

HIV new infection in AP region and ChemSex intervention

UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific

*Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on
Harm Reduction Intervention for ChemSex
Bangkok, 3-4 Dec 2020*

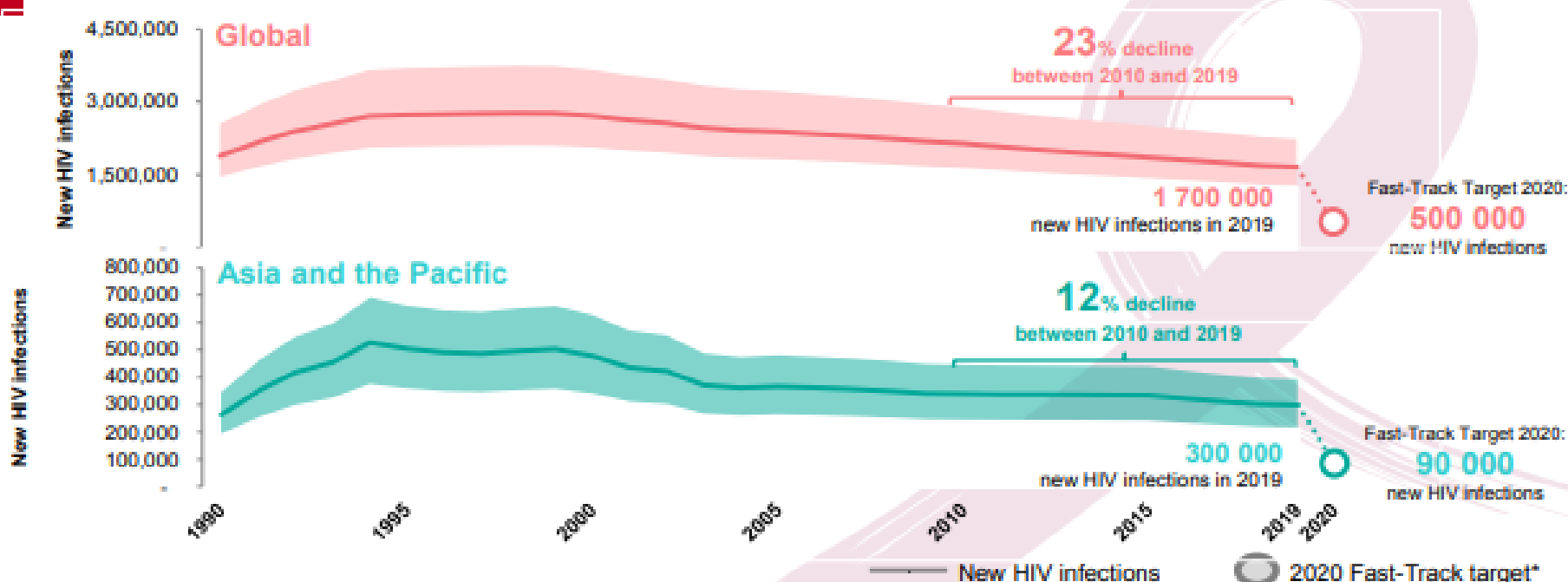
Outline

- **HIV new infection in Asia and Pacific**
- Risks of ChemSex associated with HIV transmission
- Challenges
- Response

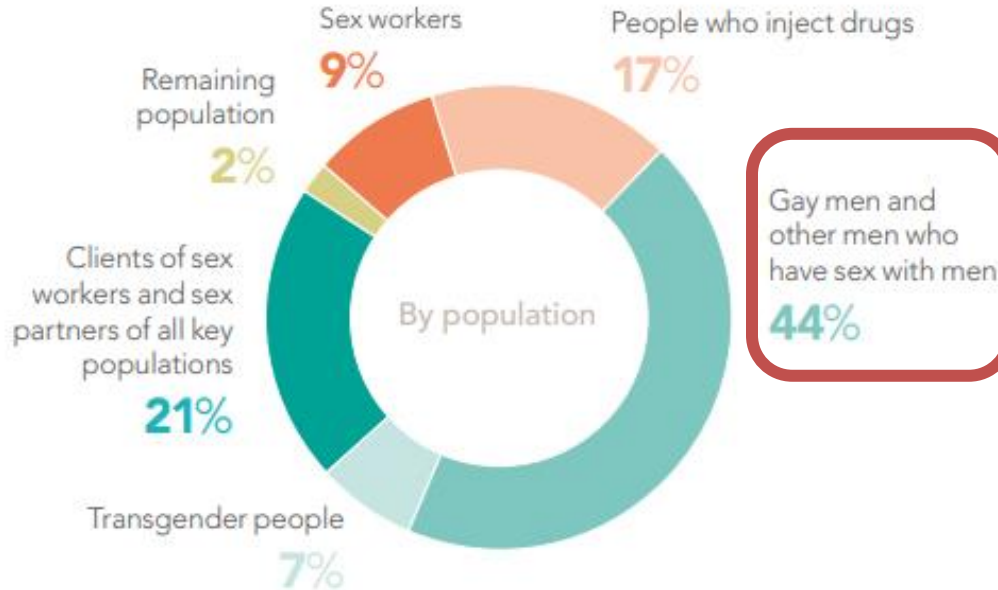
Global and regional summary of the AIDS epidemic | 2019

		Global	Asia and the Pacific
People living with HIV	Total	38.0 million	5.8 million
	Adults	36.2 million	5.7 million
	Women (15+ years)	19.2 million	2.1 million
	Children (<15 years)	1.8 million	140 000
People newly infected with HIV	Total	1.7 million	300 000
	Adults	1.5 million	280 000
	Children (<15 years)	150 000	15 000
AIDS-related deaths	Total	690 000	160 000
	Adults	600 000	150 000
	Children (<15 years)	95 000	7 900
People receiving antiretroviral therapy	Total	25.4 million	3.5 million
	Adults	24.4 million	3.4 million
	Children (<15 years)	950 000	88 000

Rate of decline in new HIV infections: Global vs. Asia and the Pacific



Distribution of new HIV infections by population (aged 15–49 years), Asia and the Pacific, 2019



Source: UNAIDS special analysis, 2020 (see methods annex).

Outline

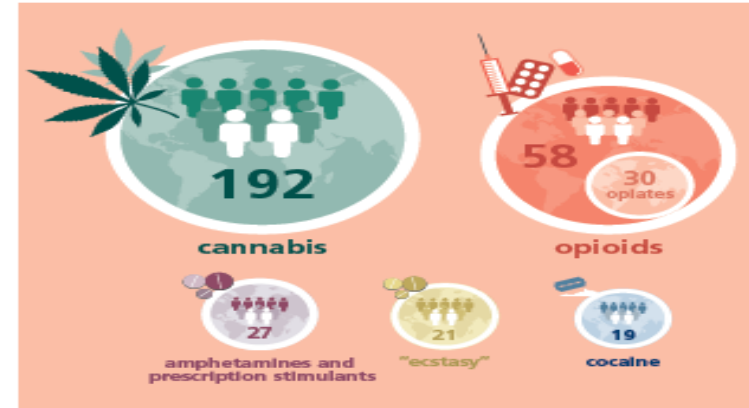
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Prevalence of stimulant drug use

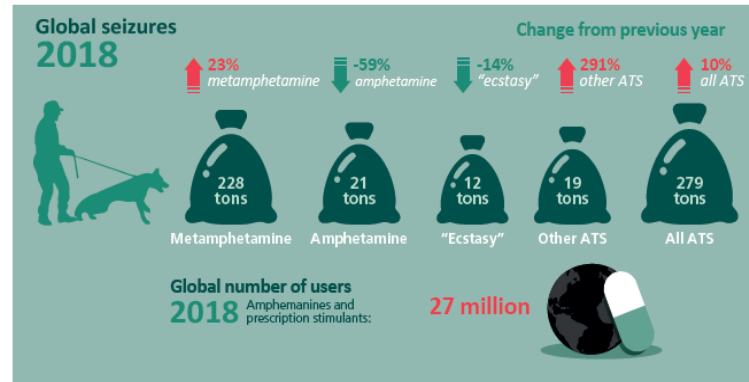
- Almost **60% of 35 million** people who use stimulants (including ATS) worldwide were living in Asia in 2018.
- Nearly **half** of the global estimate of past-year users of amphetamines (**12.7 million** people) reside in Asia,
- **Injecting stimulant**
 - Globally a third of stimulant users injecting drugs
 - High levels of injecting use reported in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand , etc.
 - High frequency of injecting stimulant
 - More likely sharing needles, syringes and other commodities

Source: Global state of harm reduction 2018 /World Drug Report 2020/ Global SMART Update: special segment on injecting use of synthetic drugs. Vienna: UNODC 2016./Farrell M, Martin NK, Emily Stockings, Bórquez A, Cepeda JA, Degenhardt L, et al. Responding to global stimulant use: challenges and opportunities. Lancet. 2019 Nov 2;394(10209):1652-1667.

Number of past-year users in millions, 2018



AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS



Note: Data refer to 2018.

Problematic use of stimulant drugs

- Mental health and behaviour disorders
- Dependence and addiction
 - An estimation of 11% of amphetamine users and 16% of cocaine users*
- **Risks of HIV/HCV/STIs transmission**
 - Unsafe sex: e.g ChemSex***
 - Unsafe injection: sharing needles, syringes and other commodities*
- Poly drug use and overdose
 - Yaba “speed balling”: “goof balling”*
- Other physical and psychological health consequences

Source: Farrell M, Martin NK, Emily Stockings, Bórquez A, Cepeda JA, Degenhardt L, et al. Responding to global stimulant use: challenges and opportunities. Lancet. 2019 Nov 2;394(10209):1652-1667.



ChemSex (*Sexualized drug use*)

-- Risks associated with the transmission of HIV, HBV and STIs

-- A wide variation in prevalence of ChemSex among MSM group

➤ **Unprotected sex**

Inconsistent condom use /Condomless,

Multiple sexual partners

Prolonged sex course (*Condom break, Bleeding trauma*)

Affect the capacity to negotiate and adhere to safer sex

➤ **Unsafe injection**

Slamming (SIDU)/ blasting

High frequency of injecting stimulant

Sharing needles, syringes and other commodities

➤ Poly drug use (*Yaba, “speedball” or “goofballs”*)

➤ Overdose

➤ **Unknown HIV/AIDS status:** HIV/hepatitis/ STDs and ChemSex

➤ Social vulnerabilities: TG, SW, women and sexual violence

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Current situation of harm reduction for people who use stimulant drugs in the region

Limited harm reduction interventions specific to stimulant users in the region

- Mainly community-led stimulant harm reduction services
- National technical guideline development in process
- Country pilots / projects at limited scale
- Ongoing researches on Chemsex and HIV sexual transmission



Challenges

-ChemSex intervention

- Punitive laws and social stigma
- Hard to reach
- Less access to health services
- No pharmacologically assisted treatment for stimulant drug addiction
- Underdeveloped harm reduction services : limited scale
- Limited national initiative: **CBO is taking the lead**
- Lack of capacity building
 - Psychosocial intervention, counselling and support*
 - Evidence-based comprehensive HIV prevention*
- Lack of specific data on stimulant use, risks and services

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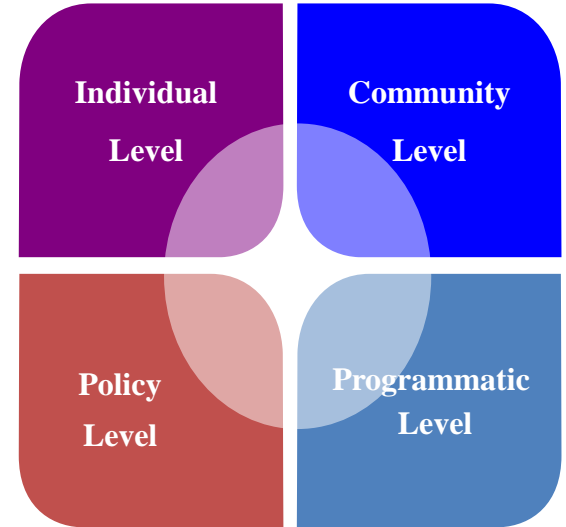
Response

ChemSex intervention and stimulant harm reduction

- Targeted IEC and BCC
- **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)**
- Innovative condom and lubricant distribution
- Peer-led outreach, education and counselling on safer sex
- Psychosocial intervention
- Expand NSP program
- **ChemSex intervention:** before, during and after
- Overdose prevention
- HIV testing and ARV treatment
- Other innovative approaches (e.g virtual intervention, safe injection rooms, Drop-in center)
- Strategic data and research findings
- **Greater engagement of community**
- Create enabling environment : decriminalization and anti-stigma
- Human rights-based and gender-responsive measures
- Program and funding

Structural Intervention

Harm Reduction: The way forward



Timely Initiate and Scale up ChemSex Intervention & Stimulant Harm Reduction

Psychological interventions

- Cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT)
- Community-based therapy (CBT)
- Motivational interviewing
- **Brief interventions**
- **Contingency management**
- Matrix model
- Twelve –step programme
- **Harm reduction and risk reduction**

The Core Interventions

Technical Guide: UNODC/WHO/UNAIDS

HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People Who Use Stimulant Drugs

1. **Condoms, lubricants and safer sex programmes**
2. **Needle and syringe programmes (NSP) and other commodities**
3. HIV testing services (HTS)
4. Antiretroviral therapy (ART)
5. **Evidence-based psychosocial interventions and drug dependence treatments**
6. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), hepatitis and tuberculosis (TB)
7. Targeted information, education and communication (**IEC**) for people who use stimulant drugs and their sexual partners
8. Prevention and management of overdose and acute intoxication



Opioid drug use
Intravenous transmission
Unsafe injection



Harm Reduction

Expand OST/NSP and other comprehensive services for people who use opioid drugs

Implement tailored and evidence-informed prevention for people who use stimulant drugs



Stimulant use
Sexual transmission
Unprotected sex :Chemsex
Unsafe injection





Support Don't Punish!



Universal Health Coverage

No one left behind!

Global Fast-Track Targets

By 2020	By 2030
Fewer than 500 000 new infections	Fewer than 200 000 new infections
Fewer than 500 000 AIDS-related deaths	Fewer than 200 000 AIDS-related deaths
ZERO discrimination	ZERO discrimination

Source: UNAIDS (2016), Press Statement for 2016 High Level Meeting Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS