

# HIV/AIDS in the Urban Context

People who inject drugs (PWID) are a major risk group and a route into the larger population. Successful interventions Depend upon the following issues;

- Medical progress
- Data and research
- Attitudes and stigma
- Legal and Political

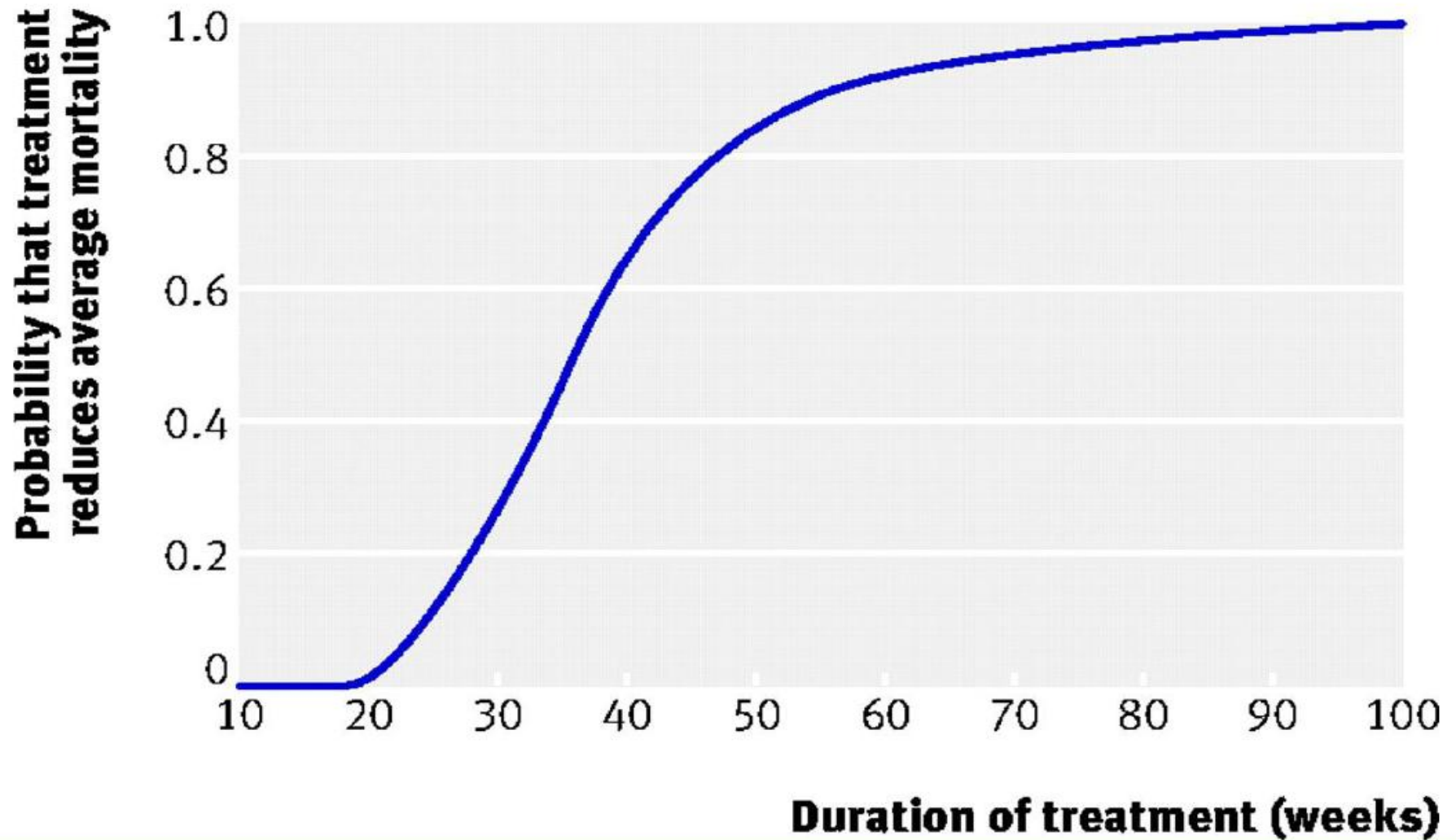


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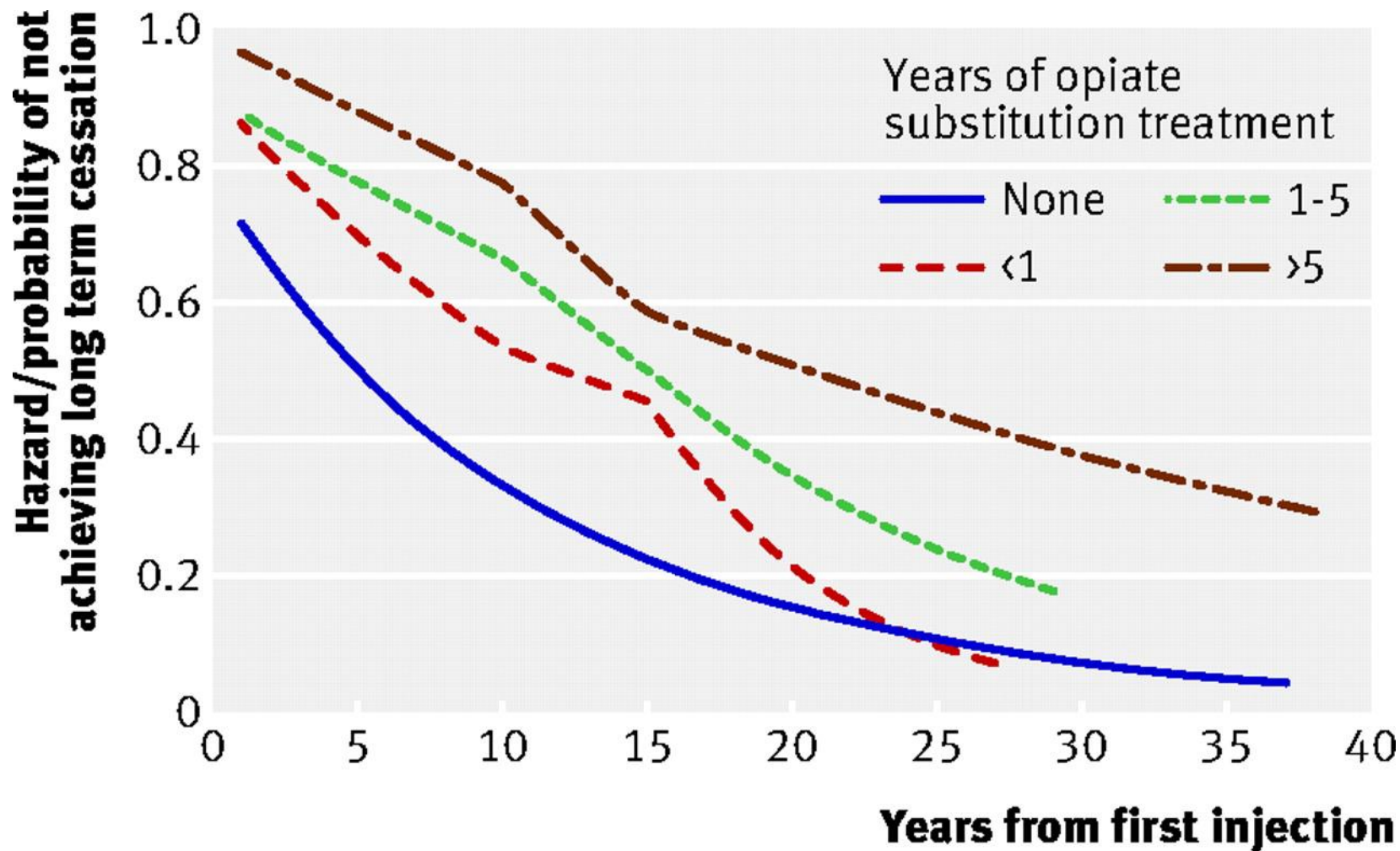
Medical progress



Probability that opiate substitution treatment (OST) reduces overall mortality for different durations of treatment.



## Injecting duration: probability of achieving long term cessation by exposure to opiate substitution treatment



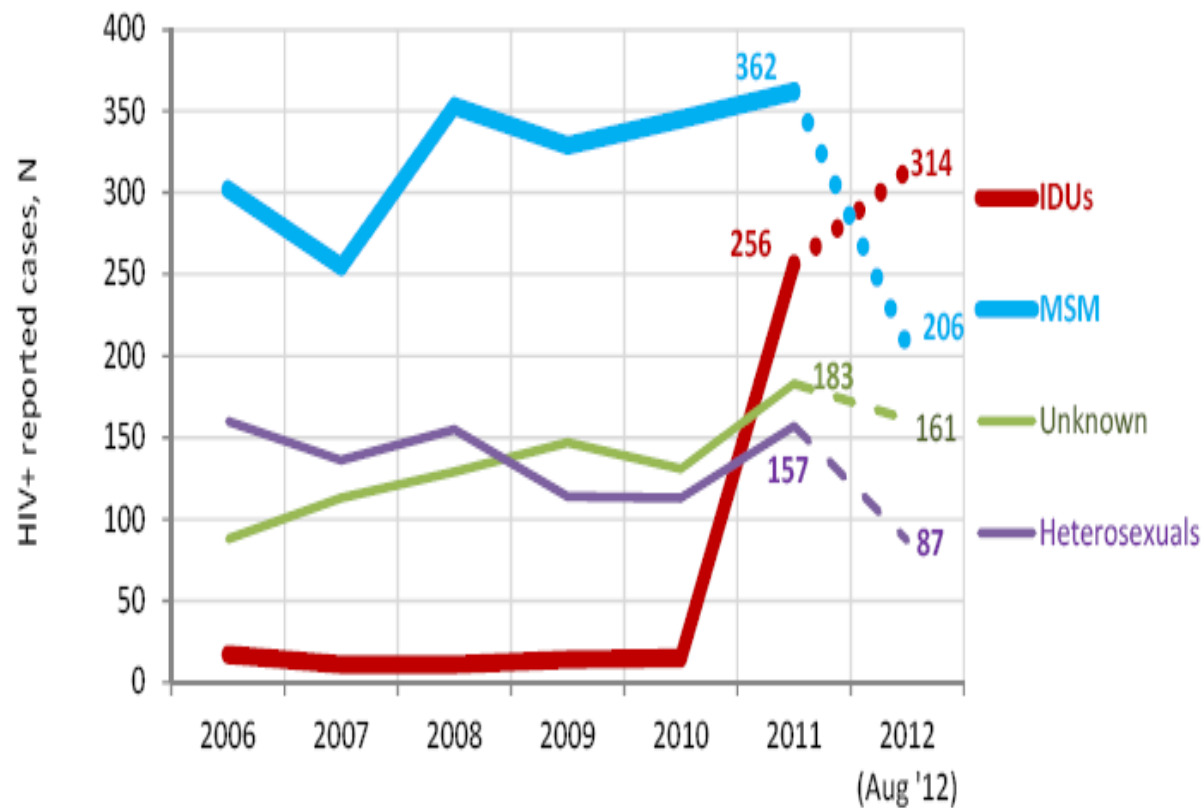
Kimber J et al. BMJ 2010;341:bmj.c3172

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# Data and research



**Figure 1.** HIV reported cases by probable route of transmission in Greece (2006-Aug2012)





**Injecting drug use is now seen as a worldwide cause of HIV infection and transmission. An estimated 15.9 million people inject drugs the largest numbers of injectors were found in China, the USA, and Russia, where mid-estimates of HIV prevalence among injectors were 12%, 16%, and 37%, respectively (1). HIV prevalence in Kenya is 68-88% in injecting drug users, 28% in South Africa. In Russia methadone and alternatives are banned and these treatments and provision of needle exchange are largely unavailable in most of Africa**

[Mathers BM, Degenhardt L, Phillips B, Wiessing L, Hickman M, Strathdee SA, Wodak A, Panda S, Tyndall M, Toufik A, Mattick RP; 2007 Reference Group to the UN on HIV and Injecting Drug Use.](#)

Global epidemiology of injecting drug use and HIV among people who inject drugs: a systematic review. Lancet.2008 Nov 15;372(9651):173345.

Lives to save: PEPFAR. HIV, and injecting drug use in Africa. Lancet. 2009 June 13;373;2006-2007

# Possible hypotheses for the outbreak

- Increasing risk behaviour among injecting drug users in Athens
- Consistently low opiate substitute and needle and syringe exchange provision
- Low uptake of antiretroviral treatment by injecting drug users
- The economic recession





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# Attitudes and stigma



Junkie Paradise!



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# Legal and Political



# Key policy/political themes

- Harm minimisation/damage limitation/risk reduction
- Medical or criminal justice model
- “Aspiration” to abstinence
- Detoxification/rehabilitation
- Heroin assisted treatment
- Drug classification (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and UN conventions)
- Drug related deaths



END

