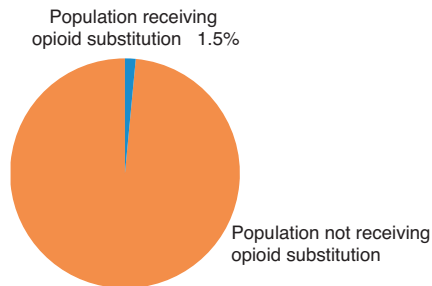




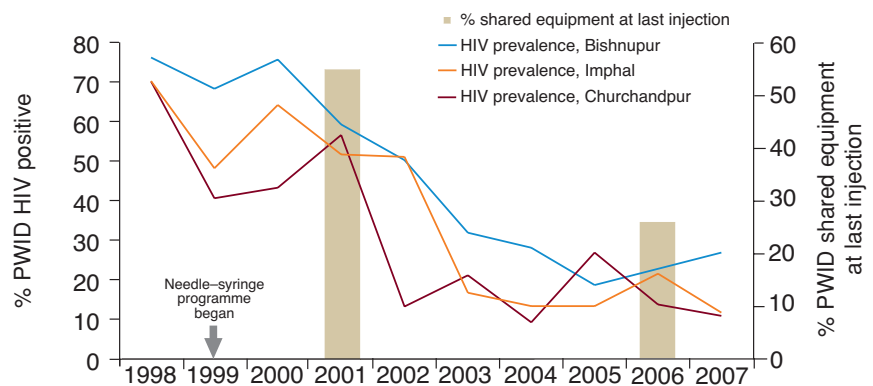
Harm reduction interventions reach too few PWID

- ❑ Less than the required number of needles and syringes necessary for safe injections are being distributed in countries.
- ❑ The proportion of PWID accessing opioid substitution therapy in 2008 was less than 5% in all countries (3.5% India, 1.5% Indonesia, 0.6% Myanmar and 0.7% Nepal).
- ❑ The geographical distribution of harm reduction services within countries is not always in tune with the magnitude and trends of the epidemic.



Harm reduction is an important public health measure in preventing HIV transmission among PWID

- ❑ Harm reduction interventions have led to declines in unsafe injecting associated with reduction in HIV prevalence in PWID in Manipur, India.



Key messages

- ❑ **National AIDS programmes should urgently scale up opioid substitution therapy and needle-syringe programme services to cover at least 50–60% of the population.**
- ❑ **People who inject drugs must receive a sufficient number of syringes to prevent re-use and be able access sterile equipment as long as they continue to inject.**
- ❑ **Countries need to formulate public policy and legislation which is conducive to increasing access of PWID to harm reduction interventions.**

Sources: Sentinel surveillance data, Ministries of Health (Member countries), National AIDS Control Organization, Sentinel surveillance report, 2008, Behavior surveillance surveys, Ministry of Health, Member Countries, Personal communication with WHO Country Office and National AIDS Programme staff, National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health, India