



***HIV AND HCV AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS IN UKRAINE:
A STABILIZATION OR A CALM BEFORE THE STORM?***

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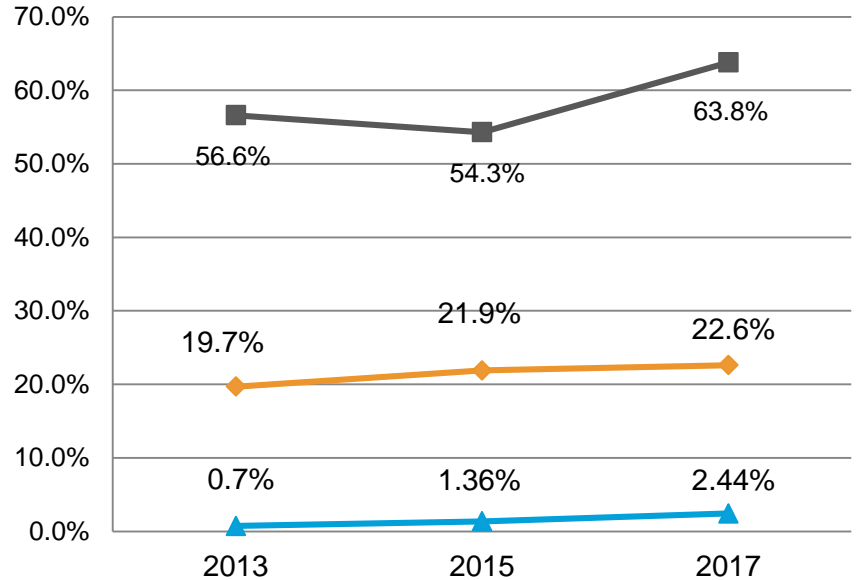
Background



- Ukraine has one of the biggest IDU-driven HIV and HCV epidemics in the World with the estimated number of PLWH 245,000, and ~ 5 mln. people infected with HCV
- The estimated number of PWID ~346,900
- The largest GF funded HIV-prevention program for PWID in EECA region started in 2004 and includes OST, syringe exchange, information, condoms, HTC
- 226,469 PWID are covered with the prevention services
- HIV prevalence among PWID is ~22% and demonstrating a stable trend over the last 5 years
- The country is in transition from GF to domestic funding with government taking over the prevention services
- The IBBS conducted in 2017 has detected a 10% increase of the HCV prevalence comparing to the previous surveys
- Is this increasing HCV trend signalling that we should expect the resumption of the HIV epidemic among PWID?

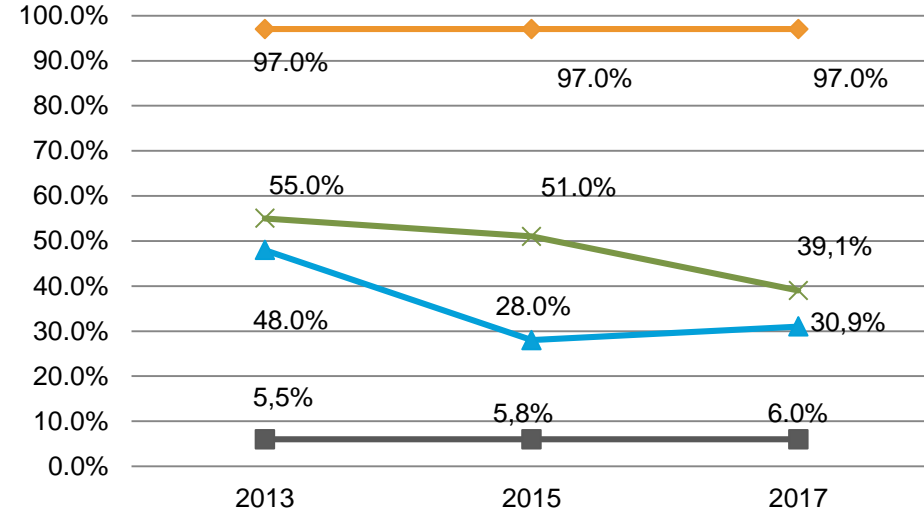
- Secondary analysis of the 3 subsequent rounds of IBBS among PWID conducted in 2013, 2015 and 2017
- Method of recruitment – RDS
- Sample size: 9,502; 9,405 and 10,076 participants respectively
- Variables analyzed: HIV prevalence and incidence, injecting behavior and the HCV prevalence
- Statistical analysis: RDS-A with the network size analysis, prior adjustments for outliers and calculation of 95% CI

Epidemiological Trends



◆ HIV prevalence ■ anti HCV prevalence ▲ HIV incidence

Injecting Practices



◆ Sterile needle/syringe used at last injection
■ Sharing syringe during last 30 days
▲ Sharing "cookers" while preparing drugs
× Pre-filled syringe use

- ⦿ **Concerning epidemiological markers such as increasing HIV incidence and growing HCV prevalence are suggesting that injection risks are still present and transmission is ongoing**
- ⦿ **Slowing down the prevention efforts, decreasing the coverage and shrinking the prevention package can be hazardous and may renew the HIV epidemic growth as well as fuel the HCV spread in this group**
- ⦿ **This is particularly important to keep in mind in the view of the ongoing transition from the external to the domestic funding and government is taking the lead in prevention programs**

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THANK YOU!

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