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Harm reduction among drug users in Spain

Luxemburg, 27 October 2010

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Presentation's objectives

- To present an overview of the Spanish Harm Reduction strategy as related to HIV epidemic response
- To show Spanish government commitment with Harm reduction

First part. Contents

Spanish experience at the general level

- Historical, political and social background
- Intervention
- Outcomes
- Future strategies

Historical, political and social background

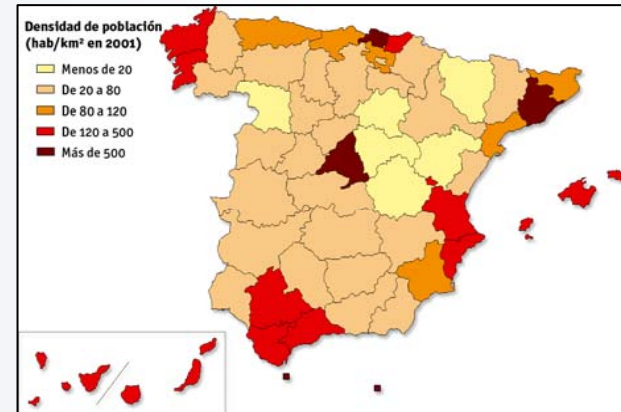


Franco died in 1975.

An exciting period of experimentation and freedom bloomed in the late 70's and early 80's.



A subculture emerged in the late 70's, "los quinquis": youth, rebellion, heroin use and new musical tendencies came together in the cinema and reality.



Spain experienced important changes. The economy improved and society and culture evolved very quickly.

Historical, political and social background



Since the 80's heroin has become the most injected drug in Spain.

Injection of other drugs is minimal



Some shanty towns in big cities developed into big heroin markets

- Embarazos no deseados.
- Gonorrea, SIDA, Hongos, Hepatitis B, Vaginitis, Tricomonas, Herpes Genital, Sífilis, Cándidas, Condilomas, Treponemas, Chancro, Gonorrea, Uretritis, Neisseria G.

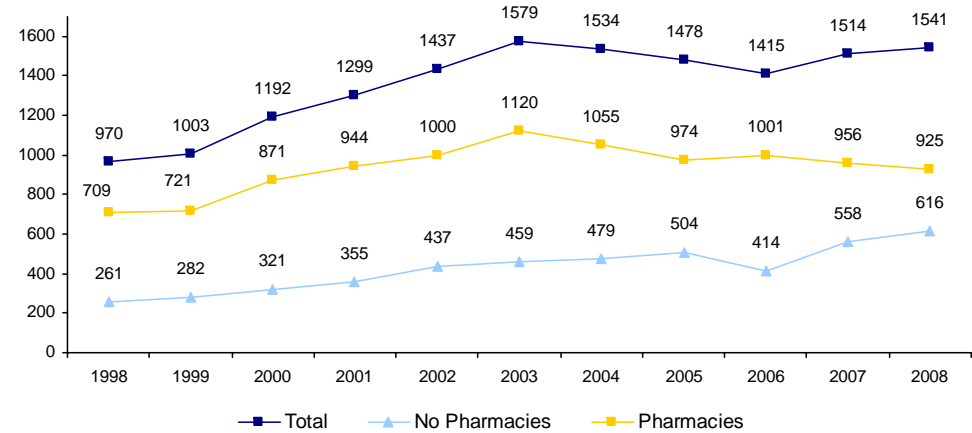


Although Spain promoted the use of condoms very early in the HIV epidemic, public administrations didn't tackle the issue of harm reduction until 90's

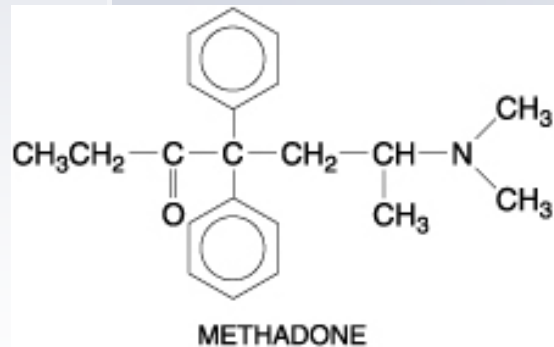
Interventions



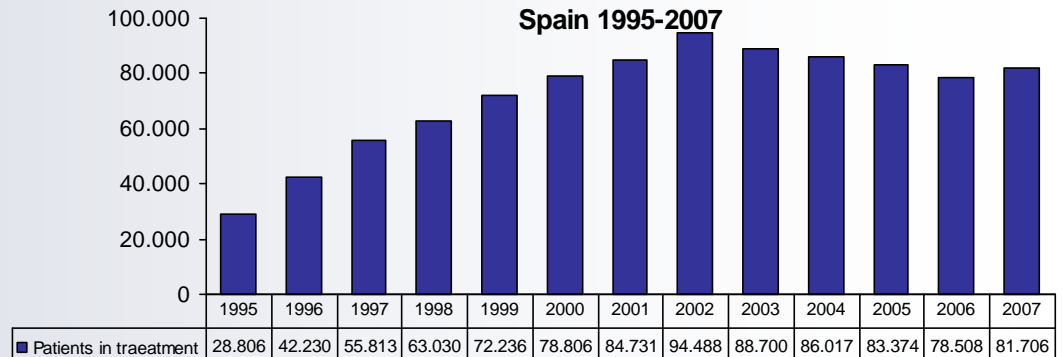
Number of needle exchange spots. Spain. 1998-2008



Needle exchange has been promoted by public administration since mid 90's in Spain. The number of needle exchange facilities around the country has adapted to changes of the types of drugs, number of drug users and route of administration, but in general it has increased in the last 10 years

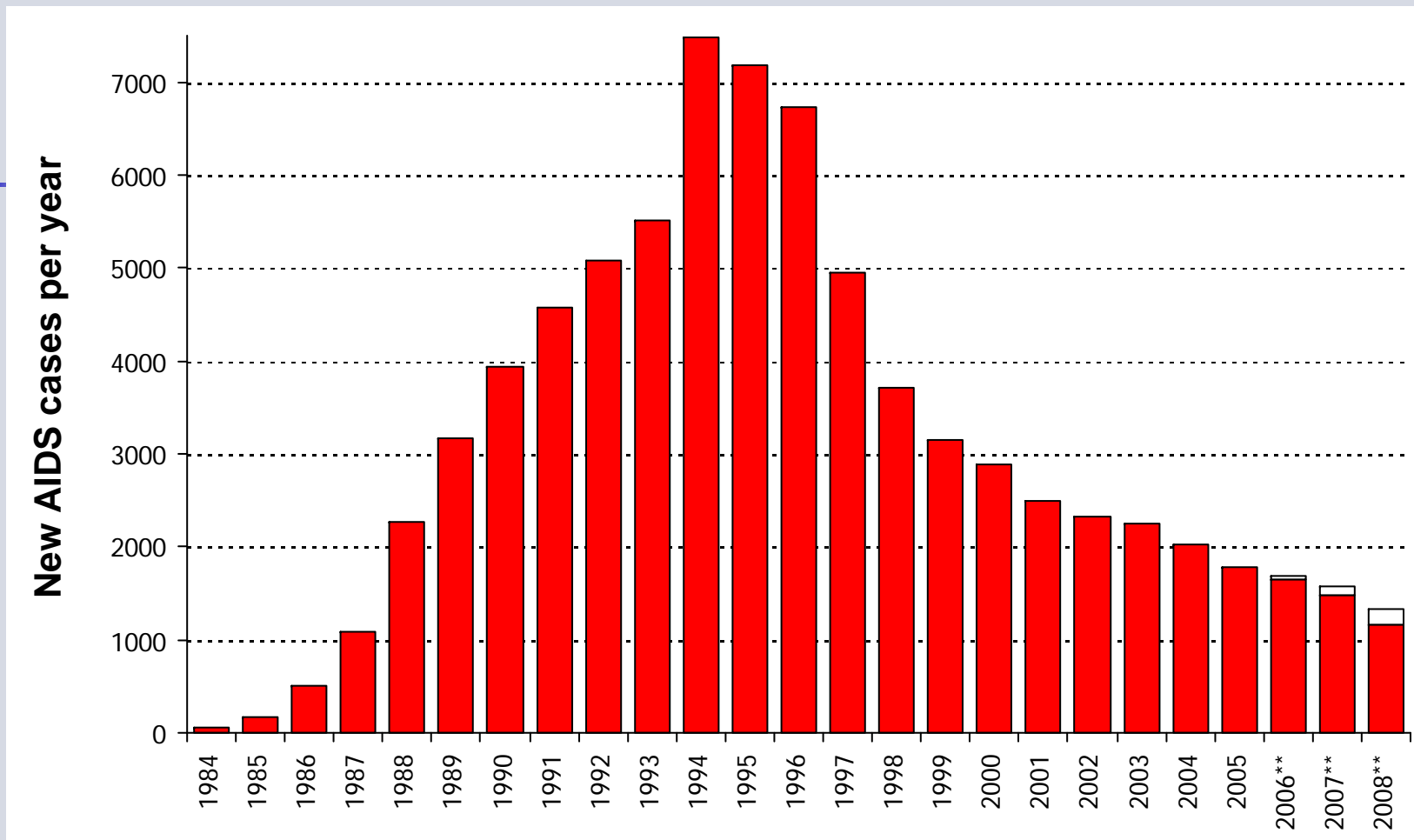


Number of patients in treatment with Methadone. Spain 1995-2007



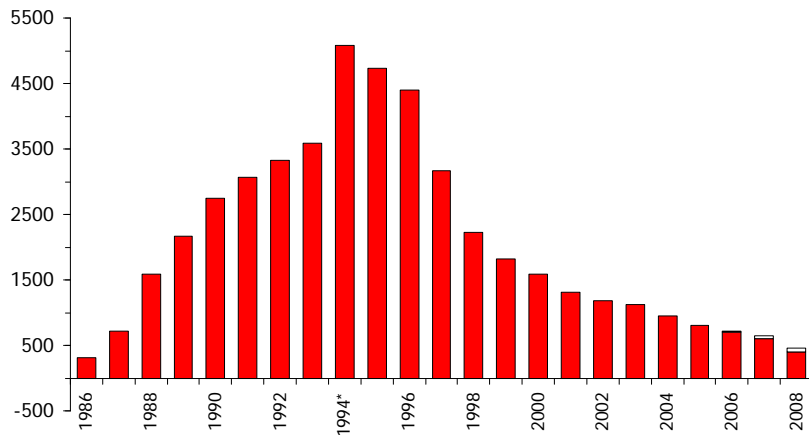
Methadone is the most frequently used drug in Spain for substitution therapy. The number of patients in treatment increased until 2001 and then slowly declined

Outcomes

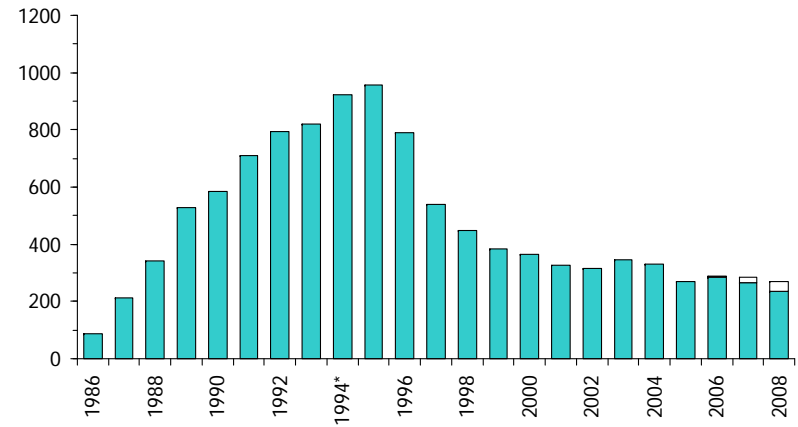


Spain. Annual AIDS incidence in general population. Update June 2009

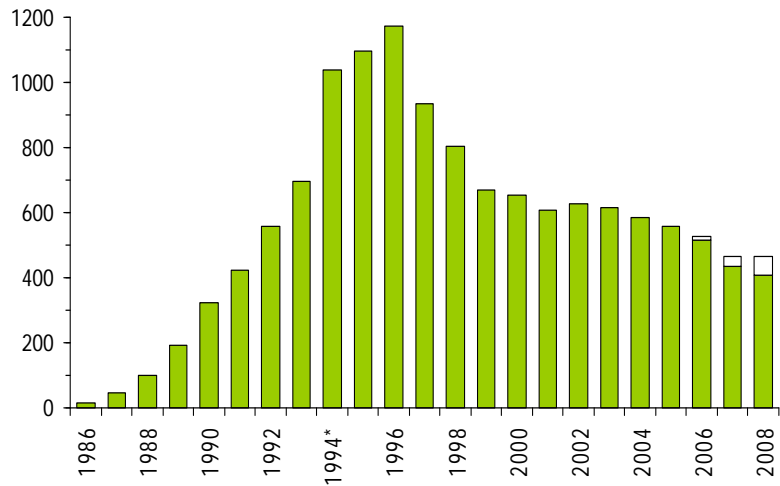
Outcomes



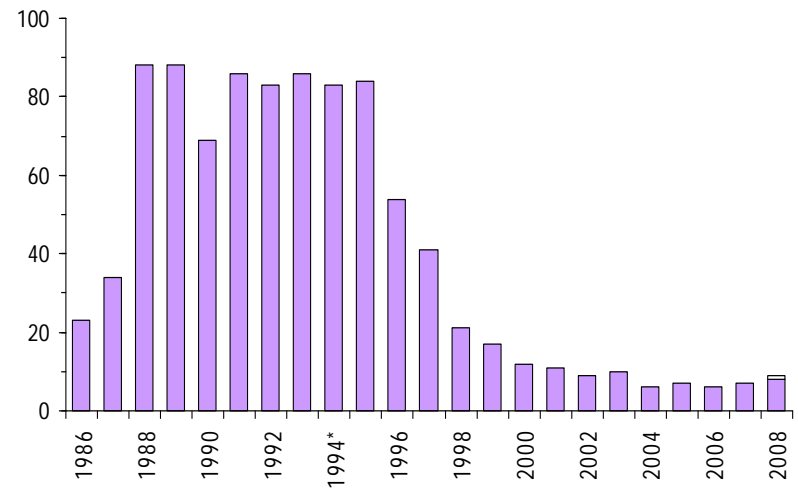
Spain. Annual AIDS incidence in injecting drug users.
Update June 2009



Spain. Annual AIDS incidence in MSM.
Update June 2009

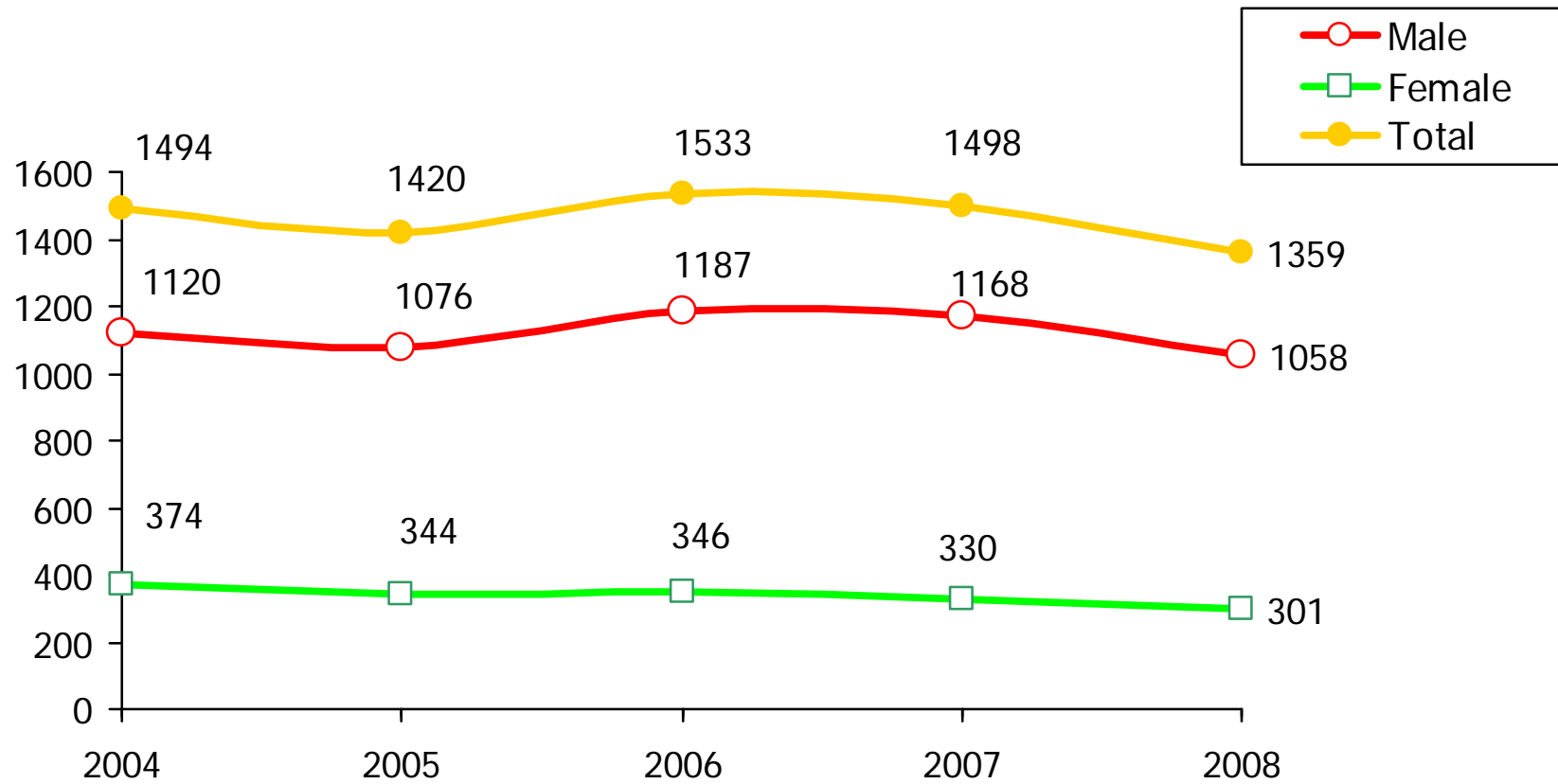


Spain. Annual AIDS incidence in heterosexual population.
Update June 2009



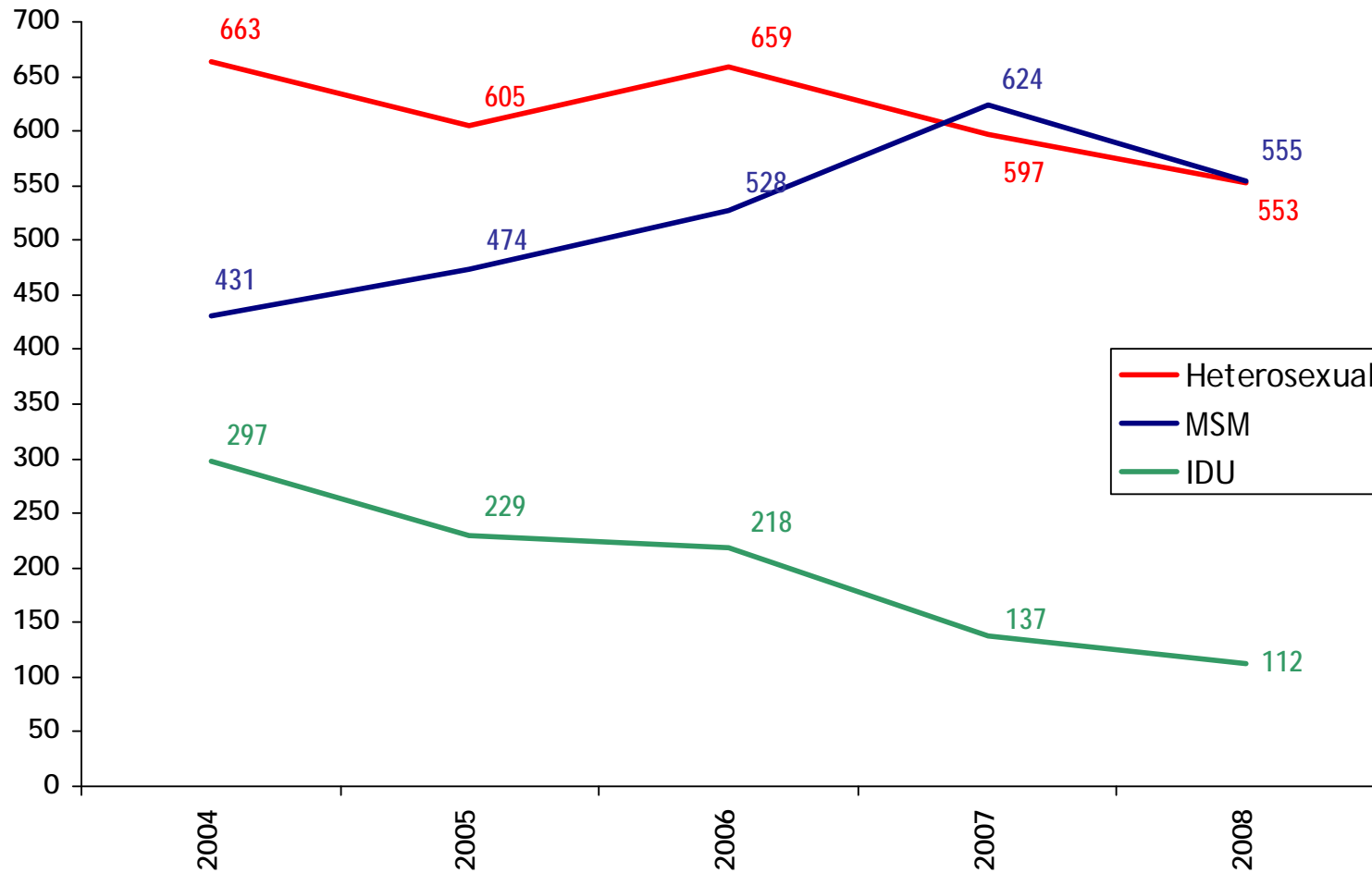
Spain. Annual AIDS incidence. Mother to child transmission.
Update June 2009

Outcomes



Spain. New HIV cases in general population.
Updated June 2009

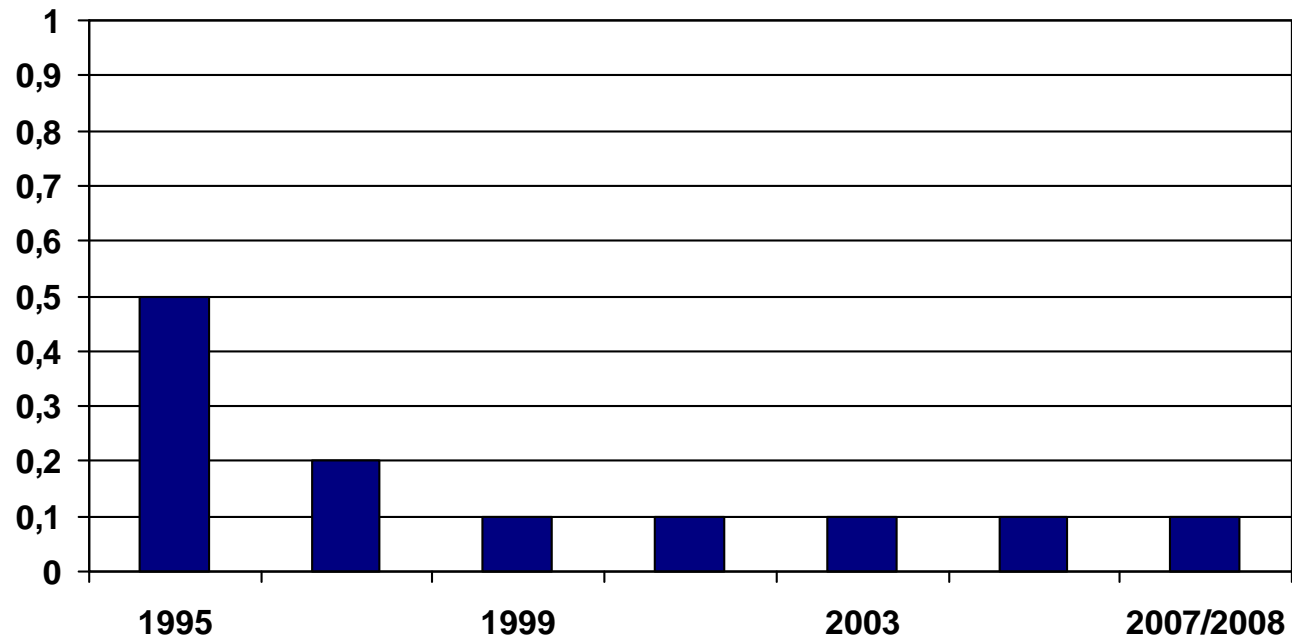
Outcomes



Spain. New HIV cases in general population.
Updated June 2009

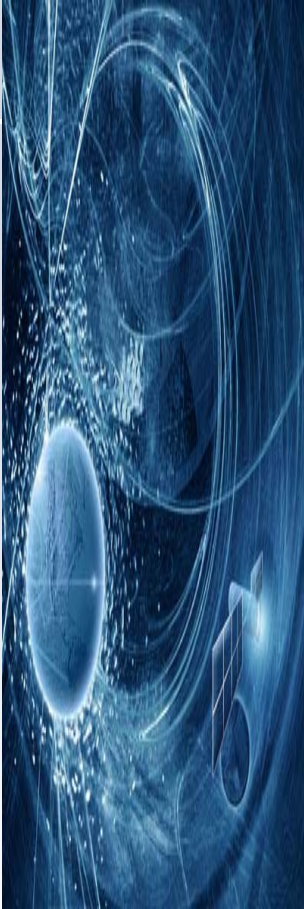
Outcomes

Percentage of the population (15-64) that used heroin in the last 12 months



Spain. Percentage of population that used heroin in the last 12 month has not increased due to harm reduction interventions.

Future strategies



- To adapt needle exchange facilities to new realities
- To strengthen injecting drug user's participation in the process
- To provide clean spaces for injection that provide other health services
- To develop a more holistic public health approach:
 - HIV, STI, Hepatitis, TBC (Vaccination and treatment)
 - Prevention of transmission to sexual partners
 - Mental health and Social Services
- To monitor changes in drug use habits (injection, inhalation, smoking...)



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Spanish Harm Reduction Programs in prison, regarding the HIV epidemic response experience

Dr. José Manuel Arroyo Cobo

Deputy director-general of Spanish Prisons,
responsible for Prison Health

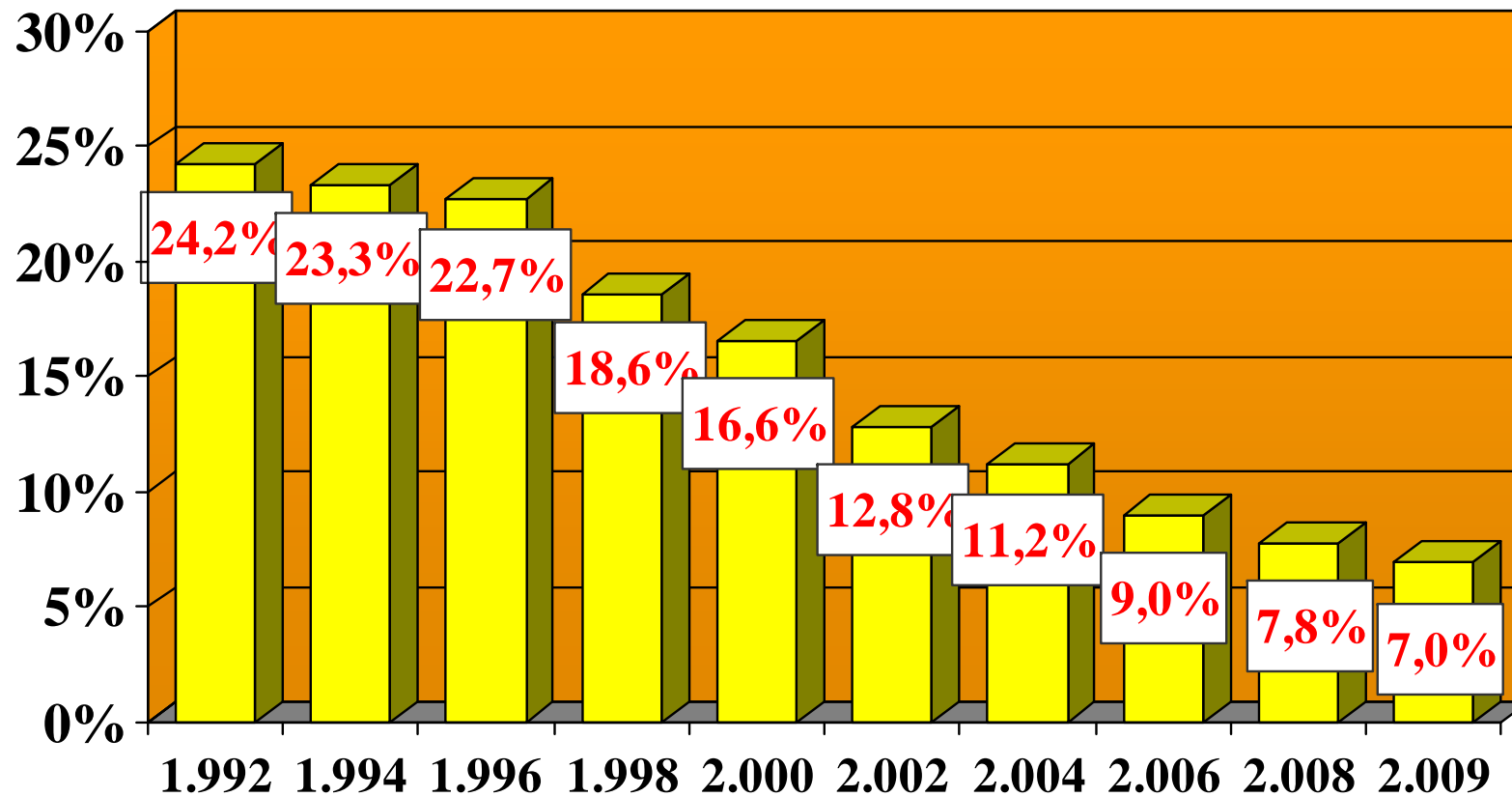
October 27th 2010 Luxembourg

Some facts

- In prison, a model of Primary Care exists, similar to that carried out in the National Health System
- Although Primary Care today is still dependent of the Home Office, it is being transferred to the National Public Health System
- In the second half of the 1980's in Spain, the number of people admitted to prison with health problems associated with drugs was increasing

Communicable Diseases

One of the first programs implemented was that of Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases injecting drug and/or sexually transmitted



HIV prevalence in Spanish prisons

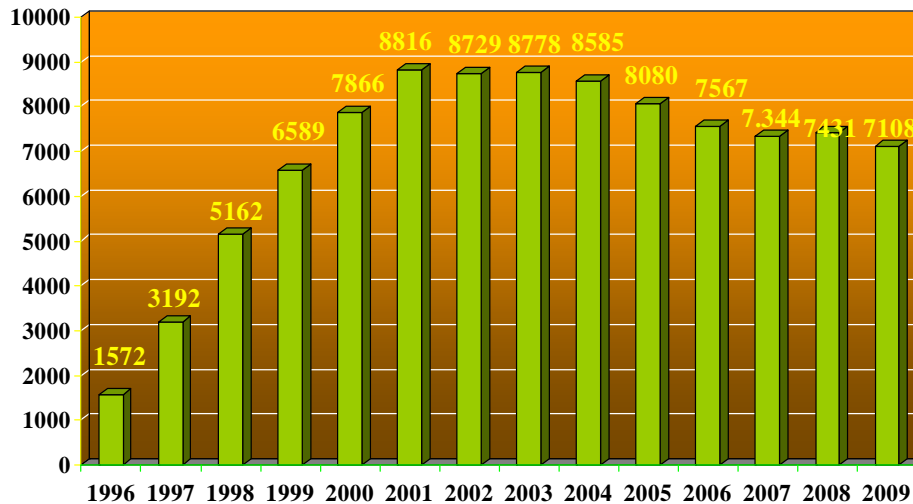
Communicable Diseases

The main aspects of this program are:

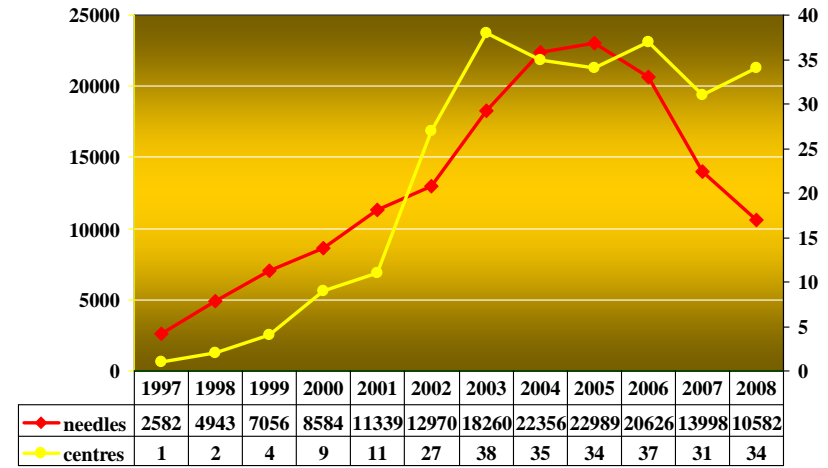
- Availability of tests for the detection of antibodies for all inmates,
- No-segregation due to these results
- Free condom and lubricant distribution
- Access to needle exchange programs
- Peer Health Education and information on HIV/AIDS and other infectious agents
- Access to treatment on the same basis as that offered outside of prison
- Access to paroles for people with terminal disease

Harm Reduction Programs and HIV results in prisons

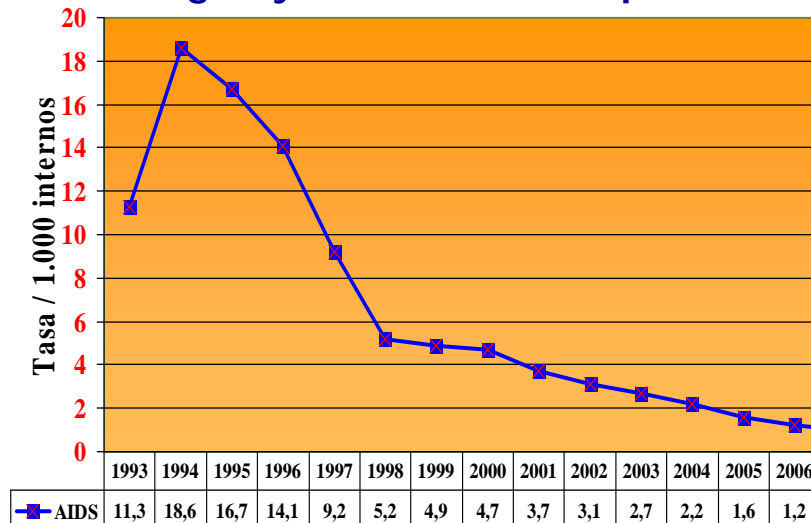
Methadone maintenance program in prisons



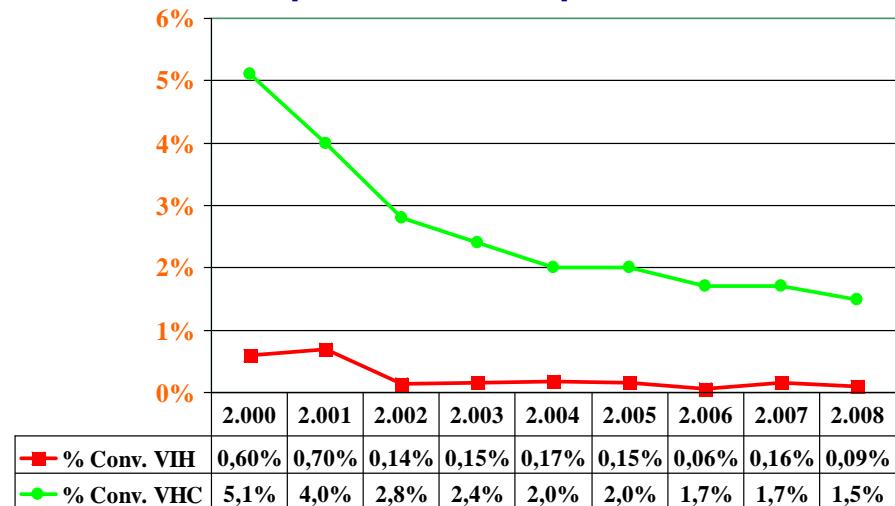
Evolution of Needle Exchange Programs



Registry of AIDS cases in prisons



Data on the seroconversions to HIV and HCV that took place while in prison are collected



Precise knowledge of the situation

By means of these and other existing registries at the Prison Health Department, we have observed that:

- HIV has shown a clear downward trend in the last years
- The incidence of AIDS in prisoners has diminished 25 times compared to 1994
- Although blood borne infection amongst drug users is definitely the most relevant transmission route within the cases diagnosed in prison, it has decreased 4 times since 1989

Conclusion

By means of conclusion, the prevention and control measures of communicable diseases through blood borne and/or sexually transmitted infections implemented in Spanish prisons have contributed in a large extent to the noticeable decrease in the observed incidence of AIDS and the prevalence of HIV and HCV.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

- Improving and building new prisons with education, social, cultural and sport areas
- Promoting personal communication both internal and external (oral, family, intimate communication)
- Strengthening the Public health approach in Prison Health Care
- Promoting Open Conditions (half freedom) – Social Rehabilitation Centres – Maternal Centres
- Implementing Respect Modules and Therapeutic Modules (drug free)

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**