

Methadone maintenance treatment among people in prison in Kyrgyzstan: uptake and retention

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Yale University School of Medicine

Lyuba Azbel, Mphil

PROJECT PRIDE – *A PARTNERSHIP*

(2012 – TODAY)



Yale University
School of Medicine



AFEW
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PROJECT PRIDE – *STRATEGY FOR IMPACT*

**Project
PUHLSE:**
How is the
health of
prisoners?
(2014)



**Project
CONNECT:**
How many
people are
linking to MMT?
(2015)



Project MAK:
Why are
most
prisoners not
accessing
methadone?
(2016)



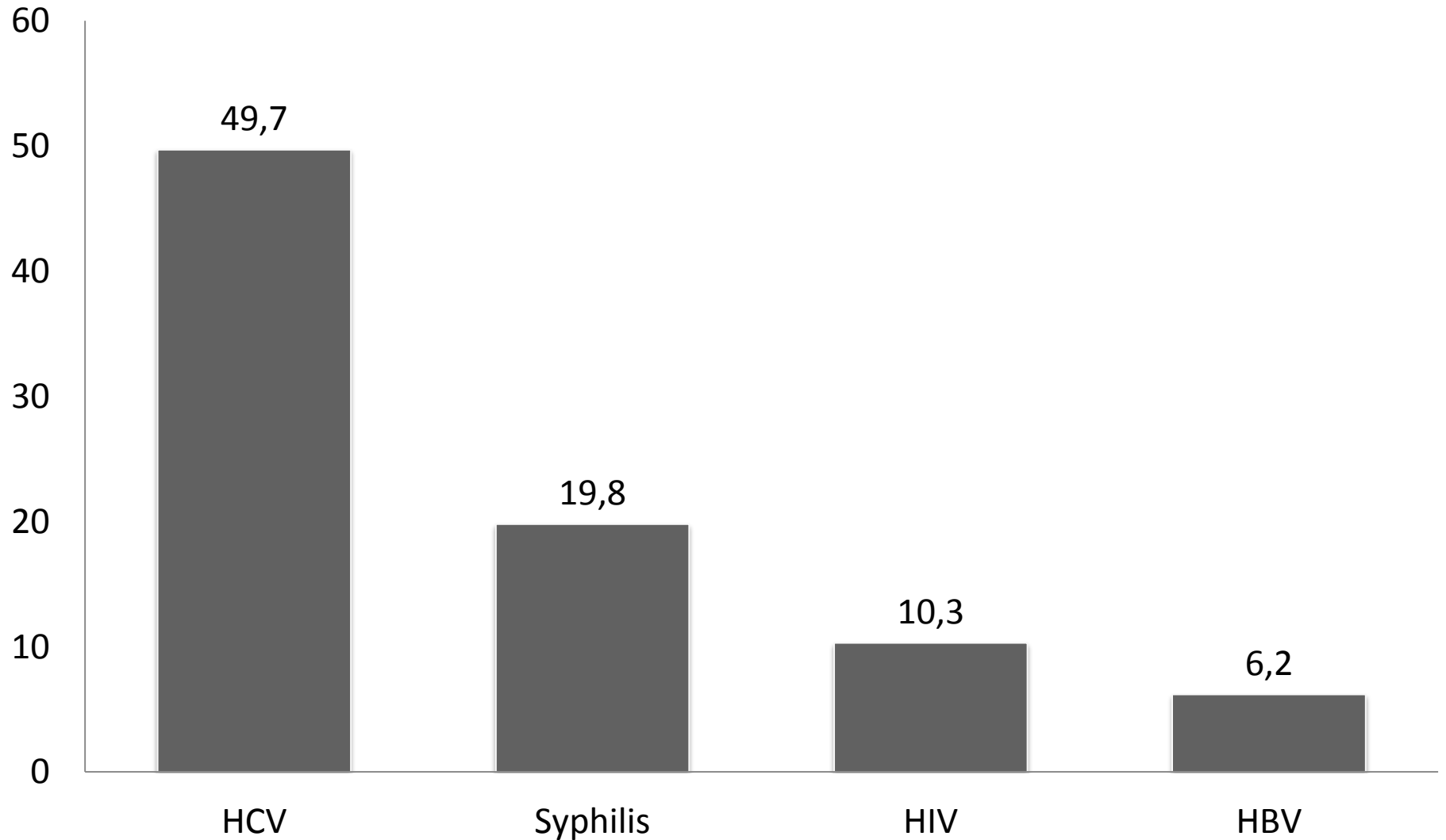
**Project
MATLINK:**
How do we
improve
methadone
uptake?
(2017)

BACKGROUND – KYRGYZ PRISONS

- 166 incarcerated per 100,000 population (2014)
- 7,544 prisoners in 11 facilities (2015)
- Project PUHLSE – a nationally representative representative biobehavioral survey of soon-to-be-released prisoners in Kyrgyzstan (2014)

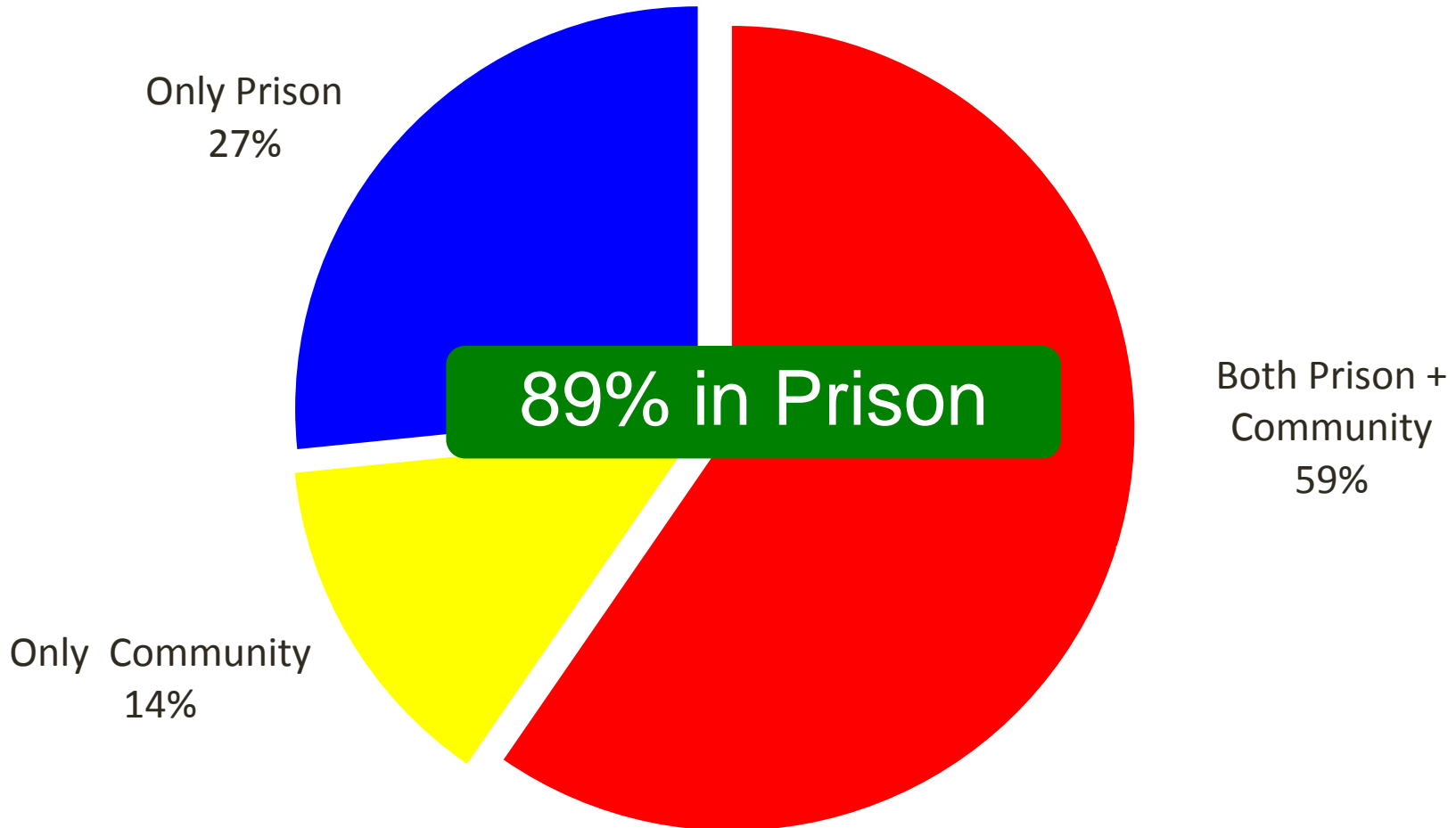
Source: UNGASS Kyrgyz Republic 2014; International Centre for Prison Studies, 2014

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (N=368)



WITHIN PRISON DRUG INJECTION (N=109)

Where does injection occur?



MMT CONNECT – *GUIDING QUESTIONS*

- MMT introduced in 2002 and 2008 into prisons.
Now in 7 prison facilities and 2 pre-trial detention (SIZO)

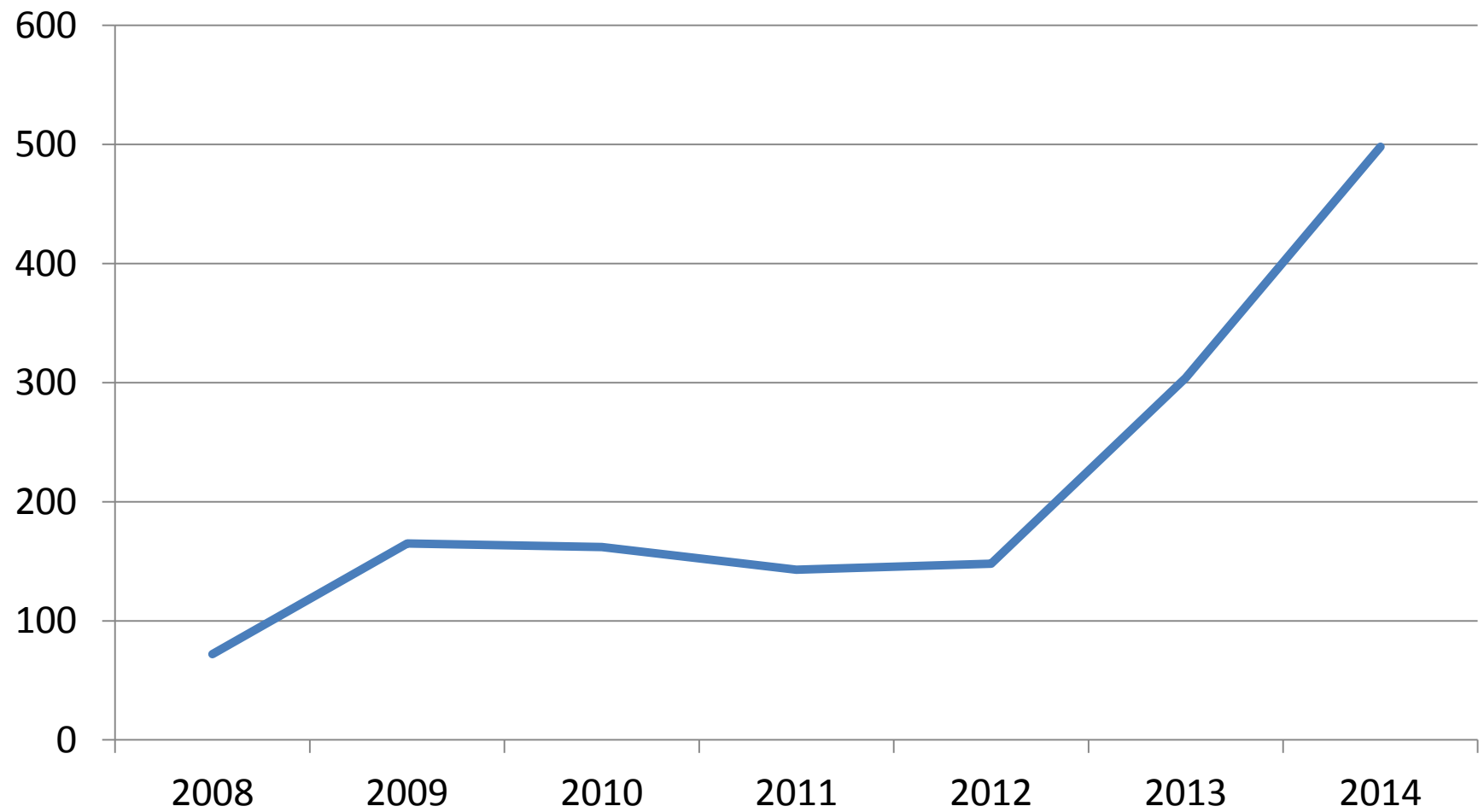
To understand the dynamics of prison-based methadone maintenance delivery in Kyrgyzstan since the inception of the program:

- *what is coverage?*
- *why do people leave the program?*
- *how many people effectively link to community care?*
- *does dose affect linkage?*

DATA OVERVIEW – 2008-2014

Prison MMT characteristics	
Cases of MMT initiations	916
Mean age, years (range)	38.4 (16-64)
Male	97.7%
Average start dose	40 mL
Average max dose	72 mL
Average end dose	43 mL
Average months on treatment	8
Tapered	28% (256)

Prisoners on MMT 2008-2014



WHAT IS THE COVERAGE?

- We can estimate 2,670 PWID in prisons (2014, PUHLSE)

BUT

- Only 498 people on MMT in CJS (2014)

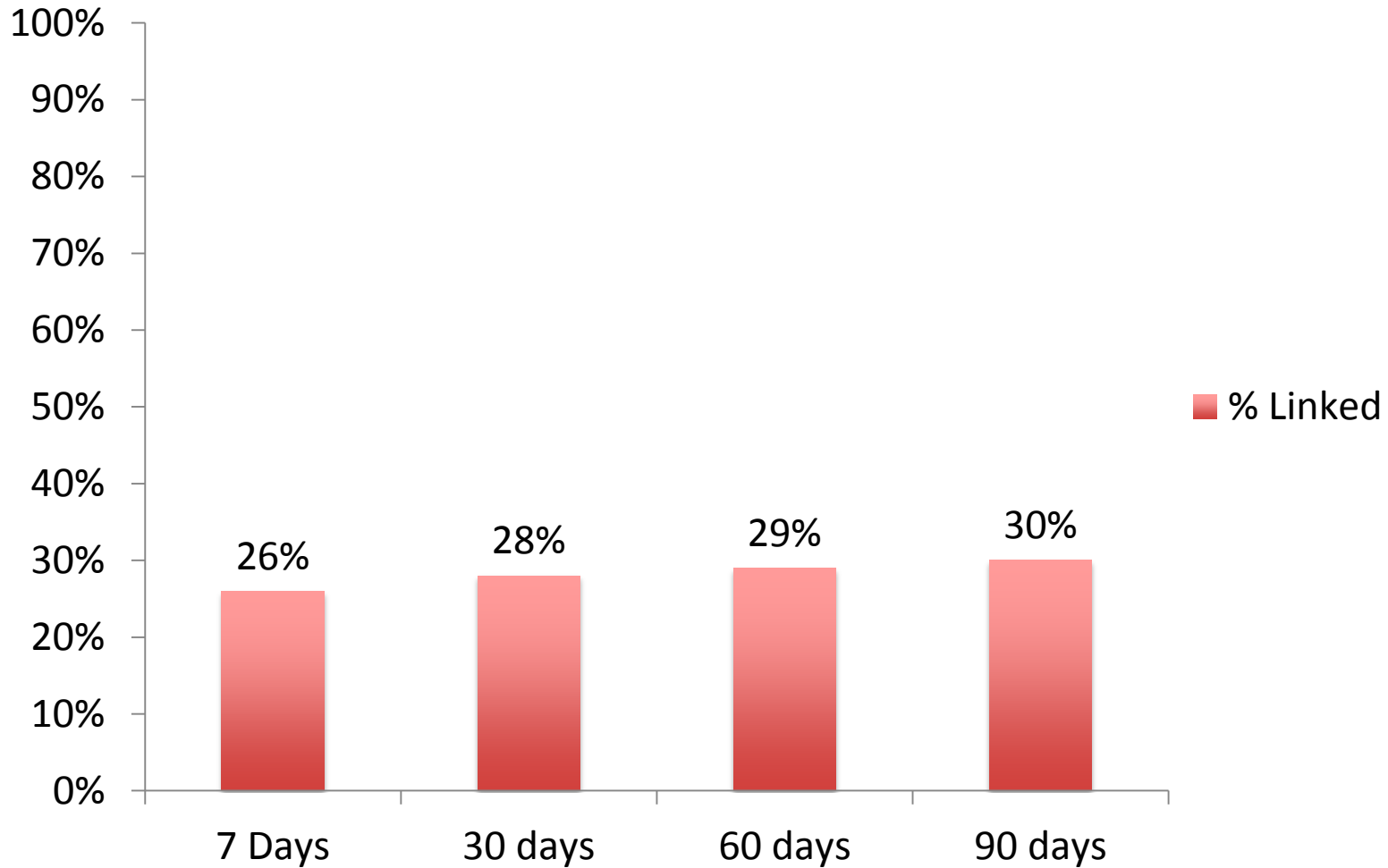
Coverage of only 18%

WHY DO PEOPLE LEAVE?

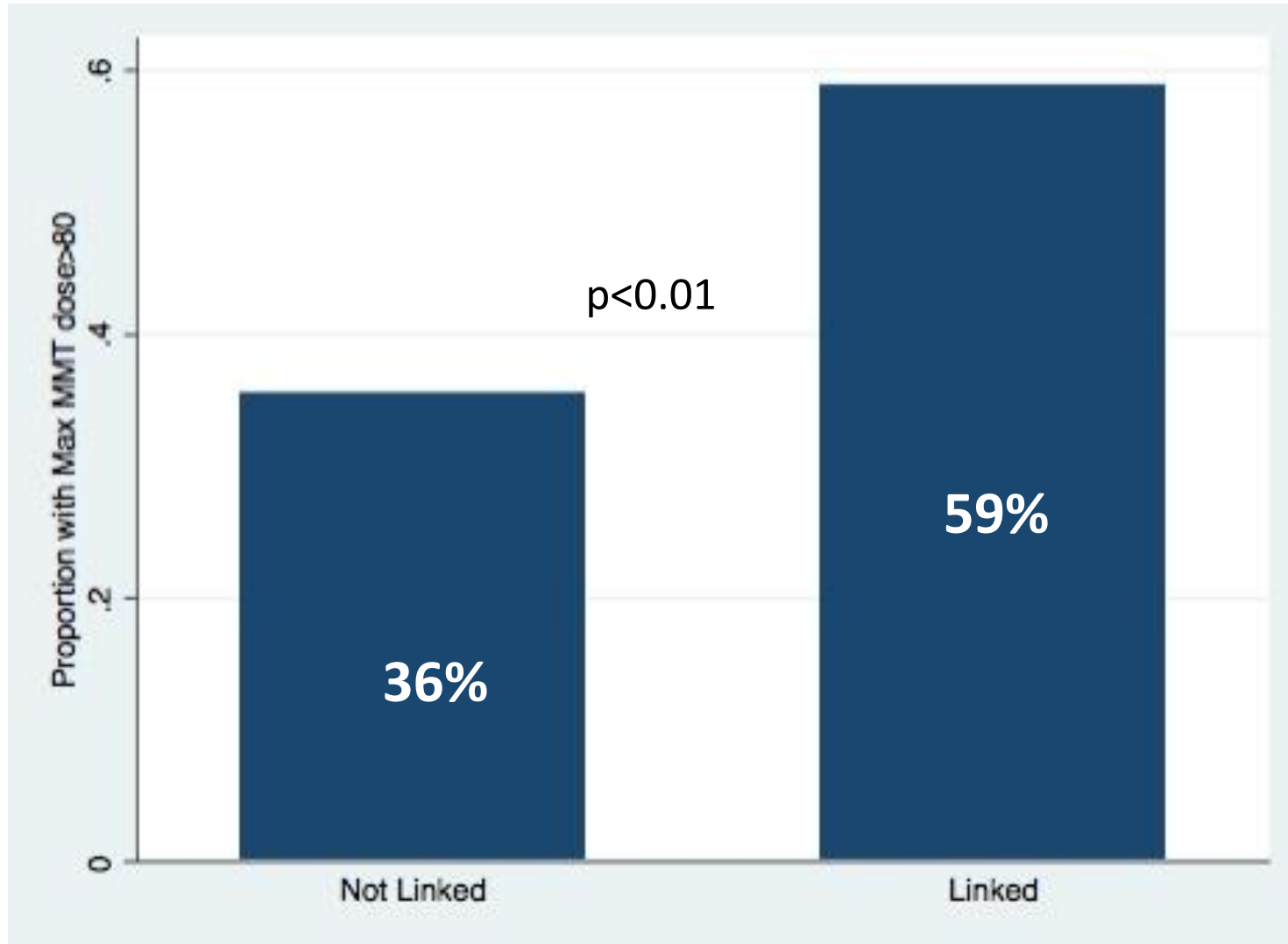
775 out of **916** (85%) cases discontinued
MMT

Reason	# of Individuals
Community Release	198 (26%)
Transfer to Facility	195 (25%)
Voluntary D/C	164 (21%)
Breaking MMT Contract	194 (25%)
Death	12 (2%)
Planned Completion	12 (2%)

HOW MANY PEOPLE LINK TO COMMUNITY MMT (n=198)?



DOES DOSE AFFECT COMMUNITY LINKAGE?



PROJECT MAK - *QUALITATIVE STUDY*

Objective:

To describe the environmental factors that influence the utilization of methadone maintenance treatment within prison and after release.

Methodology:

Longitudinal in-depth interviews with soon-to-be released opioid dependent prisoners

Risk environment

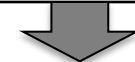
- How to explain why HIV disproportionately concentrated among prisoners and PWID?
- Individual risk behaviors don't fully explain HIV risk
- 'Risk environment' framework
 - Types of environments, levels of environmental influence
 - Interplay of physical, policy, social and economic environments at macro and micro levels to shape risk

Prison Risk Environment		
	Macro Factors	Micro Factors
Physical	-Geographical location in relation to heroin sources	-Locations of MMT distribution
Social	-Exclusion from social participation and meaningful social roles	-Social norms & networks of PWID
Economic	-Economically and socially disempowered populations concentrated within prison	-Within prison drug trade
Policy	-Registration requirement	-Availability of OAT, NSP

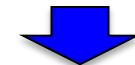


Possible Mechanisms

- Increases exposure to drugs
- Social stigma and marginalization drives risk underground and not amenable to prevention and treatment services



Decision to utilize MMT



Opportunities for Prevention & Intervention

- Interventions with police; introduction of alternatives to incarceration (drug courts, probation, parole)
- Interventions to reduce negative attitudes and stigma (Project MATLINK)
- Distribution of MMT in a location amenable to prisoner access

CONCLUSIONS

- Prevalence of substance use and HIV, syphilis, HCV, and HBV is high
- Kyrgyzstan presents particular challenges to its implementation that need to be considered as more programs are rolled out
- Linkage to MMT after release is 30%
- The first qualitative interviews within a post-soviet prison show that social factors play a strong role in shaping utilization of MMT
- Screening and Brief intervention as a potential tool to link prisoners to MMT



Thank you!