

TB diagnosis and treatment among PWID: a Portuguese experience

Tuberculosis and Illicit Drug Use: Review and Update

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Illicit drug users continue to be a group at high risk for tuberculosis (TB). Here, we present an updated review of the relationship between TB and illicit drug use, and we summarize more than a decade of new research. Drug users, and injection drug users in particular, have driven TB epidemics in a number of countries. The successful identification and treatment of TB among illicit drug users remain important components of a comprehensive TB strategy, but illicit drug users present a unique set of challenges for TB diagnosis and control. New diagnostic modalities, including interferon- γ -release assays, offer potential for improved diagnosis and surveillance among this group, along with proven treatment strategies that incorporate the use of directly observed therapy with treatment for drug abuse. Special considerations, including coinfection with viral hepatitis and the rifampin-methadone drug interaction, warrant clinical attention and are also updated here.

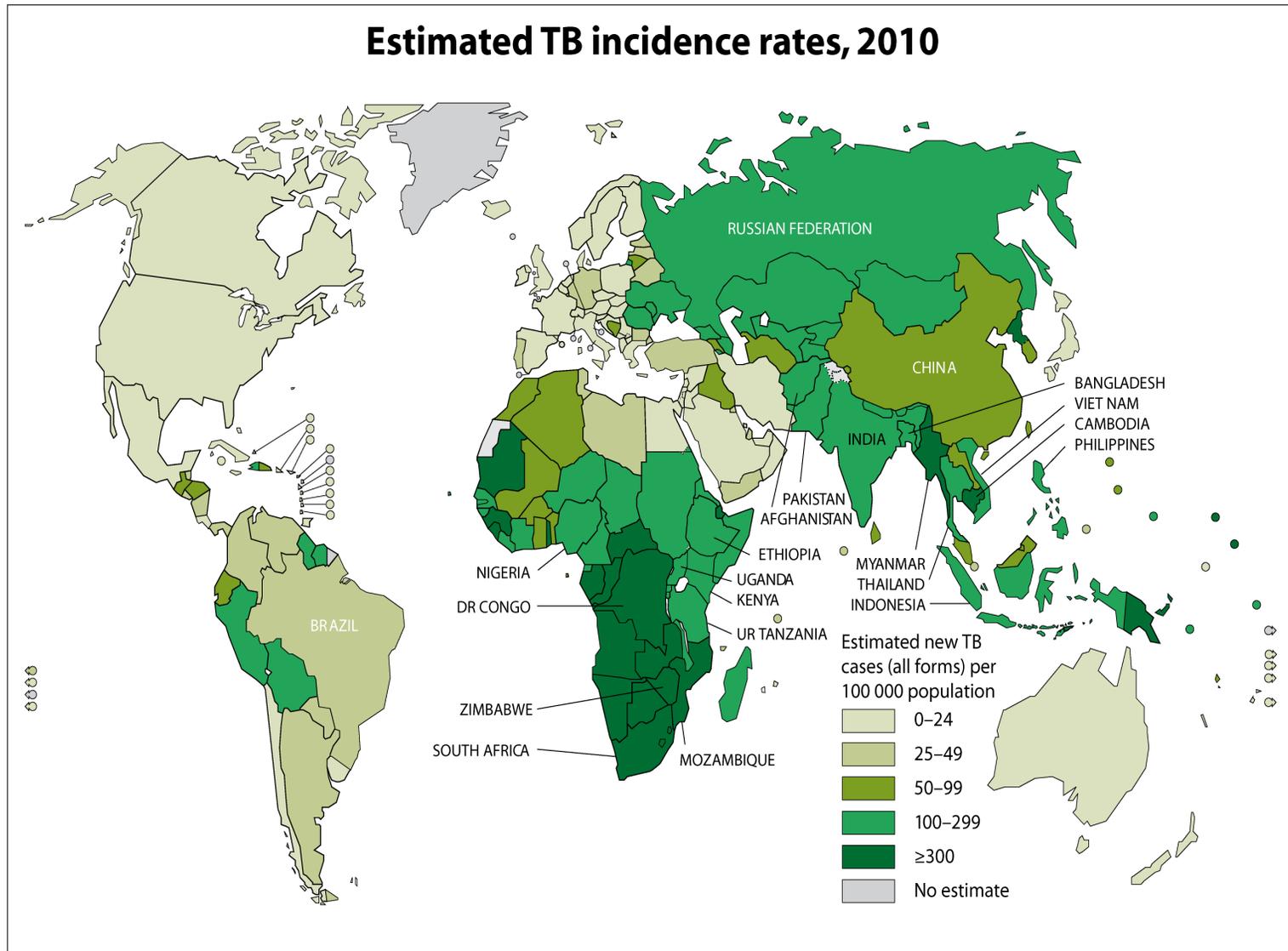


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Estimated TB incidence rates, 2010



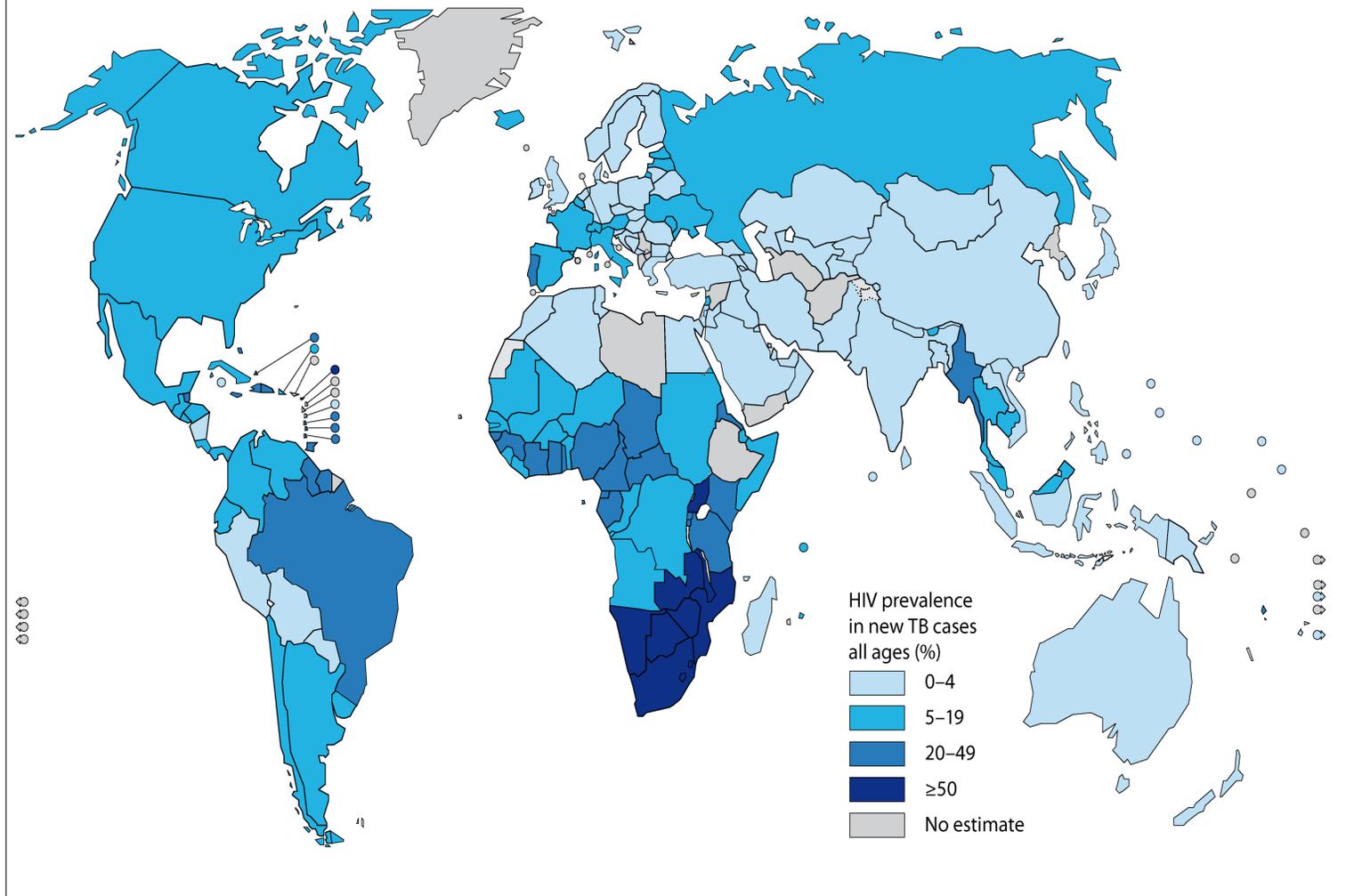
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Source: *Global Tuberculosis Control 2011*. WHO, 2011.



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Estimated HIV prevalence in new TB cases, 2010



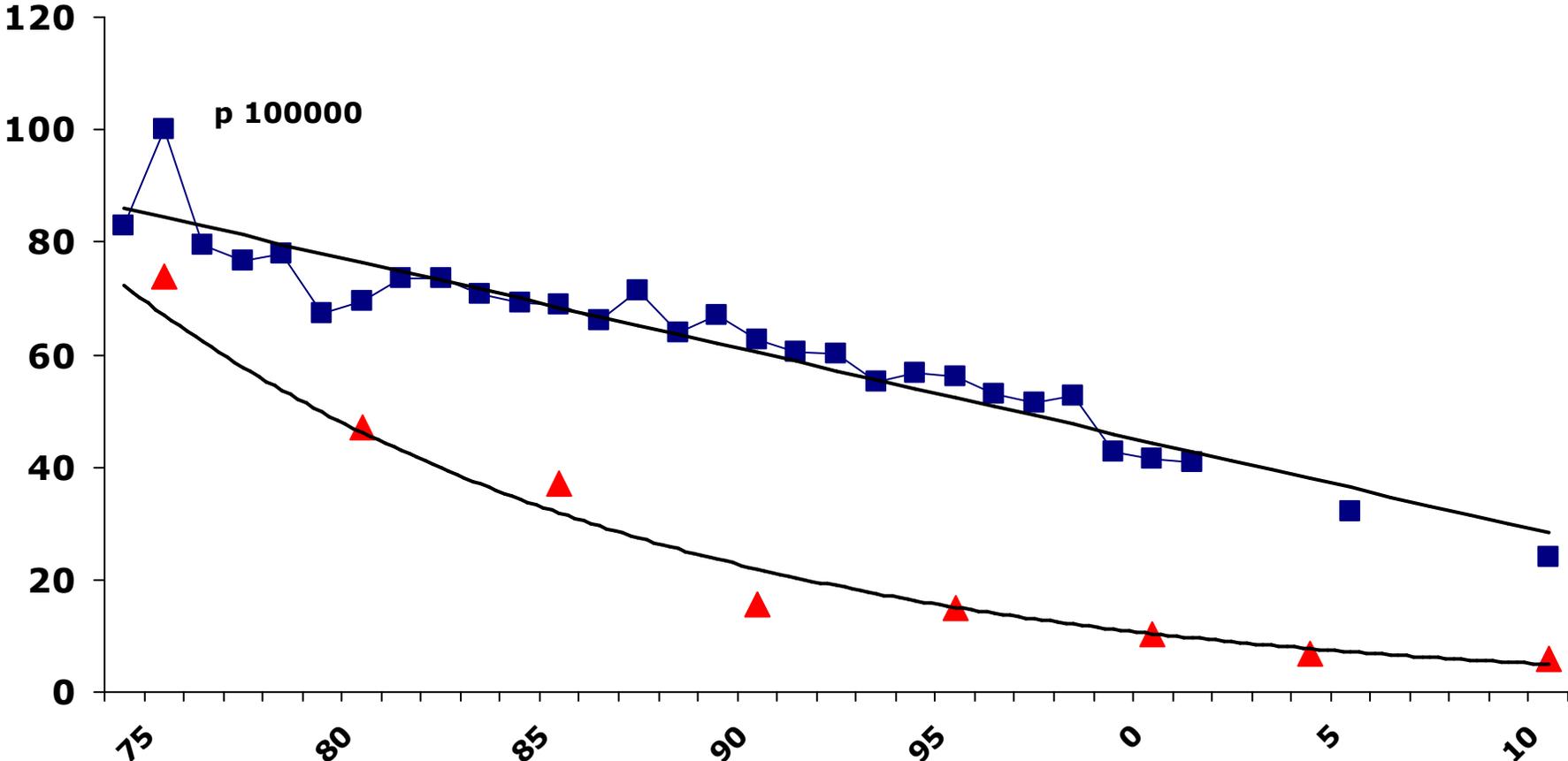
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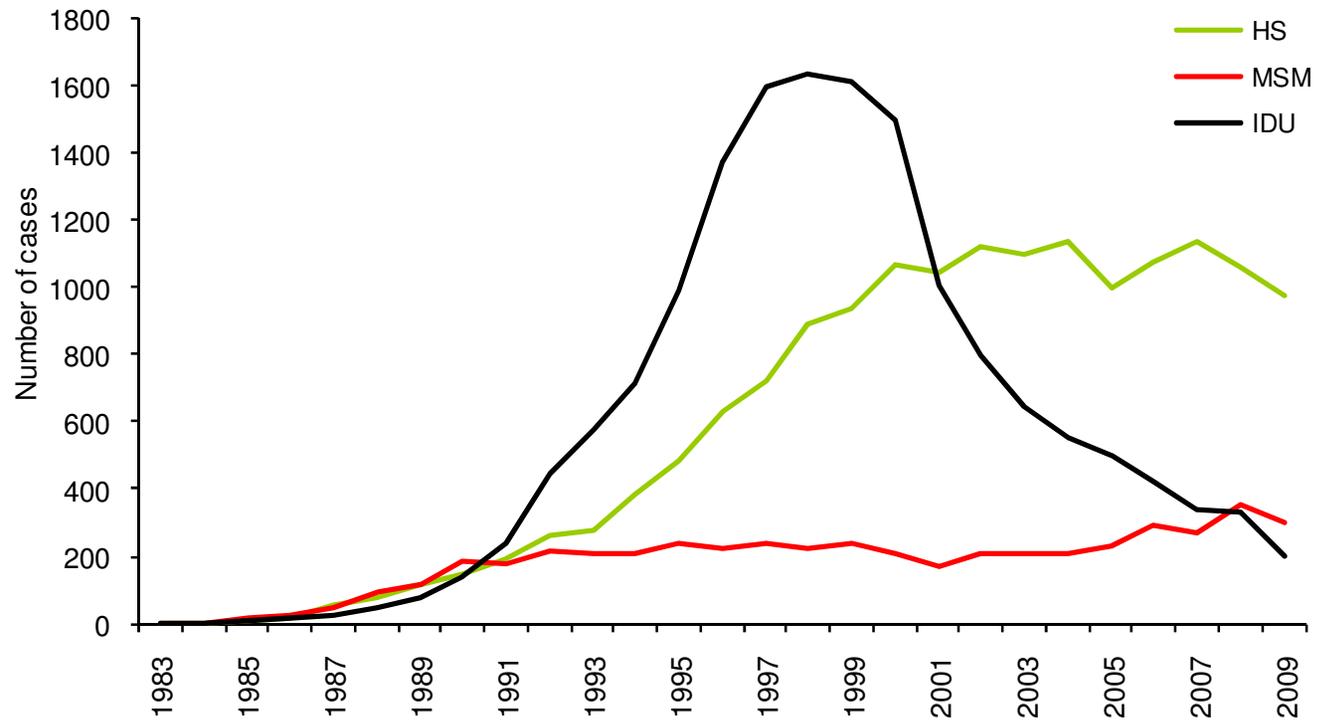
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Incidence of Tuberculosis, Portugal Finland - 1975-2010

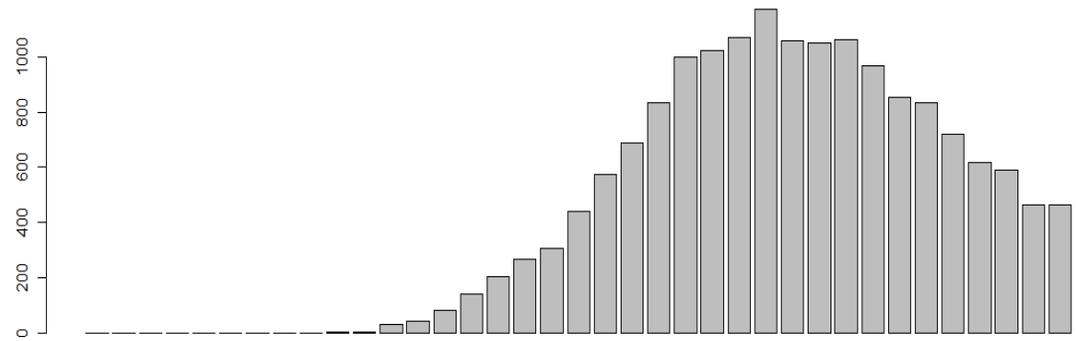
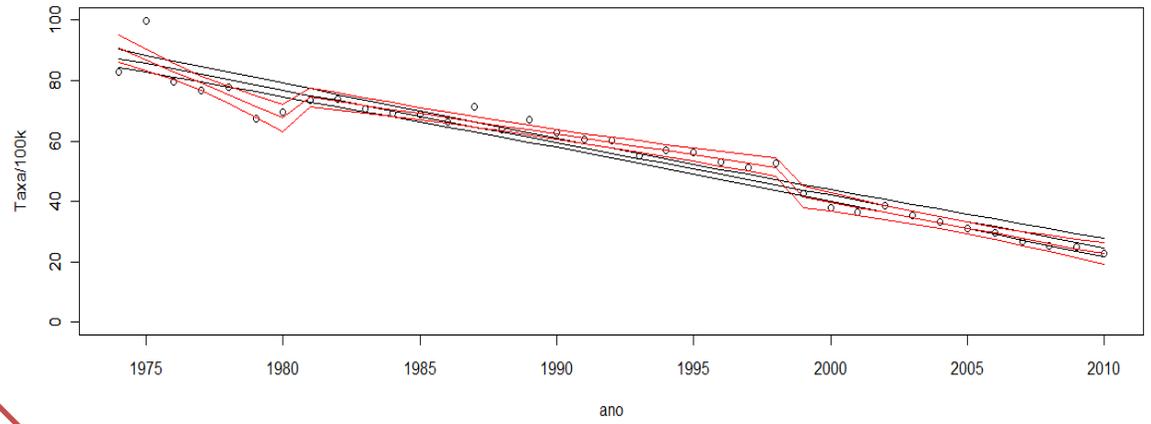


HIV - Portugal

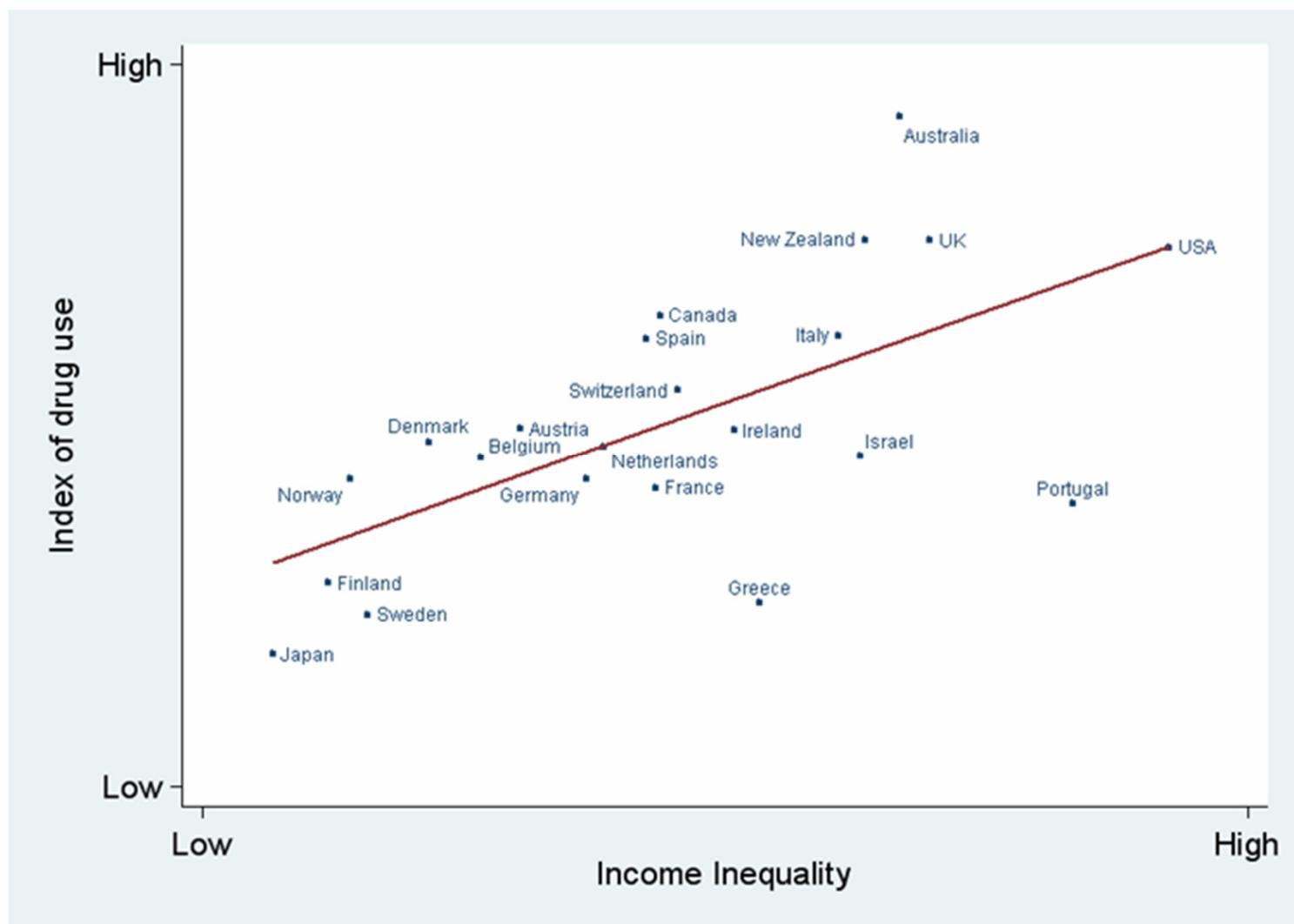
(Mode of transmission and year of diagnosis)



Tuberculosis
AIDS



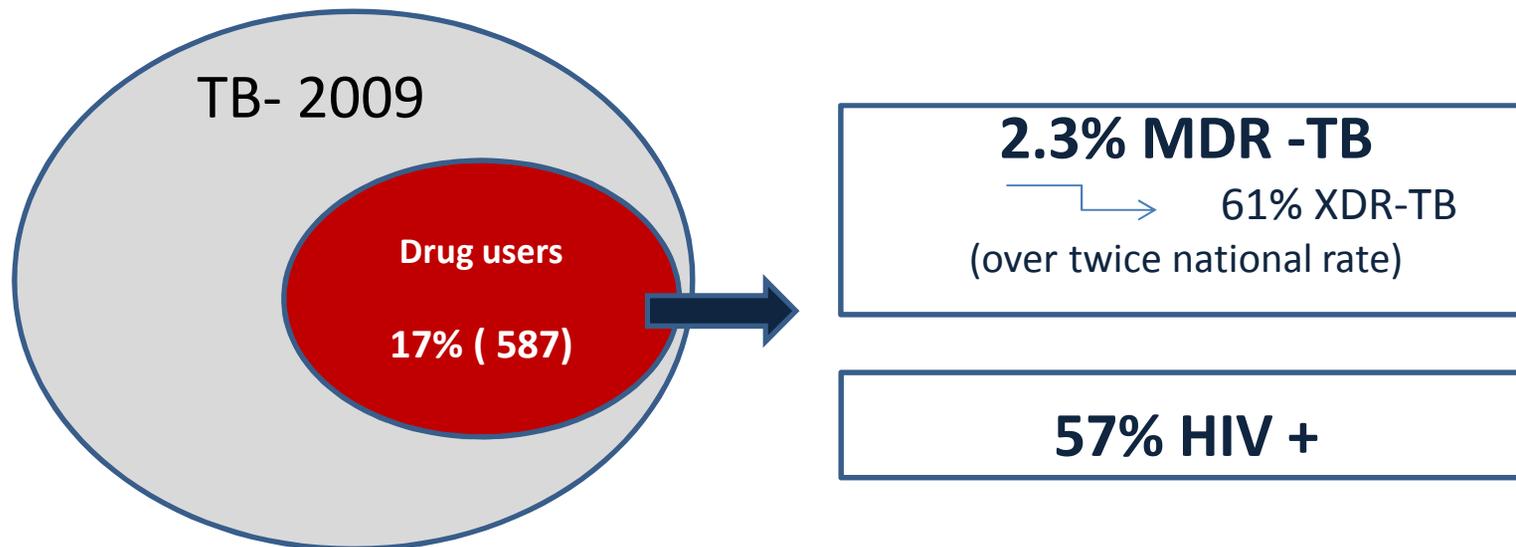
Drug Use is More Common in More Unequal Countries

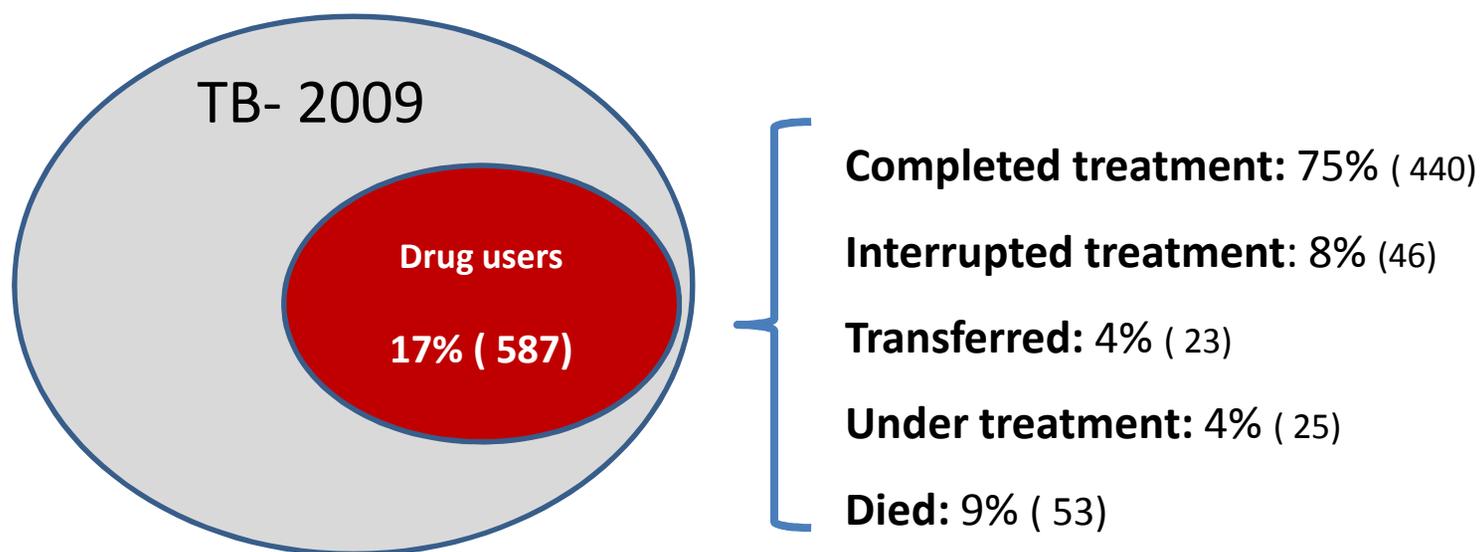


Index of use of: opiates, cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines

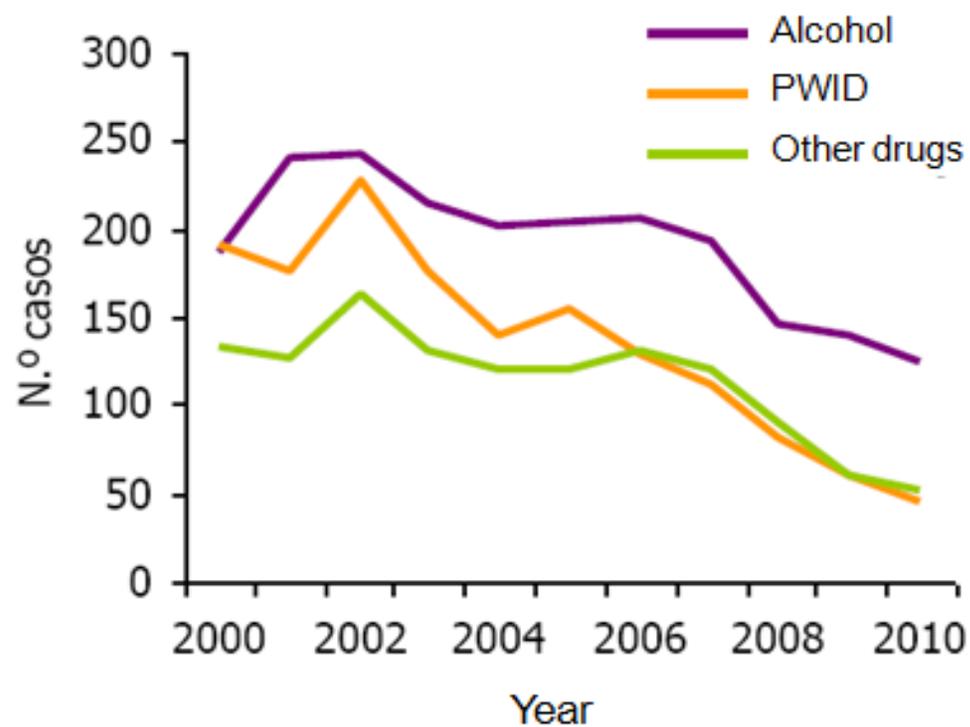
Drug use in Portugal (15-64 years, per 1 000 inhabitants)

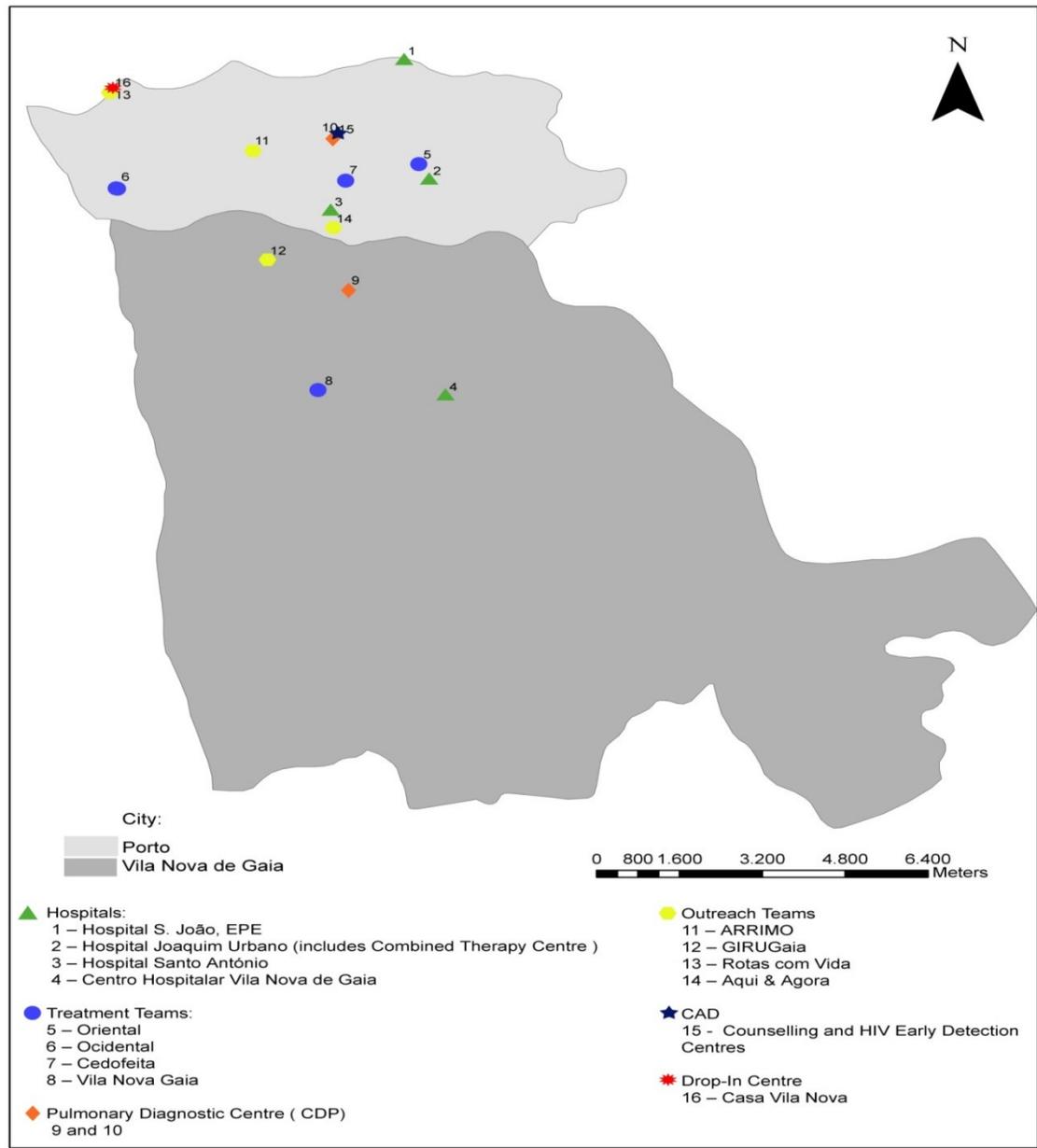
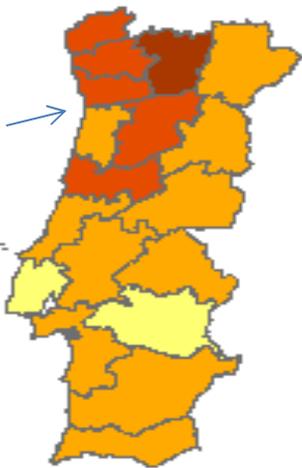
- 6.2 - 7.4 problematic drug users.
- 1.8 - 2.2 people who inject drugs (14,000-16,000).





TB Notified cases in the Northern Region of Portugal (2000-2010)



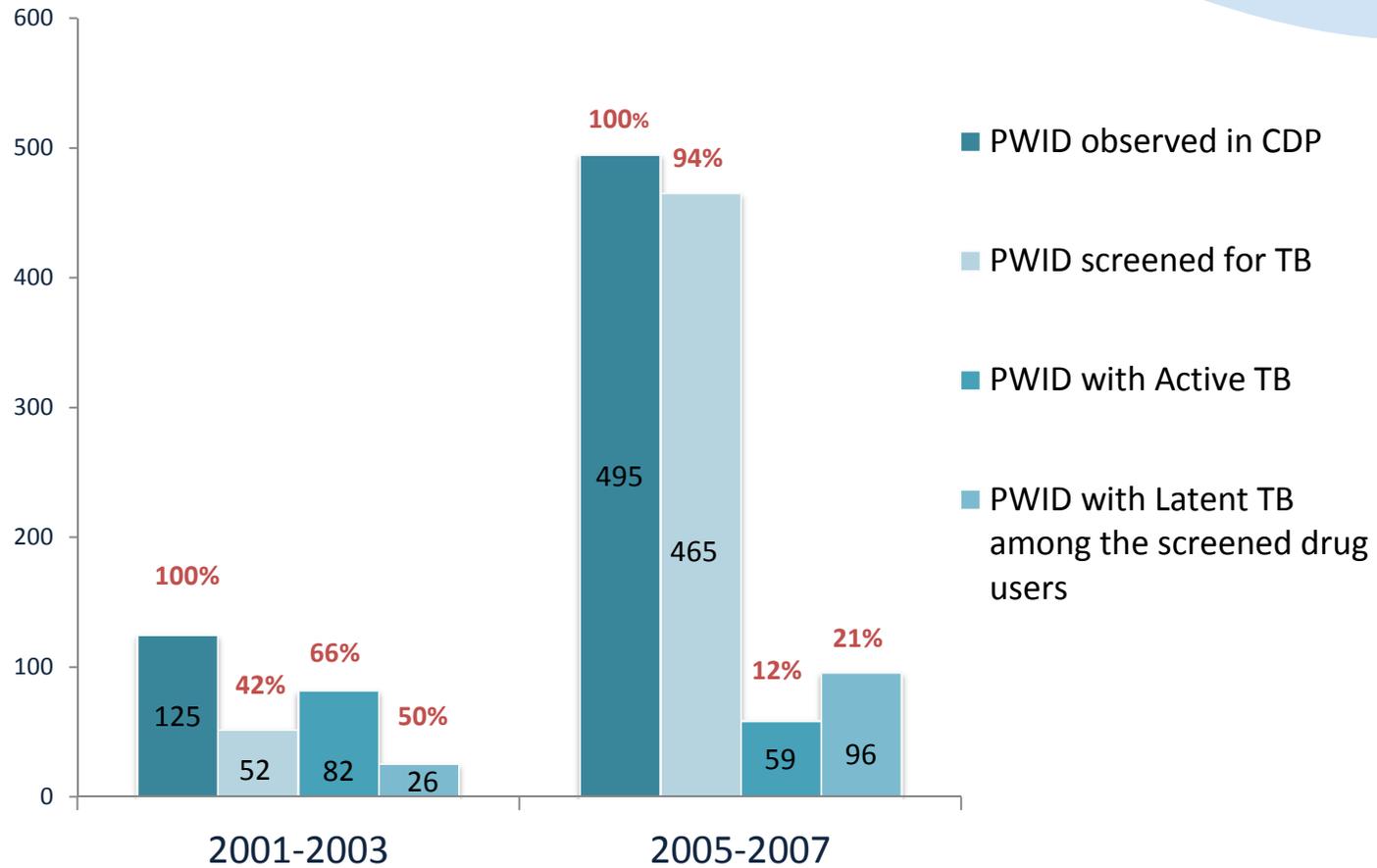


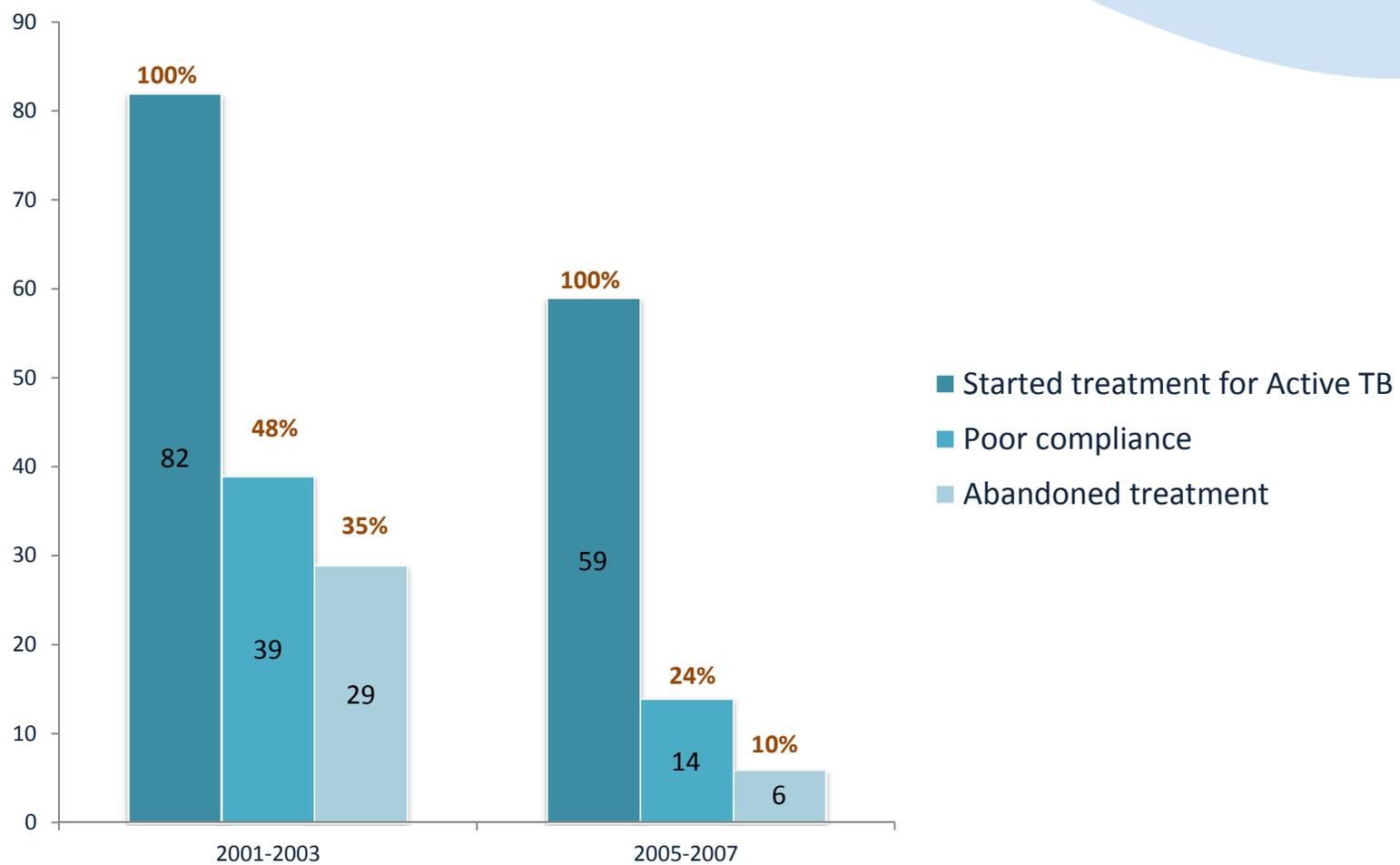
Contact Tracing

	2001–2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2004–2006 <i>n</i> (%)	
Total TB patients	502	375	
Pulmonary TB patients	359	273	
	Case interview	Case interview	Case interview with home and workplace visits
Contacts identified	1317	950	2629
Screened	890 (67.6)	683 (71.9)	2296 (87.3)
Contacts per pulmonary TB patient	2.5	2.5	8.4
Active TB			
Patients detected (% of all subjects screened)	28 (3.15)	22 (3.22)	31 (1.35)
Latent TB infection			
Patients detected (% of all subjects screened)	243 (27.3)	186 (27.2)	340 (14.8)
Offered treatment	204	180	325
Completed treatment	163 (83)	173 (96)	312 (96)
Cases of active TB prevented*	5	5	10

* 10% of LTBI patients who completed treatment \times (1 – 0.69).

TB cases in CDP of Vila Nova de Gaia	2001 - 2003	2005 - 2007
Active TB cases	515	386
TB cases among IDU	82 (15,9%)	59 (15,3%)
TB-HIV co-infection among IDU	63 (71,0%)	37 (64,0%)
Overall mortality among TB cases	32 (6,2%)	19 (4,9%)
Mortality due to TB among IDU	15 (18,3%)	8 (13,6%)







**A rapid assessment of the accessibility and integration of HIV, TB
and harm reduction services for people who inject drugs in
Portugal**

Final Study Report, April 2012

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Pseudonym	Age	HIV		TB		HCV		OST
		Status	Treatment	History	Treatment	History	Treatment	
Miguel	37	Positive	Current	Current active	Current	No	-	None
Jesualdo	35	Negative	-	Current active	Current	Yes	Past	None
Américo	43	Negative	-	Current latent	Current	Yes	None	Past
Helder	44	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	Past	Current
Jacinto	37	Positive	None	Current active	Current	Yes	Past	Past
Jorge	52	Positive	Current	Past active	Past	No	-	Current
Fátima	43	Positive	Current	Past active	Past	Yes	None	Current
Edgar	40	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Mário	39	Positive	Current	Current latent	Current	Yes	Current	Current
Maria	35	Positive	Current	Current active	Current	Yes	None	Current
Joel	43	Positive	Current	Current active	Current	Yes	None	Current
Alberto	40	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Jerónimo	49	Negative	-	None	-	No	-	Current
Nuno	32	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Amílcar	45	Positive	Current	Past active	Past	*	*	None
Ivo	39	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	Current	Current
Justino	42	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Ricardo	40	Positive	Current	Past active	Past	Yes	None	Current
Sara	36	Positive	None	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Juliano	40	Negative	-	None	-	Yes	None	Current
André	43	Positive	Current	None	-	No	-	Current
Márcio	34	Positive	Current	Current active	Current	No	-	None
Juvenal	42	Negative	-	None	-	Yes	Current	Current
Óscar	46	Negative	-	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Jeremias	35	Positive	Current	Past active	Past	Yes	None	Current
Rafael	31	Negative	-	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Marcelo	40	Negative	-	Past latent	Past	Yes	Past	Current
Fábio	40	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	None	Current
Julião	35	Positive	Current	Past active	Past active	Yes	None	Current
Patrícia	42	Positive	Current	None	-	Yes	None	Current

Access to TB services

“I arrived [at the CDP] on Friday, I came home on the weekend, on Monday I was seen by a lung doctor and on Tuesday I already had the bus pass to go there every day”

(Joel, VIH, TB, HCV)

Treatment literacy

“I had to take preventative medicine. There were five pills, five Rifater or something, on an empty stomach in the morning, they actually made me quite ill but I had to take them ... it’s like this, while I was taking it I had no problems of catching it [TB], you see, or developing it, but if I hadn’t taken it nothing might have happened ... [or] it would’ve be well worse, I would have had to be treated for a lot longer.”

(Marcelo, Latent TB, HCV)

“Isolation” of the patient so it won’t infect the healthy ones is perceived as a negative consequence of the disease, more than the use of a mask :

“Do you think that rather than because of the illness it was the fact you had to wear a mask? *That’s it, to be wearing the mask, it was not needed to be wearing the mask, just to know that I will go there and just my air, also you know, I’m harming someone perhaps”*

(Julião, TB)

Stigma and stigma hierarchy

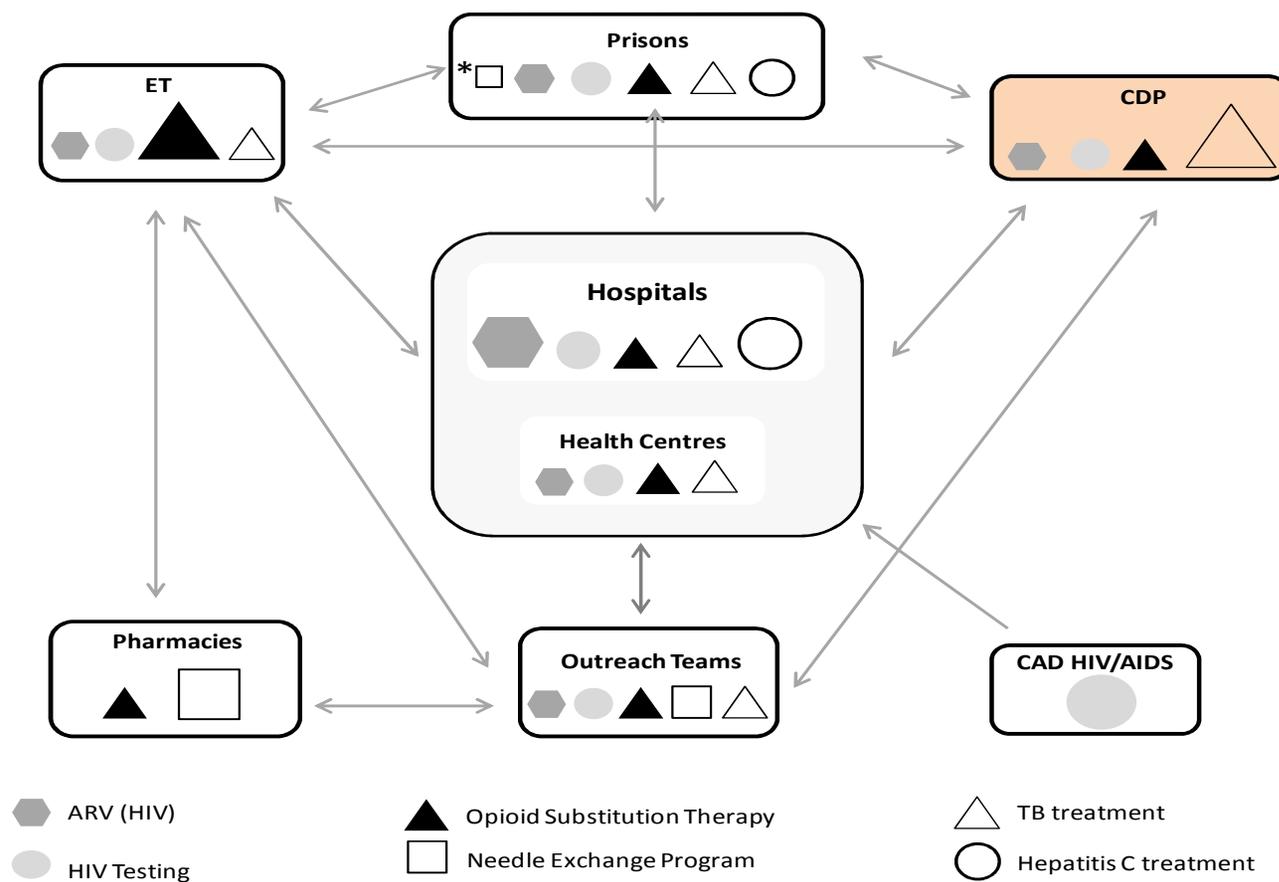
“Of course I don’t tell them right away: I have tuberculosis, because people would be like: Christ! I tell them I caught a virus in my lungs and that’s it.”

(Maria, TB)

“Do you think people have a portrait of people who have Tuberculosis? I don’t know. I think it’s even worse. I think it’s worse. Is it worse than with HIV? I think so, if it’s known that a person has TB it is worse. Why? Because I think so. Because I know that TB is easier to get. It’s easier to catch.”

(Márcio, HIV, TB)

HIV, TB, HCV and drug treatment services and referral channels in Porto area



Source: A rapid assessment of the quality and accessibility of integrated TB, HIV and harm reduction services for people who inject drugs in Portugal