

Profile of Injection Drug Users (IDUs) in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia



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Background

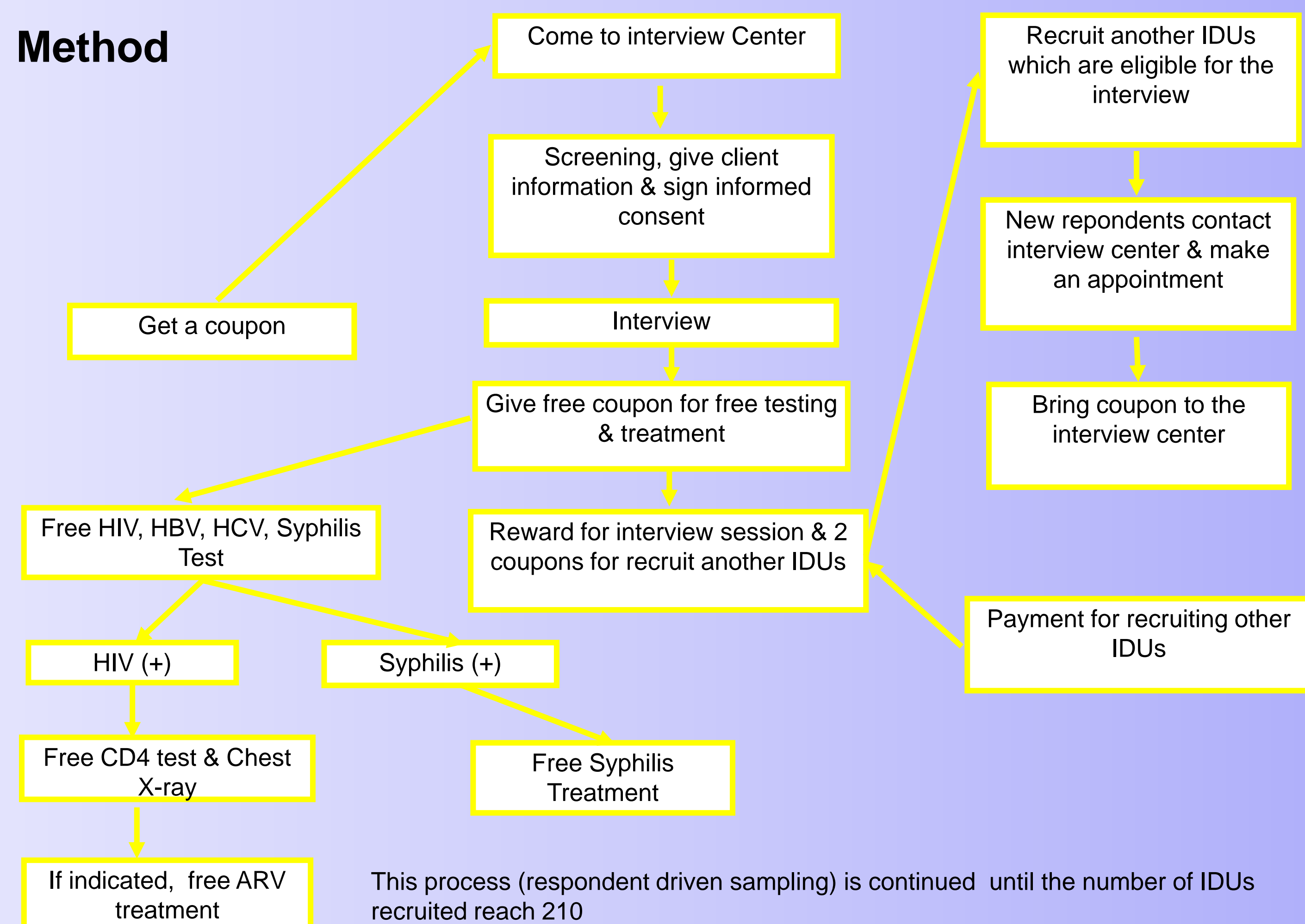
Indonesia has the fastest growing HIV-epidemic in Asia. Except for Papua, the main route of transmission is injecting drug use (IDU). Much is done to overcome this problem but there are still a lot of limitations. For example, only less than 10% of IDUs access needle exchange and methadone program in Bandung. Many IDUs only come to health care center after they get AIDS. To develop a better prevention program, the information about the problems, context, and behavior responsible for HIV transmission are needed.

We conducted a survey among 210 IDUs in Bandung between June and September 2008, using respondent-driven sampling, focusing on drug use, risk behavior and knowledge about HIV. These are the first descriptive results.

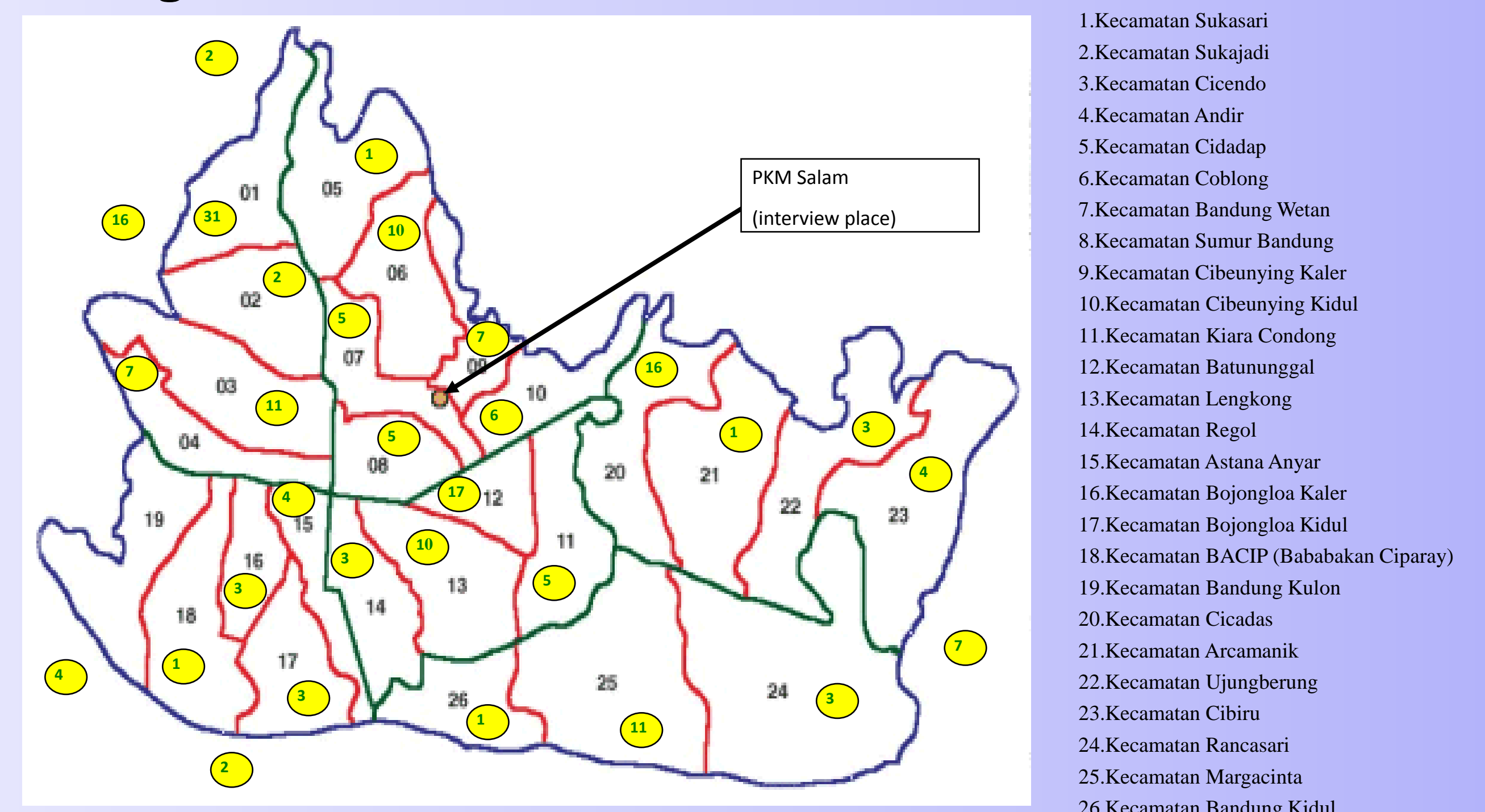
Demographic Characteristics of IDUs (n=210)

Median age	28 years (17 – 42)
% male	92 %
Marital Status	
• Ever married	43 %
• Never married	57 %
Education	
• Senior High School	78 %
• Higher Education	16 %
Employment	
• Full time	41 %
• Part time (regular)	10 %
• Part time (irregular)	27 %
• Unemployed	16 %

Method



Living Area

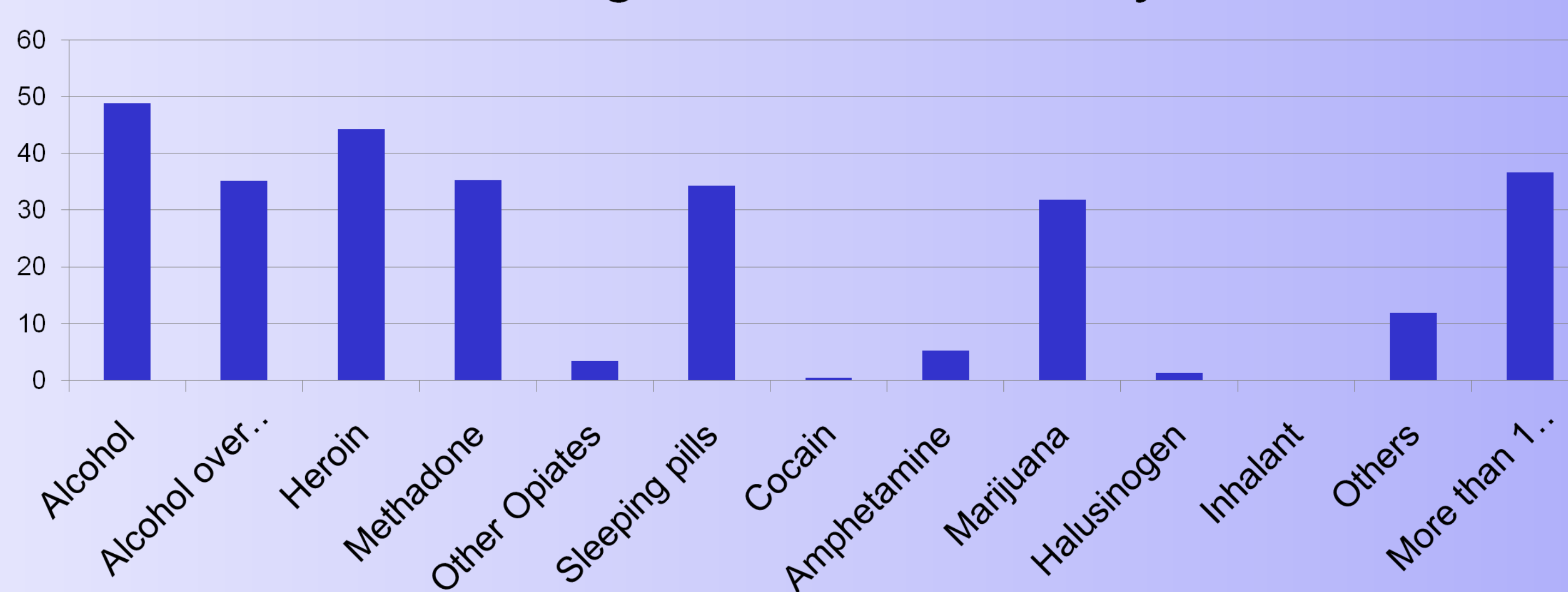


Blood Borne Virus Transmission Risk in The Last 1 Month

Sharing tourniquet	24 %
Sharing water	23 %
Handled another person's used needle when had cuts, sores or lesion	20 %
Sharing mixing container	16 %
Unprotected vaginal sex	41 %
Unprotected vaginal sex during menstruation	16 %
Unprotected anal sex	7 %
Sharing razor	24 %
Sharing personal hygiene equipment	35 %

All respondents had history of IDU, starting at mean age of 18 years (range 11 – 21)
The mean number of years injecting drug was 7 years.

The drug use in the last 30 days

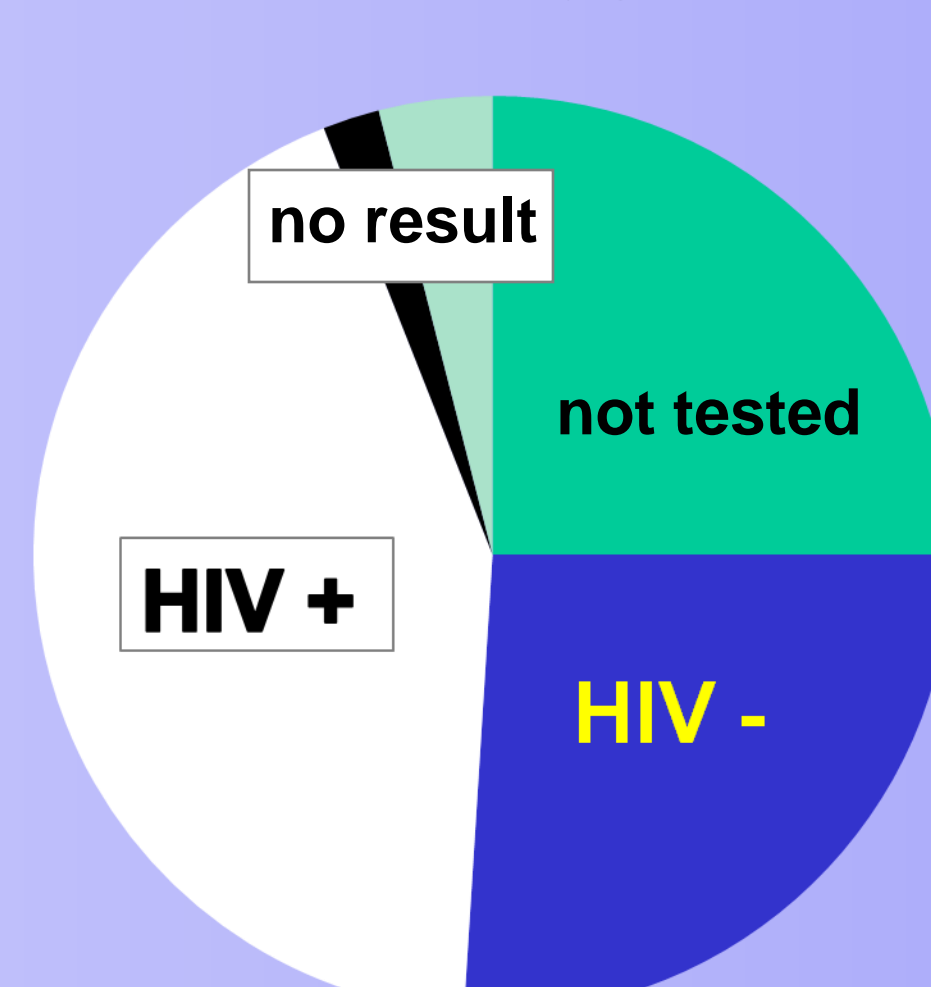


All of the substances above, except alcohol, inhalant & marijuana are ever injected. The most problematic substance in IDUs perception is heroin. The median of months they can stop using drug after treatment or by their own will is 2 months

Knowledge on HIV/AIDS

Question	True (%)
Can people reduce their chances of getting the HIV/AIDS by using a condom every time they have sex?	89
Can a person get HIV/AIDS by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?	84
Can people reduce their chances of getting the HIV/AIDS by taking herbal medicine or antibiotic before they have sexual intercourse?	69
Can you tell from looking at a person if s/he has the HIV?	70
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to a child during pregnancy?	79
Can HIV be transmitted by sharing needles?	97

HIV Test



Conclusion

- Many IDUs have good education, are employed & married
- "Poly drug use" is common
- IDUs engage in unsafe injecting & sexual risk behavior
- Knowledge on HIV/AIDS among IDUs is quite good
- 75% of IDUs have been tested & 60% of those tested are HIV (+)
- Addiction, harm reduction & HIV care have to be provided for IDUs and their spouses
- Addiction care and harm reduction have to be established at community level given the spread of IDUs across Bandung
- There is an opportunity for primary prevention at school
- Further research is needed to understand the gap between knowledge and behavior



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