

HR2 | HARM REDUCTION & HUMAN RIGHTS

A PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL HARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

The Global State of Harm Reduction

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HR2 - Harm Reduction & Human Rights Programme

National Conference on Injecting Drug Use, London (October 2008)

Mapping the response to drug-related HIV and hepatitis C epidemics

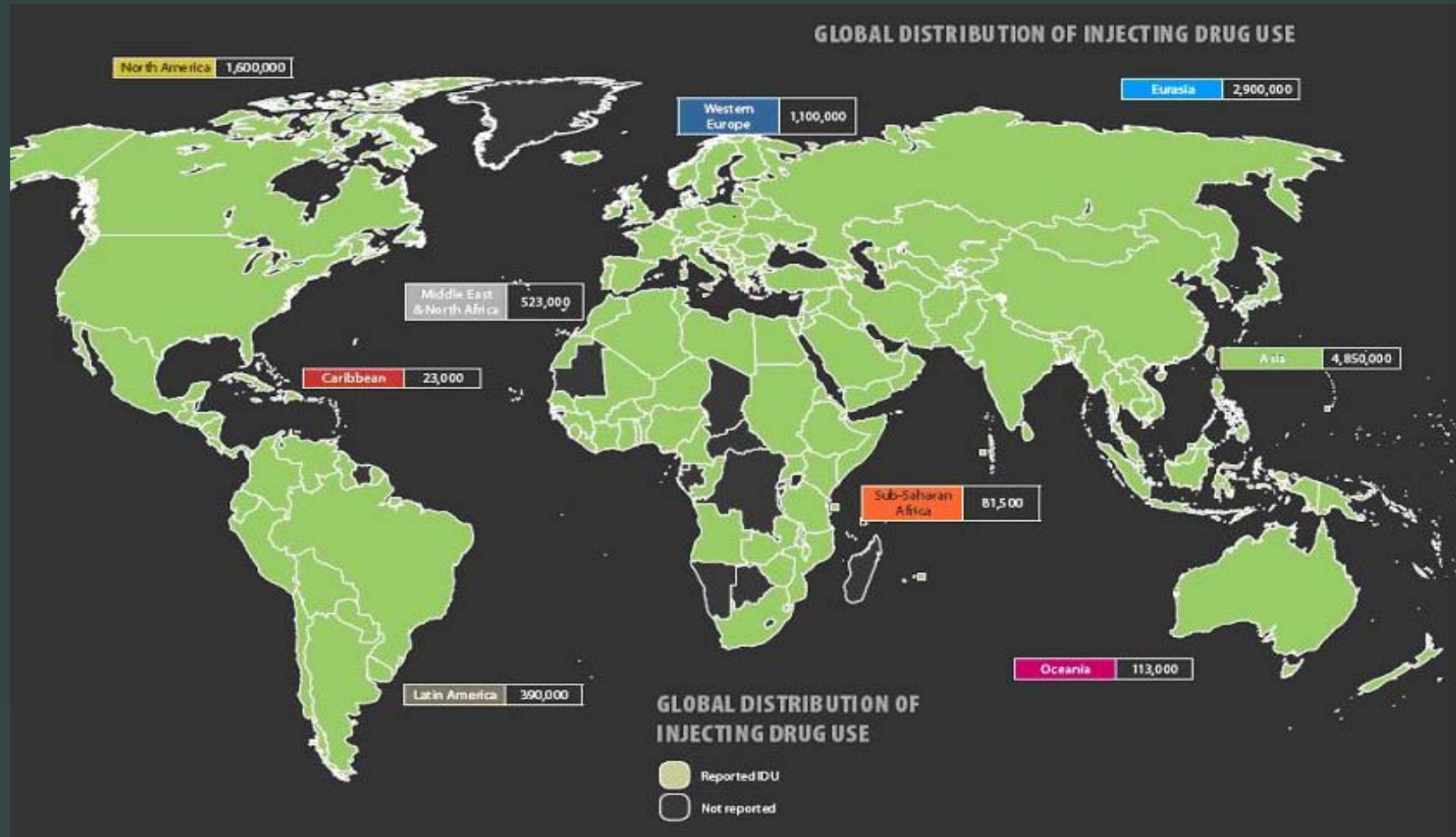
- Advocacy and reference tool
- Collaborative effort of regional networks & researchers
- Compilation of existing data sources
- Data quality and limitations



The UK...


- ✓ Research data
- ✓ Established tradition of harm reduction
- ✓ NSP since 1980s
- ✓ OST
- ✓ Political support since 1980s
- ✓ Low HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs
- x Sufficiently targeting hepatitis
- x NSP in prisons
- x Drug consumption rooms
- x Paraphernalia laws
- x Naloxone availability
- x Community-based outreach

The global state of injecting drug use



IDU reported in 158 countries and territories/
13-15 million people

Global harm reduction response

- UN agencies, International donors, International NGOs
 - International targets e.g. 'Universal access by 2010'
 - Civil society organisations in at least 67 countries advocate for harm reduction at national level
 - Drug user advocacy groups in at least 34 countries worldwide
 - Civil society engagement on drug policy and harm reduction is improving
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Harm reduction and human rights

'Harm reduction is a clear example of human rights in practice' (Professor Paul Hunt)

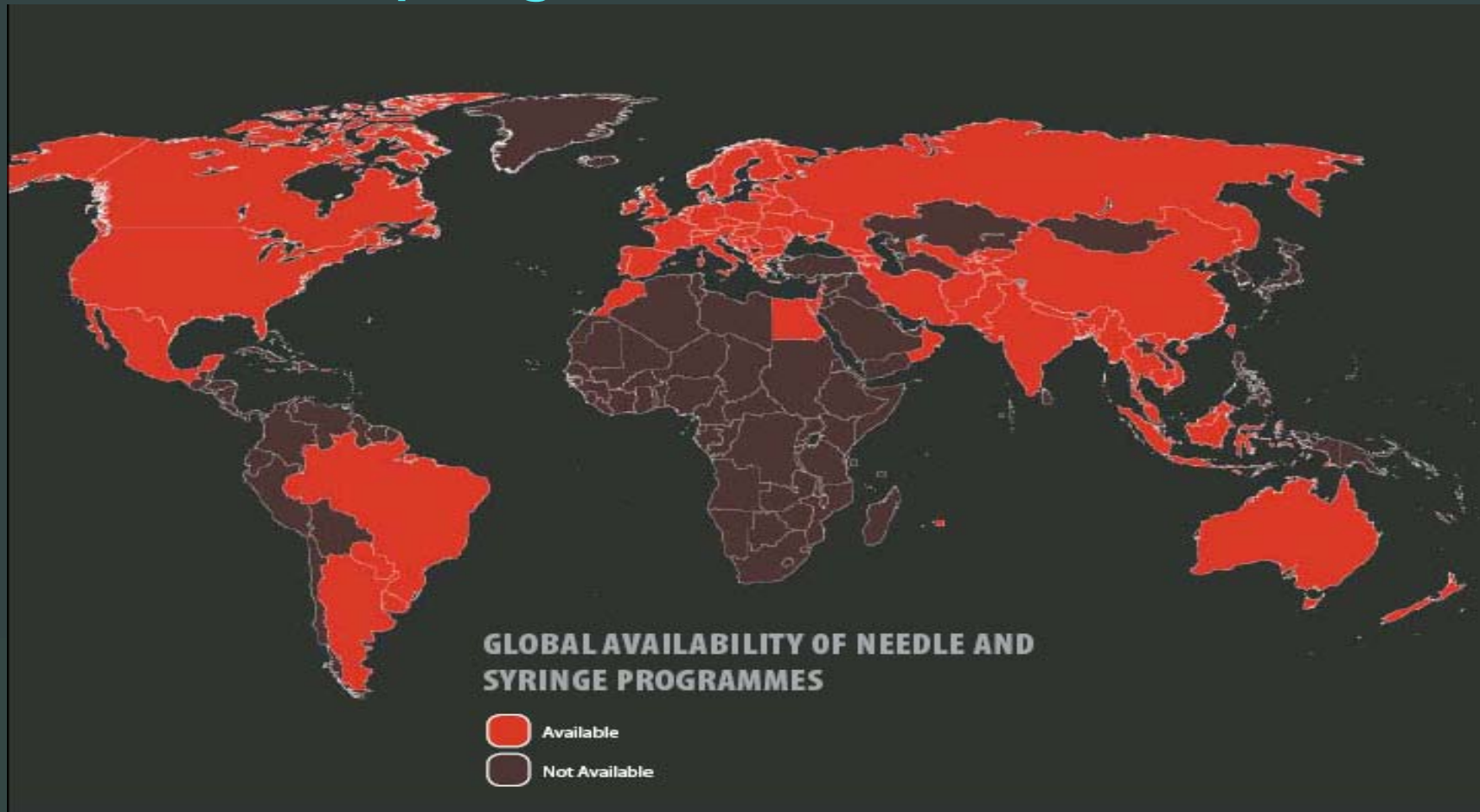
- The right to the highest attainable standard of health
- The right to life and to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and arbitrary detention
- The right to non-discrimination

Government support

Afghanistan	Albania	Serbia	Belgium
Bangladesh	Armenia	Slovakia	Cyprus
Cambodia	Azerbaijan	Slovenia	Denmark
China	Belarus	Tajikistan	Finland
Hong Kong	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ukraine	France
India	Bulgaria	Uzbekistan	Germany
Indonesia	Croatia	Egypt	Greece
PDR Laos	Czech Republic	Iran	Ireland
Malaysia	Estonia	Israel	Italy
Myanmar	Georgia	Lebanon	Luxembourg
Nepal	Hungary	Morocco	Malta
Pakistan	Kazakhstan	Oman	Netherlands
Taiwan	Kyrgyzstan	Palestine	Norway
Thailand	Latvia	Canada	Portugal
Vietnam	Lithuania	United States	Spain
Puerto Rico	Macedonia	Australia	Sweden
Argentina	Moldova	New Zealand	Switzerland
Brazil	Montenegro	Mauritius	United Kingdom
Mexico	Poland	South Africa	
Paraguay	Romania	Tanzania	
Uruguay	Russia	Austria	

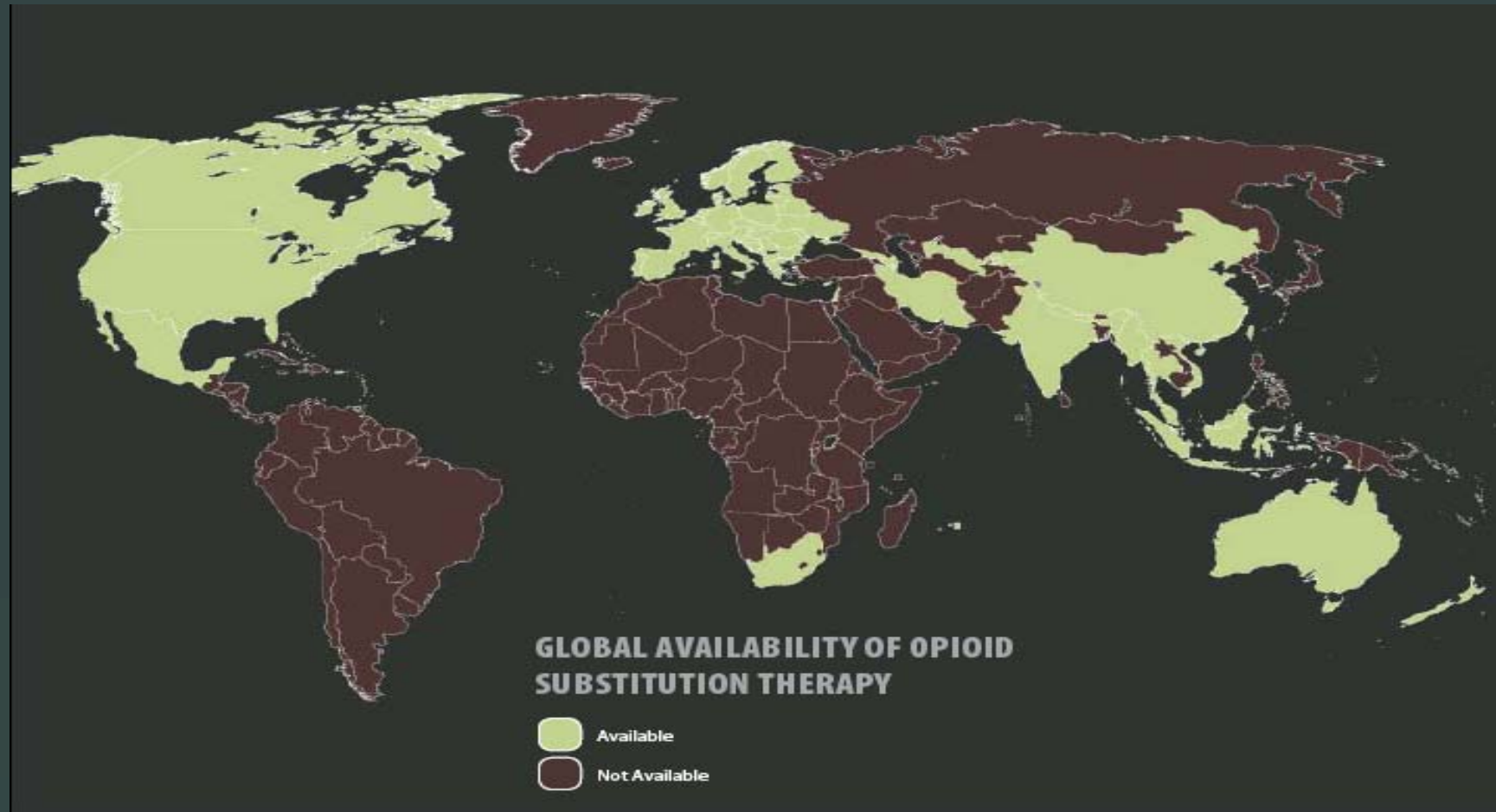
- 82 countries or territories support (or tolerate) harm reduction

Needle and syringe exchange programmes (NSP)



77 countries have NSP

Opioid substitution treatment (OST)



63 countries have OST/ 950,000 people

Barriers to accessing harm reduction services

- Poor coverage
- Poor quality of services
- Costs associated with service access
- Police harassment or arrest
- Stigma and discrimination

Barriers are more severely experienced in low and middle-income countries



Obstacles to scaling up harm reduction

- Political – need for increased support for harm reduction
- Financial – need for increased resources for harm reduction
- Legal/policy – creating a conducive environment for harm reduction
- Attitudes – changing public perceptions e.g. ideological and moralistic views on drug use



Challenges and key issues

- Injecting drug use in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - More research necessary
 - Harm reduction in resource-limited settings
- Non-injecting drug use and HIV
 - Crack cocaine
 - Amphetamine-type stimulants
 - Alcohol

Global State of Harm Reduction 2008

Mapping the response to drug-related HIV and hepatitis C epidemics



Available at
[www.ihra.net/
GlobalState](http://www.ihra.net/GlobalState)

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