

# Drug situation and responses in Georgia



**Khatuna Todadze, MD, PhD**

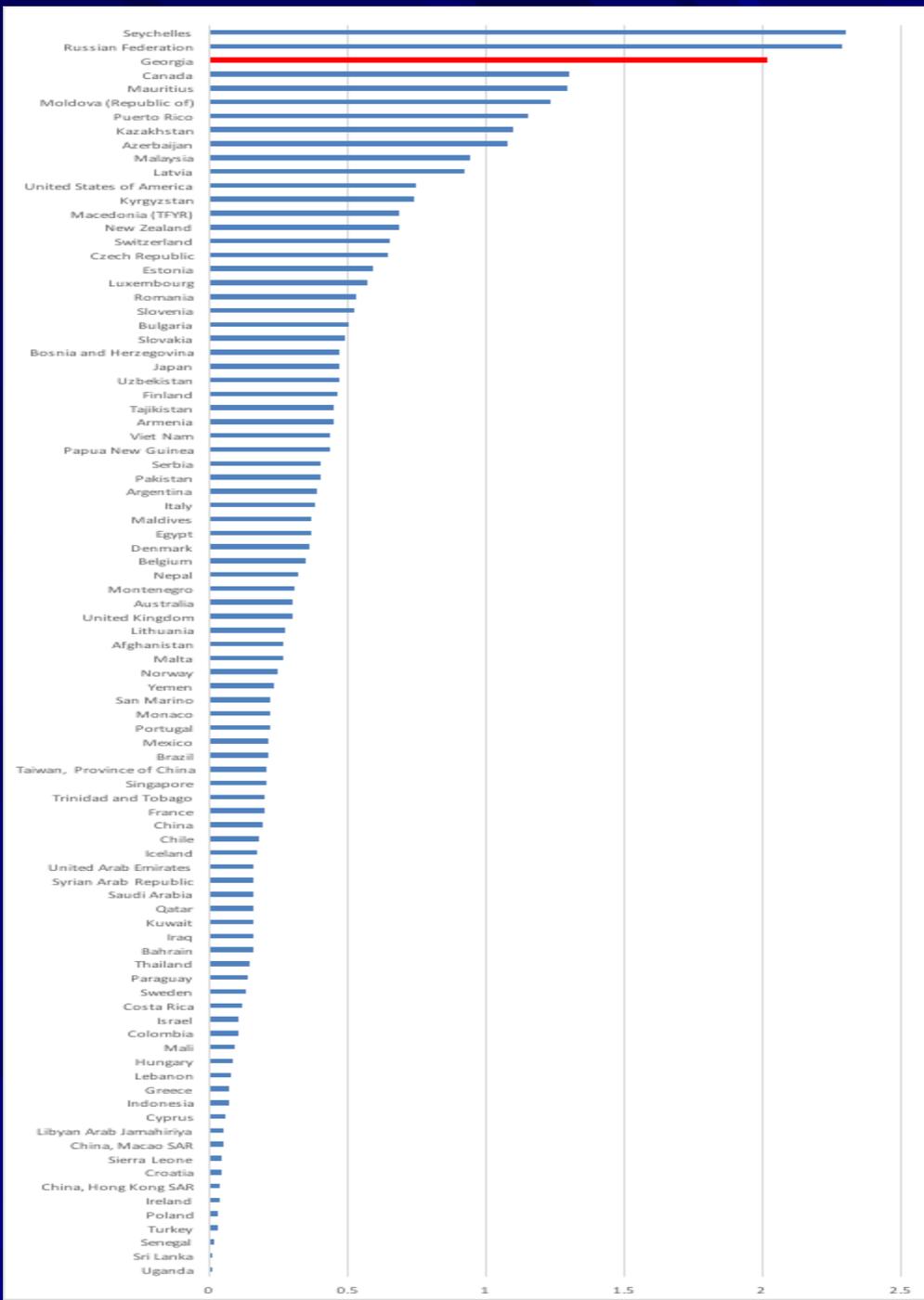
**04.09.2017, Tbilisi**

# Drug situation

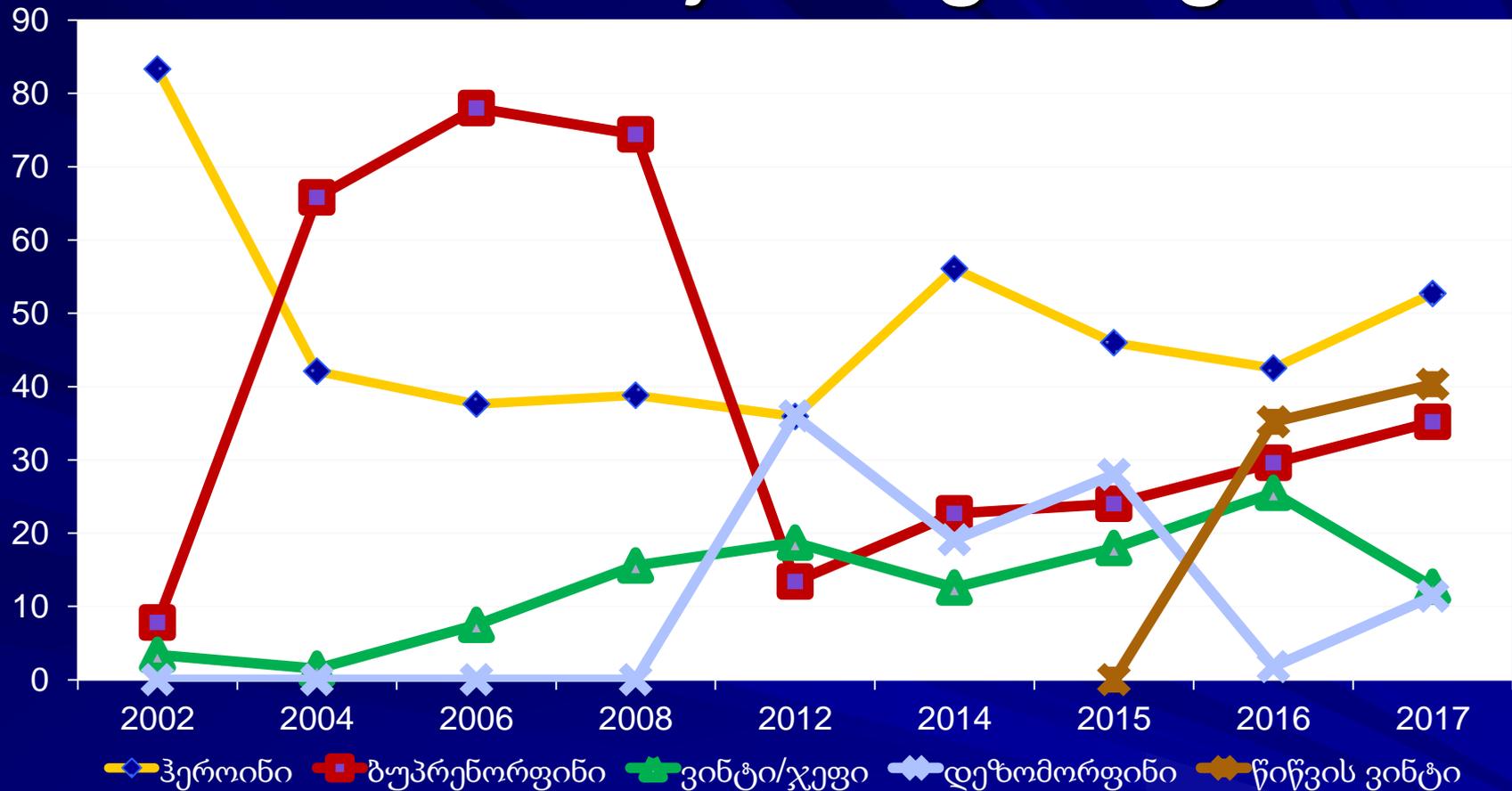
- Opioids (heroin, buprenorphine, dezomorphine, methadone, fentanil)
- Amphetamines and methamphetamines made from medicines (Vint/Jeff)
- Vint/Jeff made from ephedra needles
- Medicines from Pharmacies (baclofen, pregabalin, gabapentin, benzodiazepines etc)
- NPS
- Poly-drug abuse

# Statistics

- Injecting drug user size estimation studies (Curatio, Bemoni):
  - 40000 IDUs in 2009
  - 45000 IDUs in 2012
  - 50000 IDUs in 2015

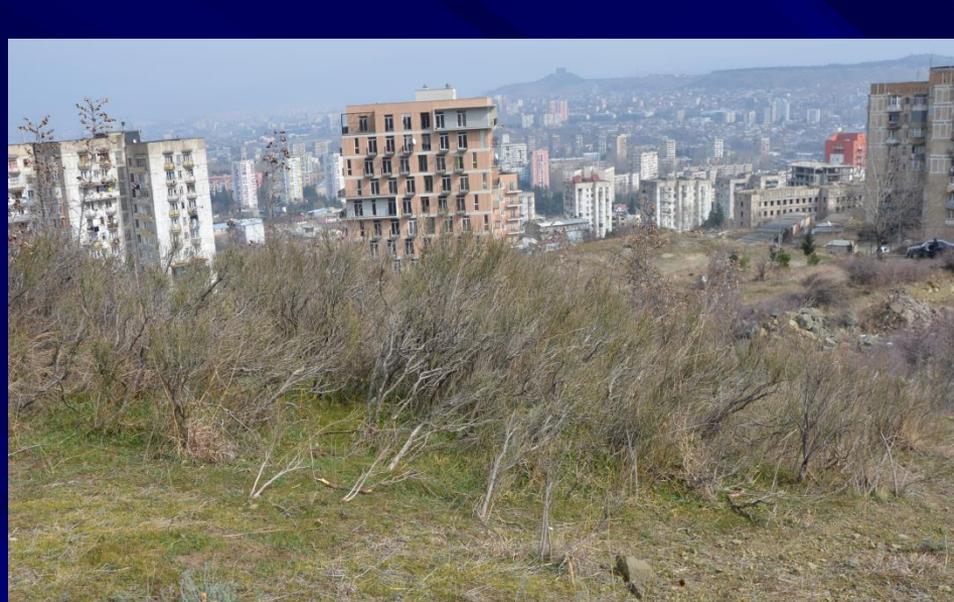


# Trends of injecting drug use



**Heroin** **Buprenorphine** **vint/jeff** **dezomorphine**  
**vint from ephedra needle**



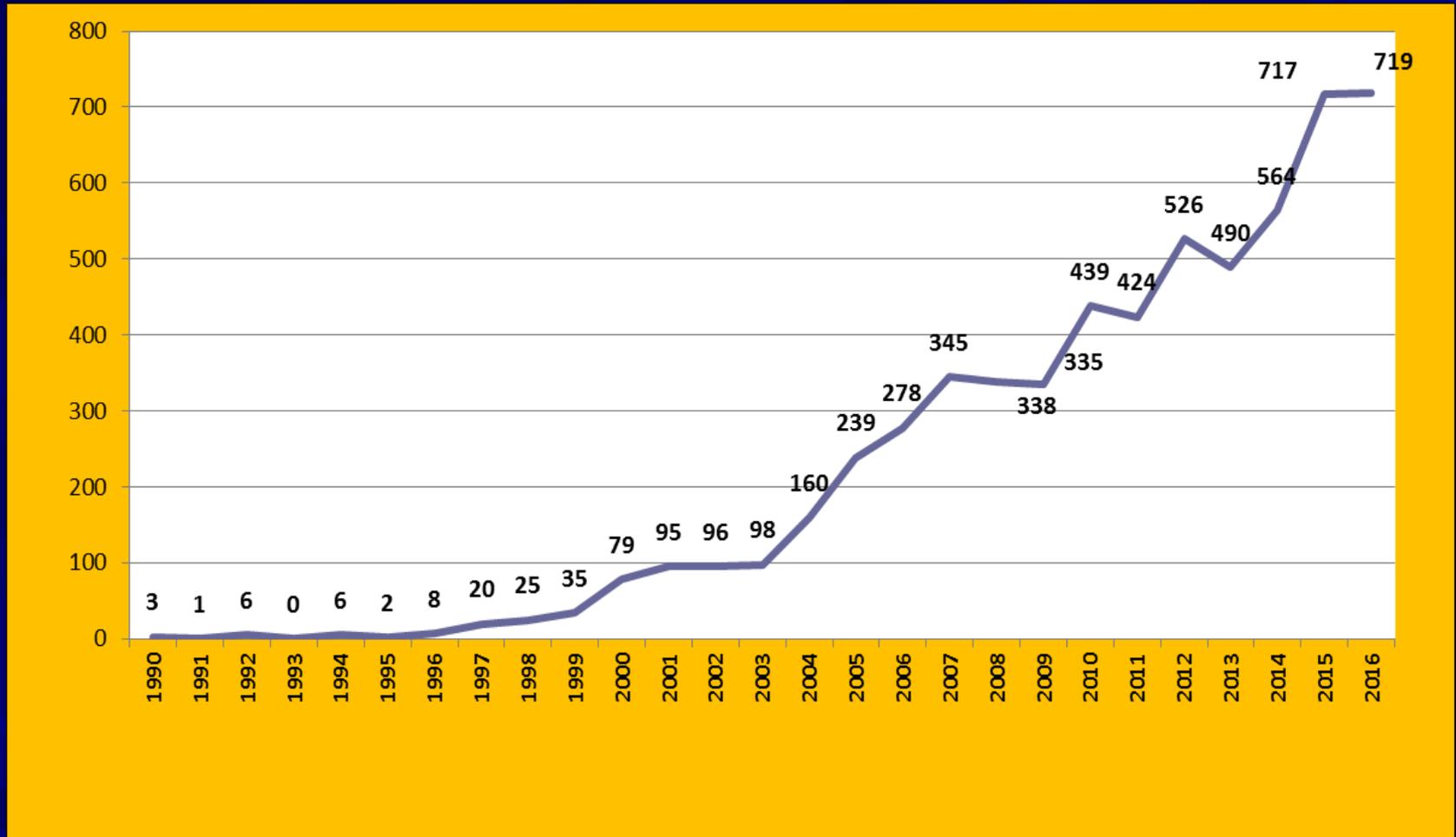


# Danger of home-made drugs

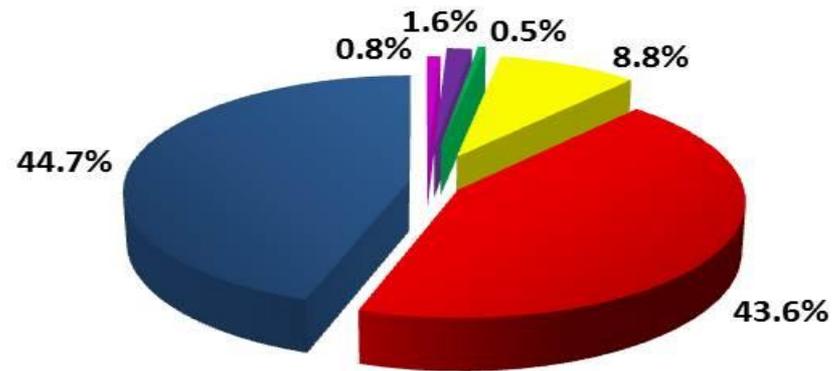
- Group style of preparation and injection
- Shared paraphernalia
- Frequent injection
- High risk of injection equipment sharing
- High toxicity
- High risk of overdose



# New HIV cases per year (totally 6507 HIV cases have been detected since 1990)

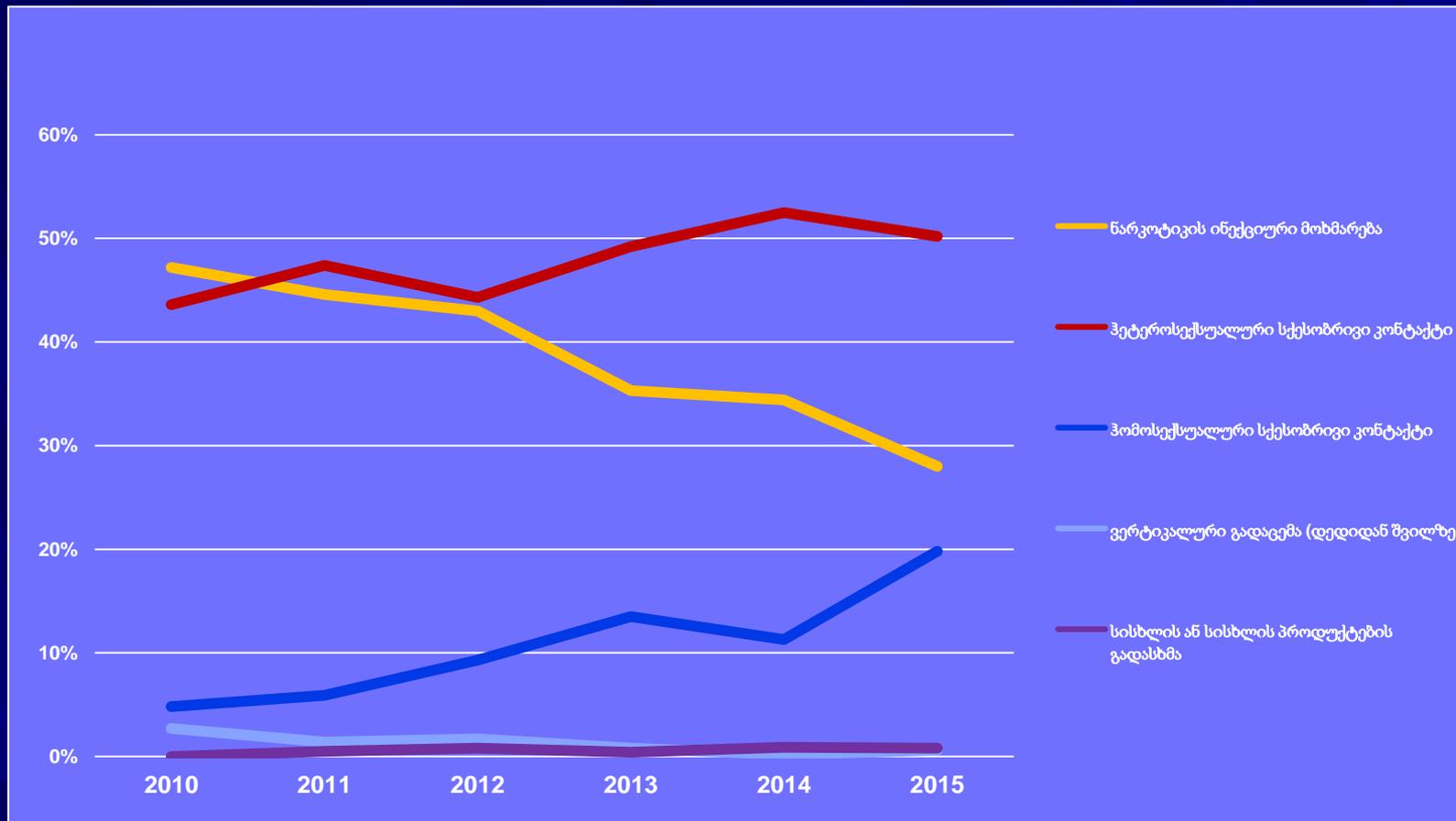


# Distribution of HIV cases by routes of transmission



- Undetermined
- Blood transfusion
- Heterosexual contacts
- Mother to child transmission
- Homo/Bi-sexual contacts
- Injecting drug use

# Distribution of HIV cases by routes of transmission by year (2010-2015)



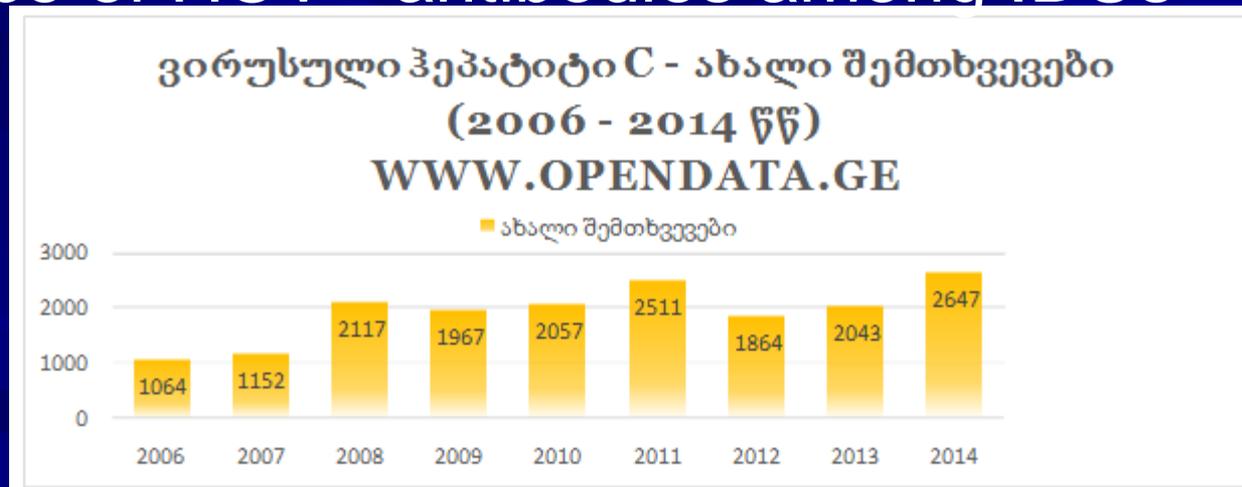
# Hepatitis C

Prevalence of HCV antibodies among general population— 7,5 % (2015)

Prevalence of active infection among general population – 5,4%

Prevalence of HCV antibodies among inprisoned population - 50%

Prevalence of HCV+ antibodies among IDUs –70%



# Responses - antidrug strategy and funding

- Interagency anti-drug council – MoJ, MoLSHA, MoSE, MoC, MoIA, MoYS, CMHPA, experts, NGOs, International donors etc
- Antidrug strategy –four pillars
  - Supply reduction
  - Prevention
  - Treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction
  - Monitoring, research, data collection

# Prevention

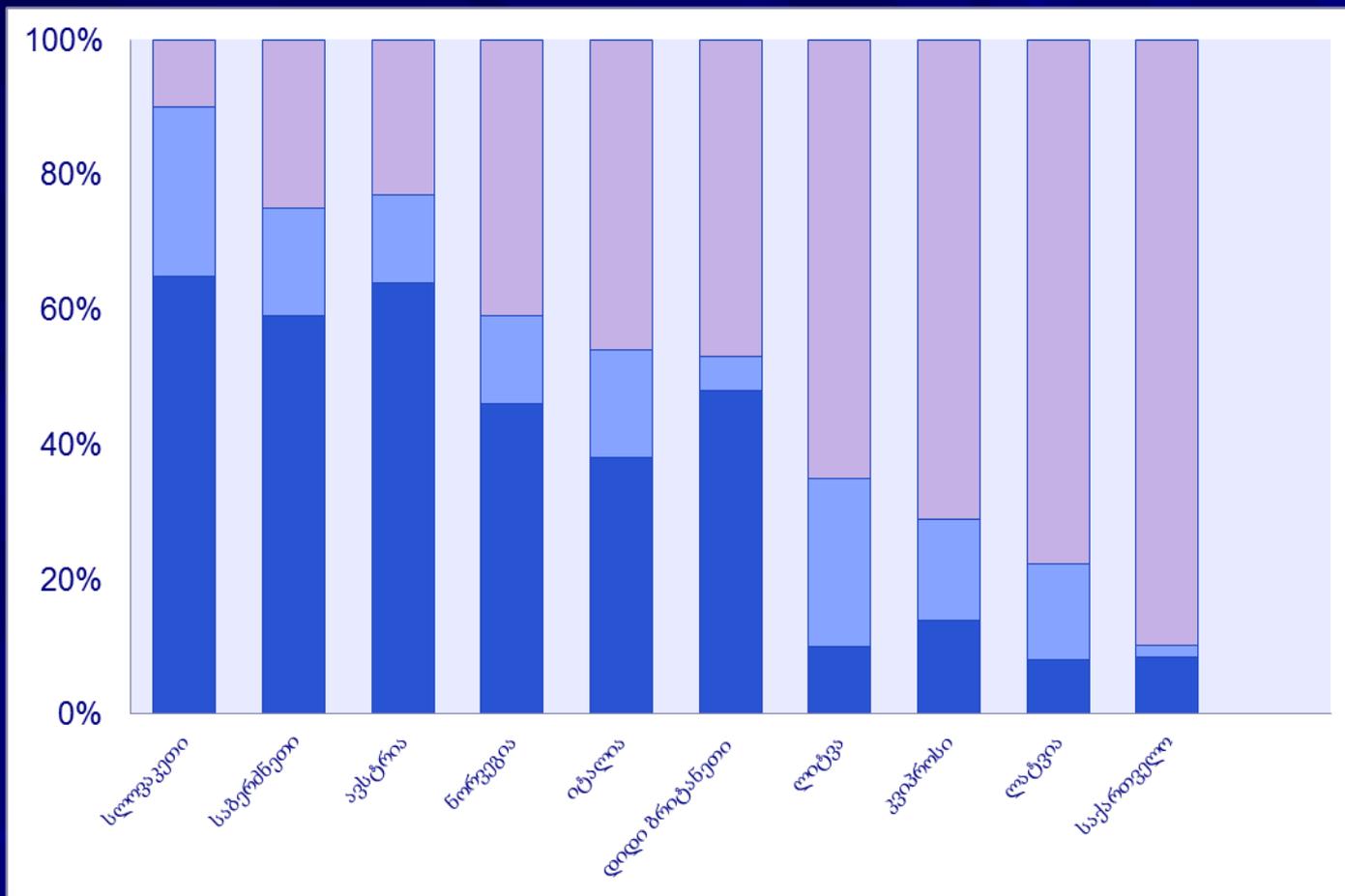
- There is no state strategy of drug prevention in the country
- Irregular and non-coordinated and non-Activities are mostly general population oriented (universal)
- School antidrug strategy was elaborated by expert group and successfully tested at several schools, but still is not implemented.

# Treatment

State funding – state program for treatment of disorders related to drug and alcohol use

- **2775000** GEL - 2011
- **3526000** GEL - 2012
- **4025000** GEL - 2013
- **4388500** GEL - 2014
- **4353400** GEL - 2015
- **5000000** GEL – 2016
- **7000000** GEL– 2017, incl. 4720000 GEL for OSTGE

# Treatment demand (2016)



**OST**

Other treatment

out of treatment

# Service provided by CMHPA in addiction field

- Provider of diverse treatment and harm reduction services
  - Detoxification of alcohol and drug addicts – inpatients and outpatients
  - Treatment of psychotic disorders due to alcohol and drug use
  - Providing of Simultaneous –psychiatric and addiction treatment services in case of dual diagnosis (psychiatric inpatient department on 80 beds; outpatient department)
- Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) (The service received up to 800 patients per year)
- Check up on narcotic and alcohol use and dependence
- Opioid substitution therapy

Geographical distribution of OST programs – 20 OST programs in civil sector (18 are operating by CMHPA), with



# OST (August 2017)

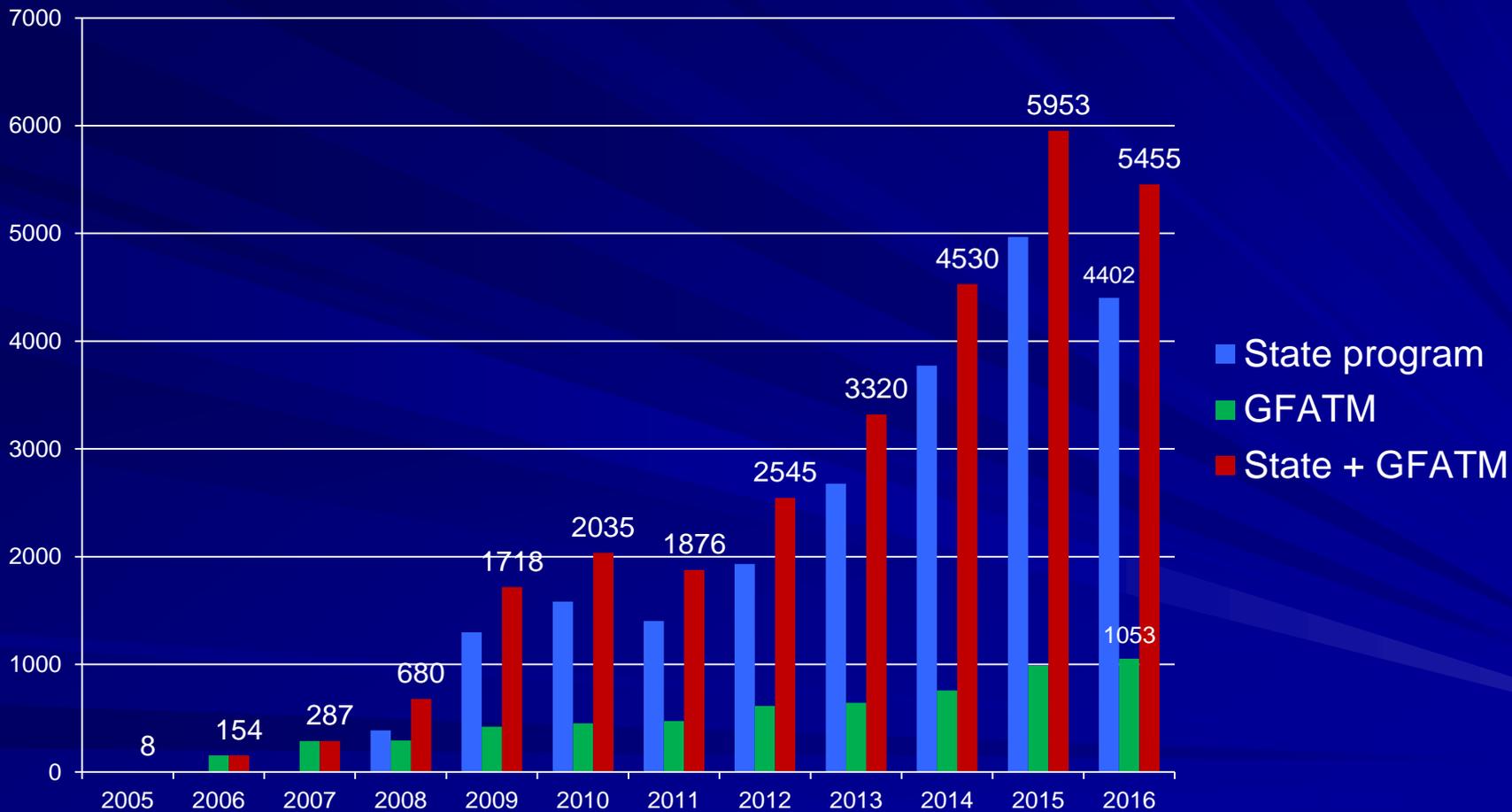
OST-5000 patients

OST –methadone (serves up to 4900 patients simultaneously)

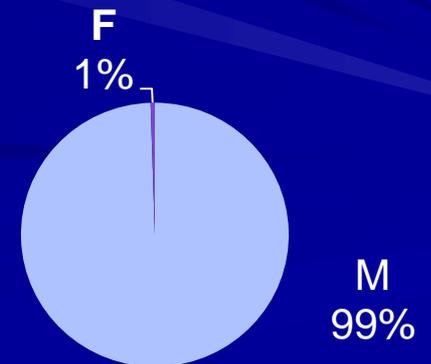
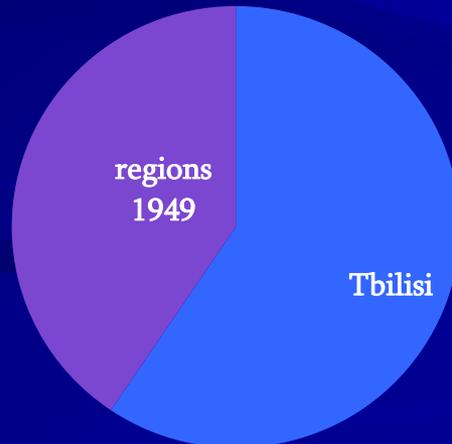
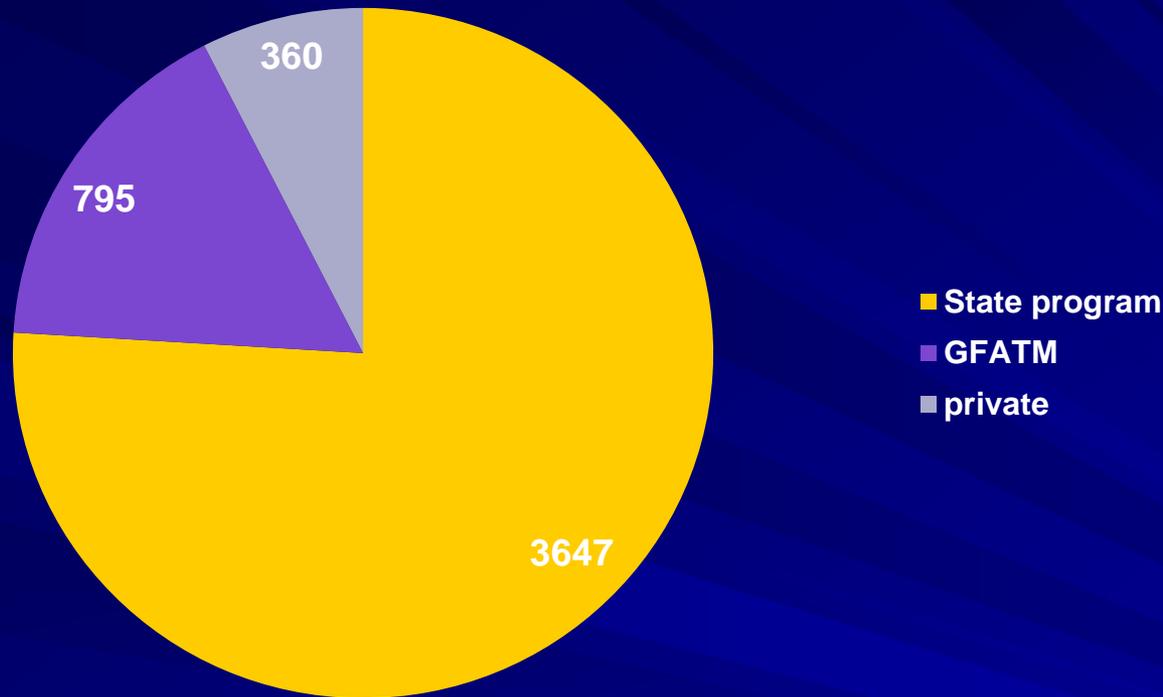
OST – Buprenorphine +naloxone (serves up to 120 patients simultaneously)

Long-term detoxification (6 months) with methadone in prisons (#8 penitentiary institution in Tbilisi and #2 penitentiary institution in Kutaisi; serves up to 100 patients at a time)

# Number of OST patients by years and programs

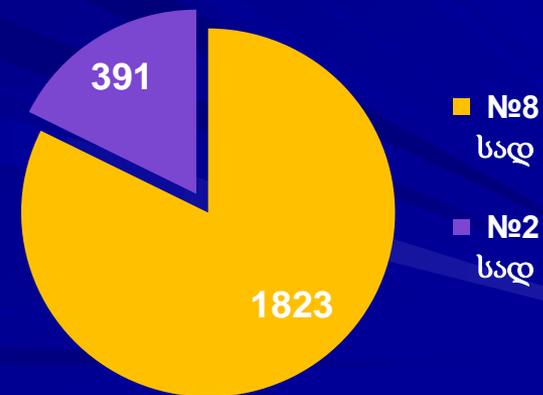


# Quantity of OST patients in treatment (the same time capability) -5000 (June, 2017)

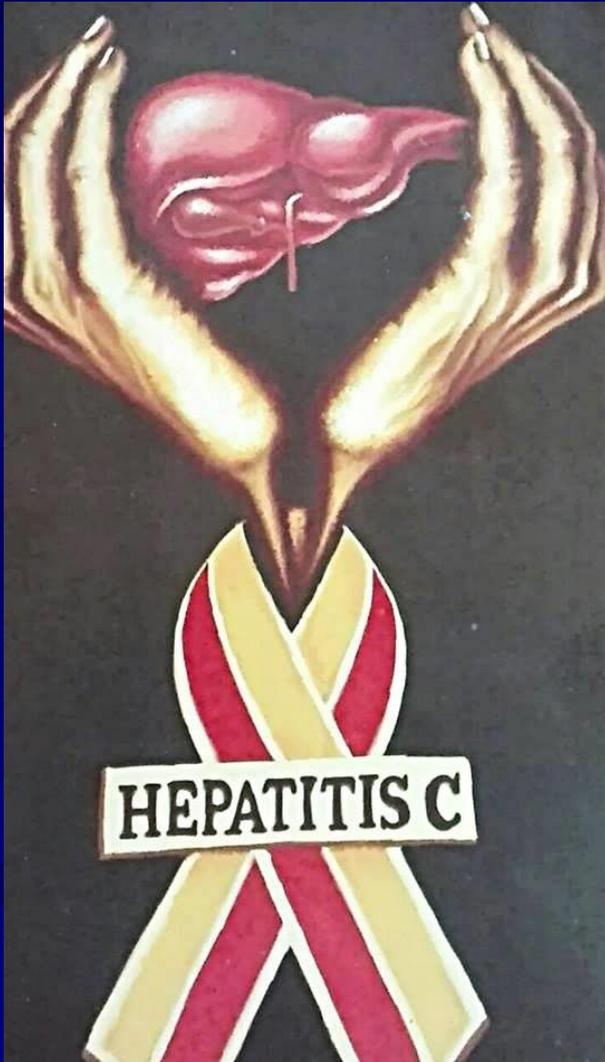


# Methadone treatment in penitentiary system

- Long-term methadone detoxification up to 6 month in 2 prisons
- Service is operating by CMHPA
- **2200** inmate beneficiaries since 2008

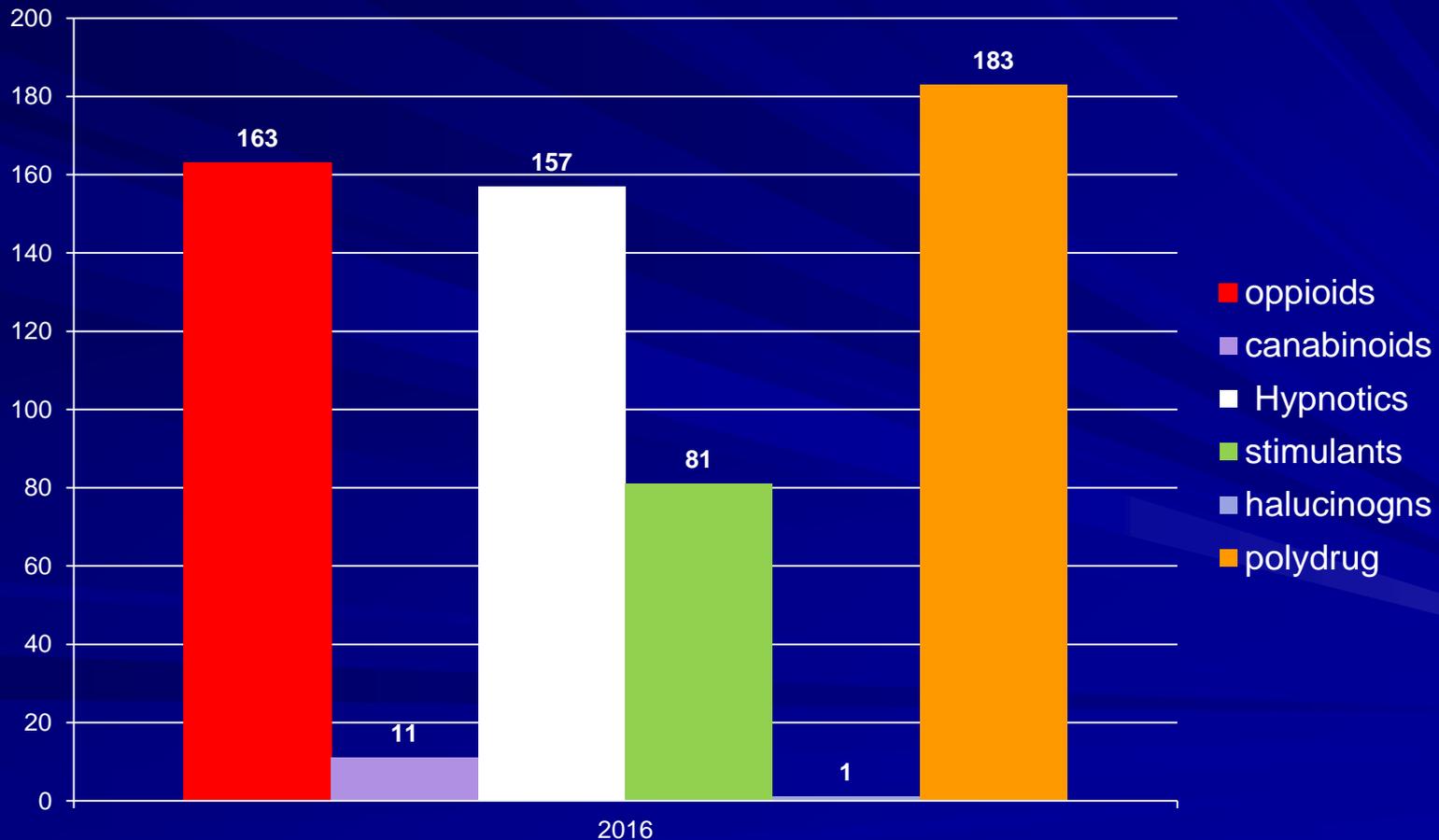


# service development



- “One Window” system to provide OST, Hep C treatment with new generation medications, rehabilitation, treatment of dual diagnosis

# Distribution of hospitalized patients by used substances (609 cases) – 2016, state funding

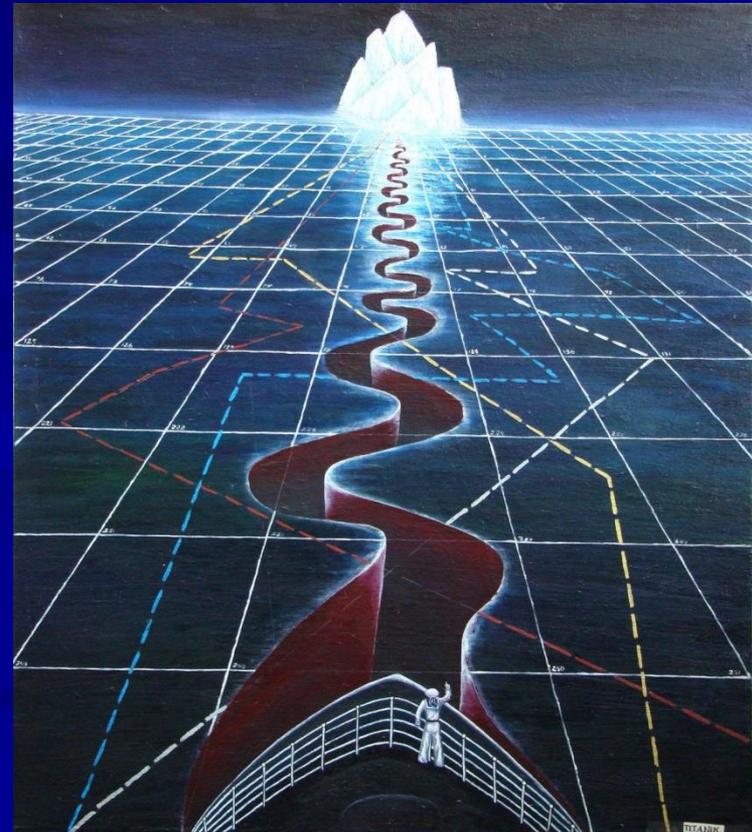


# Rehabilitation



# Rehabilitation

- 3 outpatient rehabilitation day centers
- 2 week medico-psychological care in State programs after hospital
- Short, sporadic programs, mainly with international funding



# Rehabilitation service provided by CMHPA in addiction field

- Long-term psycho-social rehabilitation in average 6 months for OST patients (funded by GFATM)
- Primary (short-term) medico-psychological rehabilitation (state funded)



# Rehabilitation - CMHPA

- Group psychotherapy
- Individual psychotherapy
- Family psychotherapy
- Aerotherapy
- Bibliotherapy
- Sport activities
- Tsi-gun
- Telephone-based counselling
- VCT and peer education



# Drug policy reform

- In June 2017 new anti-drug legislation was initiated by group of parliament members of Georgia. Legislation was elaborated by national antidrug platform (54 organizations)
  - Legislation package
  - Service development concept
  - School prevention concept

**Thank you!**