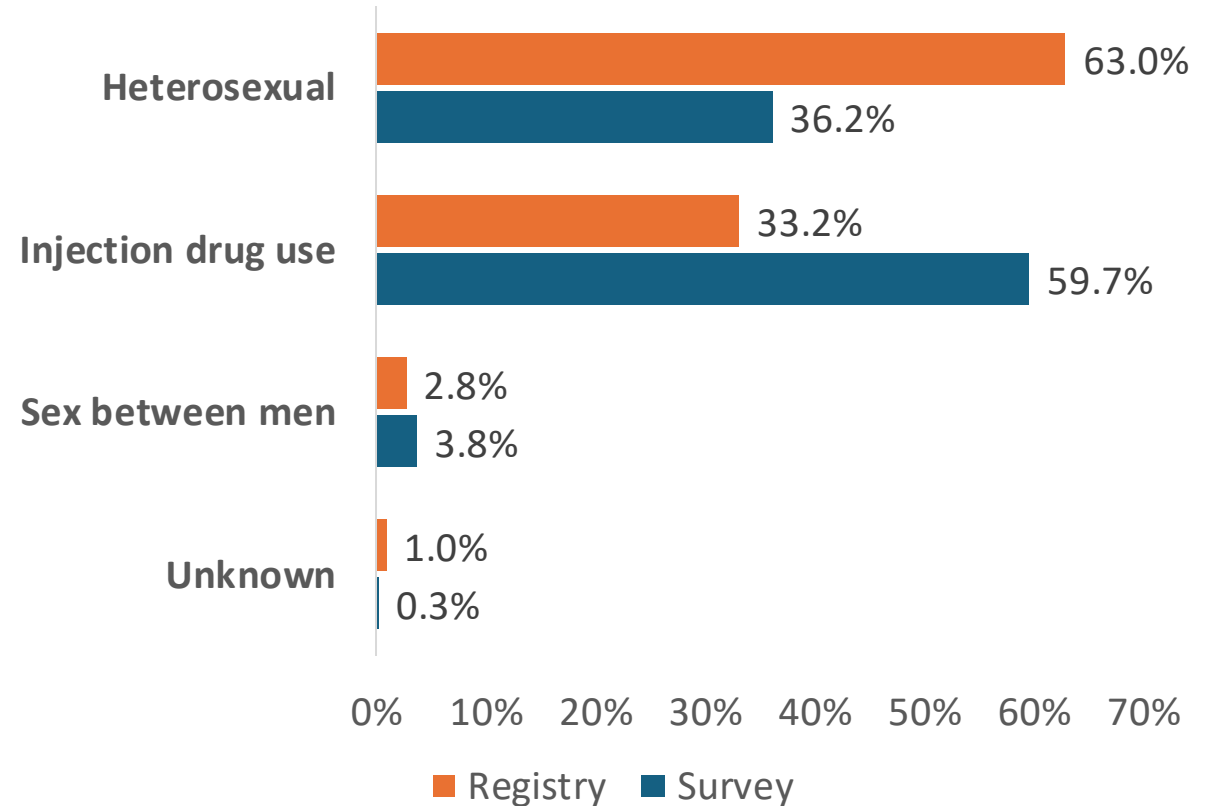


Improved ascertainment of modes of HIV transmission in Ukraine indicates importance of drug injecting and homosexual risk

Kostyantyn Dumchev^{1*}, Marina Kornilova², Roksolana Kulchynska³, Marianna Azarskova³ and Charles Vitek⁴

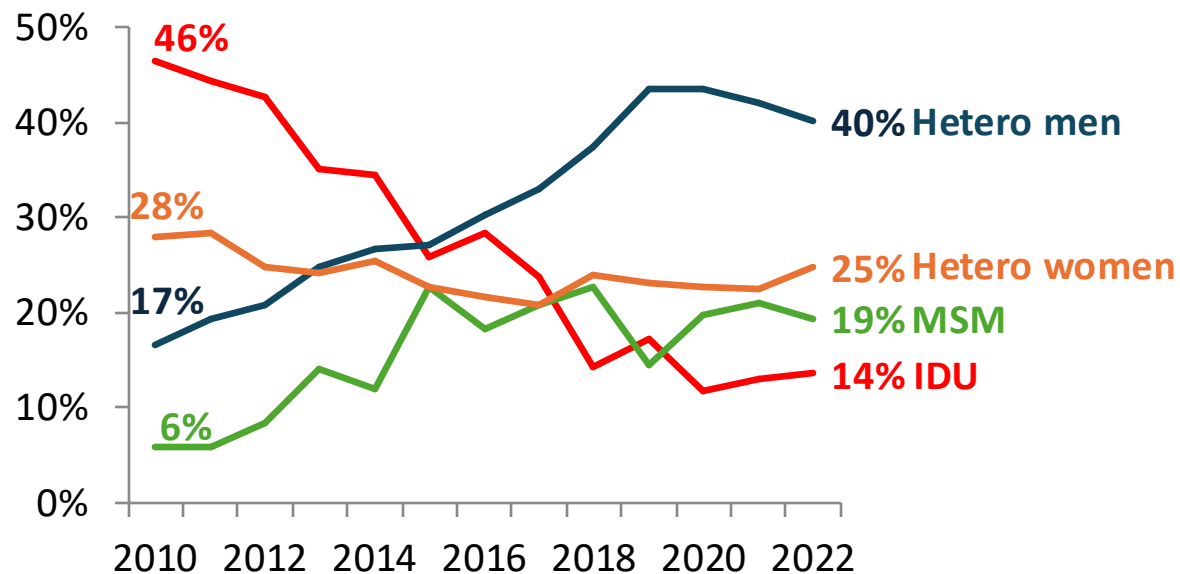
- The study confirmed the significant degree of misclassification of HIV mode of transmission among registered cases.
- The role of injecting drug use in HIV transmission is gradually decreasing, but remains high.
- The proportion of cases related to homosexual transmission is relatively modest, but is rapidly increasing.

Modes of Transmission: Registry vs. Survey



Possible Misclassification of Heterosexual Transmission in Men in Georgia

New diagnoses by transmission categories



Prevalence of HIV in Key Populations

	2005	2010	2015	2020
Pregnant women	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%
Female sex workers	1.3%	1.1%	0.7%	0.9%
PWID	1.1%	3.0%	2.2%	1.4%
MSM	4.3%	7.0%	20.7%	16.2%

Anecdotal/observational evidence:

- Many of wives of “heterosexually infected” men were HIV negative

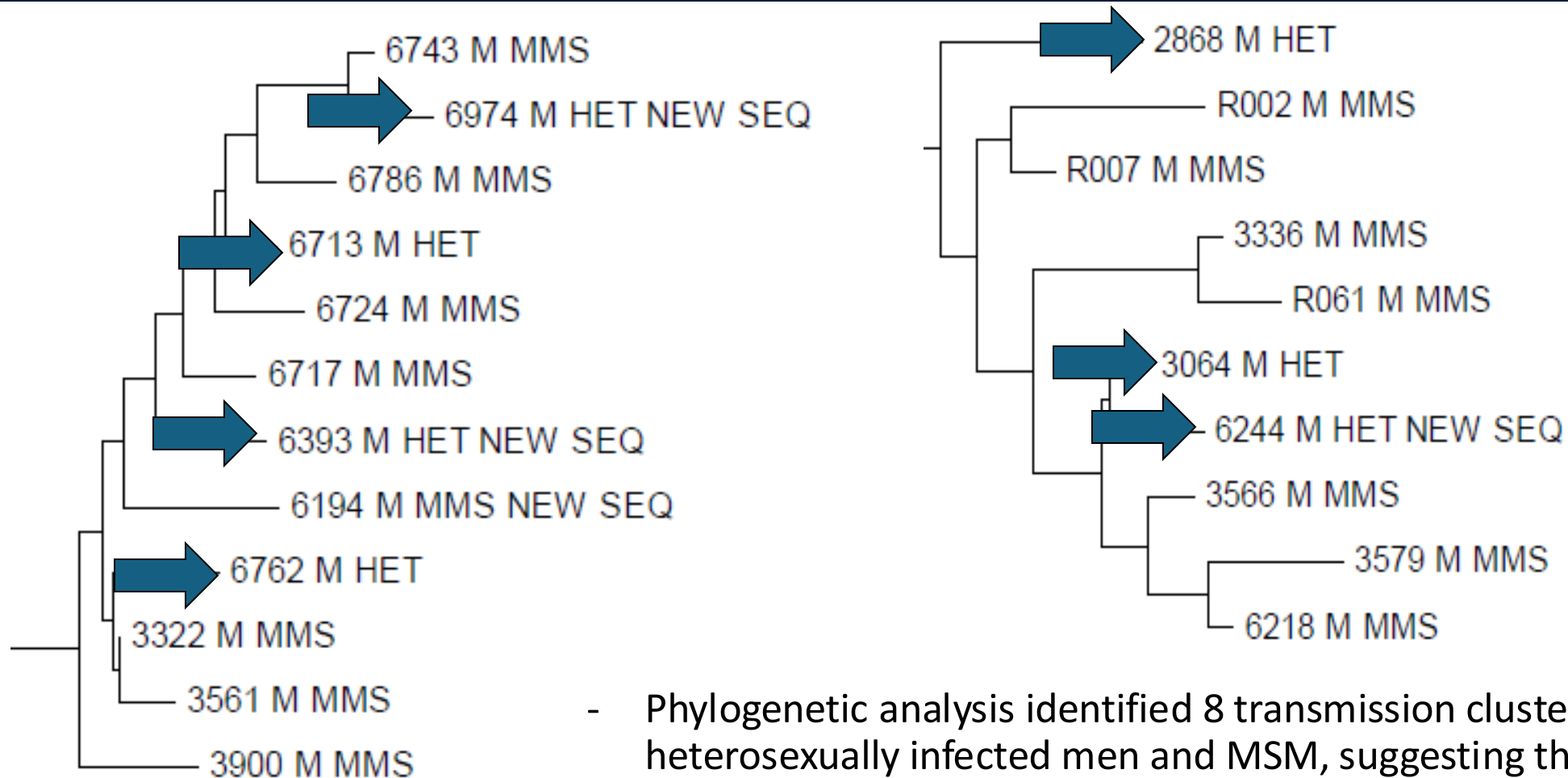
Hypothesis

- Heterosexual transmission among men is misclassified because of non-disclosure of homosexual behavior

Action

- To explore possibility of transmission category misclassification using phylogenetics

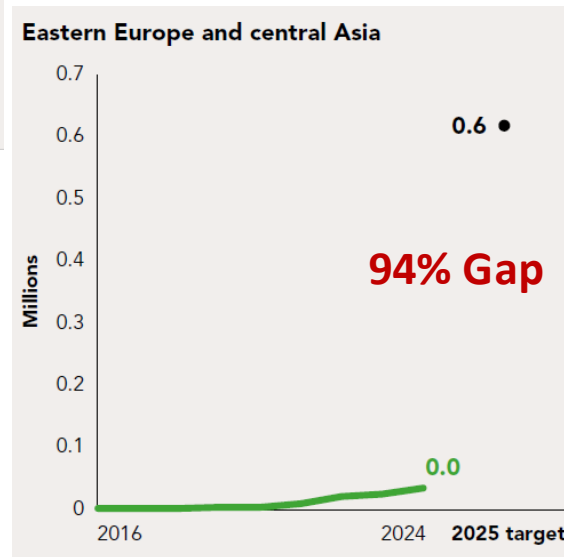
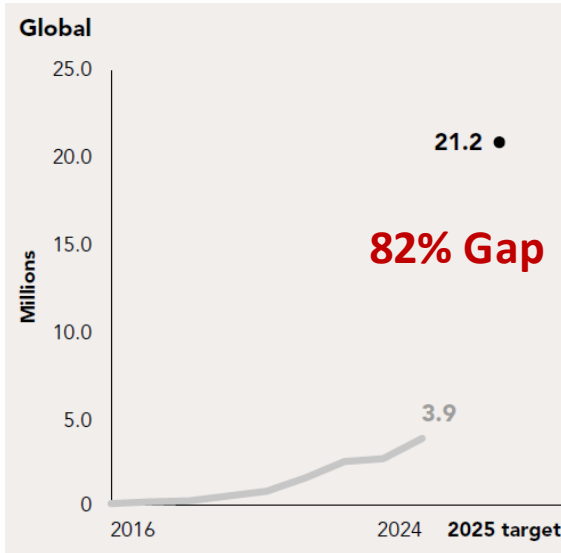
Possible Misclassification of Heterosexual Transmission in Men in Georgia



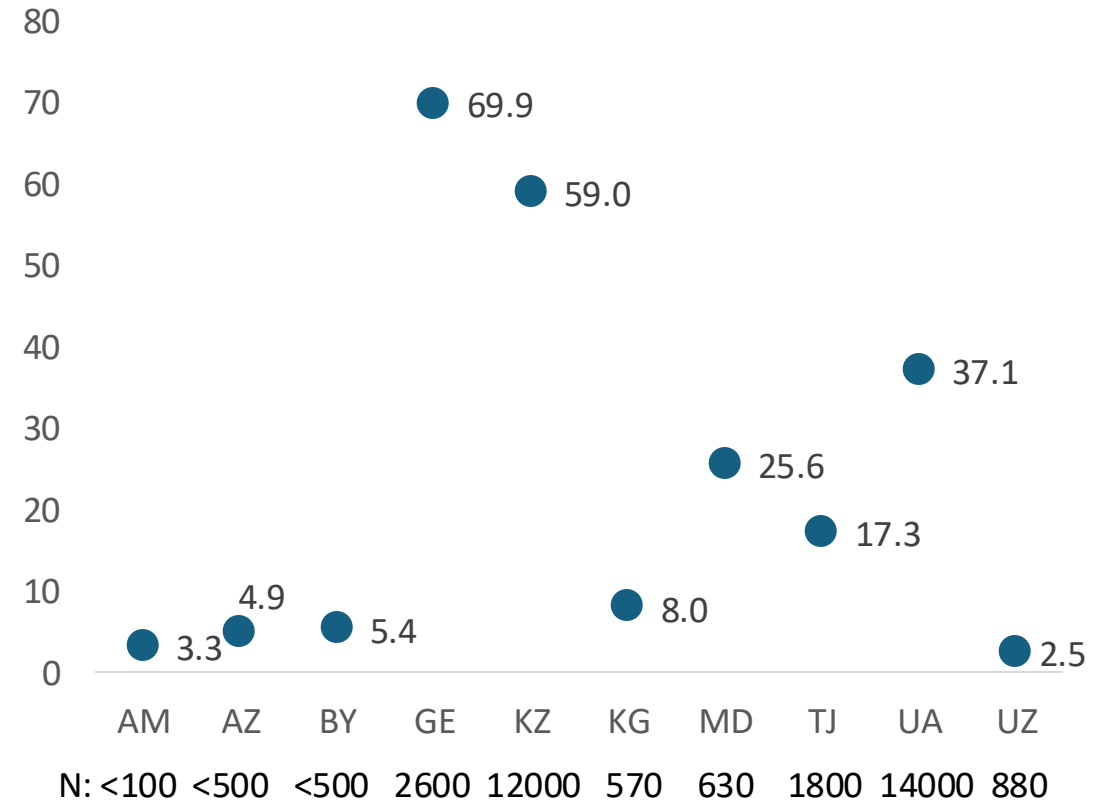
- Phylogenetic analysis identified 8 transmission clusters of viruses from heterosexually infected men and MSM, suggesting they were linked by recent or ongoing transmission events
- 25% of heterosexually transmitted infections among men were potentially misclassified.

PrEP in EECA

PrEP Uptake: Global and EECA



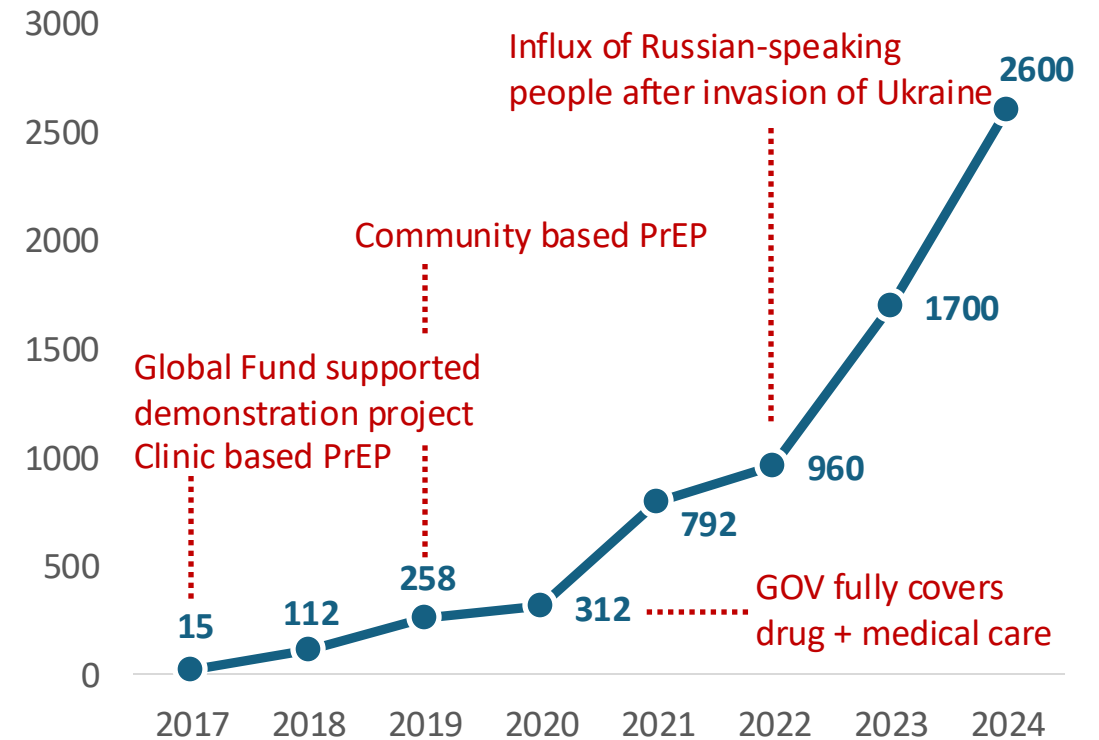
PrEP Uptake per 100,000 population in EECA



PrEP in Georgia

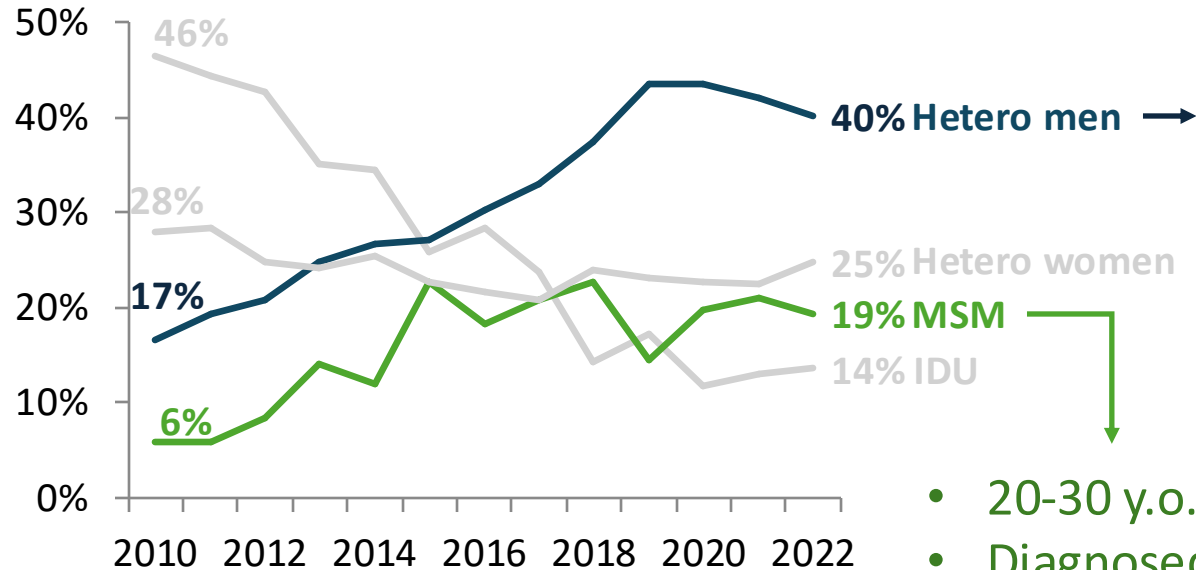
- Operational since 2017
- Flexible eligibility
 - Men, women, MSM, PWID, sex worker
- Anonymous
 - Everybody can get regardless of citizenship, immigration status, etc.
- Free of charge
 - Drug and medical care covered by the Government of Georgia
 - Global Fund continues supporting outreach/recruitment

Number of people who received PrEP at least once in a calendar year, 2017-2024



PrEP in Georgia: Reaching More for Impact

New diagnoses by transmission categories



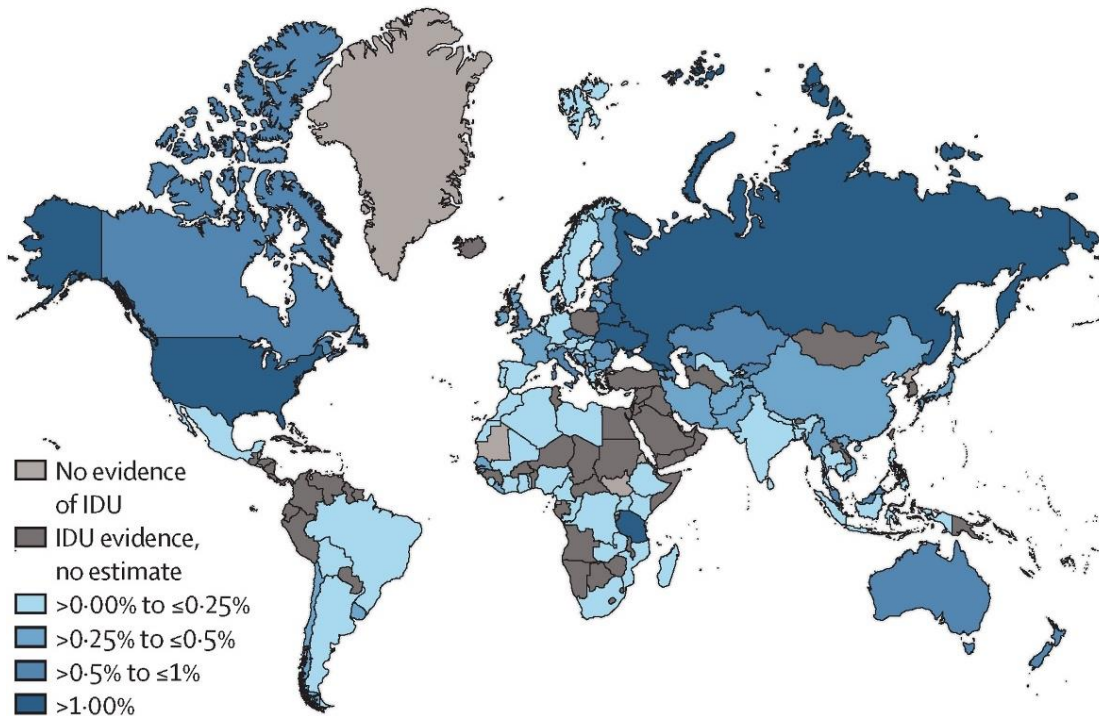
- 30-40 y.o.
- Diagnosed at a later stages of disease
- Recent infection: 12-19%
- No mainstream social network or dating apps
- Social network: odnoklassniki.ru
- Greater availability of HIVST: pharmacies?
- Greater availability of PrEP: STI clinics, primary care?

- 20-30 y.o.
- Diagnosed at earlier stages of disease
- Recent infection: 33-37%
- Mainstream social network and dating apps
- Clubbing
- Greater reach through community led services

Estimate the population need for PrEP (Kourtis et al. Ann Epidemiol. 2025;106:48-54.)

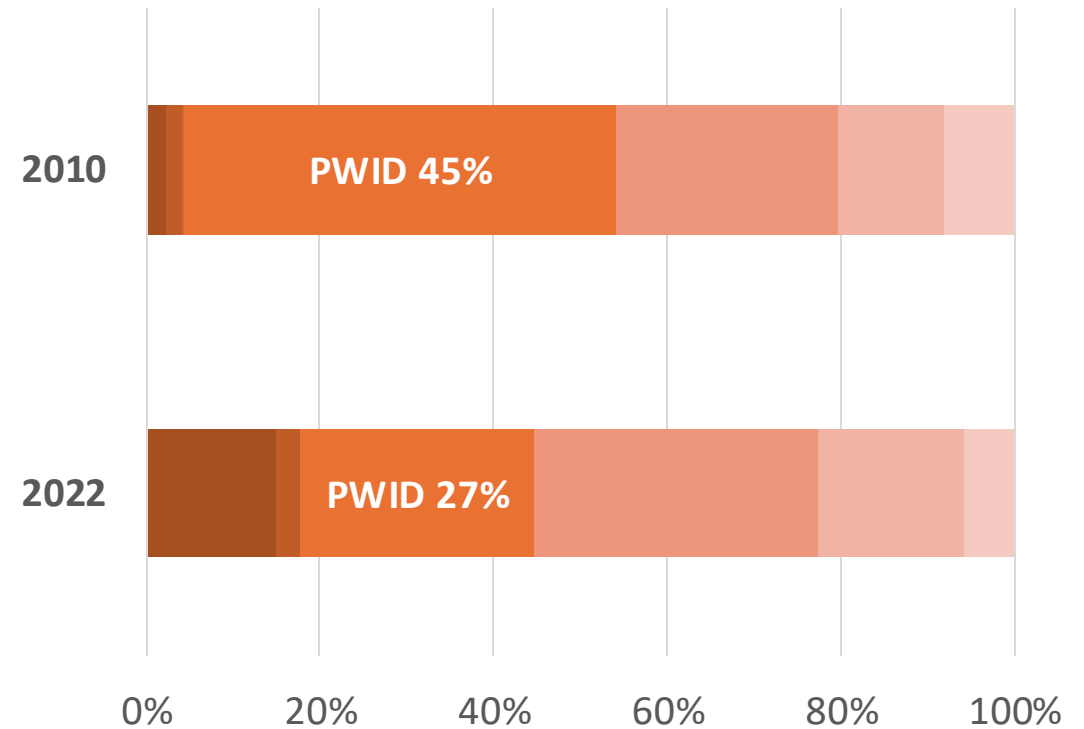
Injection Drug Use and HIV in EECA

Prevalence of IDU



- 2.5 million PWID in EECA
- Prevalence: 34.3% HIV, 48.4% chronic HCV, 7.5% HBV

Distribution of new HIV infections by key populations, 2010 vs. 2022



- At least 30,000-35,000 new infection due to IDU

Availability of Needle and Syringe Programs in the Community and in Prisons



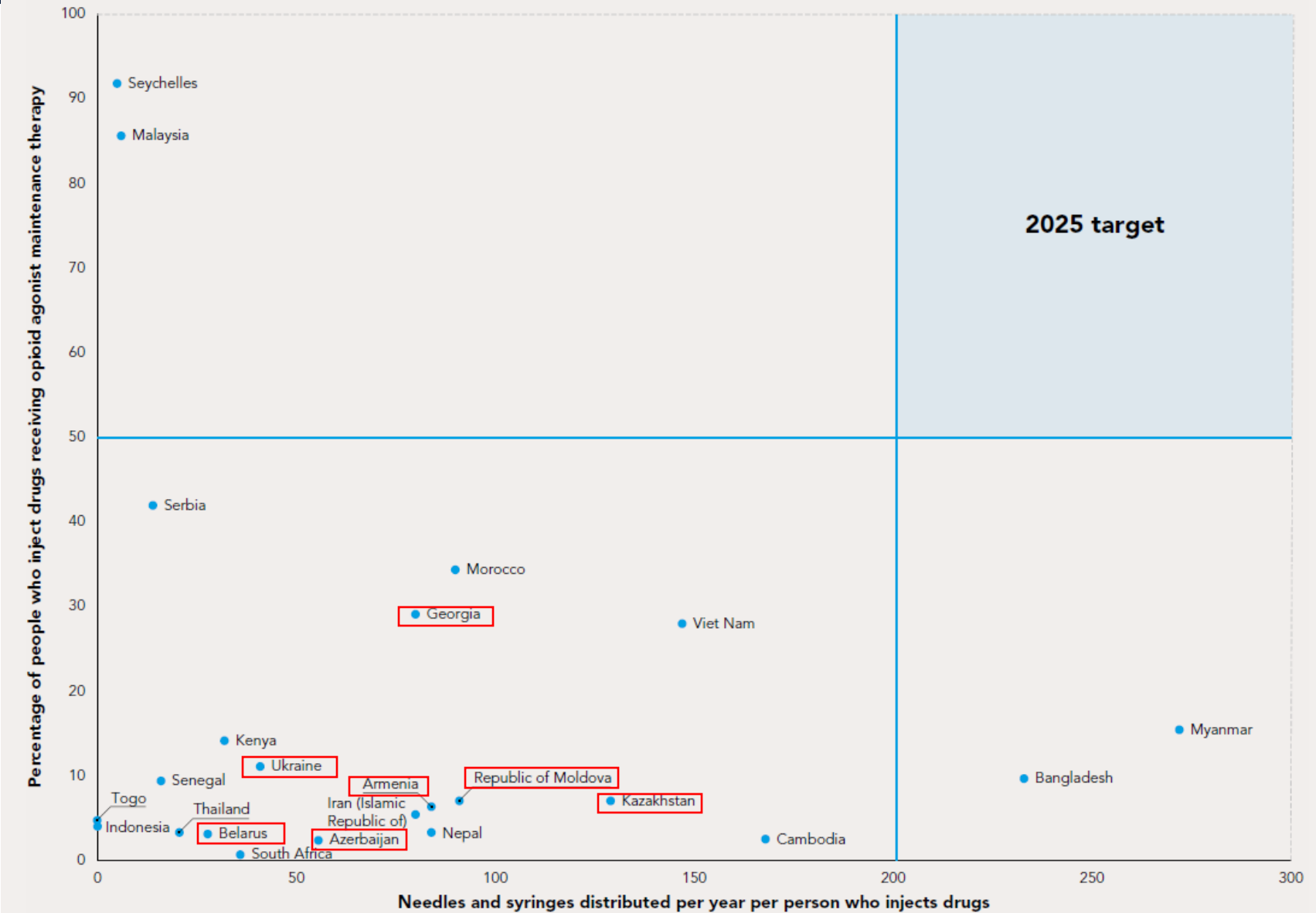
Source: The Global State of Harm Reduction 2024

Availability of Opioid Agonist Therapy in the Community and in Prisons



Source: The Global State of Harm Reduction 2024

Coverage of needle-syringe programs and opioid agonist maintenance therapy among people who inject drugs, countries with available data, 2020–2024



Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring 2021–2025 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Costs and impact on HIV transmission of a switch from a criminalisation to a public health approach to injecting drug use in eastern Europe and central Asia: a modelling analysis

Zoe Ward, Jack Stone, Chrissy Bishop, Viktor Ivakin, Ksenia Eritsyan, Anna Deryabina, Andrea Low, Javier Cepeda, Sherrie L Kelly, Robert Heimer, Robert Cook, Frederick L Altice, Taylor Litz, Assel Terlikbayeva, Nabila El-Bassel, Denis Havarkov, Alena Fisenka, Anelia Boshnakova, Andrey Klepikov, Tetiana Saliuk, Tetiana Deshko, Peter Vickerman

Lancet HIV 2022; 9: e42-53

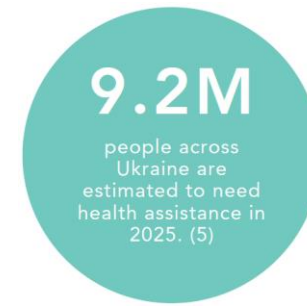
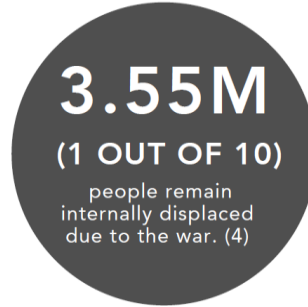
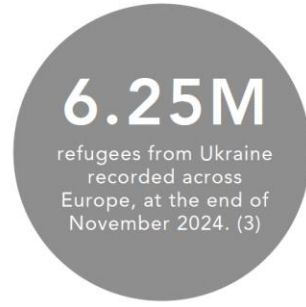
Three scenarios modeled:

1. Decriminalization
 - a. Remove incarceration for drug use of possession for personal use
 - b. Maintain existing levels of ART and OAT
2. Public Health Approach
 - a. Decriminalization + redirect saved money to ART scale-up
 - b. If funds permit + OAT scale-up
3. Full scale-up
 - a. Decriminalization + ART +OAT scale-up

Results:

- Decriminalization resulted in costs saving of 38-773 million Euros due to reduced prison costs
- Public health approach was cost-saving allowing to reach:
 - 81% ART coverage
 - 29.7-41.8% OAT coverage
 - 17768-148464 life-years gained
 - 58.9-83.7% of infections prevented

Ukraine



Over **2,200** attacks on health-care facilities which have claimed at least 197 lives and injured many more, severely disrupting health services.

HIV TESTING INCREASED BY

23.4%

in 2024 compared with 2023, with 1.93M tests conducted.

ART ENROLMENT HAS DROPPED BY

9%

compared to pre-war levels. **10,045** newly diagnosed people enrolled in care in 2024

Opioid Agonist Maintenance Treatment (OAMT) coverage expanded **by 50%** since 2021 and reached in January 2025

30,866
PEOPLE (23)

The use of PrEP has **more than doubled**, reaching **18,344** people, including 111 people on CAB-LA



Thank you

