



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AMONG YOUTH IN AZERBAIJAN

“NUR” CYPUP



SRHR education in Azerbaijan

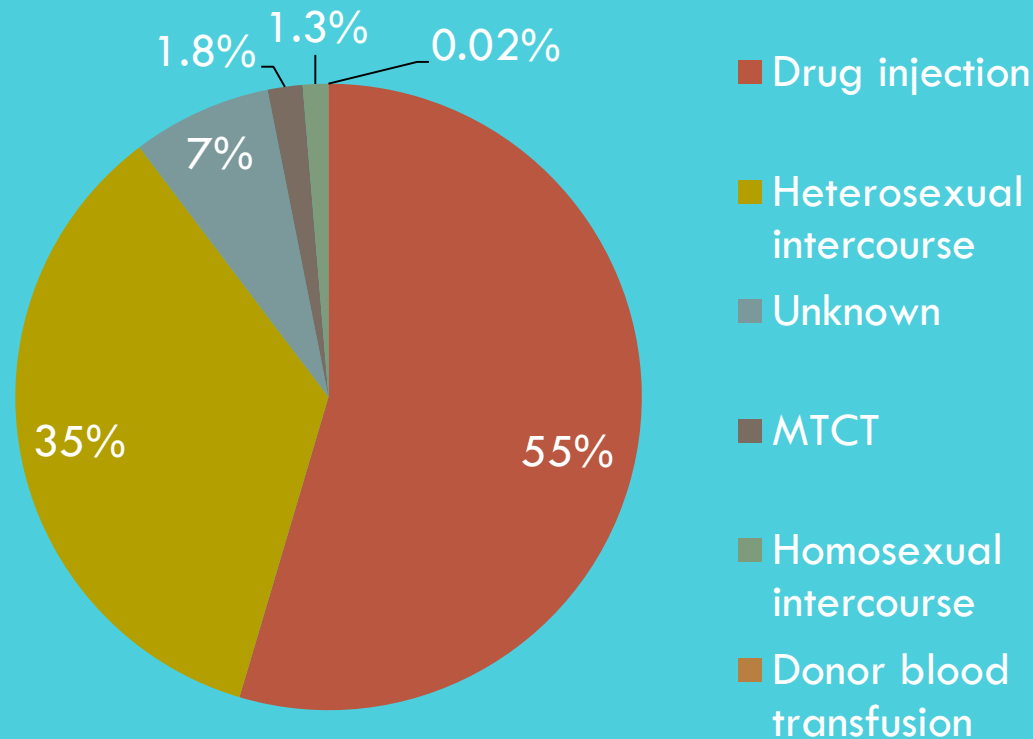
- Has been ignored since Soviet times
- No tradition of informing young people about their sexual and reproductive health or reproductive rights
- Cultural barriers
- Superstition and misinformation are widespread

Epid situation in Azerbaijan

4902 - Number of officially registered HIV positive people from year 1987 to 2014.
(9,200 [6,700 - 12,000] - according to UNAIDS)

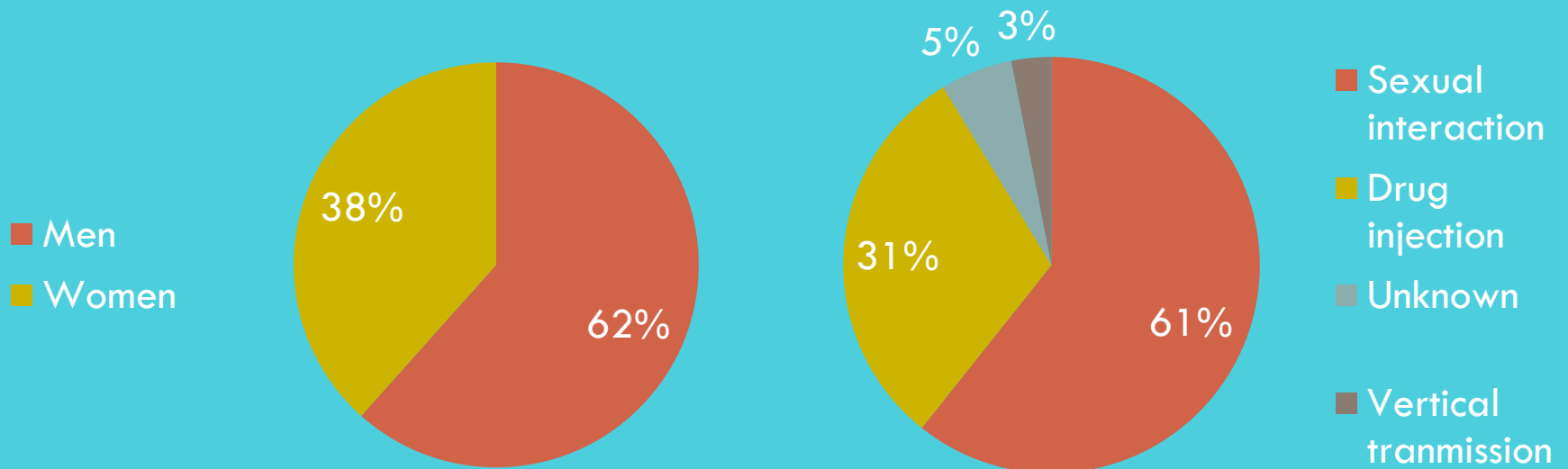
1519 - People at the stage of

681 - People died from AIDS



Epid situation in Azerbaijan in 2014

604 - the number of people newly infected with HIV in 2014.



60 positive persons died in year 2014.

Laws

1.0.6. **Anonymous testing** – without presenting ID/ or personal information;

1.0.7. **Confidential testing** – guarantee confidentiality of the test results

4.0.6. **Free medical treatment** in public medical institutions

4.0.13. Providing **free medication and services** to PLWH who are Azerbaijani citizens, or non-citizens permanently residing in Azerbaijan and IDPs

4.0.14. Palliative care to people at the stage of AIDS

4.0.15. **Social protection** according to the legislation on PLWH and HIV affected people

Treatment

Usage of ART treatment in Azerbaijan - 08.11.2006

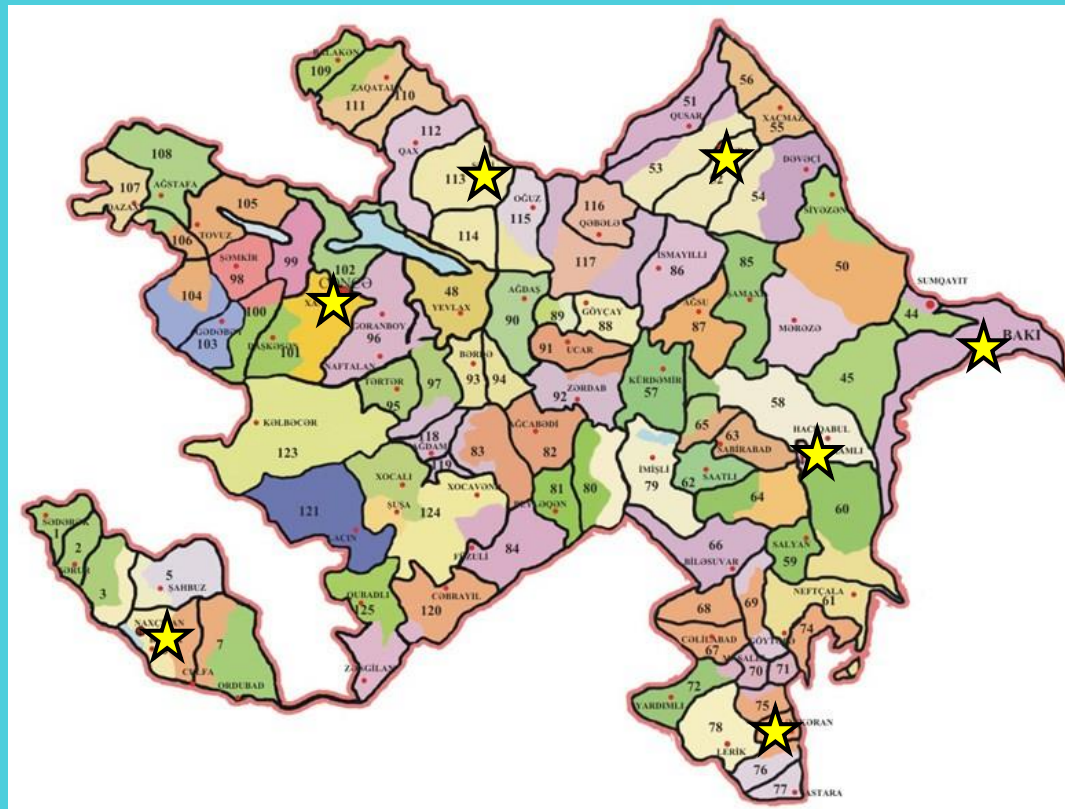
7 - ART Regional Treatment Centers

2376 - people living with HIV are involved in antiretroviral therapy currently

605 of who started the treatment in 2014.

The number of people reported to be receiving ART in Azerbaijan increased more than eight-fold since 2004 (ECDC report, 2012).

ART Regional Treatment Centers



Barriers for adolescents and young people

Lack of awareness

No accurate, age-appropriate information about HIV/AIDS

Young people - are not aware of their HIV status

Policy barriers

A person under 18 **cannot be tested** on HIV/AIDS without participation of parents or caregivers

No clear statement in the legislation allowing NGOs to participate in organizing testing on HIV/AIDS;

Barriers in accessing HTC

No special provisions on adolescents/juveniles and youth in the National Standards on HIV Testing and Counselling

Lack of capacity and skills to provide T&C to adolescents and young people at risk

Role of Youth Organizations in Prevention

Through...

Raising awareness

- Peer education

Advocacy

- Achieve more youth-friendly policies by removing barriers



Prevention among youth in Azerbaijan

Starting since 2008 “NUR” is implementing 4 year project titled "HIV/AIDS education from capital to regions" with support of the MTV Staying Alive Foundation.

- Trainings for Peer educators
- Red ribbon walk-a-thon
- National AIDS Awareness Bus Tour
- Annual AIDS Candlelight event on TV dedicated to World AIDS Day



Prevention among youth in Azerbaijan

In 2008, 2009 and 2010 "NUR" was awarded with "Staying Alive Award" for extraordinary efforts in HIV prevention by the Staying Alive Foundation and MTV Networks.



Prevention among youth in Azerbaijan

International conference on HIV/AIDS which invited representatives of youth organizations from Lithuania, Egypt, Ukraine, Romania, Greece, Estonia, Turkey, Germany, Nigeria and Azerbaijan, health institutions and government officials to discuss upon the issue and served to develop and maintain further actions towards HIV/AIDS prevention by taking a closer look at previous practices both in formal and informal fields. The conference was aimed to help to create a space for youth organizations from different countries, especially European and Eastern Partnership countries to share and exchange the best experiences on combating HIV/AIDS in different communities and to assist to future partnerships.

Prevention among youth in Azerbaijan

1st Baku International Youth Health Forum”. The forum brought together youth organizations from Ireland, Romania, Lithuania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, local health institutions, experts and researchers in health care and public health and government officials.



Prevention among youth in Azerbaijan

Currently involved in UNICEF-EU project on “Strengthening Capacity of NSA (Non-state Actors) for HIV Testing and Counselling of Most-at-Risk Adolescents and Young People

Advocating for revision of the existing policy.

Thank you for your attention!