

Joint Action on HIV and Co-Infection Prevention  
and Harm Reduction HA-REACT  
Vilnius 05/04/2017

**Integrated services for  
people who use drugs  
in consumptions rooms  
in Spain**

*Red Cross, Barcelona, Spain*

*Rosa Kistmacher/Elena Adán Ibañez*

# A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY...

## 1977-1981 Political Transition



# 1982-1992

## "THE HEROIN ISSUE"



**EL PAIS**  
 DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE DE LA MAÑANA  
 DIRECTOR: JUAN LUIS CEBALLOS  
 REDACCION: AVDA. DE LA VILA VIEJA, 147 - 08039 VILADECALES (BARCELONA) - TEL. 33 93 486 11 11  
 DISTRIBUCION: AVDA. DE LA VILA VIEJA, 147 - 08039 VILADECALES (BARCELONA) - TEL. 33 93 486 11 11

**INDICION ESPECIAL DE LAS MUJERES DE LA MAÑANA**

Paga con la operacion, con 100 legajos, muestra en función de la union y el Partido Comunista

**El Partido Socialista, con 201 escaños, consigue la mayoría absoluta para gobernar la nación**

La participación en las elecciones generales del 1982 fue del 75,97%, superior en más de diez puntos a la de 1979

Convergencia i Unió consiguieron su posición en Cataluña

La UCD se hundió irremediablemente en toda España

Los comunistas pasaron a ser una fuerza política con legitimidad

En Europa se

**EL PERIÓDICO de CATALUNYA**  
 Viernes 29 octubre  
 Director: Jordi Pàmies Borràs

# Felipe barre

**editorial**  
 La victoria de la normalidad

Con la victoria electoral del PSOE, España vuelve a la normalidad. No porque el mundo sea un lugar más justo, sino porque el sistema de normalidad que nosotros queremos que se imponga en España es el que nosotros queremos que se imponga en España. El sistema de normalidad que nosotros queremos que se imponga en España es el que nosotros queremos que se imponga en España.

Con esta mayoría el PSOE, tras un período de gobierno por el que se ha producido un gran avance en la lucha contra la droga, empezará a trabajar para la normalidad en España. El sistema de normalidad que nosotros queremos que se imponga en España es el que nosotros queremos que se imponga en España.

Los comunistas pasaron a ser una fuerza política con legitimidad

En Europa se

**VOS ESTIMADOS**

27
7
1
11
-
1

... PRESENTAN

# YO, "EL VAQUILLA"

Realizado por JESÚS GÓMEZ

con TERESA GÓMEZ - GERÓN DE URDÍ - FRANS BARRA - RONALD BIRKES - JOSE COLLADO - JAMES PEARSON

La colaboración especial de ANTONI TORRENTEZ FERRER "EL ROBERT"

Adaptación de JESÚS GÓMEZ

Distribución de JESÚS GÓMEZ

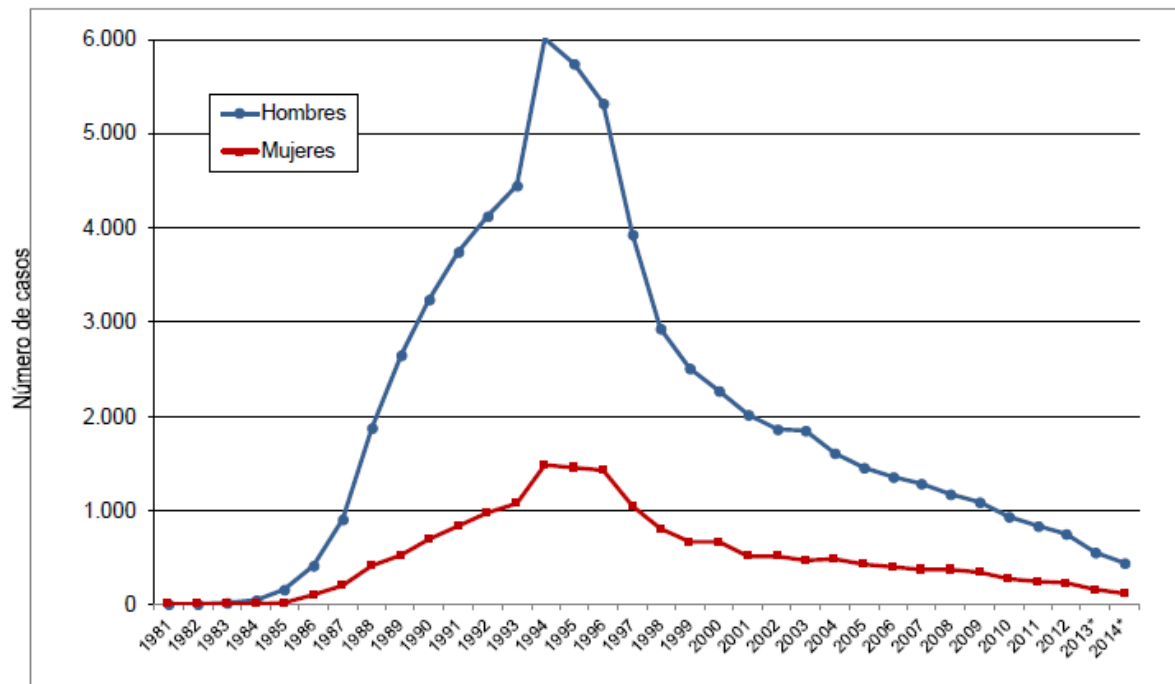
IN CINE



# AIDS CASES IN SPAIN 1981-2014



Figura 22  
Casos de sida en España\* por sexo.  
Registro Nacional de Sida. Datos corregidos por retraso en la notificación





# AIDS CASES IN SPAIN – WAY OF TRANSMISSION 1981-2014

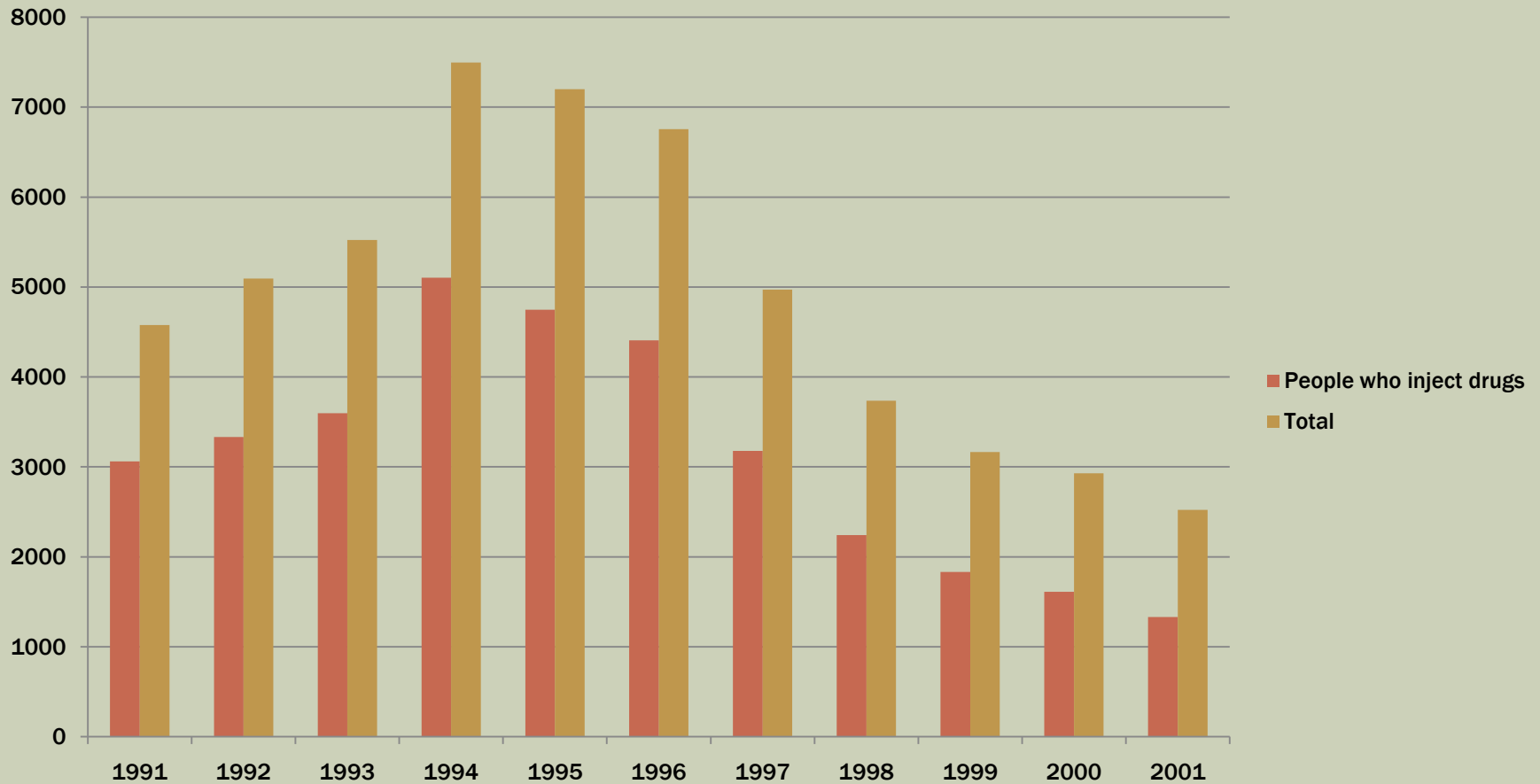
Tabla 13: Casos de sida en España por modo de transmisión y año de diagnóstico. Registro Nacional de Sida. Fecha de actualización: 30 de junio de 2015. Datos corregidos por retraso en la notificación.

Año de diagnóstico	Modo de transmisión						TOTAL*
	HSH	Heterosexual	PID	Materno-infantil	Hemoderivados	Transfusión	
1981	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1982	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
1983	4	0	4	0	4	2	14
1984	12	0	22	1	12	1	52
1985	37	4	109	6	19	1	178
1986	88	16	315	23	43	8	500
1987	211	47	716	34	47	20	1096
1988	340	101	1581	88	77	32	2274
1989	526	194	2175	88	84	31	3171
1990	585	323	2744	69	67	41	3941
1991	710	423	3061	86	78	44	4578
1992	795	559	3332	83	58	43	5093
1993	820	700	3595	86	53	30	5524
1994	925	1037	5102	84	69	23	7495
1995	961	1093	4748	84	59	23	7198
1996	794	1180	4407	55	54	17	6756
1997	543	934	3176	42	24	18	4970
1998	452	806	2240	24	10	6	3735
1999	387	672	1832	17	8	10	3165
2000	379	660	1610	12	8	4	2927
2001	334	610	1329	13	12	13	2522
2002	327	643	1200	9	6	2	2369
2003	357	626	1148	10	7	4	2312
2004	345	596	972	6	6	2	2087
2005	291	579	850	9	3	4	1874
2006	302	535	750	7	3	1	1752
2007	300	490	671	10	6	2	1639
2008	322	535	537	8	2	7	1544
2009	315	491	450	8	5	2	1418
2010	338	394	336	3	1	2	1206
2011	314	344	290	3	3	0	1063
2012**	313	321	230	3	0	2	968
2013**	235	233	163	3	0	2	713
2014**	195	186	114	0	0	0	557

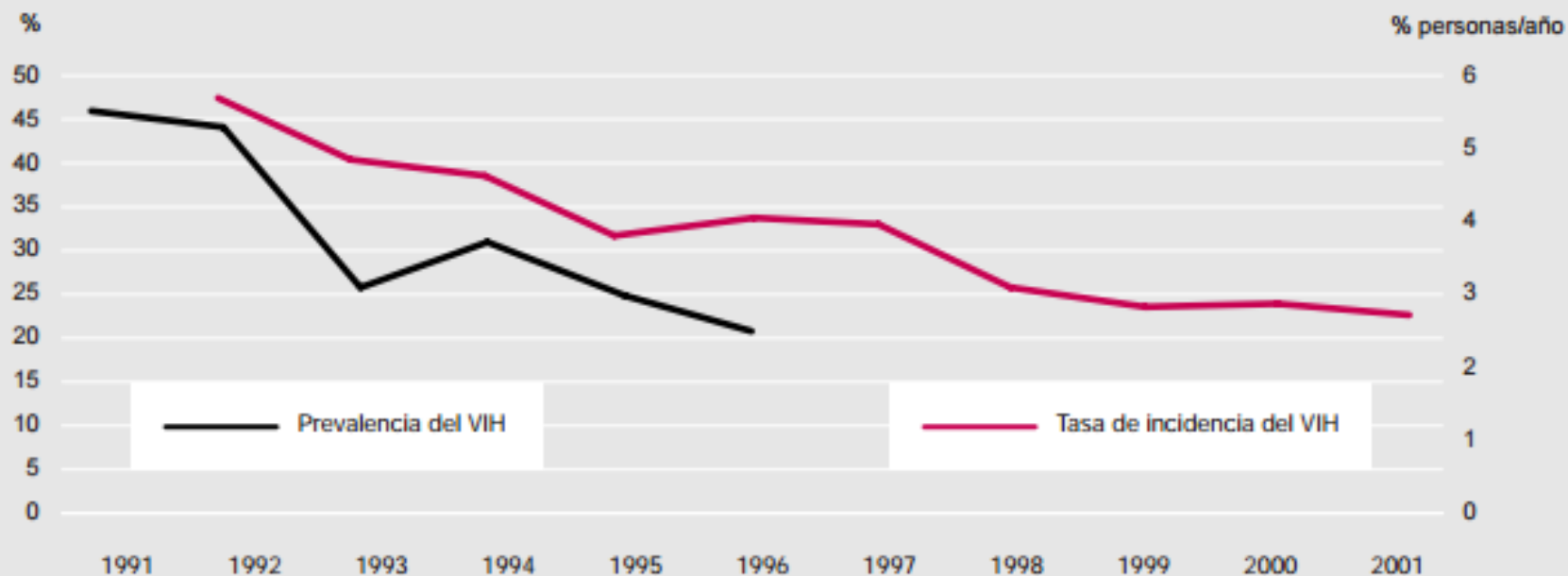
PID =  
people  
who  
inject  
drugs

HSH=Hombres que mantienen relaciones sexuales con hombres; PID=Personas que se inyectan drogas. \*En el total se incluyen también los casos con modo de transmisión no informada; \*\*Estimaciones corregidas por retraso que pueden sufrir modificaciones conforme se complete la notificación.

# AIDS CASES IN SPAIN – Total vs. PID 1991-2001



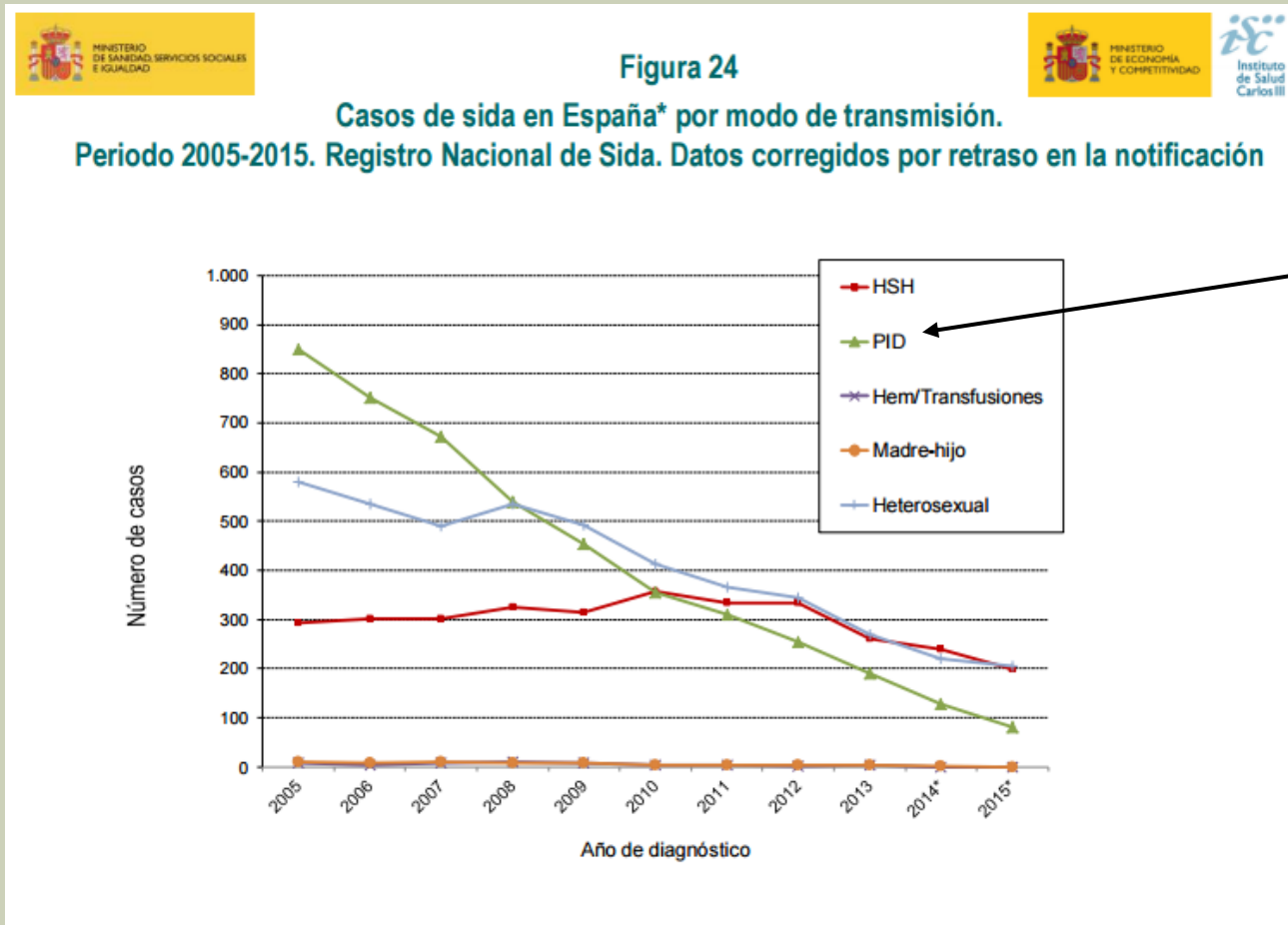
# BARCELONA – HIV INCIDENCE IN PUD\* 1991-2001



Fuente: Sistema d'Informació de Drogues de Barcelona.

Figura 5. Prevalencia e incidencia del VIH en usuarios de drogas ilegales que inician tratamiento, por año. Barcelona, 1991-2001.

# ACTUALITY

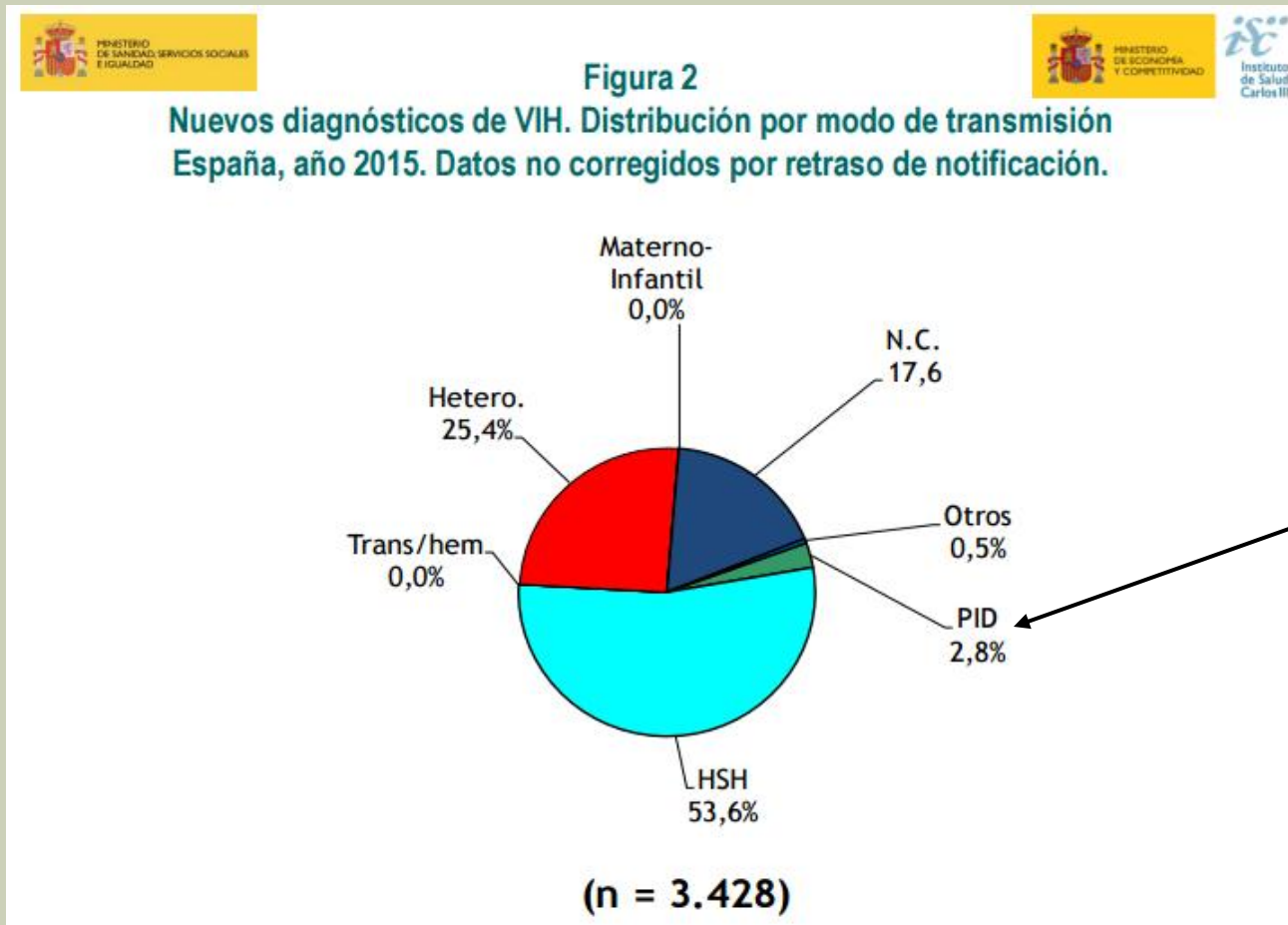


PID = people who inject drugs

AIDS cases in Spain 2005-2015, by way of transmission



# ACTUALITY



*New diagnoses of HIV in Spain by way of transmission in 2015*

# SO HOW DID WE DO IT?

Spain reacted *late*, but once we did, we did so effectively.

By **guaranteeing** people who use drugs **access to**:

- Methadone and other treatment programs
- Needle exchange programs and other paraphernalia
- Low threshold harm reduction services
- Education on safer use and safer sex
- Drug consumption rooms
- Test-and-Treat Strategies for prevention of HIV + VHC infection (rapid test and conventional blood test)
- Medical care / linkage to care
- Outreach work

# DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOMS (DCRs) / SAFER INJECTION FACILITIES (SIFs) in Spain

<b>DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOM (DCR)</b>	<b>Operating period</b>	<b>Capacity / N° of places</b>	<b>Context</b>
<b>DAVE (Madrid)</b>	May 2000 until December 2011	10 places for injected drug use	Situated close to a slum/in the outskirts of Madrid, open drug scene. Closed due to lack of funding.
<b>Can Tunis (Barcelona)</b>	Sept 2001 until December 2004	3 places in a tent / from 2002 onwards mobile unit with 5 spaces for injected drug use	Open drug scene in the outskirts of Barcelona, totally insalubrious conditions. Closed by the end of 2004 due to privatization of the area.
<b>SAPS (Barcelona)</b>	October 2003 until September 2016	2 places for injected drug use	Located in the city center, in a drop-in that opened 1993. Also attends sex workers.
<b>DCR Médicos del Mundo (Bilbao)</b>	November 2003 to the present	6 places for injected drug use/ 6 spaces for inhaled drug use since 2005	Located in the city center, after a long process of planning and active participation of all implicated agents.
<b>El Local La Mina (Sant Adrià)</b>	June 2004 to the present	At first 2 spaces/ then 4/ since 2013 8 places for injected drug use	Situated at the border to Barcelona, in a neighborhood where historically drug trade is the income for a lot of families. Nonetheless, those same people don't support the DCR.
<b>Baluard (Barcelona)</b>	December 2004 to the present	5 places for injected drug use / since 2009 6 places for inhaled use	After Can Tunis was closed, Baluard opened in the center of Barcelona, very close to SAPS. They also offer a low threshold methadone program.

# DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOMS (DCRs) / SAFER INJECTION FACILITIES (SIFs) in Spain

<b>DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOM (DCR)</b>	<b>Operating period</b>	<b>Capacity / N° of places</b>	<b>Context</b>
<b>Mobile Unit / Zona Franca (Barcelona)</b>	April 2005 to the present	3 places for injected drug use	Situated close to a health care center. Attends mostly cocaine users.
<b>DCR within outpatient treatment Centre Vall d´Hebron (Barcelona)</b>	July 2005 to the present	3 places for injected drug use	Suffered severe protests from neighbors, nowadays it's located on the hospital grounds.
<b>DCR Arrels (Lleida)</b>	February 2009 to the present	2 places for injected drug use/ 3 places for inhaled drug use	Located in the city center, in a drop-in that opened 1994.
<b>DCR within outpatient treatment Centers Forum / Garbivent/ Sants/ Sarria (Barcelona)</b>	2012 to the present	1 place / 2 places / 2 places / 1 place, all for injected drug use	All located within integrated treatment Centers.
<b>DCR within outpatient treatment Centre Red Cross (Barcelona)</b>	September 2016 to the present	2 spaces for injected drug use	After closing of SAPS, the DCR within the Red Cross outpatient treatment Centre opened.
<b>Mobile unit (Badalona)</b>	2012 to the present	2 places for injected drug use	Strategically placed in a neighborhood with high incidence of drug use.

# SO HOW DID WE DO IT? BARCELONA / RED CROSS

1982- "CAS" Low threshold treatment Centre

1993- "SAPS" Low threshold harm reduction Centre

2011- "CID" Integrated treatment Centre/harm reduction

2016- Integrated treatment Centre/harm reduction with consumption room

# WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER AT THE INTEGRATED CONSUMPTION ROOM?

- **2 places for safe injection** of illegal drugs, supervised by a trained nurse, possibility of assisting the technique
- **Needle exchange program** and other paraphernalia (lead free tin foil for smoked heroine use, condoms...)
- **Workshops** on safer use, safer sex, overdose prevention and Naloxone
- **Rapid test for HIV**, hepatitis C, syphilis, pregnancy
- **Counselling** and referral into treatment
- **Low threshold day care Centre** (open Mo-Fr 8.45am-1.30pm and 6pm-12pm)
- **Shower**, washing machine, clean clothes, toiletries
- **Nursery** (wound care, medication, blood tests, vaccination, counselling) and general practitioner 2 times a week
- **Legal advice** once a week
- **Social assistance**
- **Low threshold educational support** (languages, CV, job search)
- **Collection of material** in the surrounding neighborhoods (payed activity, for up to 6 clients, 2h once a week)
- .....



# DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOM (DCR) / SAFER INJECTION FACILITY (SIF)



← 2003-2016

2017 →



# BARCELONA – past and presence



**Can Tunis  
(open drug scene)**

## **BEFORE:**

- No access to water
- discharged needles
- unattended overdoses

## **AFTER:**

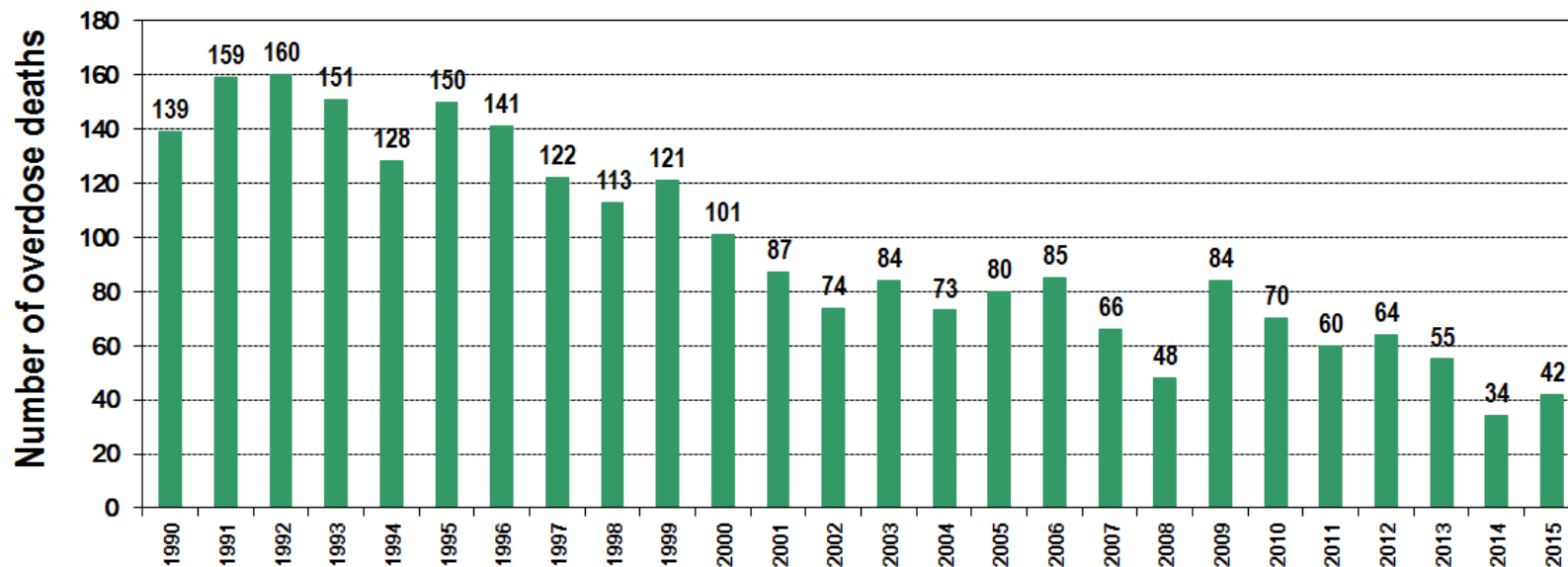
- Clean and sterile material
- Take-away containers e.g. for squatters
- Take-away Naloxone



**DCR Red Cross  
+ material**

# OVERDOSE RELATED DEATHS IN BARCELONA

## Deaths due to overdose Barcelona, 1990-2015



Source: Public Health Agency of Barcelona

# Causes of death

Heroin

Cocaine

Overdose  
(respiratory depression)

Cardiac arrest

Seizures

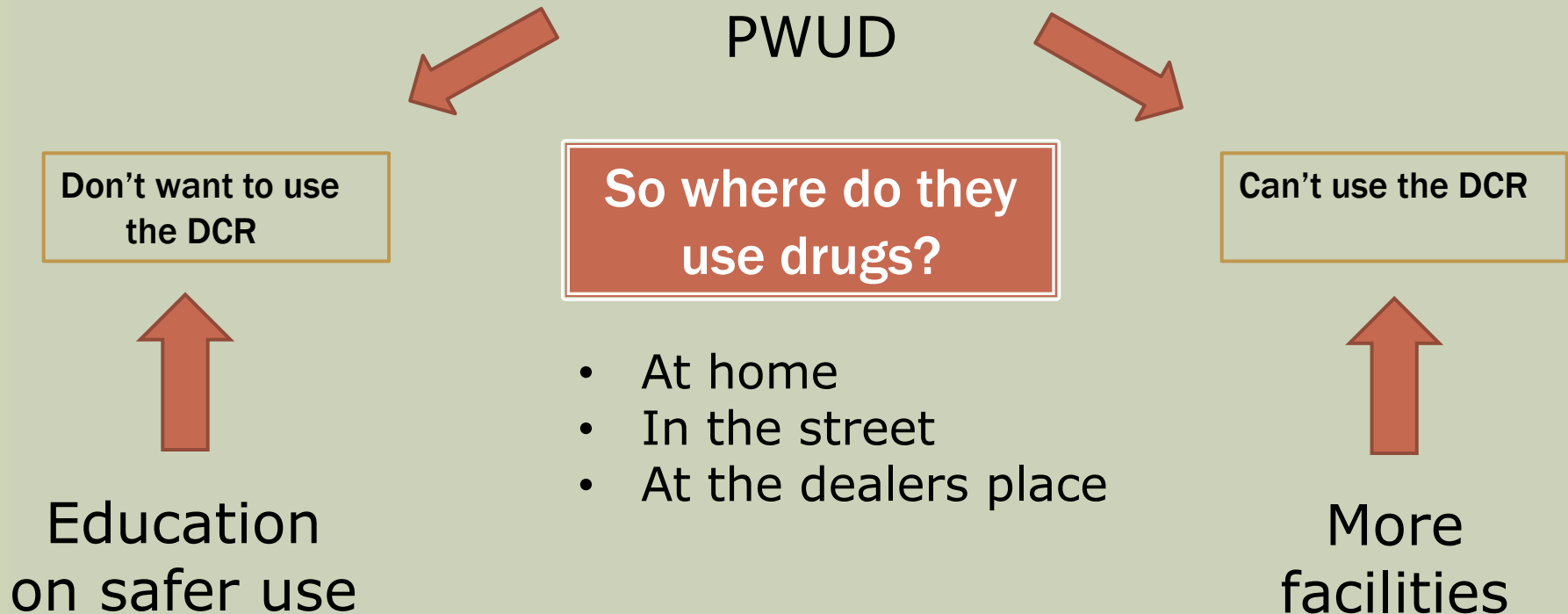
Stroke

Naloxone / ventilation

Call emergency services /  
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

# Why are there still new HIV / HCV infections and deaths due to overdose?

- Not all consumptions are supervised → if we reached a 100% coverage of supervised consumptions, there would be no new infections / no deaths due to overdose



# Challenges

- 24/7 coverage of consumption rooms
- Changes in the patterns of drug trade and drug use (doses are sold in flats and must be taken on-site)
- Appearance of new substances, related compulsive drug use (e.g. methamphetamine, “legal highs”)

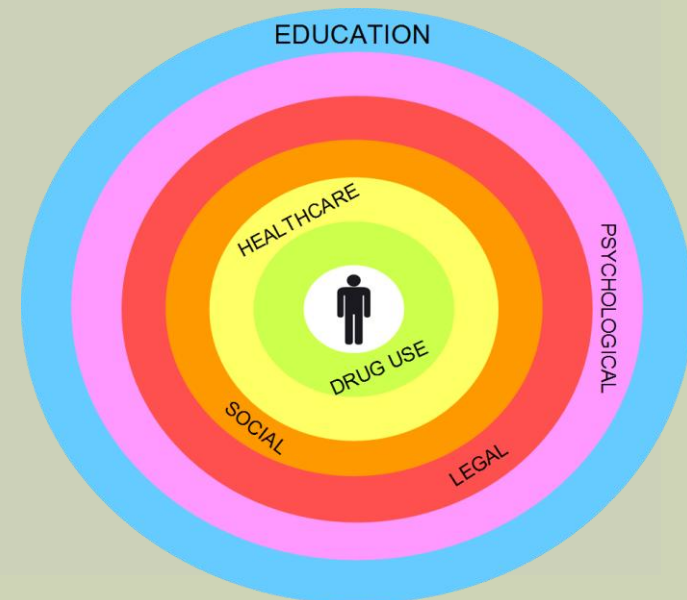


# GOOD PRACTICES

- **1995: Reco.Je = activity “picking up” discharged needles + material in the surrounding areas → sensitization of users and community**
- **1996: screening and counselling for people who use drugs, and sex workers (HIV, syphilis, hep A,B,C, tuberculosis, pregnancy)**
- **1998: temporary accommodation in hostels and pensions (>75% of our clients are homeless) → lack of (adequate) responses for drug users needs, convalescence...**
- **1999: determination of viral load and access to treatment**
- **2004: guaranteeing access to health care for foreigners without documents (45% of foreign population at SAPS)**
- **2007: Intervention on fines → community work instead of fines or prison sentences**
- **2007: Study “Sense Sostre”, grants to cover basic needs to improve the adherence to HIV treatment for homeless HIV+ drug users**
- **2007: grants of small quantity to cover costs for public transport, for clients without income**

# GOOD PRACTICE ALSO MEANS:

- Response to reality: observe and react
- Client-oriented: “nothing about us, without us”, implication of users in planning and execution of drug services
- Pragmatism
- Basic facilities
- Holistic approach: multidisciplinary team (health workers, social workers, psychologists, lawyers, anthropologists, job inserters, volunteers.....)



# REMAINING CHALLENGES

- Smokers
- HCV attention
- Dual diagnosis
- Temporary lodging



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION



CID Creu Roja  
Davant del Portal Nou, 2  
08003 Barcelona, SPAIN  
0034 932 68 47 15

[rosa.kistmacher@creuroja.org](mailto:rosa.kistmacher@creuroja.org)