

# Medication Assisted Treatment in Malaysia

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# Introduction

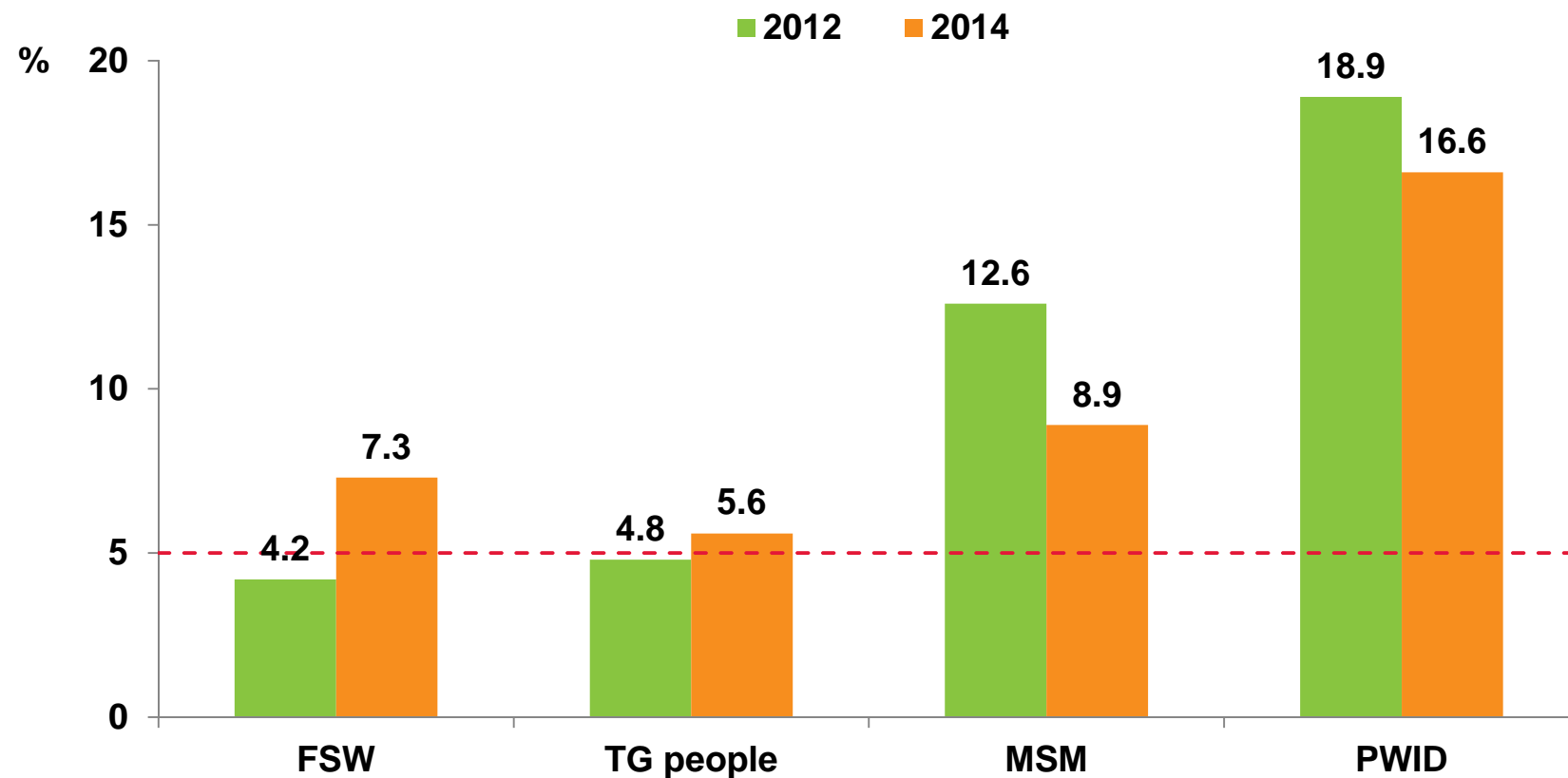
-Medication assisted treatment in Malaysia was introduced as part of a harm reduction strategy to reduce the spread of HIV among people who use drugs.

-Historically, in the country, a punitive response to drug use was used to deal with people who use drugs (PWUD).

-The criminal justice approach limited the involvement of health care professionals in providing treatment for PWUD.

-Rapid scale up of OST programs in the country resulted in decline of HIV prevalence.

# HIV prevalence among key populations, 2012 - 2014



## Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) Facilities (June 2014)

Type of Facility	Number of MMT Facility (Cumulative by Years)								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Hospital	8	25	27	35	40	48	49	53	53
Health Clinic	2	32	32	77	134	168	203	293	295
Govt G.P	7	9	9	14	21	24	21	22	23
NADA	0	0	3	24	25	32	41	59	59
Prison	0	0	4	12	18	18	18	18	18
Others	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1
<b>Total Govt</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>449</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TOTAL GOVT + GP : 814 (June 2014)</b></li> <li>• No. GP providing OST services : 365 (source : MoH Malaysia)</li> </ul>									

*Source : Ministry of Health (MoH) Malaysia*

## Coverage: MMT patients (June 2014)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. of registered patient (Annual)	1,241	2,777	3,047	3,665	5,139	5,086	6,801	5,688	2,189
No. of registered patient (Cumulative)	1,241	4,018	7,065	10,730	15,869	20,955	27,756	33,444	35,633
No. of Active Patient (by end of the year)	932	3,242	5,024	7,455	10,664	14,631	18,401	20,307	20,705
Retention Rate	75%	81%	71%	69%	70%	70%	70.1%	71.3%	84.1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TOTAL REGISTERED Patients at government and and private GP = 67,438 (2014)</b></li> <li>• <b>Cummulative number of patients on OST in private GP : 31,805</b></li> </ul>									

Source : MoH Malaysia

# Challenges

- While reduction of HIV prevalence was achieved, quality of treatment provided need to be examined (moving from OST to MAT).
  - *In a survey conducted in Malaysia 36% of Bup/Nx patients tested positive for opiates, 22% reported injection of Bup/Nx in the past month, 65% never received counseling in the past month, 36% did not meet a physician in the last month (Vicknasingam et al., Drug Alcohol Depend, 2015).*

# Challenges (cont'd)

While reduction of HIV prevalence was achieved, PWUD who are HIV positive accessing ART is still low.

- *Eighteen percent of the total number of people living with HIV in Asia eligible for antiretroviral treatment (ART) accessed treatment (Stone, Harm Reduc J, 2015).*

# Challenges (cont'd)

While reduction of HIV prevalence was achieved, PWUD who are HCV positive accessing treatment is still low.

- *In Asia, about 2.6 million people (range 1.8–3.6 million) are living with hepatitis C, with an average prevalence rate among PWID at 60.7 % (Stone, Harm Reduc J 2014 and Nelson et al., Lancet, 2011).*
- *In a survey conducted in Malaysia, HCV prevalence rates were 67.4% (Vicknasingam et al., Drug Alcohol Rev, 2009)*



# Challenges (cont'd)

- High number of MAT patients using ATS
- High prevalence of Poly drug use in the country.
- There is lack or no targeted treatment for co-dependence of opiates and ATS.

# Conclusion

- Removing legal sanctions for PWUD to access treatment still remains a challenge in many parts of the country. Criminal justice approach has to shift to a public health approach.
- Improved training of physicians and establishing standards for dosing, routine toxicology testing, and counseling may be needed to improve care and treatment response.
- Integration of ART in substance abuse clinics are essential.
- Hepatitis treatment still remains out of reach for most people due to exorbitant prices. Measures to increase testing, diagnosis and treatment are needed.
- Specific behavioral interventions targeting ATS users.