

Drug situation and responses in Georgia



Khatuna Todadze, MD, PhD

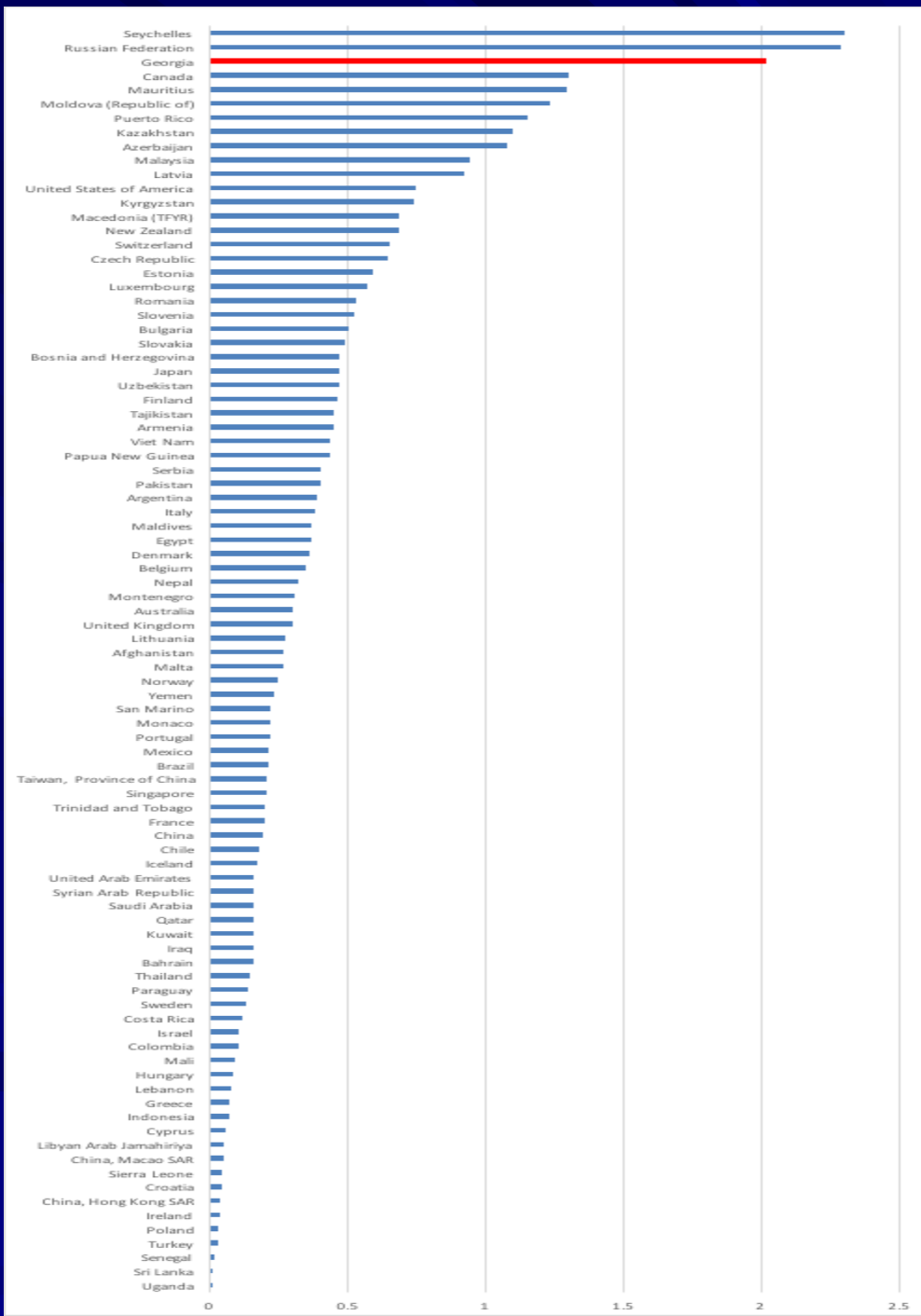
04.09.2017, Tbilisi

Drug situation

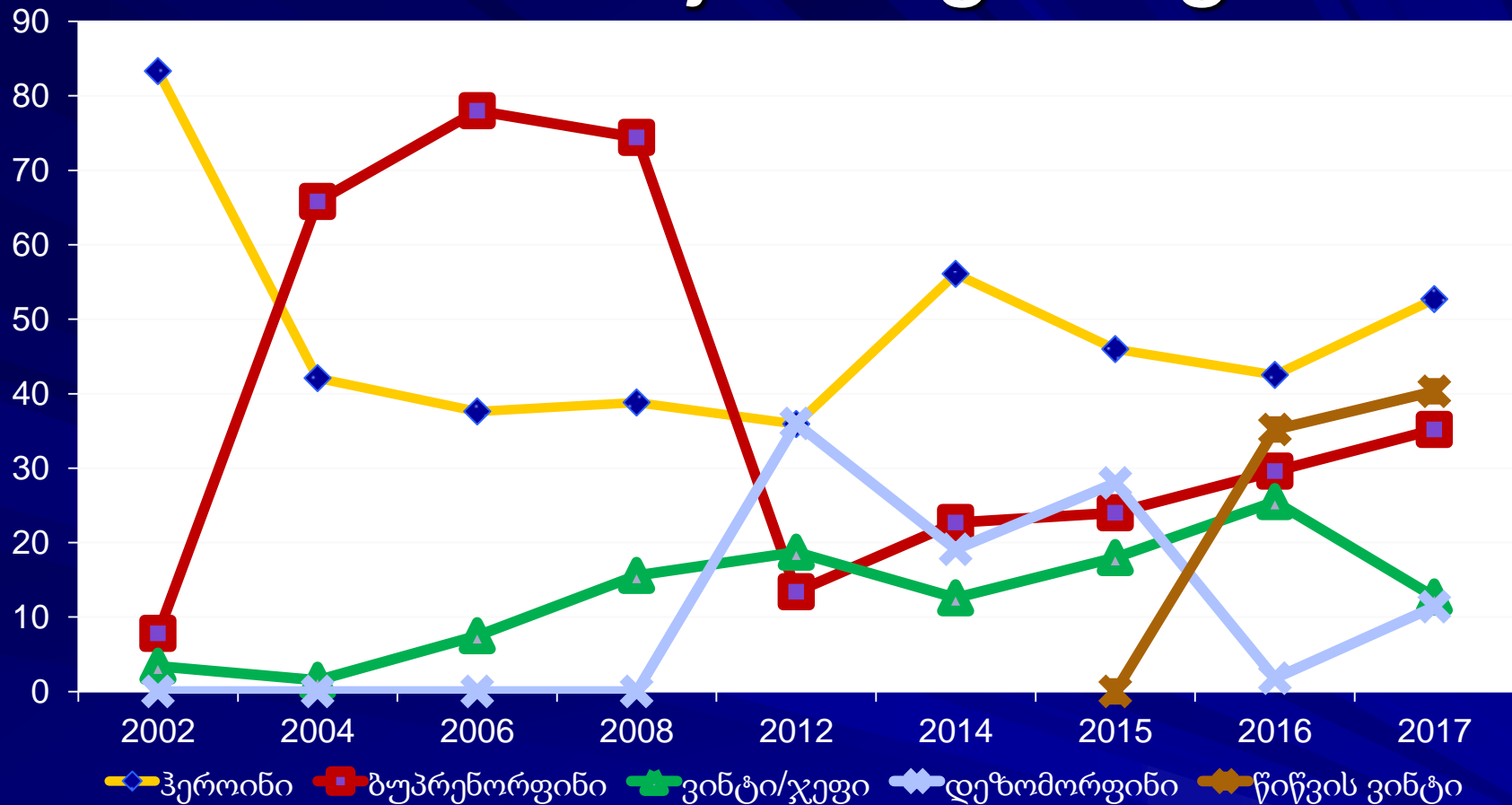
- Opioids (heroin, buprenorphine, dezomorphine, methadone, fentanil)
- Amphetamines and methamphetamines made from medicines (Vint/Jeff)
- Vint/Jeff made from ephedra needles
- Medicines from Pharmacies (baclofen, pregabalin, gabapentin, benzodiazepines etc)
- NPS
- Poly-drug abuse

Statistics

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

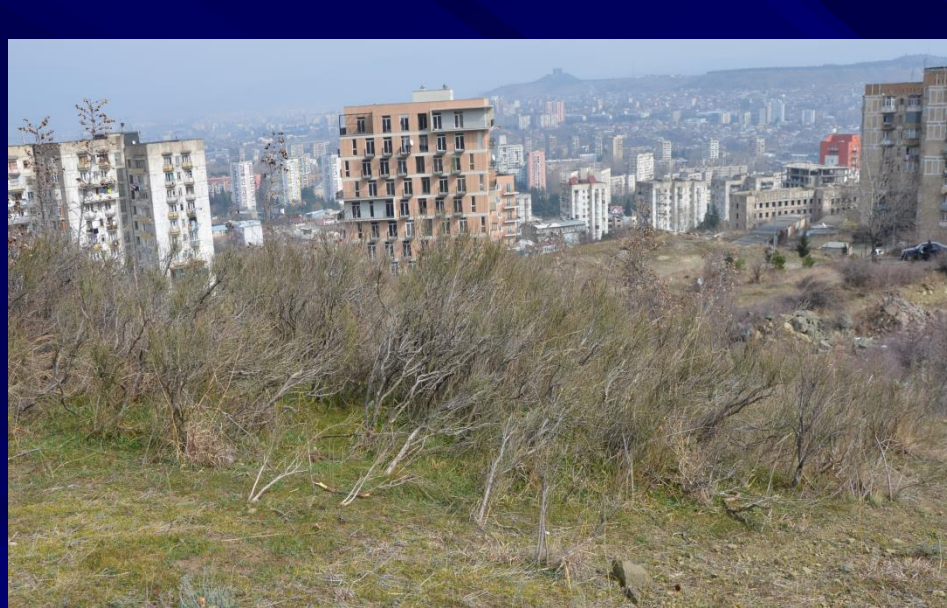


Trends of injecting drug use



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



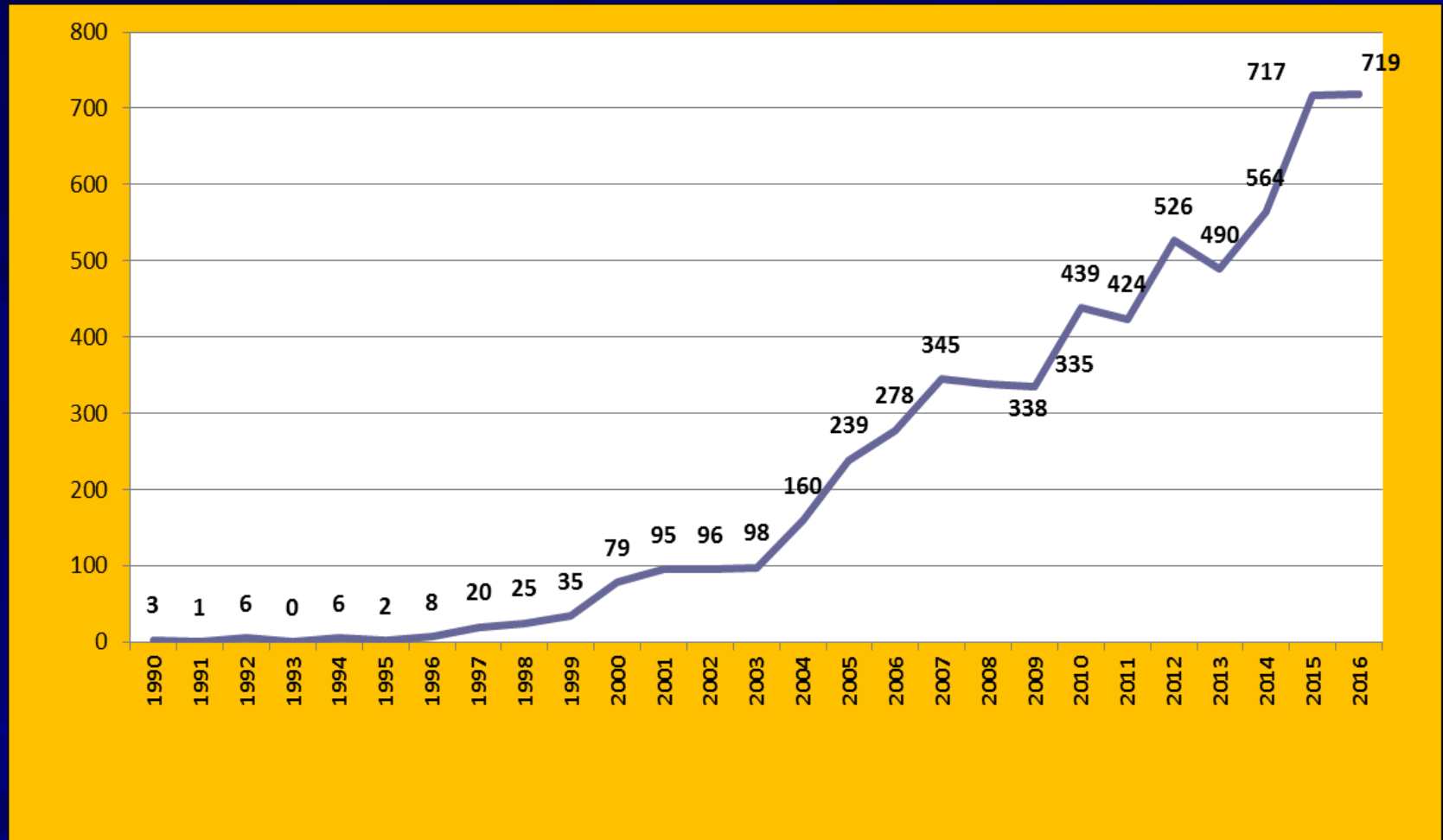


Danger of home-made drugs

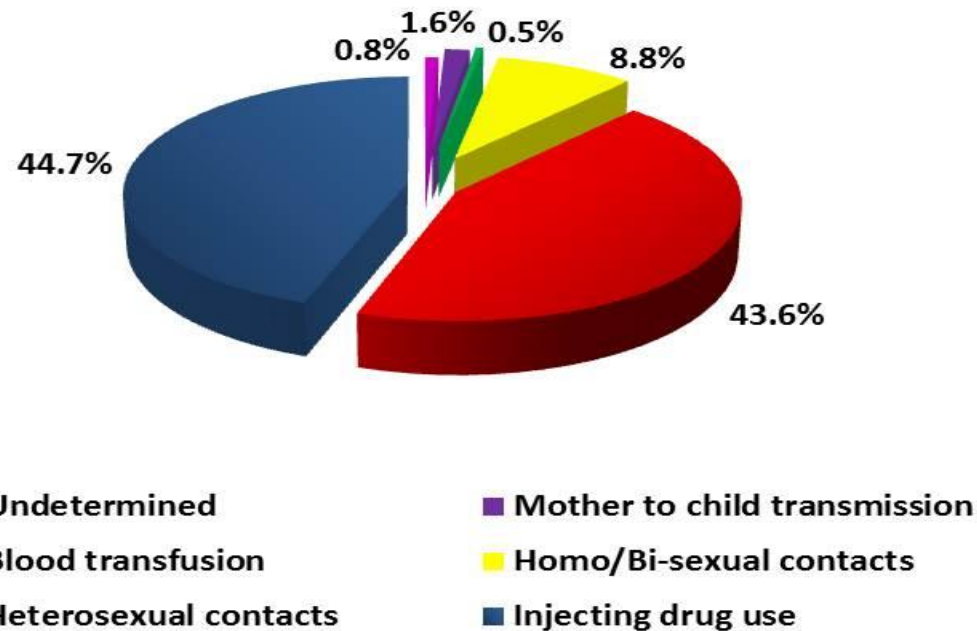
- Group style of preparation and injection
- Shared paraphernalia
- Frequent injection
- High risk of injection equipment sharing
- High toxicity
- High risk of overdose



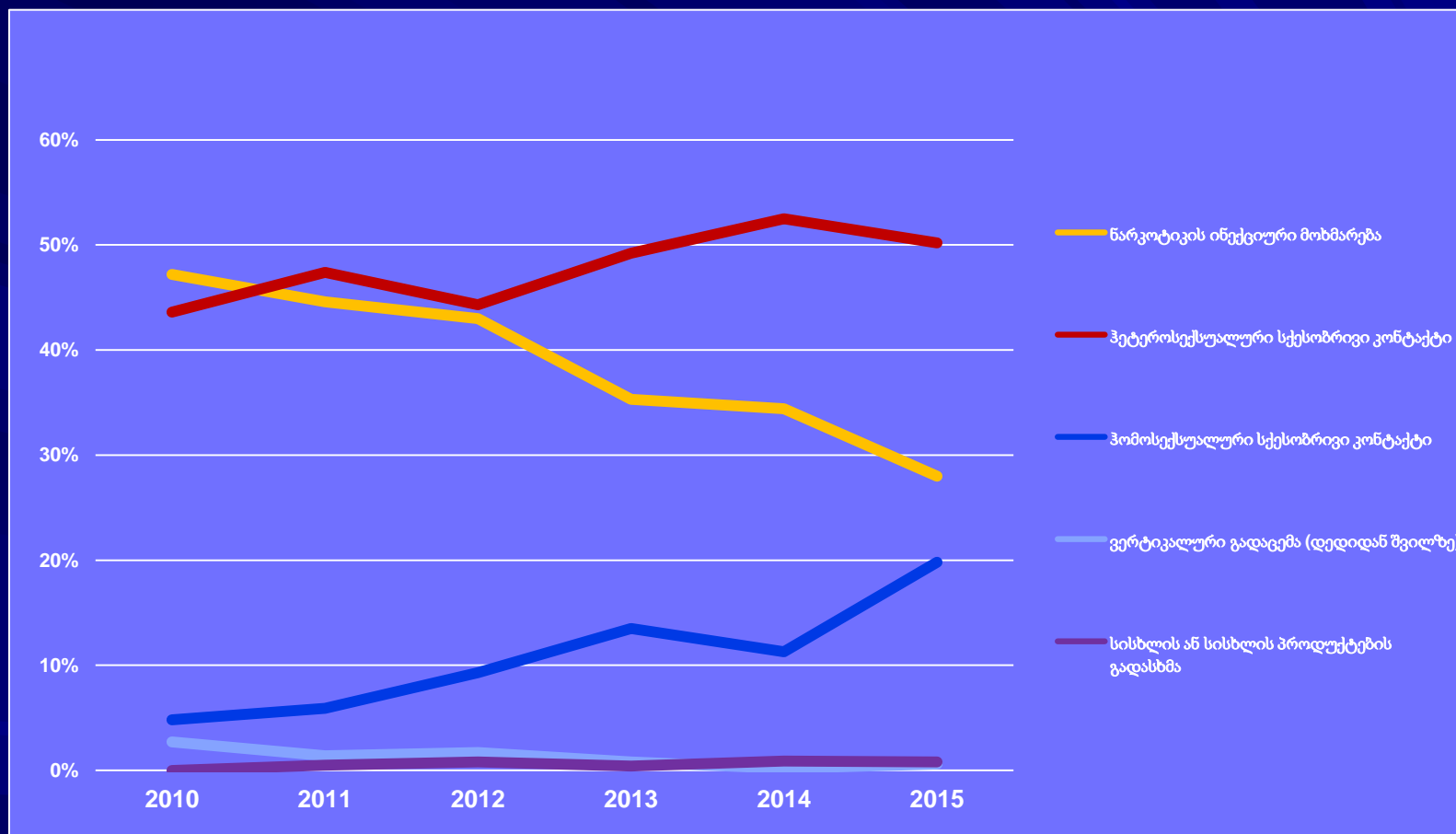
New HIV cases per year (totally 6507 HIV cases have been detected since 1990)



Distribution of HIV cases by routes of transmission



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



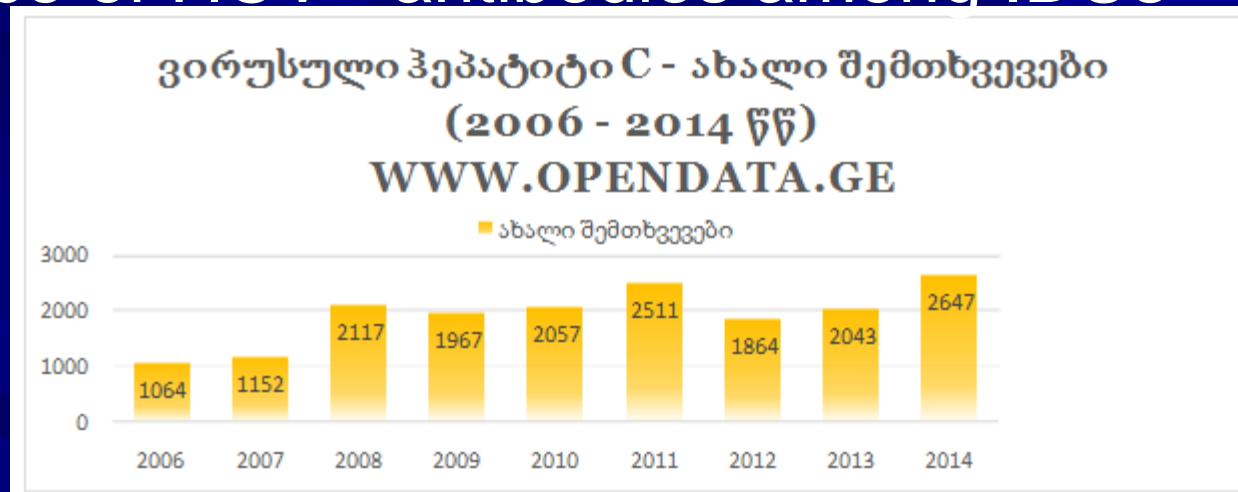
Hepatitis C

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

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

Prevalence of HCV antibodies among imprisoned 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

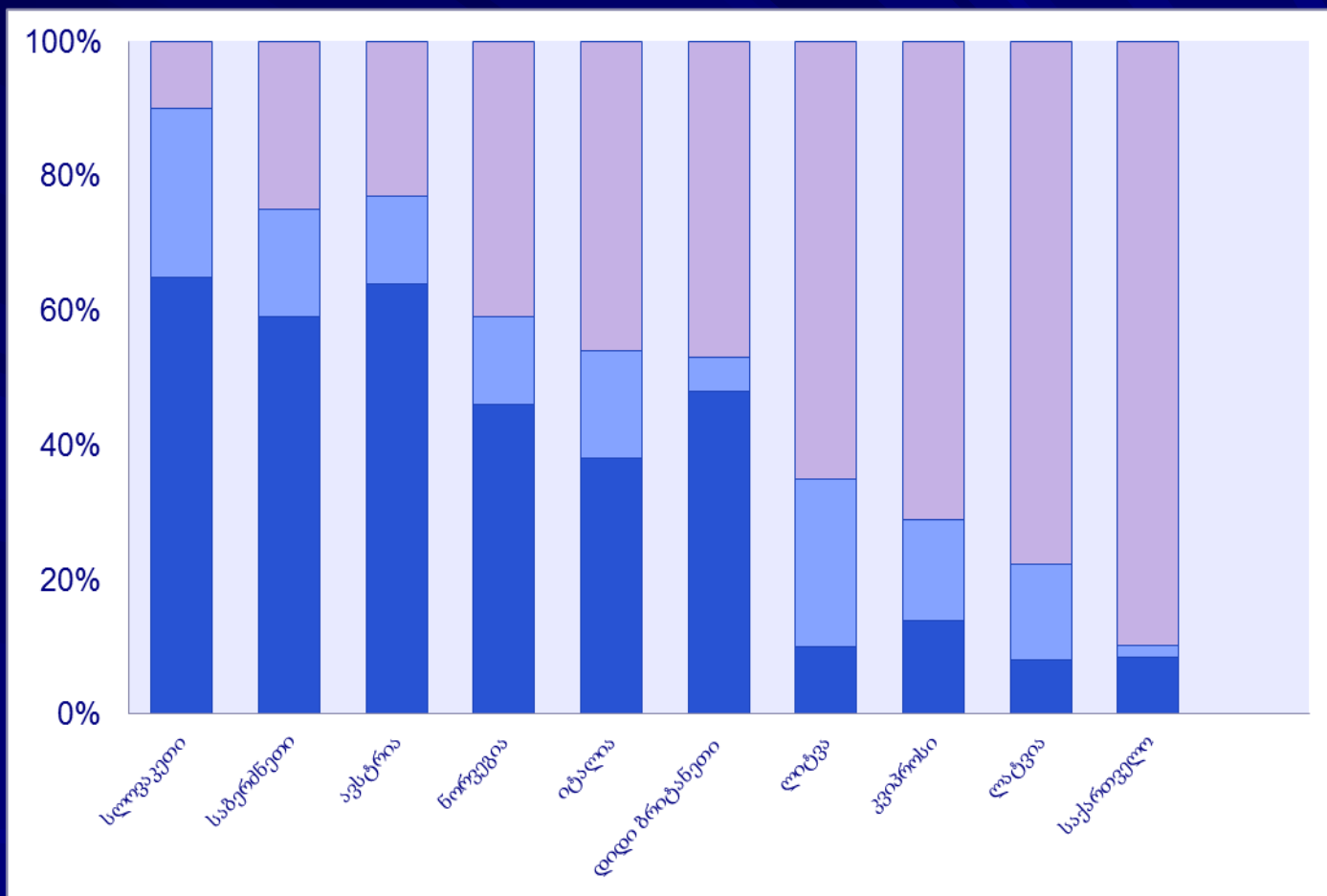
- There is no state strategy of drug prevention in the country
- Irregular and non-coordinated and non-Activities are mostly general population oriented (universal)
- School antidrug strategy was elaborated by expert group and successfully tested at several schools, but still is not implemented.

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)

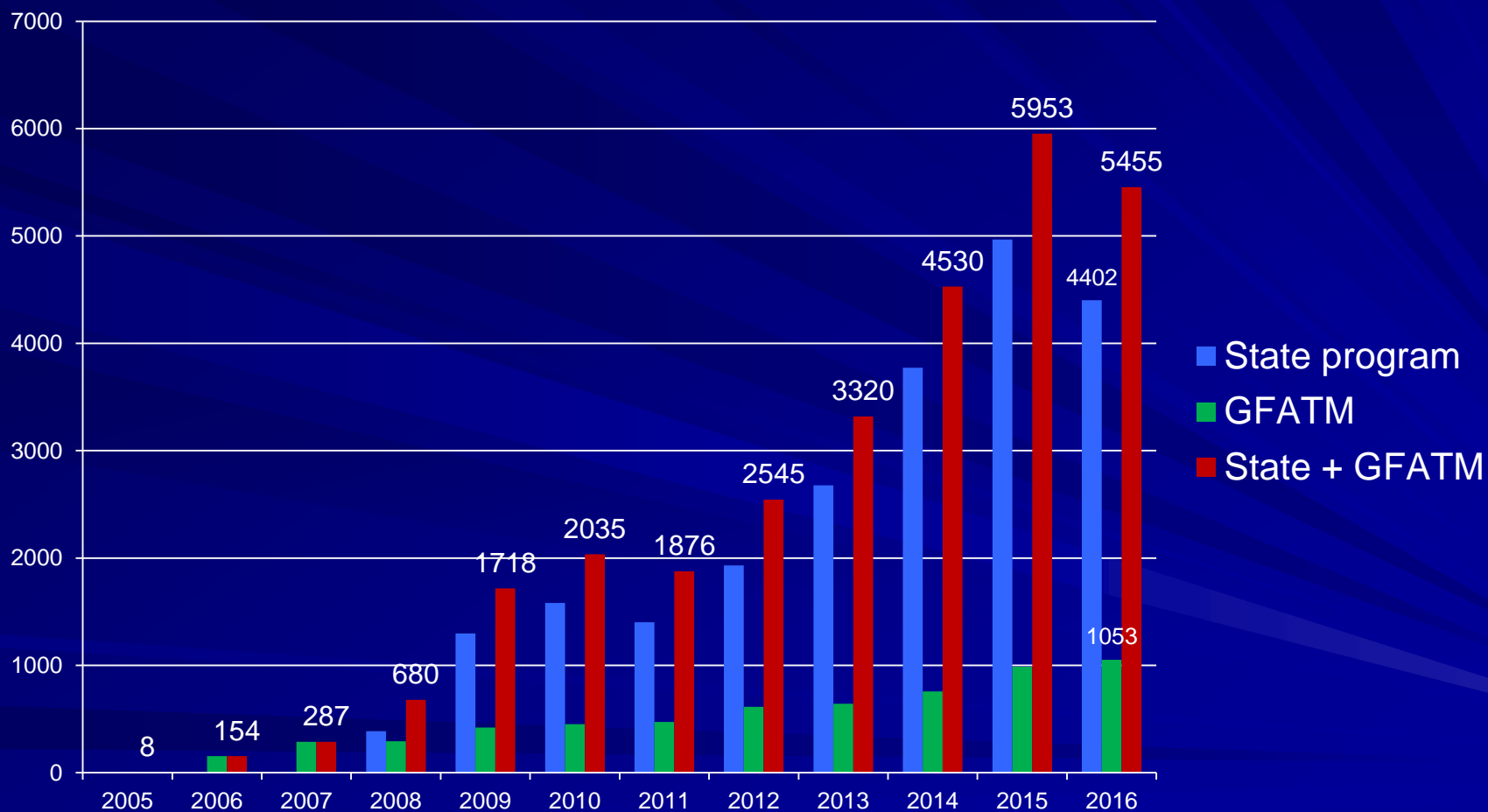
OST-5000 patients

OST –methadone (serves up to 4900 patients simultaneously)

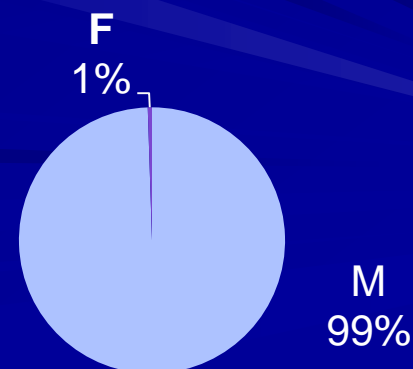
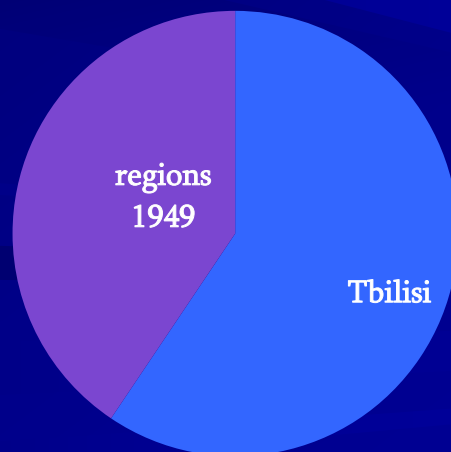
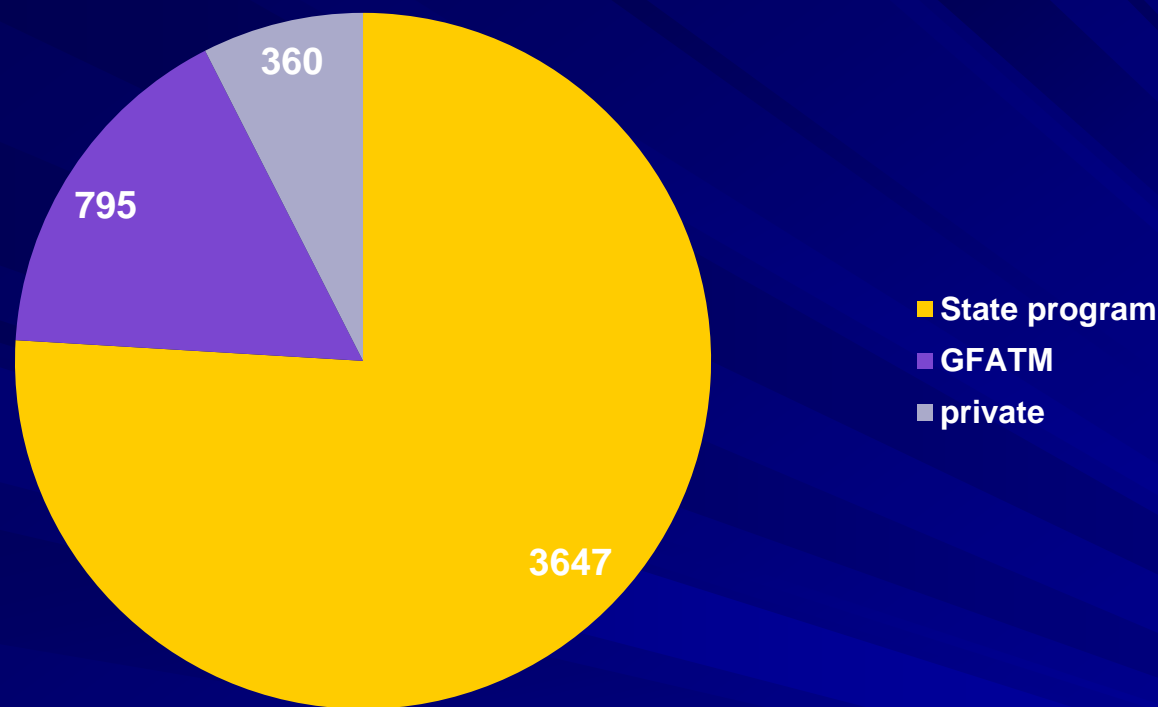
OST – Buprenorphine +naloxone (serves up to 120 patients simultaneously)

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

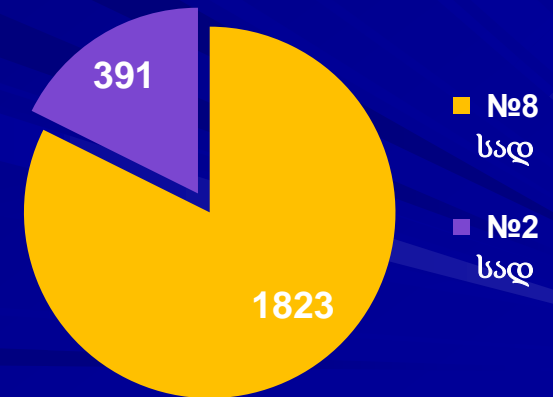


Quantity of OST patients in treatment (the same time capability) -5000 (June, 2017)

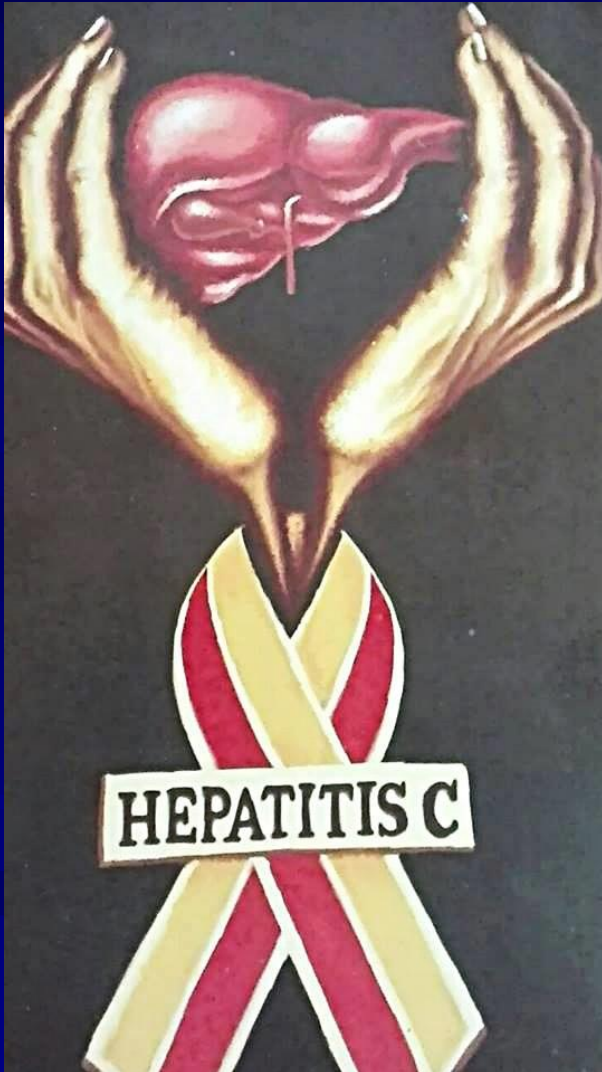


Methadone treatment in penitentiary system

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

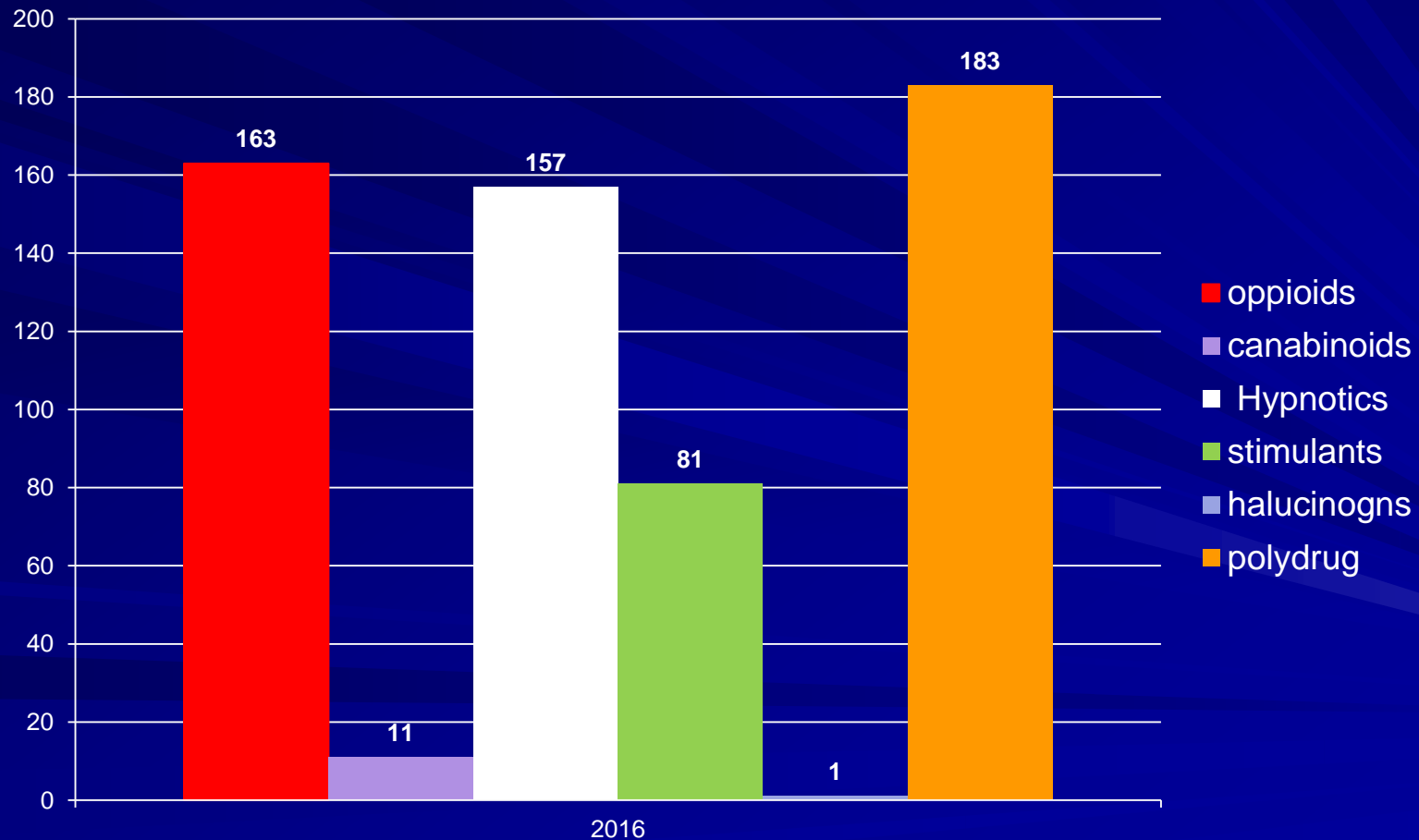


service development



- “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

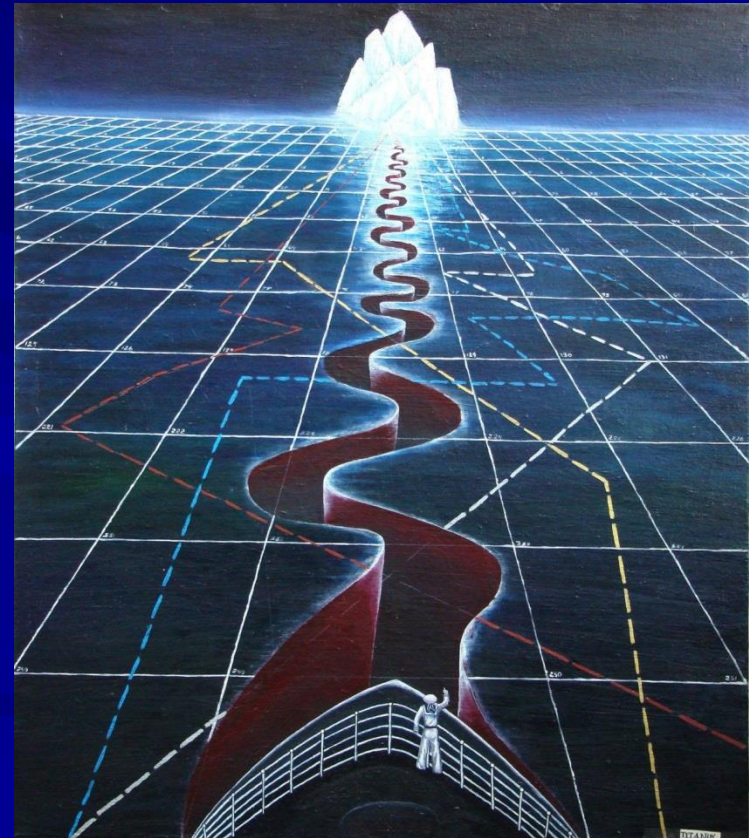


Rehabilitation



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!