

Setting the Scene - Drug Trends, Policies and Responses: Challenges and Opportunities in Central Asia and Eastern Europe

Professor Chris Beyrer – Johns Hopkins
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The Johns Hopkins-Lancet Commission on Drug Policy and Health

Public Health and International Drug Policy

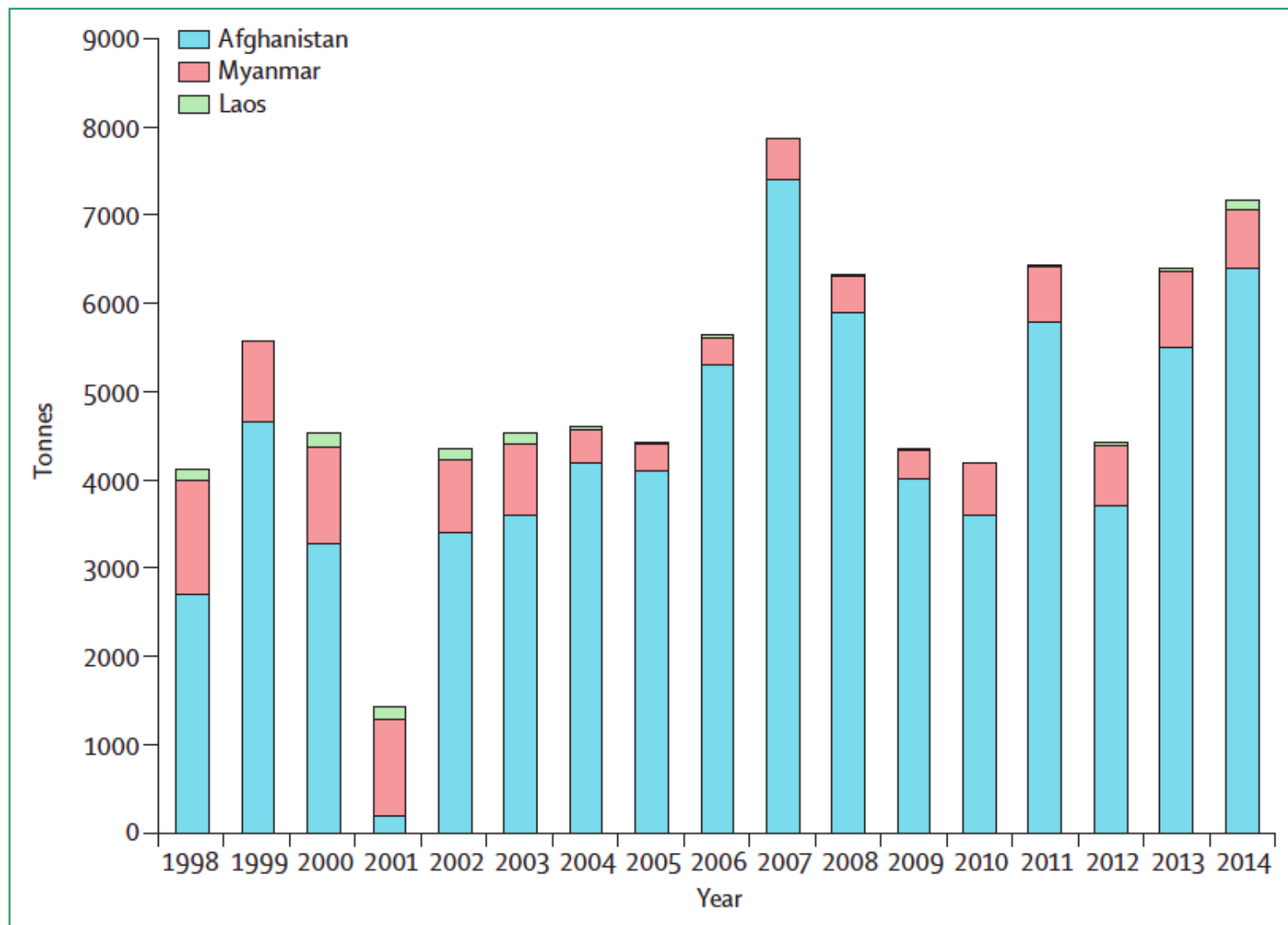
Joanne Csete, Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Michel Kazatchkine, Frederick Altice, Marek Balicki, Julia Buxton, Javier Cepeda, Megan Comfort, Eric Goosby, João Goulão, Carl Hart, Thomas Kerr, Alejandro Madrazo Lajous, Stephen Lewis, Natasha Martin, Daniel Mejía, Adriana Camacho, David Mathieson, Isidore Obot, Adeolu Ogunrombi, Susan Sherman, Jack Stone, Nandini Vallath, Peter Vickerman, Tomáš Zábanský, Chris Beyrer

Lancet 2016; 387: 1427-80.

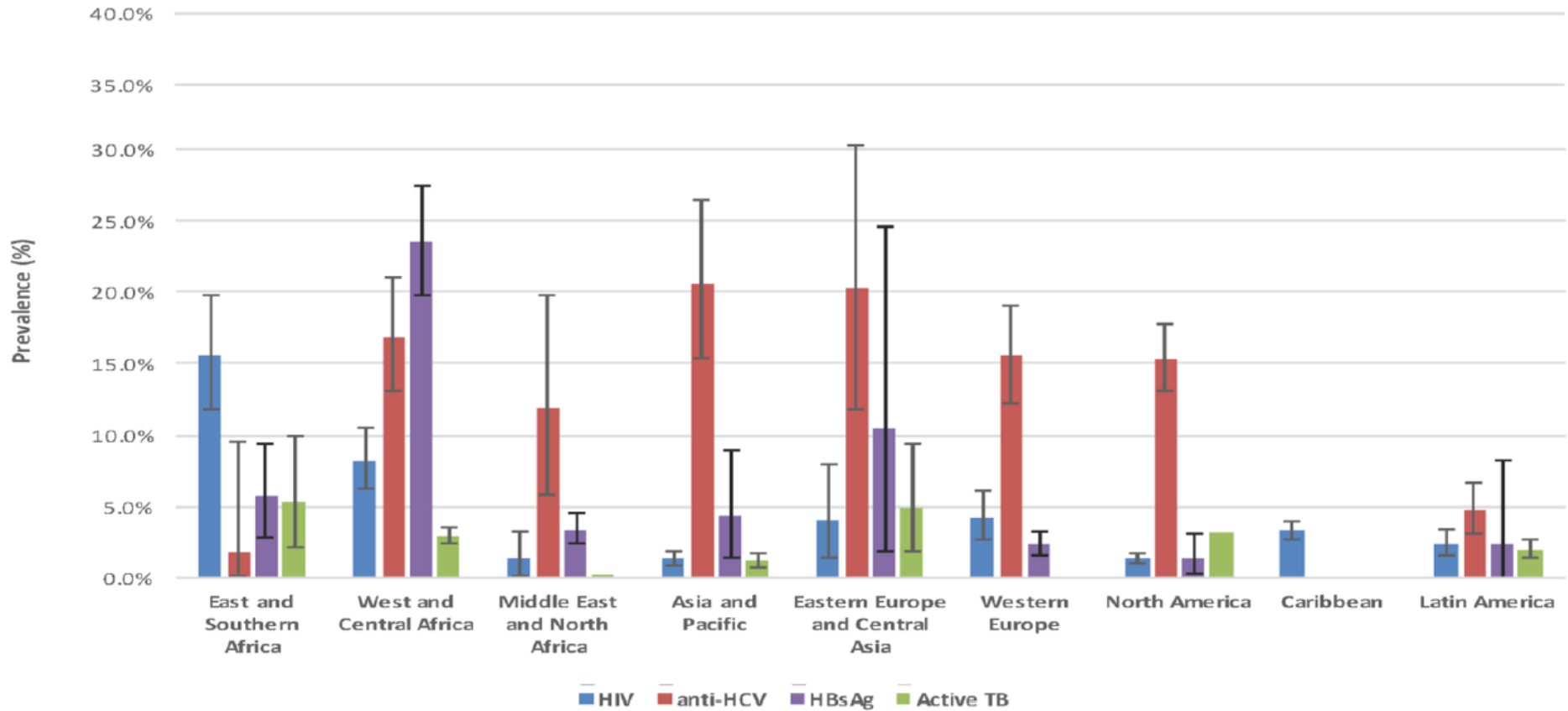
“Drugs have destroyed many people, but wrong policies have destroyed many more.”

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary
General

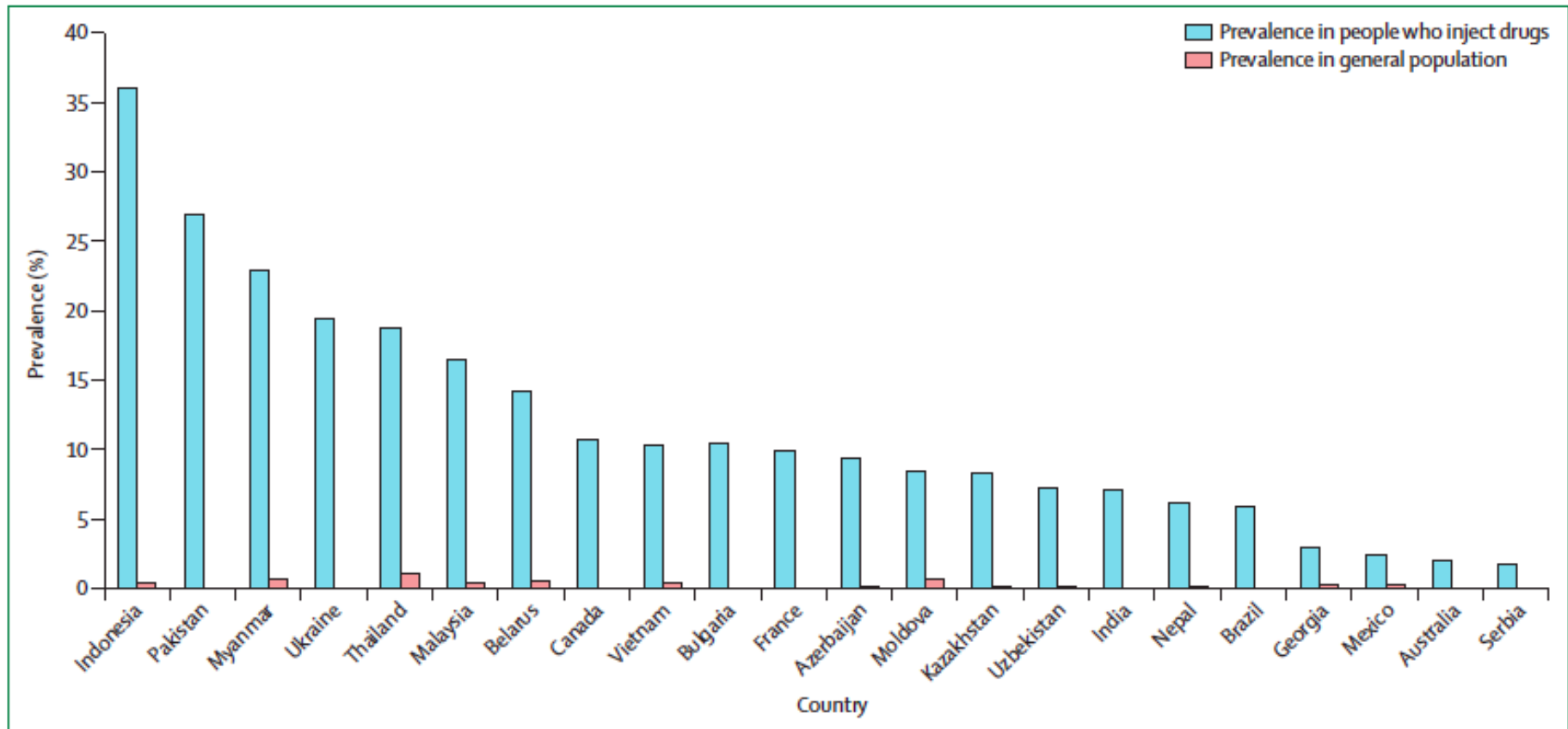
Estimated production of opium poppies for illicit markets 1998-2014



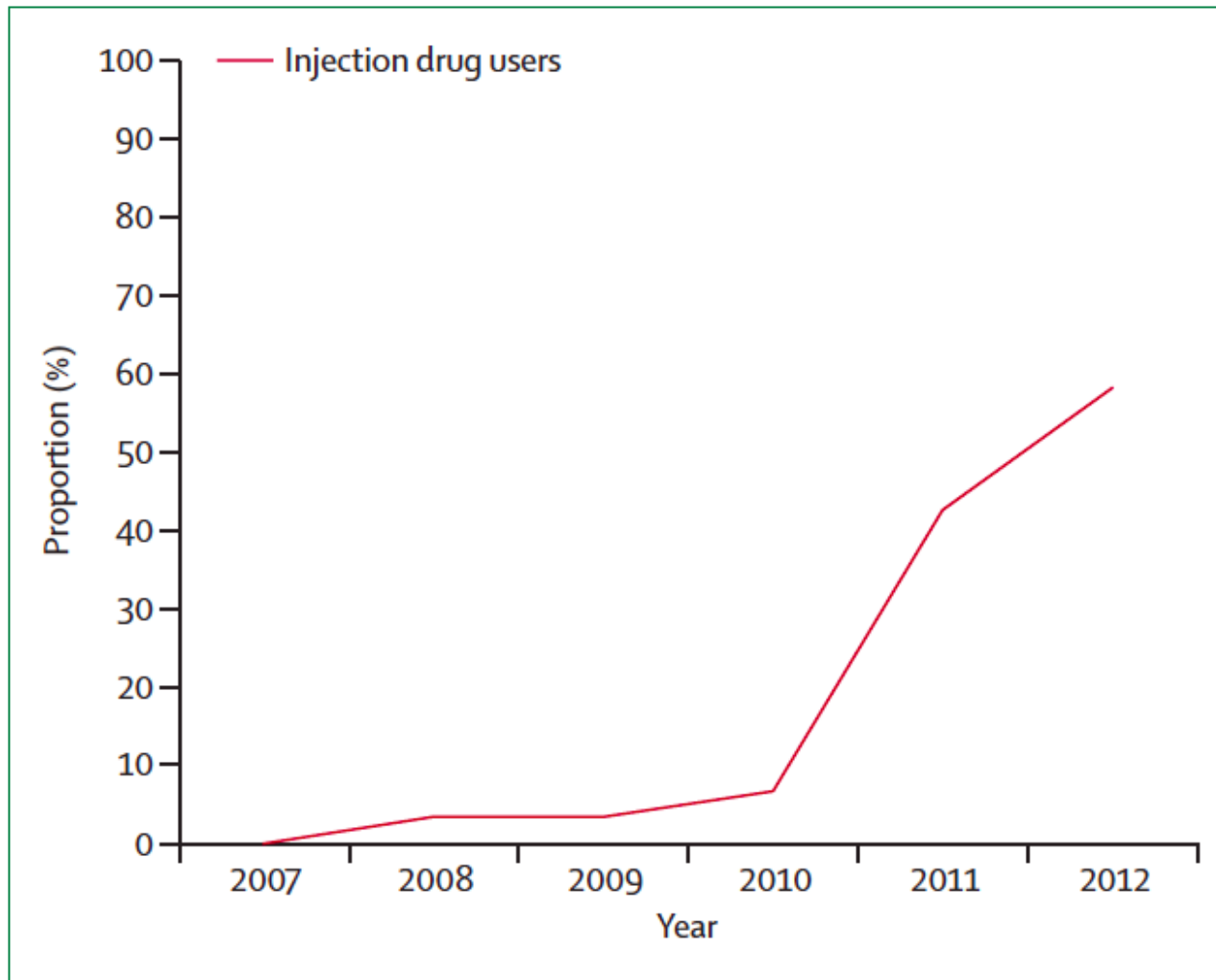
Epidemiology: HIV, viral hepatitis & TB prevalence by region



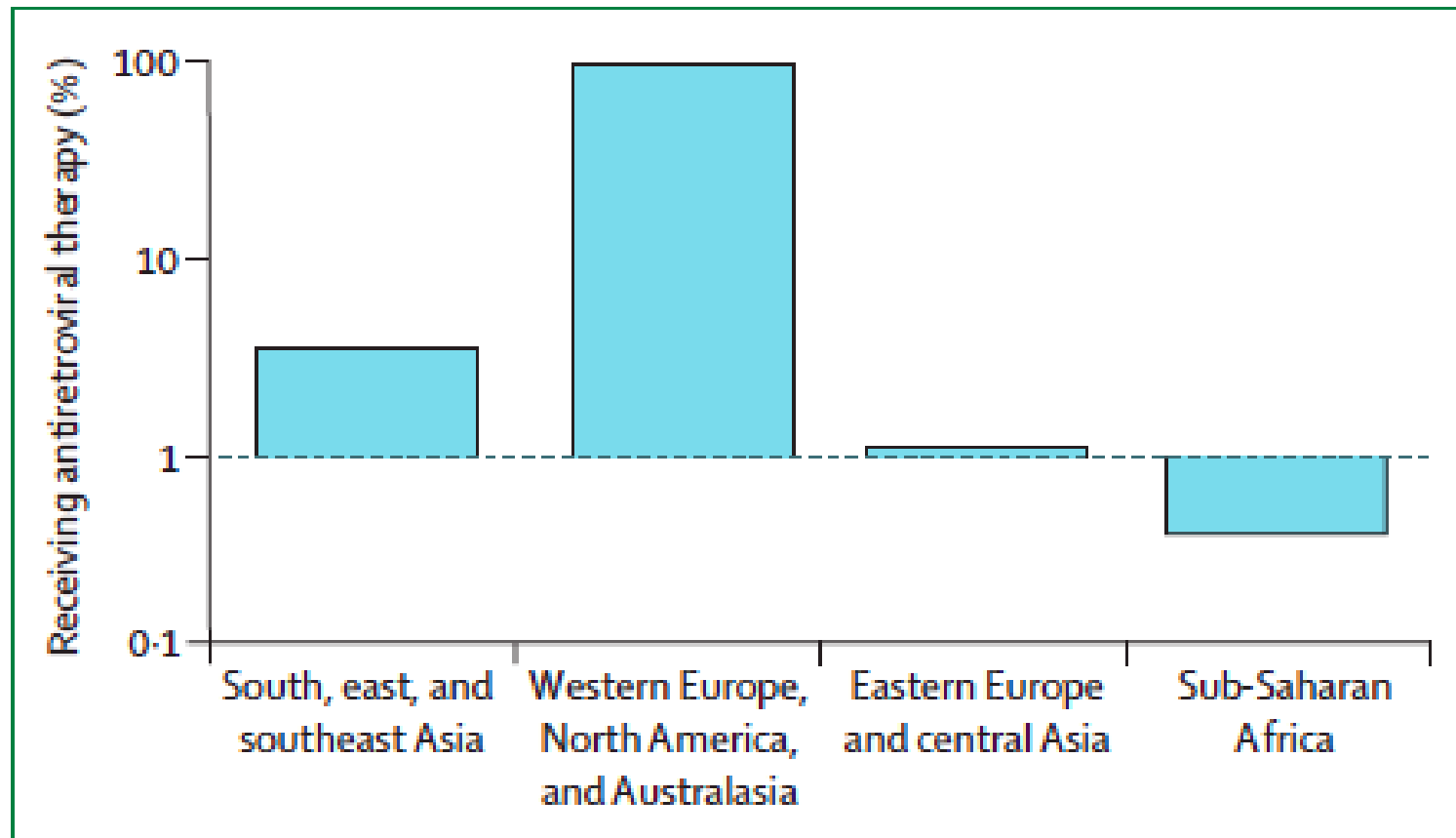
Challenges to Health: Prevalence of HIV infection among people who inject drugs and in the general population



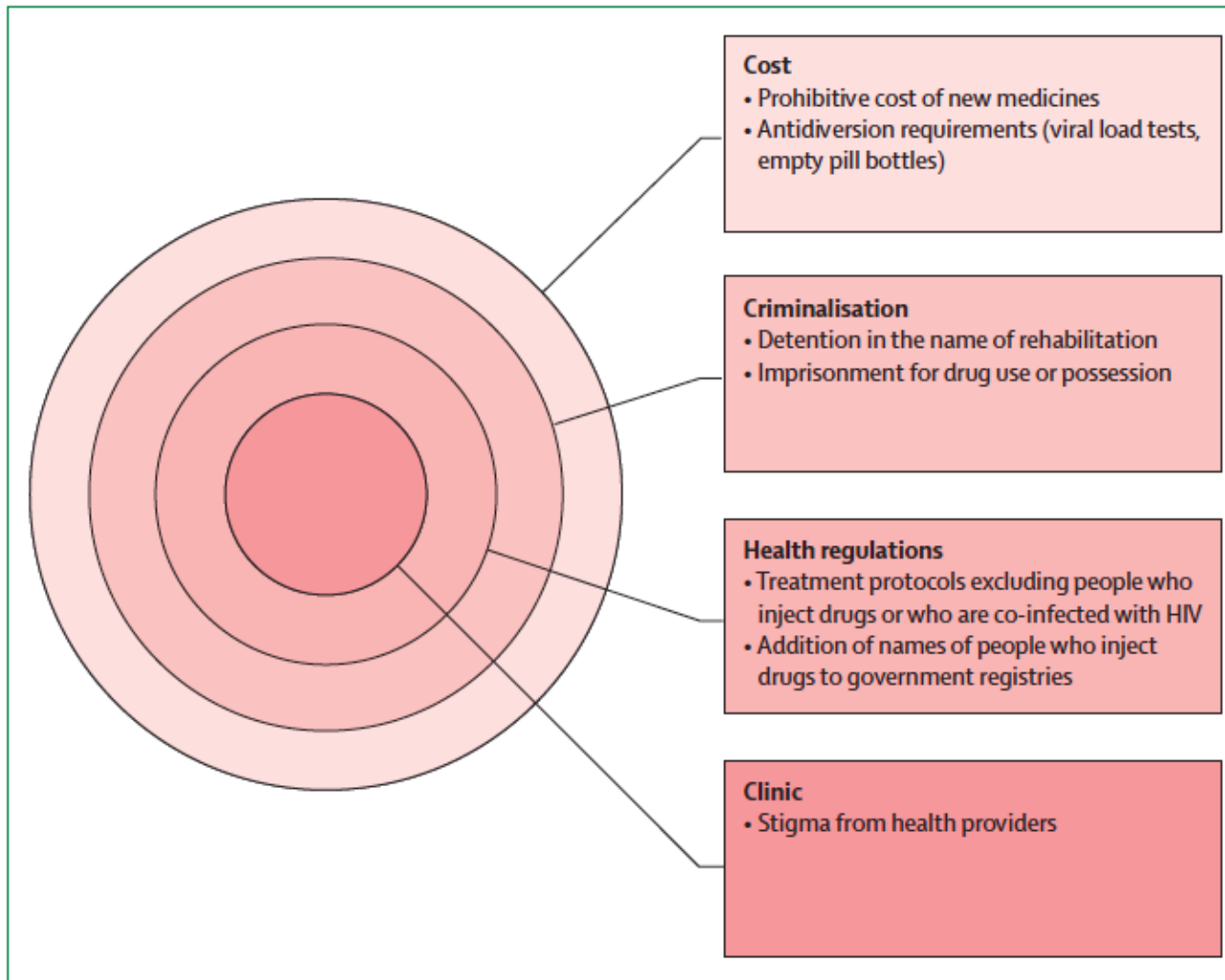
Proportion of people who inject drugs in Romania Who are infected with HIV, 2007-13



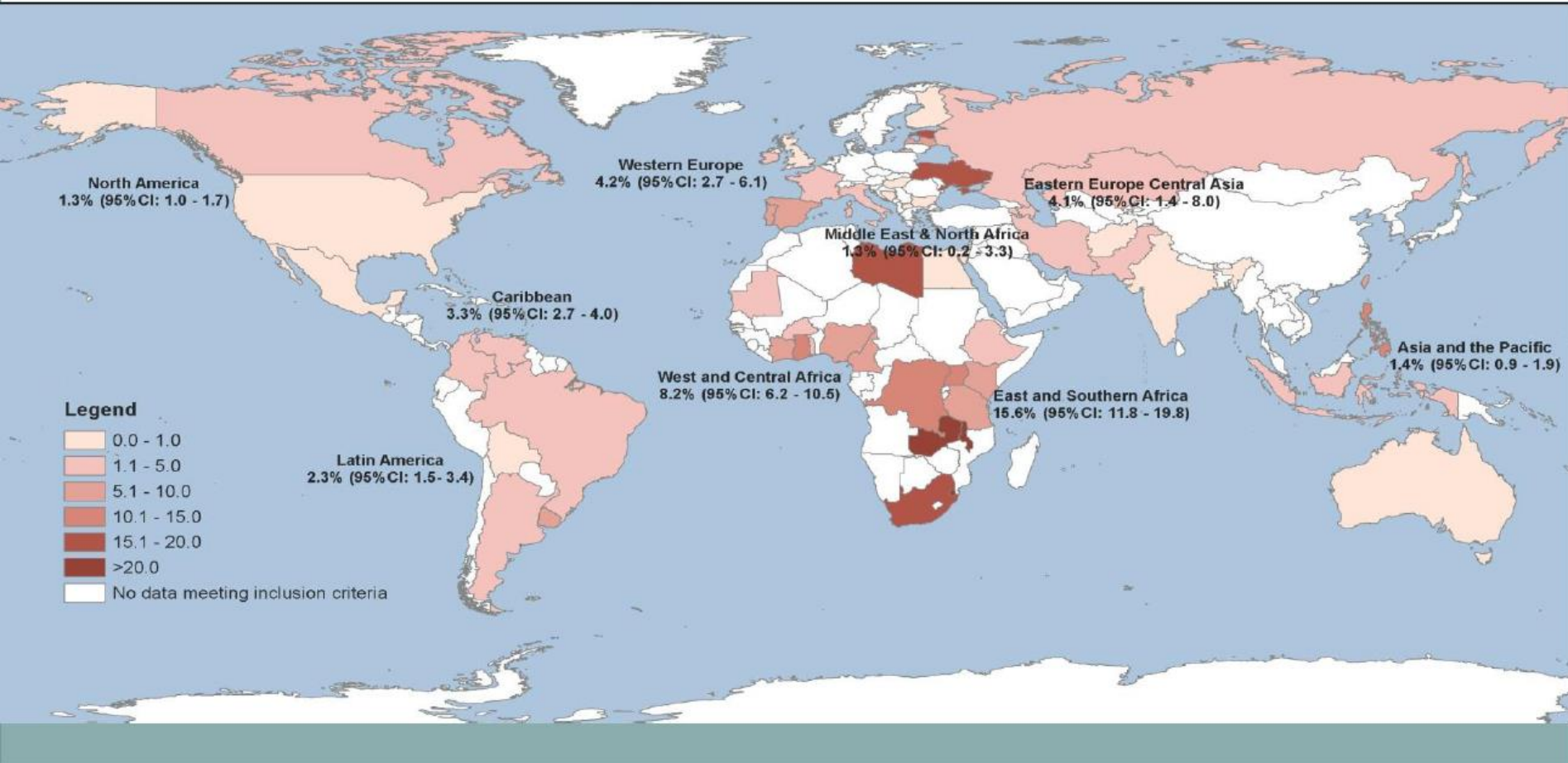
Proportion of injecting drug users living with HIV who receive antiretroviral therapy, by region



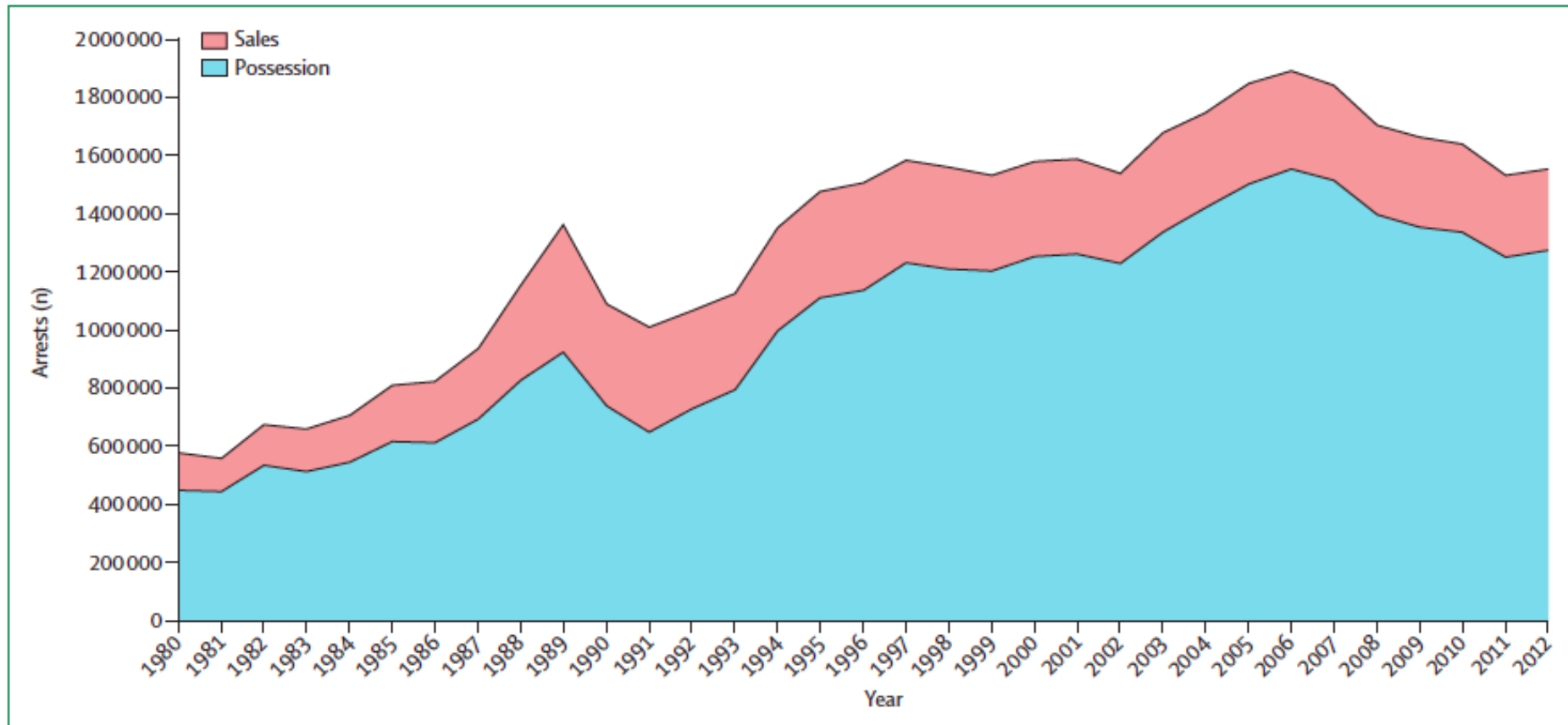
Barriers to treatment for hepatitis C virus infection for people who inject drugs



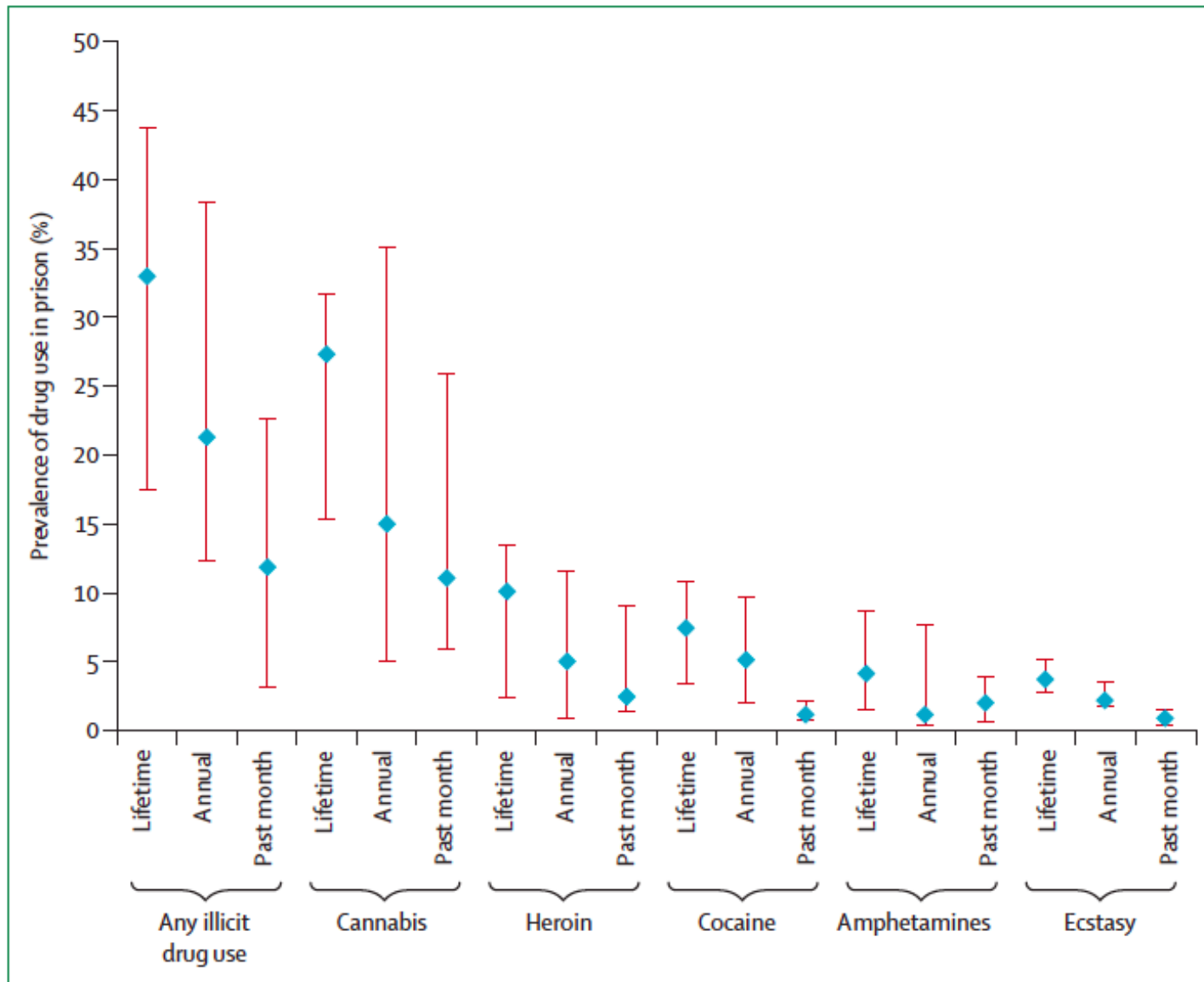
Epidemiology: HIV prevalence in prisoners n=74 countries



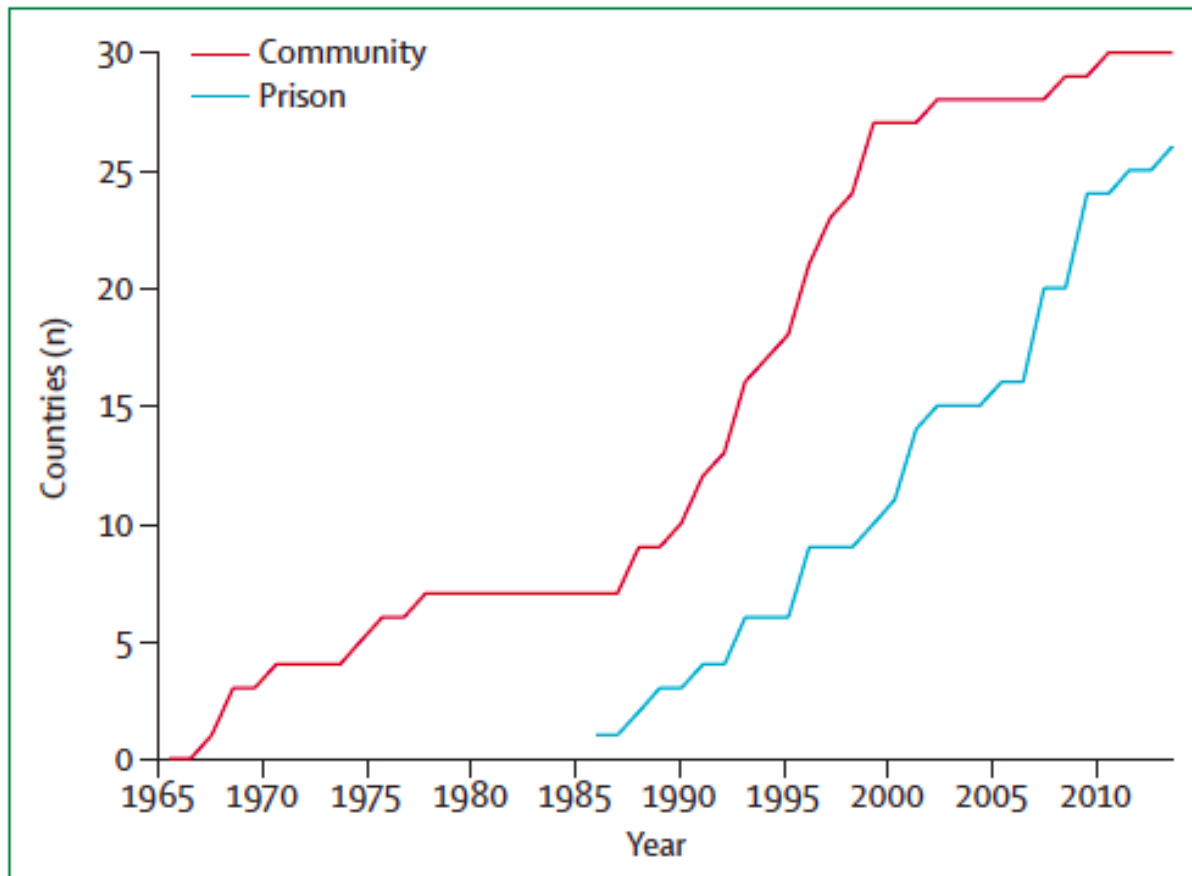
Drug arrests in the USA, 1980-2012



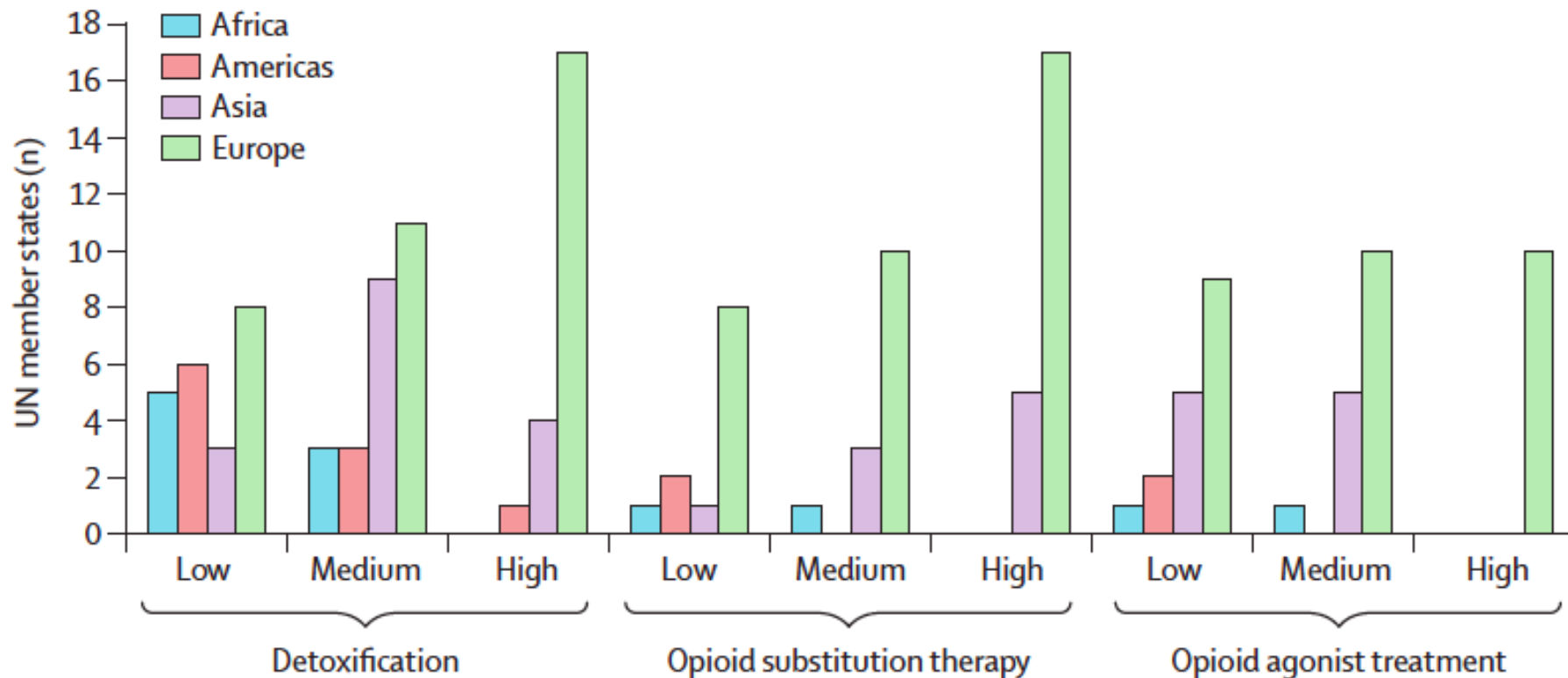
Lifetime, annual, and past-month prevalence of drug use in prison



European Union countries where opiate substitution therapy is offered in the community and in prisons, 1965-2010



Extent of drug dependence services by region, 2013



Drug Policy: The Challenge of National, Regional and Global Drug Policy Environment

- Use of police arrest quotas, forced urine screen, harsh sentencing
- National Drug Policy heavily influenced by law enforcement bodies
- UNGASS Reaffirmation of the Three Drug Conventions

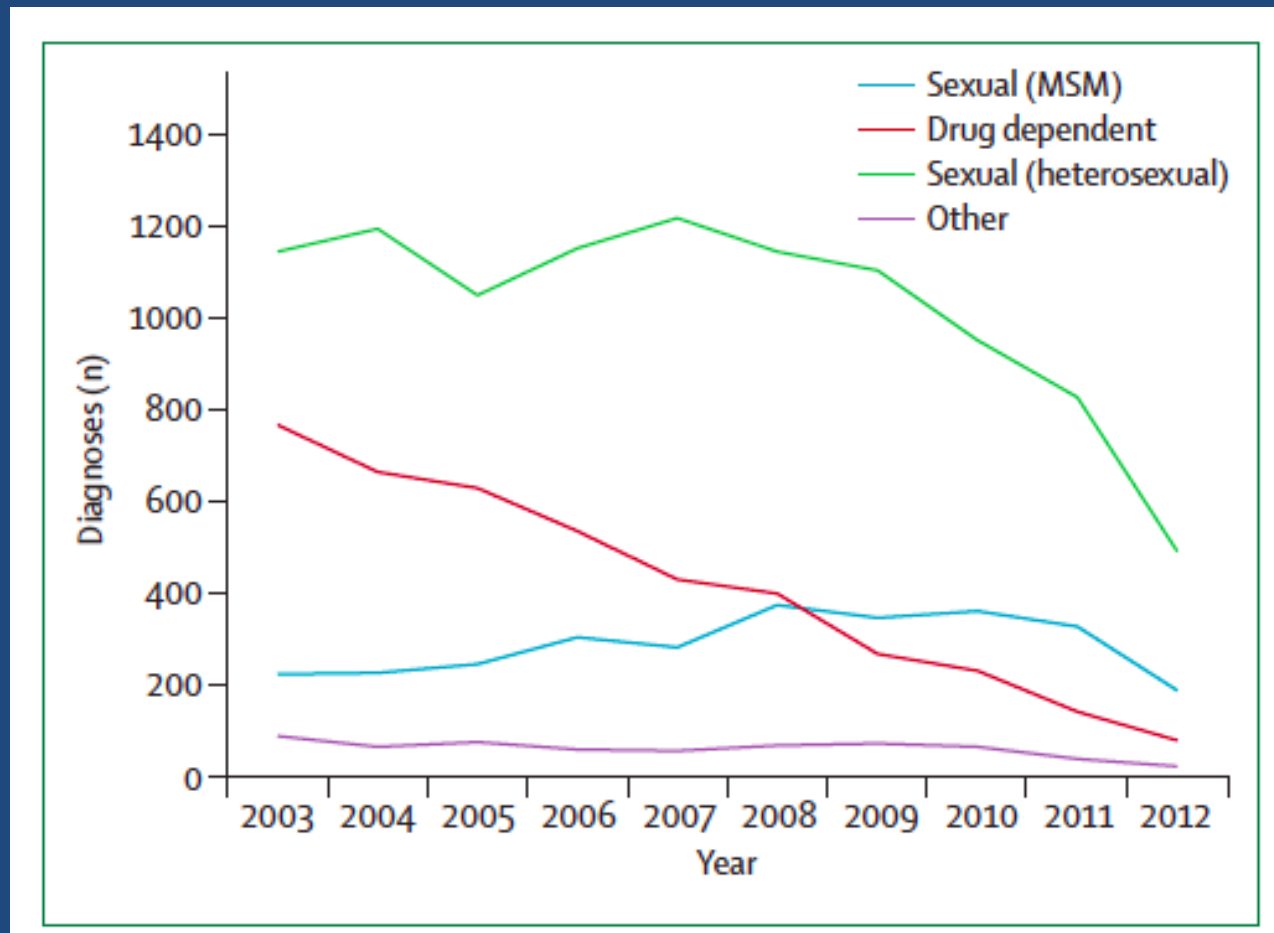
Drug Policy: The Opportunities in Drug Policy Reform

- **Decriminalisation** - some countries in the region beginning to explore decriminalisation of some substances (Cannabis)
- **Quantities and Drug Charges** – opportunities to increase the amount of drugs considered for personal use and not requiring prison sentence

Drug Policy: The Opportunity for National and Sub National Policy Reform

- **Growing civil society engagement** in national drug policy debates but needs to broaden dialogue platform and engagement outside of health sector and more deeply into law enforcement, judiciary, home affairs and interior ministries
- **Innovation** in service delivery such as take home methadone

Incidence of HIV infection in Portugal by mode of transmission, 2013-12



Drug Policy: The Opportunity for National and Sub National Policy Reform

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- **Innovation** in service delivery and scale critical

UN Standards on Treatment of Prisoners – Mandela Rules (2015)

Prisons must be managed in a manner to respect and protect the human rights and dignity of prisoners

Prison should be viewed as a place for preparation for reintegration of prisoners into society – minimize differences with outside world

- Adequate space, food, sanitation
- Non discrimination
- Health care to meet prisoners' needs throughout process and linkages to public health
- Monitoring

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