



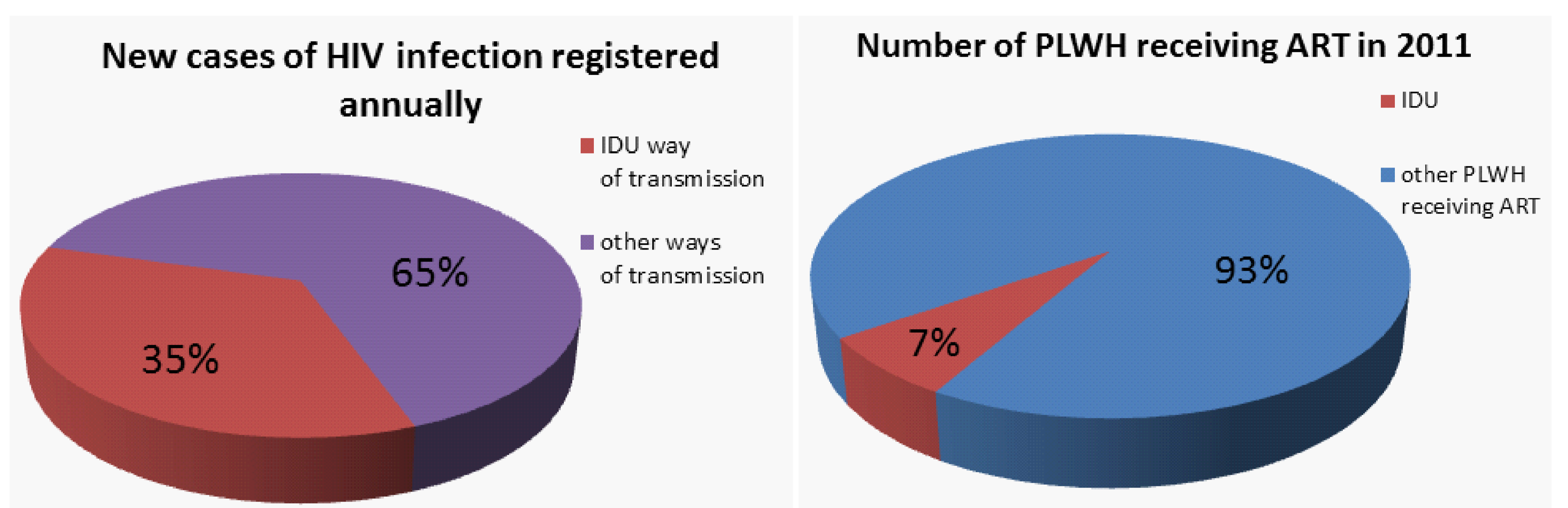
Overcoming barriers on the way of early HIV care provision for MARPs in Ukraine

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A significant progress is observed in ART provision for HIV+ patients over the last years in Ukraine. Nevertheless the access of most at risk population to ARVs remains rather limited.

Out of the general number of PLWH receiving ART (25 865 as of Oct 01, 2011) the active IDUs make only 7% though injecting drug use way of transmission makes 35% of the new infections registered annually.



*Nurse gives medicine to substitution therapy program clients with dual problem HIV-IDU
Donets'k, Ukraine*

Key barriers

- lack of awareness about HIV and benefits HIV treatment
- drug use
- lack of risk perception
- discrimination by health care provider
- unfriendly administrative procedures
- presence of criminal laws against these marginalized groups

Prevention and harm reduction programs for MARPs are usually the first and only point of entry into the public health care system. Compared to prevention programs implemented by NGOs, state medical facilities are high threshold institutions and often it turns out to be impossible to refer the client from the needle exchange point or mobile clinic to the AIDS center for ART and lab testing.

It is crucial to establish effective liaisons between the point of entry of clients into the system of care to the point where they can receive medical care.

Finding a way out

- training programs for outreach workers of prevention programs on treatment literacy
- connecting harm reduction programs with health services provision
- development and implementation of a referral model tailored to client's need
- addressing legal/policy barriers



*Training in All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH
Kyiv, Ukraine*