



HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN MAURITIUS

MAY 2013
MEDICAL UPDATE

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MY PRESENTATION

▶ **WHAT IS HR ?**

▶ **WHY?**

▶ **HOW ?**

▶ **WHAT-ACHIEVED**



HARM REDUCTION (Def)

“Harm Reduction’ refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim primarily to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs without necessarily reducing drug consumption. Harm reduction benefits people who use drugs, their families and the community

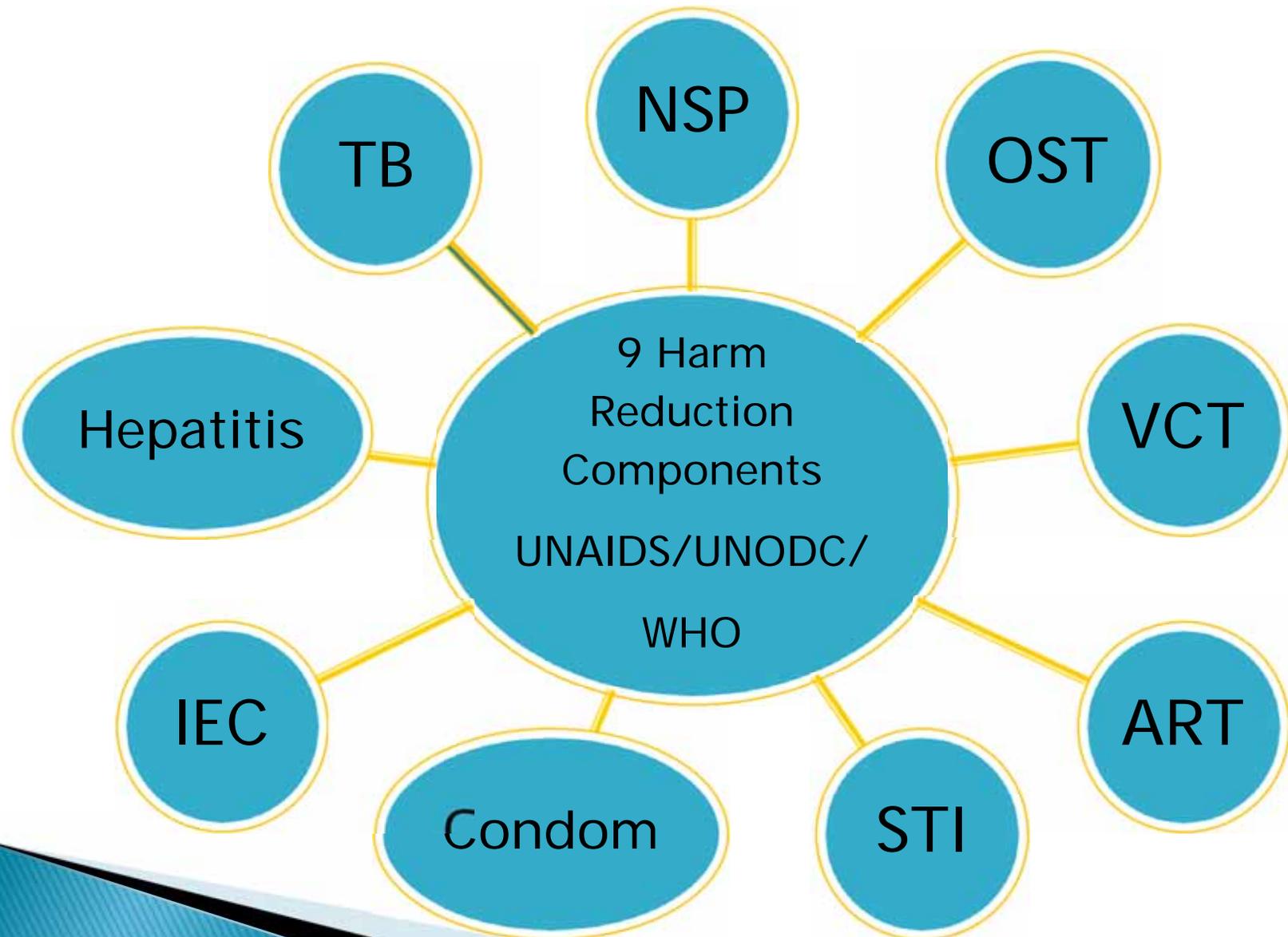
The harm reduction approach to drugs is based on a strong commitment to public health and human rights.

EXAMPLES OF HR IN OUR DAILY LIFE.

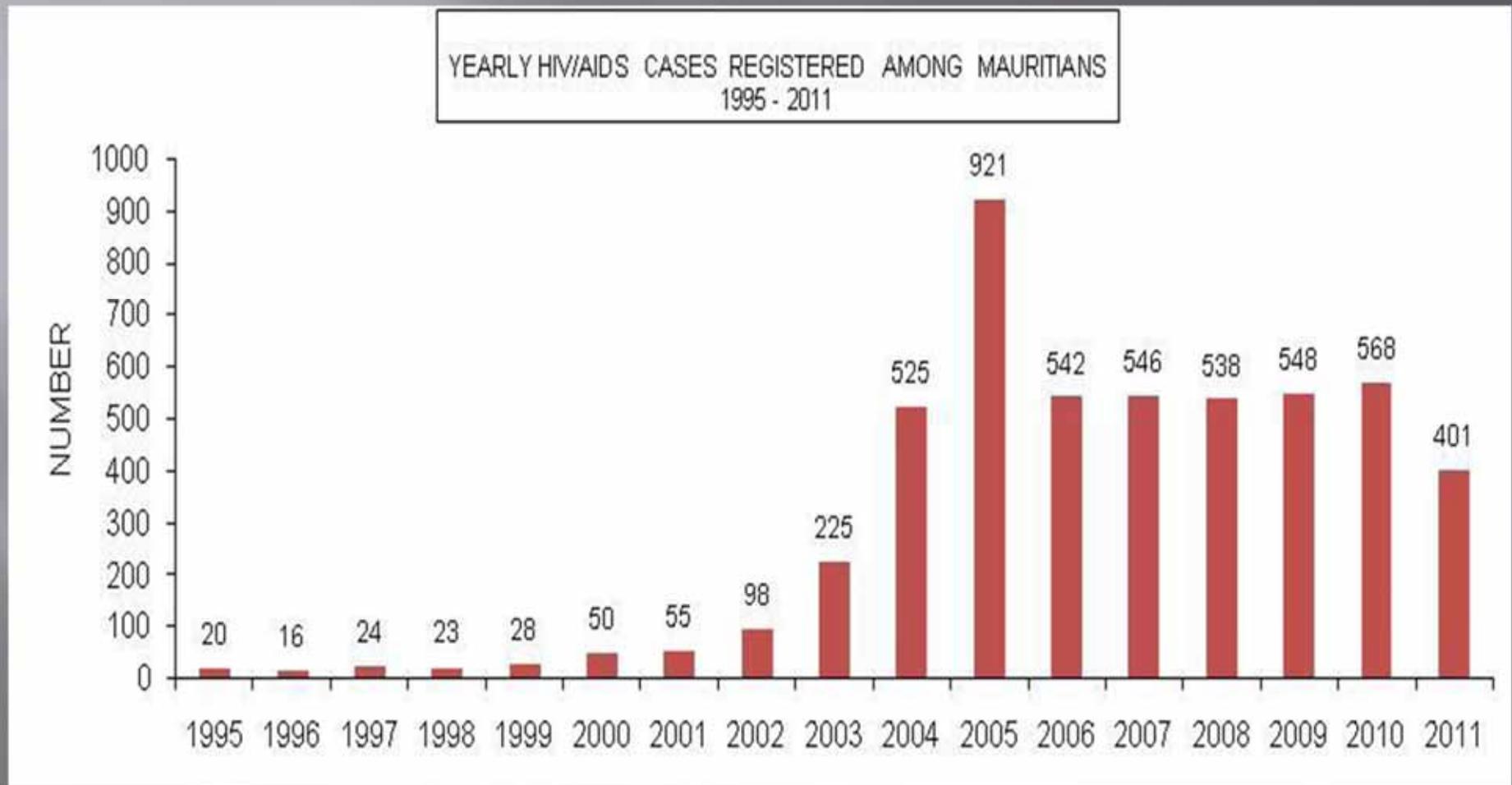


SOURCE: HARM REDUCTION INTERNATIONAL

HR 9 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS PACKAGE

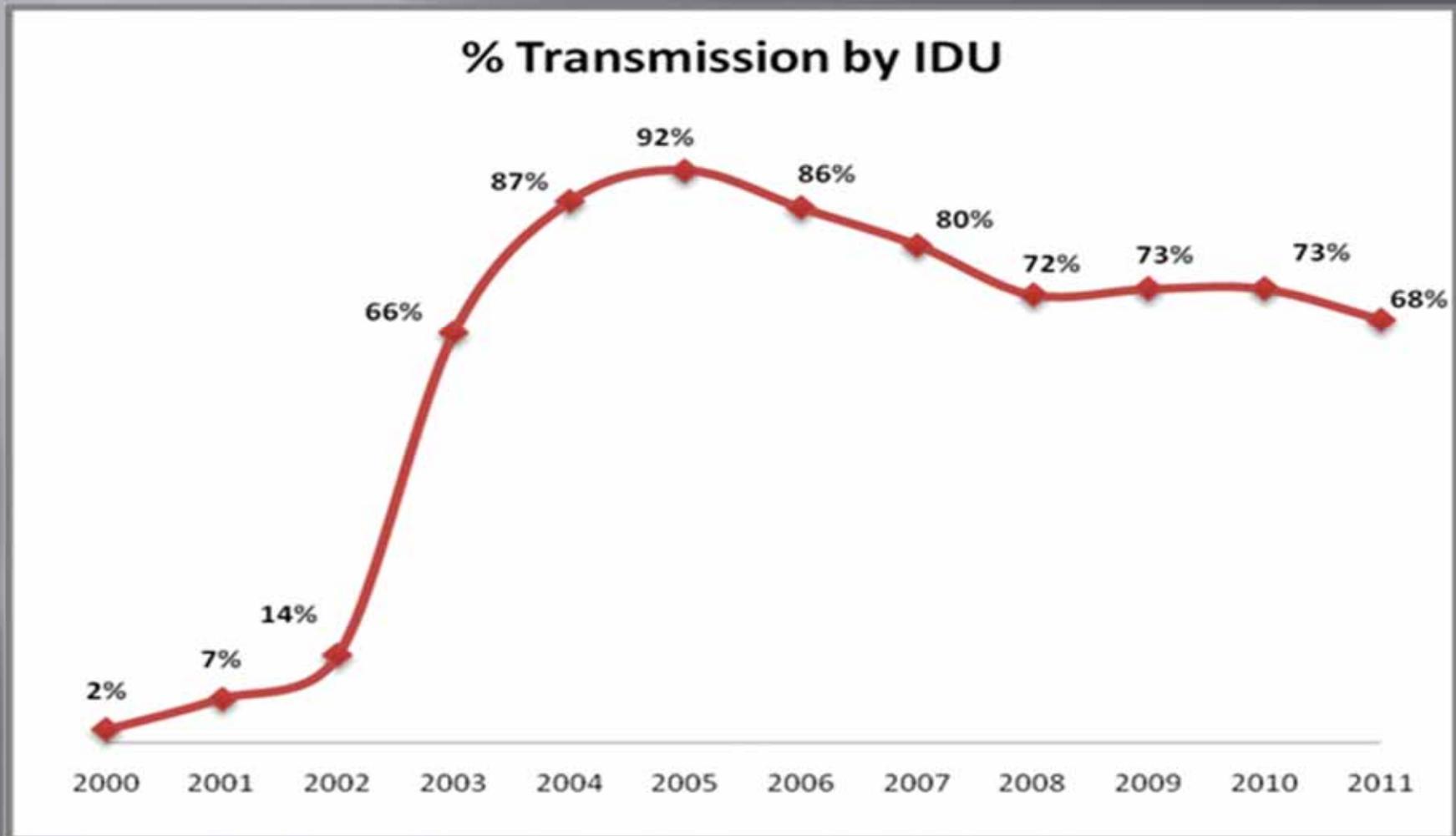


MAURITIUS: ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF HIV



SOURCE: GLOBAL AIDS RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT- NAS/PMO-03.2012

TRENDS IN THE INJECTING MODE OF TRANSMISSION



SOURCE: GLOBAL AIDS RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT- NAS/PMO-03.2012

HIV PREVALENCE AMONG MARPs

GATEGORIES	HIV PREVALENCE (%)	YEAR OF ESTIMATES
PWIDs	51.6	2011
CSWs	28.9	2010
MSM	8.1	2010
PRISON INMATES	19.9	2011
SEAFARERS	6.9	2008

SOURCE: GLOBAL AIDS RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT- NAS/PMO-03.2012

NATIONAL PREVALENCE ESTIMATED

- ▶ AMONG 15-49 YEARS: 0.97% (C I - 0.6-1.9%)

STEPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION HR STRATEGIES

- ▶ **ADVOCACY- NGOs (COALITION OF NGOs-CUT) SINCE 2004**
 - ▶ **RECOMMENDATIONS OF WHO CONSULTANT-2004**
 - ▶ **NEW GOVT IN PLACE-2005**
 - ▶ **HIV AND AIDS ACT-2006**
 - ▶ **FIRST BATCH OF 10 CLIENTS INDUCED ON MMT IN NOV. 2006**
 - ▶ **NEP STARTED BY NGOS IN 2006**
 - ▶ **NEP APPROVED AND SUPPORTED BY GOVT IN 2007**
 - ▶ **SUPPORT FROM GLOBAL FUND (ROUND 8) 2009.**
 - ▶ **INDUCTION OF MMT IN PRISON -2009**
- 

OPERATION OF MMT SERVICES

- ▶ REFERRAL BY NGOs
- ▶ INDUCTION
- ▶ DISPENSING- BY DISPENSING UNITS(17) SET UP IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN PRISON INCLUDING MOBILE DISPENSING BY A METHADONE VAN(7).
- ▶ MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP IN MMT OUTPATIENT CLINIC- BY MoH
- ▶ PSYCHO-SOCIAL FOLLLOW-UP (SOCIAL RE-INTEGRATION) BY NGOs
- ▶ DROP IN CENTRES (DICs)





THE DORMITORY



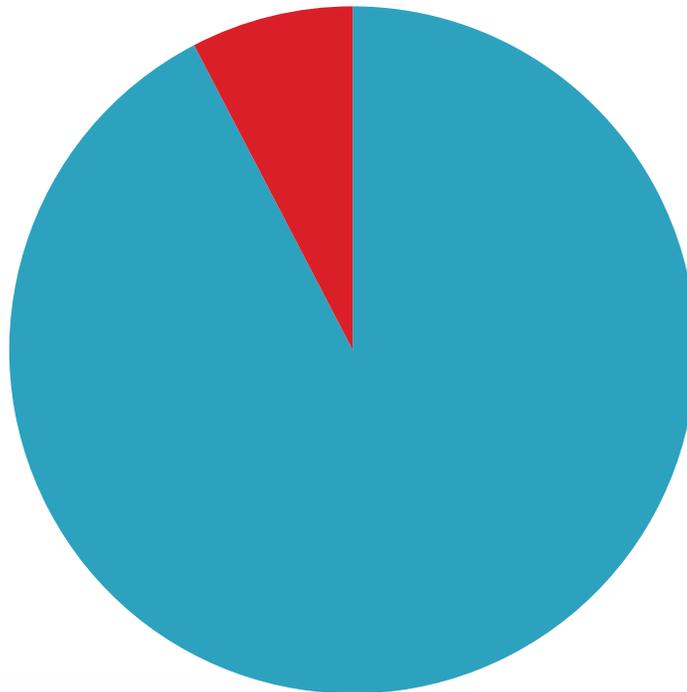
MMT STATUS AS AT DEC 2012

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMAL E
CLIENTS INDUCED	5892	5579	313
CLIENTS DROPPED OUT	266	236	30
CLIENTS DEAD	184	170	14
CLIENTS ON MAINTENANCE	5442	5173	269

SOURCE: MoH & QL

RETENTION RATE > 90%

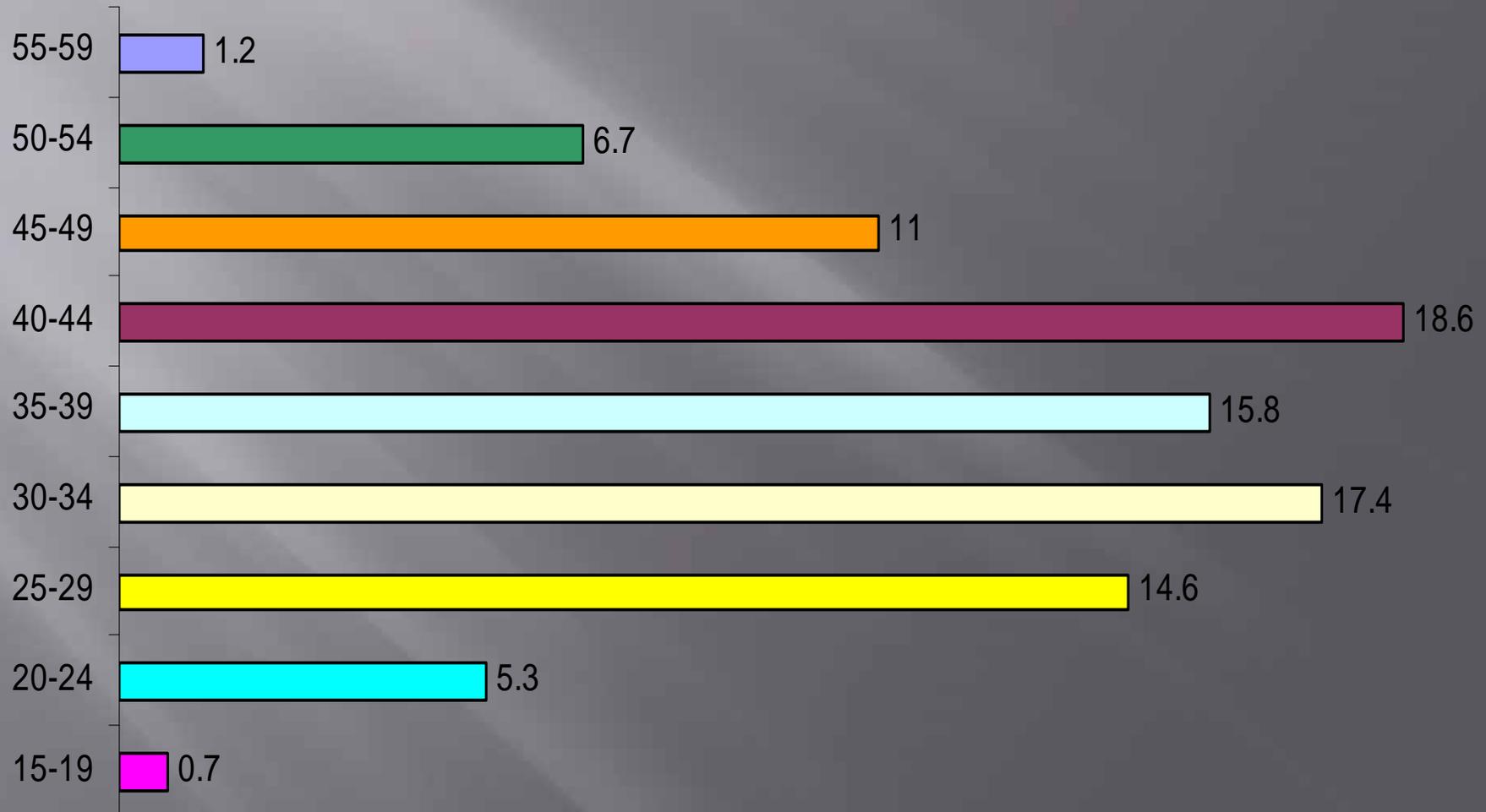
CLIENTS INDUCED ON METHADONE AS AT
DECEMBER 2012



■ ON
MAINTENANCE



AGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF CLIENTS ON MMT



SOURCE: MoH & QL

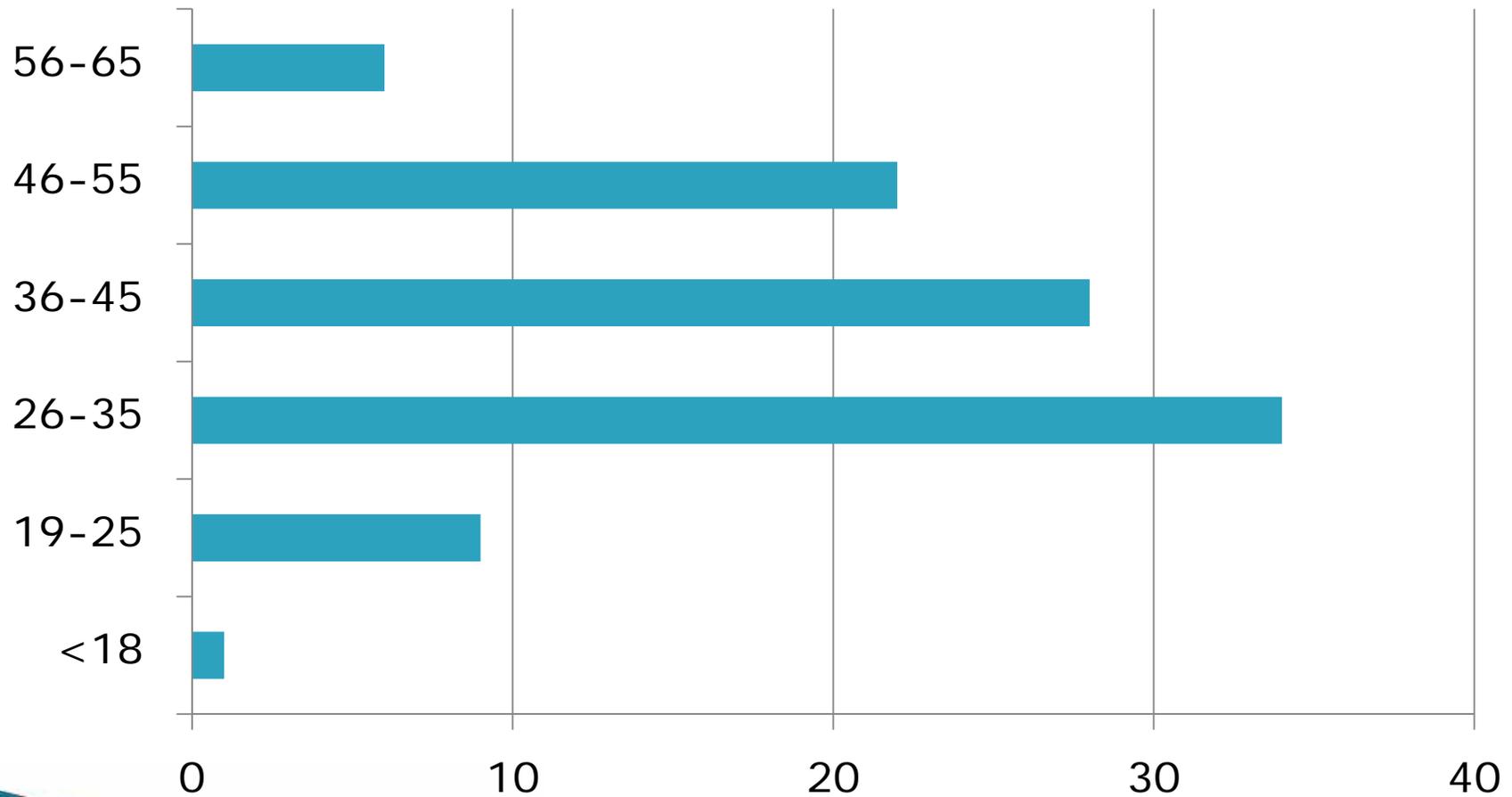
THE NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM— AN OVERVIEW

- ▶ NUMBER OF USERS: 2,400.
- ▶ NUMBER OF NEP SITES: 43 (36 Govt. + 7 NGOs)
- ▶ NUMBER OF SYRINGES DISTRIBUTED: 227,000. (JAN-DEC 2012)
- ▶ NUMBER OF CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED: 50,000.(JAN-DEC2012)

SOURCE: MoH & QL

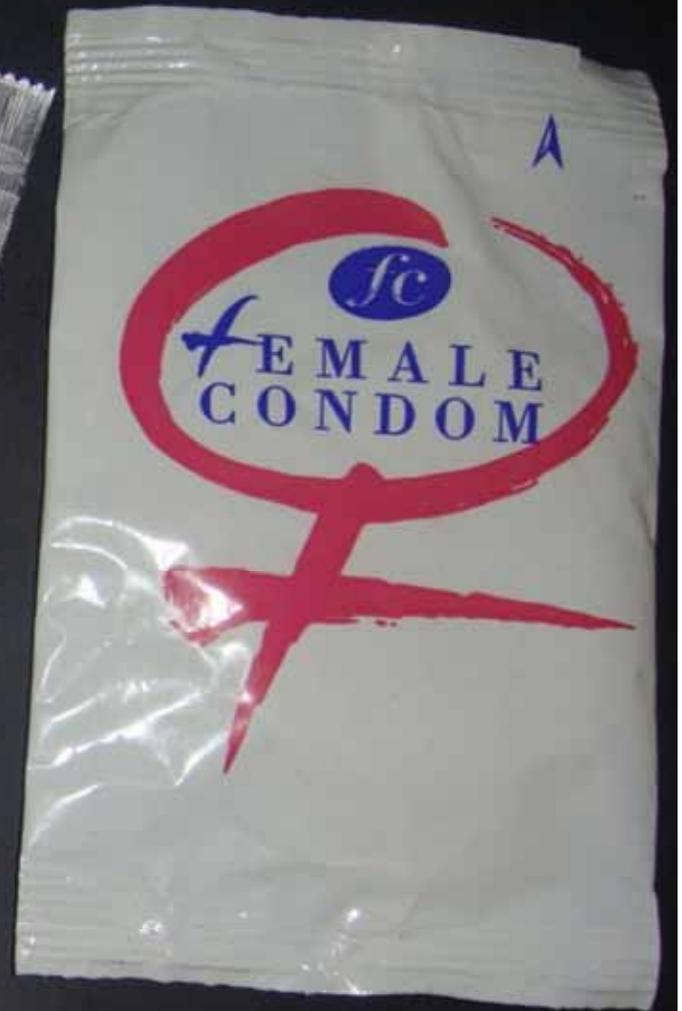


AGE DISTRIBUTION – NEP CLIENTS



SOURCE: MoH & QL

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URGENCE
TOXIDA



WEAKNESSES

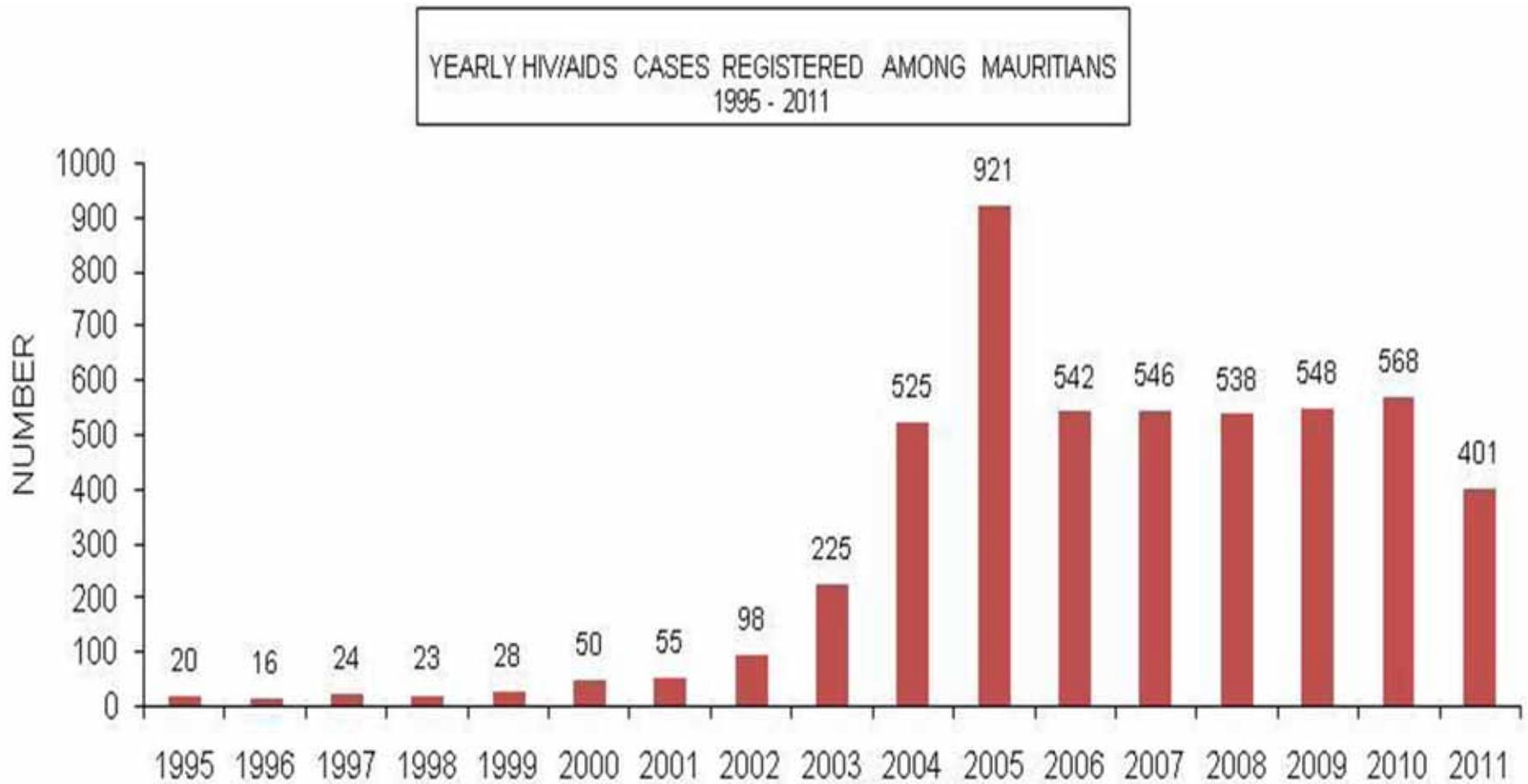
- ▶ STILL A HIGH LEVEL OF STIGMATIZATION BY COMMUNITY AT LARGE
- ▶ INTEGRATING THE MMT PROGRAMME INTO THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM HAS SO FAR PROVEN DIFFICULT
- ▶ OVERCROWDING AT DISPENSING LEVEL-
TRAFFICKING OF METHADONE
- ▶ LACK OF COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP-
INADEQUATE SENSITIZATION OF COMMUNITY
- ▶ POLICE STILL NOT WELL SENSITIZE TO THE
CONCEPT OF HR.- HARASSMENT OF PWIDS BY
POLICE
- ▶ MANY OF OUR POLICY MAKERS ARE STILL NOT
FULLY CONVINCED ON THE ULTIMATE POSITIVE
OUTCOME OF SUCH A PROGRAMME
- ▶ DRUG CONTROL POLICY OUTDATED AND
NEEDS REFORMS.



OUR CHALLENGES/ THE WAY FORWARD

- ▶ REACHING 8,000 PWIDs ON MMT
- ▶ LOOKING FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE DISPENSING PROBLEM- WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
- ▶ OPTIMISING THE DICs- INTEGRATING THE 9 RECOMMENDED COMPONENTS OF CARE.
- ▶ STARTING A NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME IN THE PRISONS.
- ▶ WORKING WITH THE POLICE
- ▶ PROVIDING CARE AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HCV. (PREV OF 93% AMONG PWIDs-2011)
- ▶ NETWORK OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS -STILL A MYTH
- ▶ INTERAGENCY NETWORKING -POOR

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SOURCE: GLOBAL AIDS RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT - NAS/PMO-03.2012

HARM REDUCTION IS:

- ▶ EVIDENCE BASED
- ▶ PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS ORIENTED
- ▶ COST EFFECTIVE





THANK YOU

**Working Together
To Save The World**