

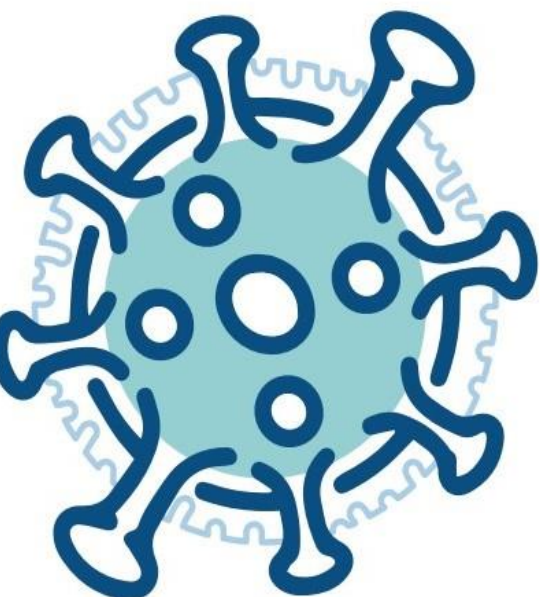
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Thanyarak maehongson hospital
MoPH, Thailand

Opioid situations: COVID-19 pandemic

Virtual seminar : policy and strategic planning for opioid use disorder in Thailand : introduction of newer
choice medication “ **buprenorphine plus naloxone**”
13 Sep 2021

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY
POLICY
IMPLICATIONS

1
WORLD
DRUG
REPORT 2021



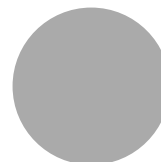
SUGGESTIONS ABOUT TREATMENT, CARE AND REHABILITATION OF PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A contribution to the health security of countries and communities

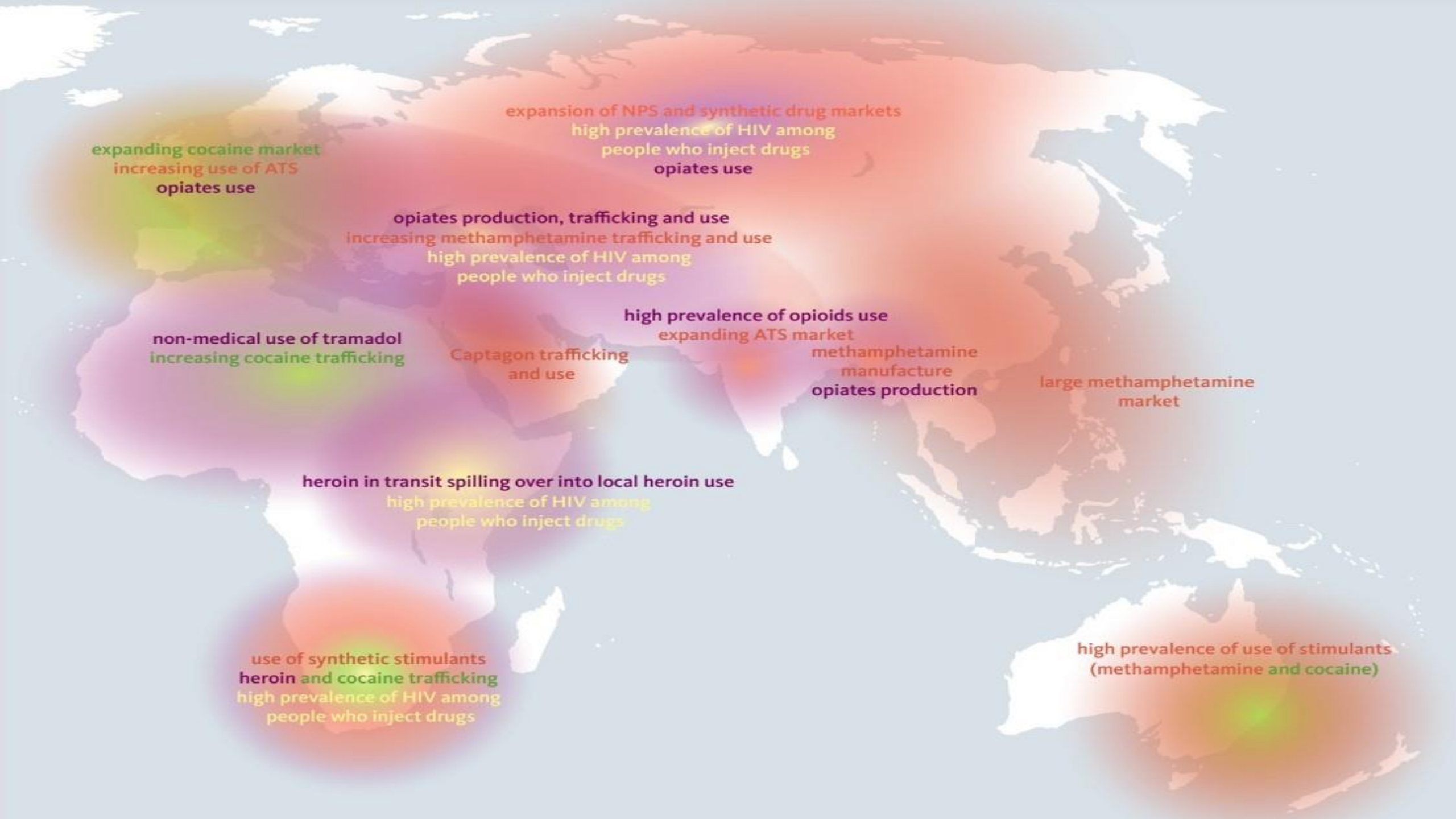
OUTLINE



Impact of COVID-19 in SUD care



Approach



expansion of NPS and synthetic drug markets
high prevalence of HIV among
people who inject drugs
opiates use

opiates production, trafficking and use
increasing methamphetamine trafficking and use
high prevalence of HIV among
people who inject drugs

expanding cocaine market
increasing use of ATS
opiates use

non-medical use of tramadol
increasing cocaine trafficking

Captagon trafficking
and use

high prevalence of opioids use
expanding ATS market

methamphetamine
manufacture
opiates production

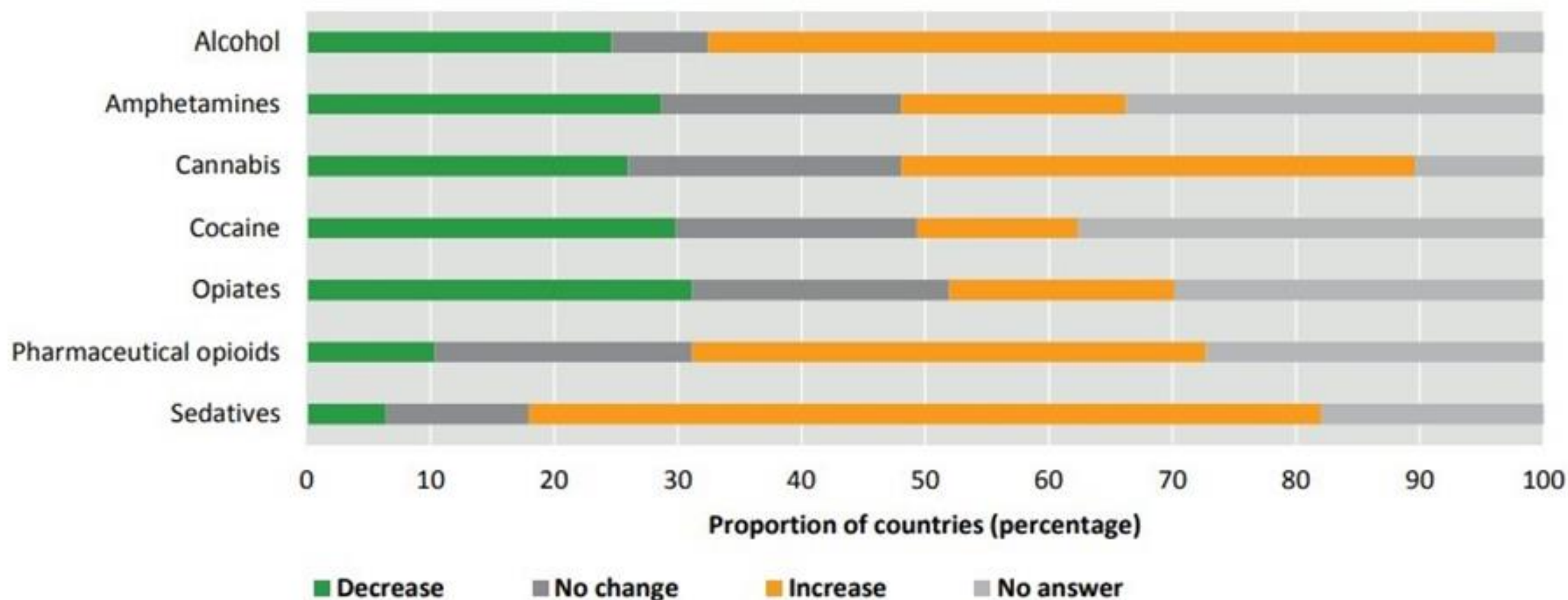
large methamphetamine
market

heroin in transit spilling over into local heroin use
high prevalence of HIV among
people who inject drugs

use of synthetic stimulants
heroin and cocaine trafficking
high prevalence of HIV among
people who inject drugs

high prevalence of use of stimulants
(methamphetamine and cocaine)

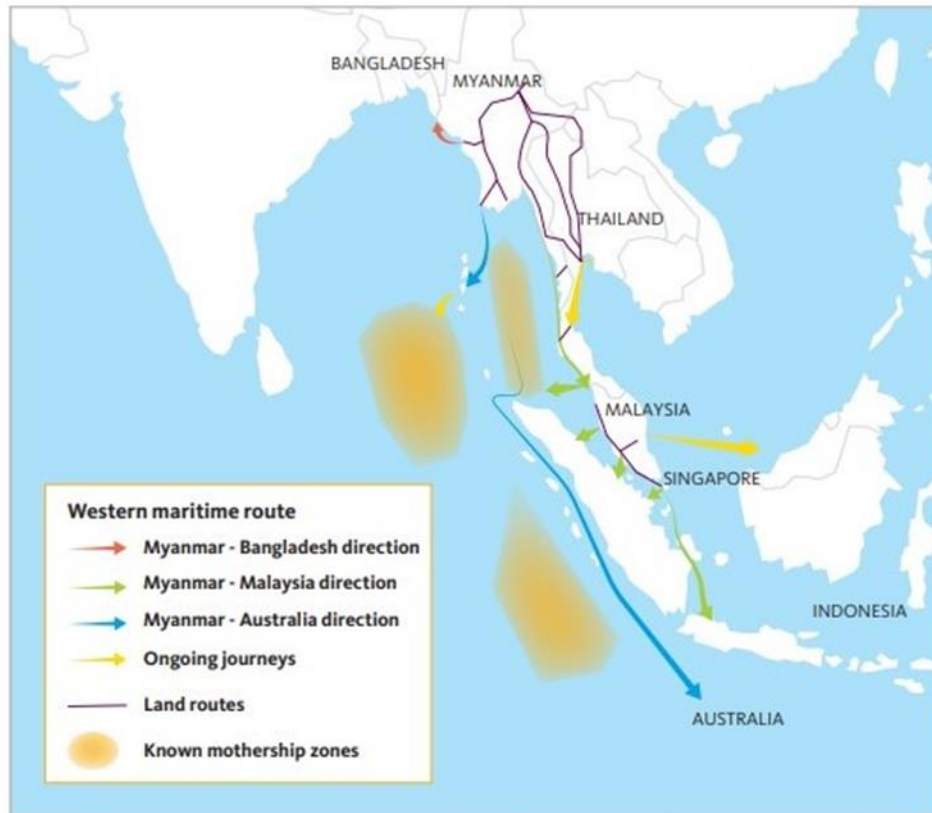
FIG. 24 Trends in drug use during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, as reported by national addiction medicine professionals, by substance, April–May 2020



Source: Ali Farhoudian and others, "A global survey on changes in the supply, price and use of illicit drugs and alcohol, and related complications during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic", *MedRxiv* (2020).

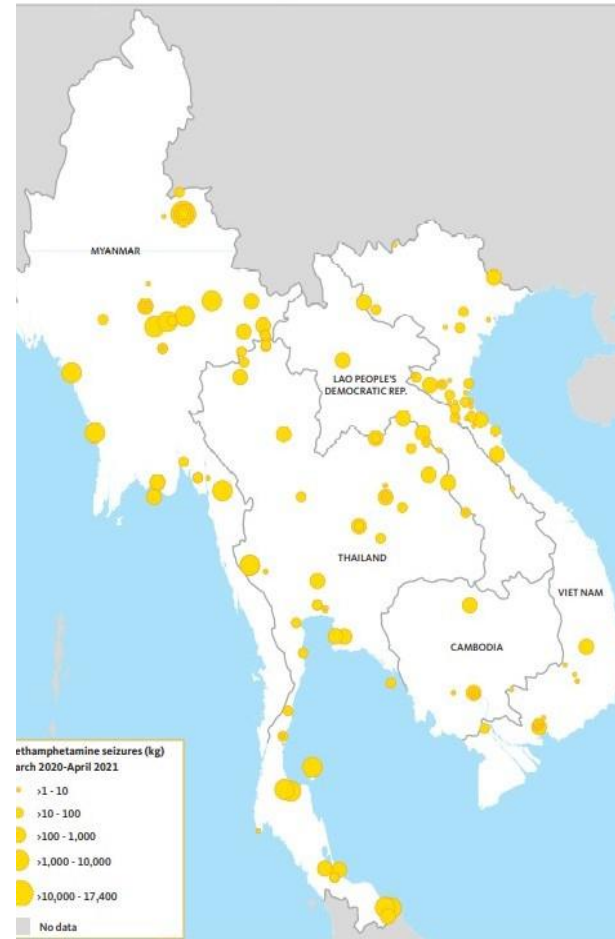
Situations 2021 : supply

MAP 7 Western maritime route for trafficking methamphetamine



Source: UNODC, "The pandemic effect: the impact of COVID-19 on drug trafficking in the maritime domain", Western Maritime Route Forum briefing note, Initiative of the Global Maritime Crime Programme (January 2021).

MAP 1 Significant methamphetamine seizures in South-East Asia, March 2020–April 2021



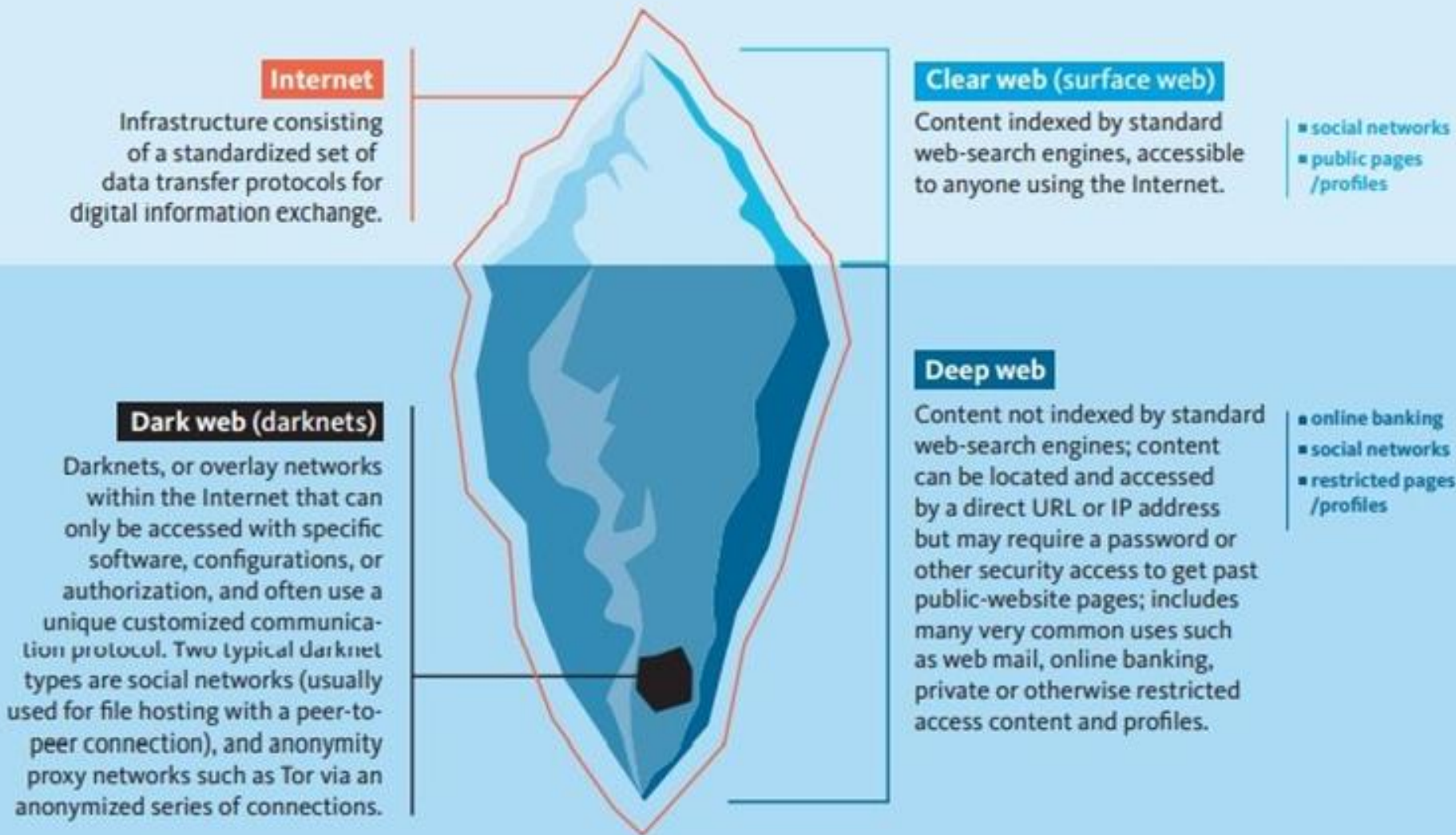
Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform.

COVID HAS ACCELERATED SOME DRUG TRAFFICKING PATTERNS

- Larger shipment size
- Increased use of private aircraft
- Increased use of waterway routes
- Contactless methods to deliver drugs to end-consumers



THE INTERNET: CLEAR WEB, DEEP WEB AND DARK WEB



Online channel

Summary of the main drivers of increased drug use	Summary of the main drivers of decreased drug use
Increased anxiety resulting from the pandemic	Reduced contact with other people who use drugs
Increased stress resulting from the pandemic and related lockdown measures	Lockdown measures that restricted the ability of users to purchase drugs from drug dealers
Boredom	Reduced access to recreational spaces and entertainment venues
Increased disposable income	Income loss
Loneliness, depression and isolation	Reduced availability of drugs
More time spent with partners or friends living in the same household who are also people who use drugs	Challenging living arrangements
More free time	Reduced opportunities for social drug use
Stockpiling of drugs before the lockdown	Lower drug quality

POST-COVID ECONOMIC CRISIS WILL HAVE GREATEST IMPACT ON DRUG MARKETS

Expanding drug cultivation and trafficking

food insecurity may intensify
illicit drug cultivation
and production



More drug use

a protracted economic crisis
may accelerate progression
to drug use disorders



GAMING DISORDER
CODE 6C51

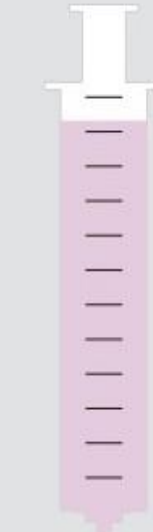


For the first time,
WHO is classifying
gaming disorder
as an addictive
behaviour disorder
– now we can
measure how many
people are affected



#ICD11

MORE THAN 11 MILLION PEOPLE INJECT DRUGS



11.2 million
people inject drugs



5.6 million

people who inject drugs are
living with hepatitis C

1.4 million

people who inject drugs are
living with HIV

1.2 million

people who inject drugs are
living with HIV and hepatitis C

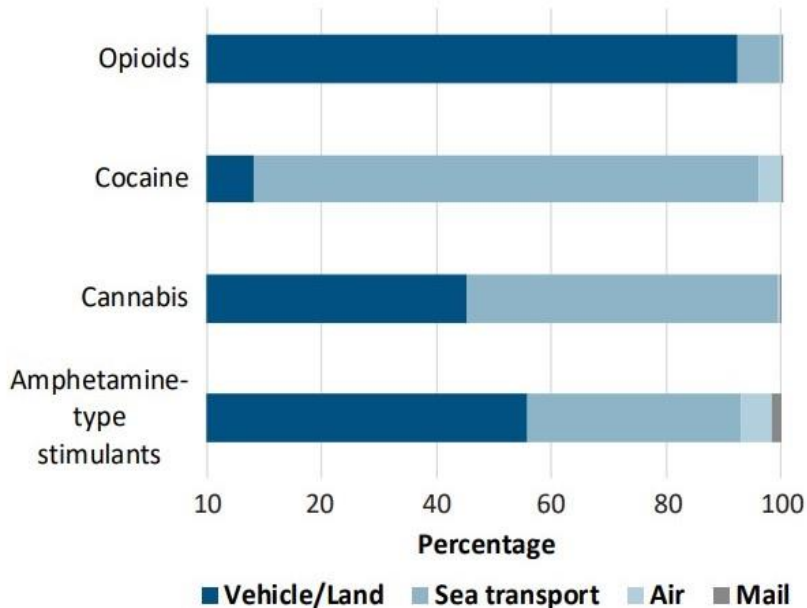
consequences

Impact of COVID-19 in Thailand



EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON DRUG MARKETS

Modes of transportation used in significant drug seizures, by substance, January 2017–April 2020



Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform.

The impact of the pandemic is unknown and hard to predict

- Some producers could be forced to **seek out new ways to manufacture** drugs as restrictions on movement constrict access to precursors and essential chemicals.
- **Traffickers** may have to find new routes and methods as travel restrictions stop them from crossing borders.
- **Patterns** of drug use and availability may change → chemsex, NPS, mixed
- The **capacity** of Governments to respond may be hobbled.

Some things can be learned from previous, the economic crisis of 2008

- I. Some users began seeking out **cheaper synthetic substances**
- II. Faster patterns of use shifted towards **injecting drugs**.
- III. Governments reduced drug-related budgets.

Thailand

Government crisis measures

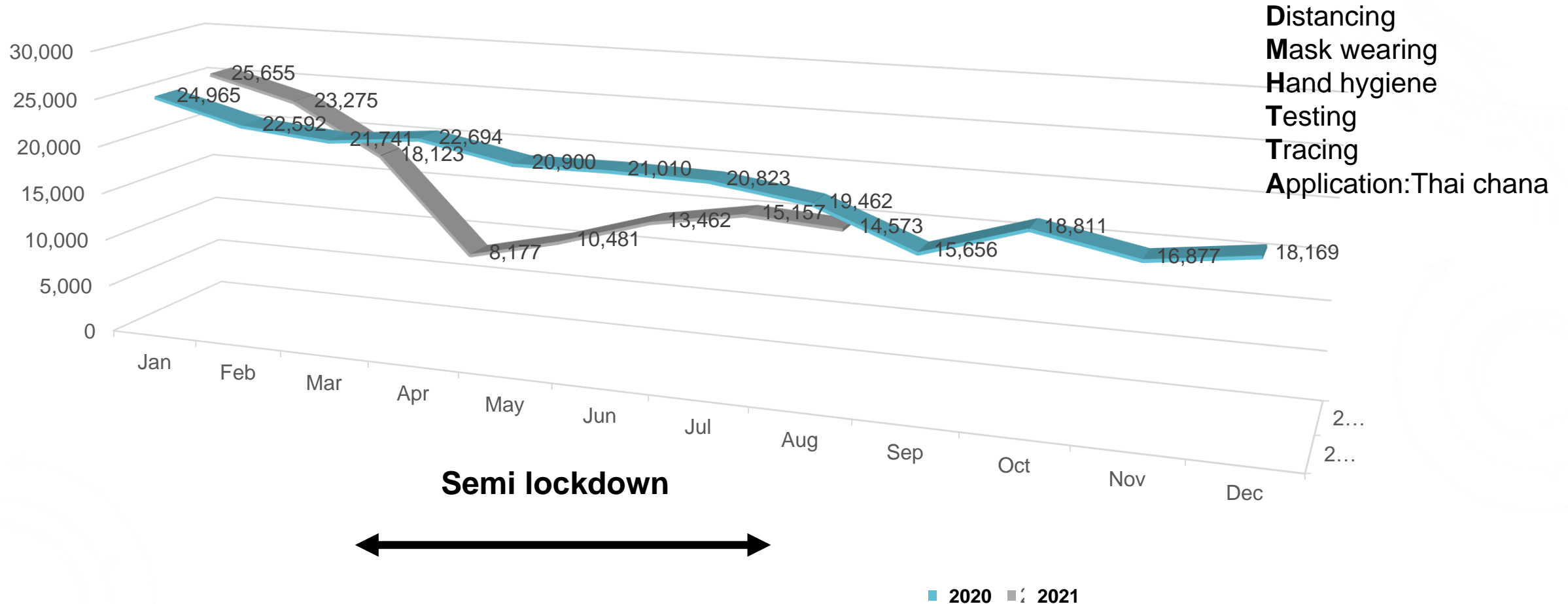
- Curfew, State of emergency
- Border closed, travel restriction
- Checkpoints between provinces

MoPH crisis measures

- Primary care
- Government volunteer
- 2P safety , non-crowded

DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT CASES: JAN 2020 – AUG 2021

Encourage: DMHTTA



Overall treatment number dropped (April-August)

- Primary care and telemedicine more used

Compulsory treatment

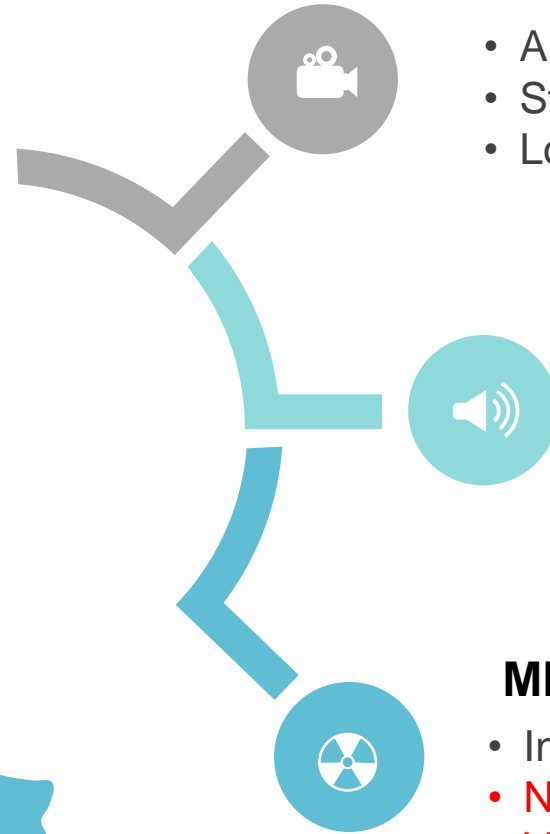
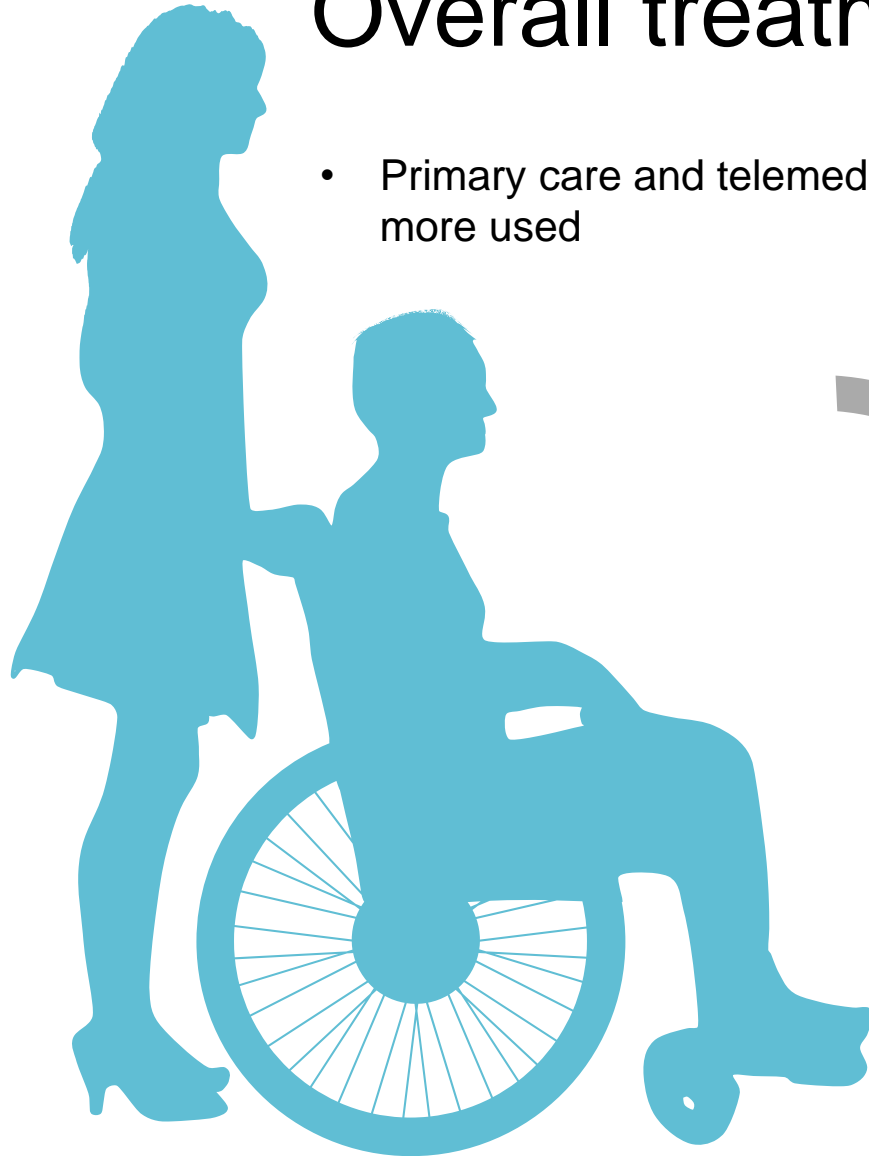
- Arrests reduced, delayed sentencing
- Strict detention unit closed/reduced admission
- Local containment, limited movement

Voluntary treatment

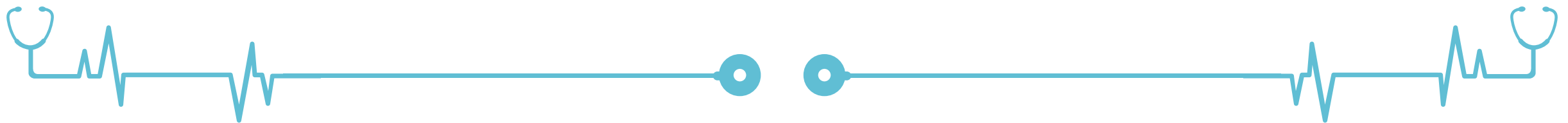
- Limited OPD cases per day
- Reduced hospital admission
- Reduced group therapy
- Extended the program

MMT clinic

- Increased take-home interval(stabilized cases)
- **Networking : check in**
- **Video call monitoring**



IMPACT→SUD

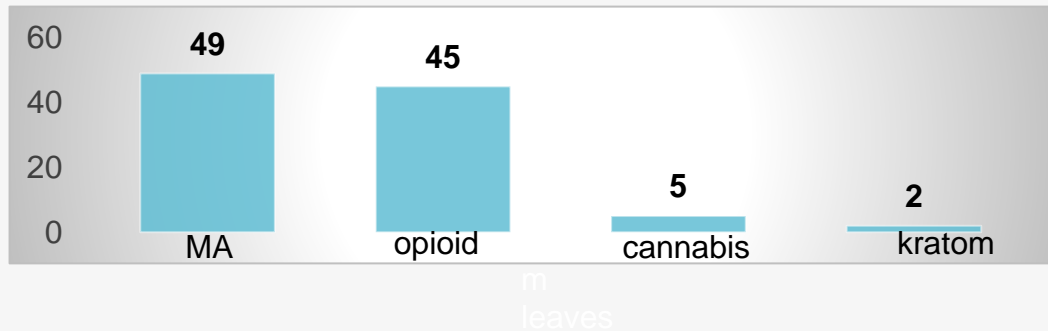


SURVEY ON DRUG treatment system : COVID-19 IMPACT

settings

- ✓ Total of 53 government drug treatment clinic
- ✓ 87% (46/53) district hospital
- ✓ 9% (5) primary care setting
- ✓ 4% (2) specialized drug treatment center

TYPE OF DRUG in treatment settings : main drugs



Apisak, Thanyarak Chiangmai hospital, Nov 2020

Setting

33 OPD clinic only
18 OPD + integrated bed for acute care
2 OPD + IPD rehabilitation

Service

53 Matrix program for MA (+SBIRT, MI/MET)
22 Matrix program + MMT clinic
53 harm reduction for IVDUs & non-IVDUs

situations

MA and heroin price cheaper : **over supply**
Switching from yaba to Ice among young users
Increased heroine use in Bangkok, Chiangmai, Chiangrai

Old cases: → **retention rate dropped**
New case: **younger age**, woman, LGBTQ, migrant

Country Lockdown:
Drug trafficking, dealing more difficult
On-line trades, Sale promotion more common

Before pandemic



Services of MMT clinic



pandemic



COVID-19 : opioid treatment



❑ 2-20 case

❑ every 1-14 (3.2) day

❑ 20-40(34.60) mg/day

❑ 1-7(4.2) day

❑ 10-350(240)mg/visit

❖ Client per operate day

❖ Hospital visit

❖ Average doses of methadone

❖ Take home dose

❖ Total take home dose per visit

❑ 1-10 case **(50% dropped)**

❑ every 7-30 (11.7) day ↑

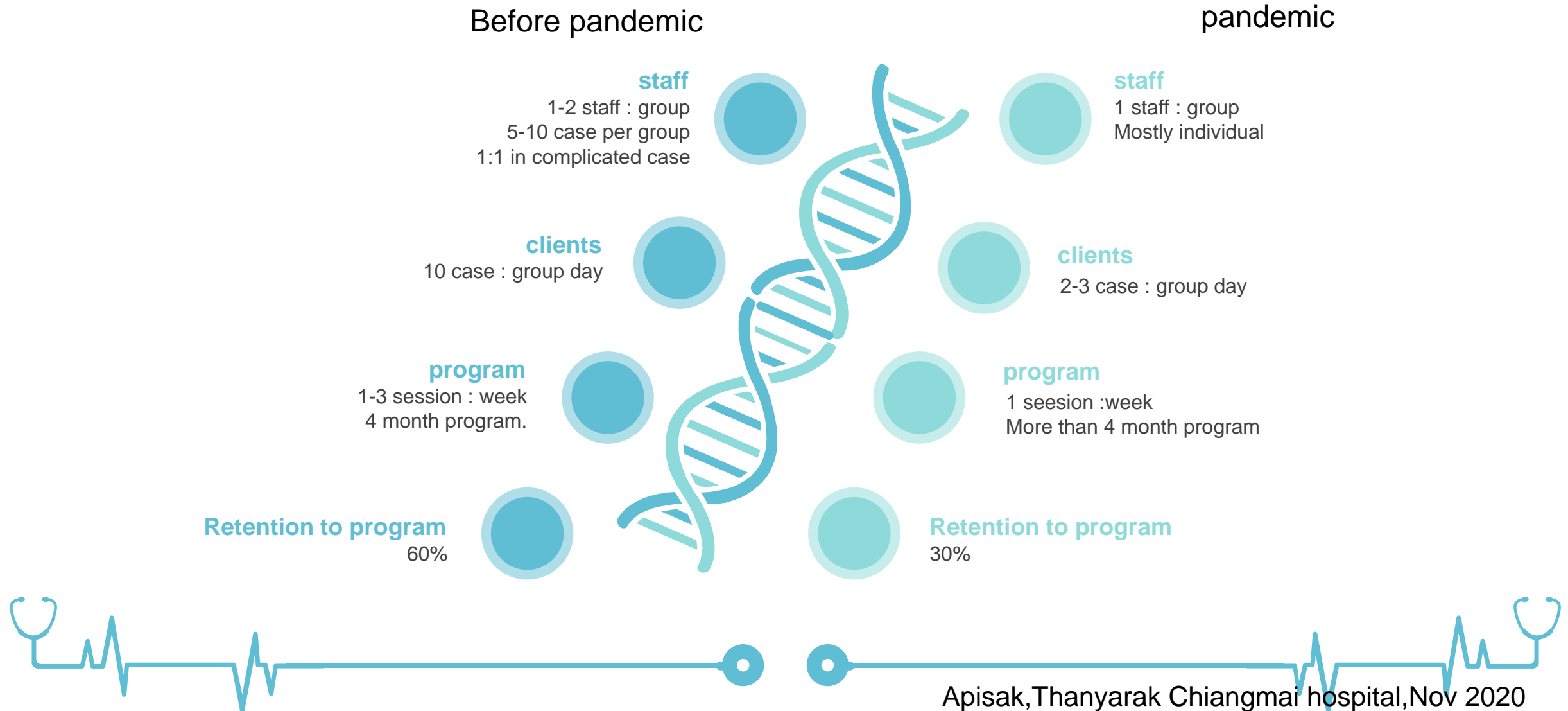
❑ 25-40(38.1)mg/day ↑

❑ 7-30(9.2) day ↑

❑ 10-420(340) mg/visit ↑

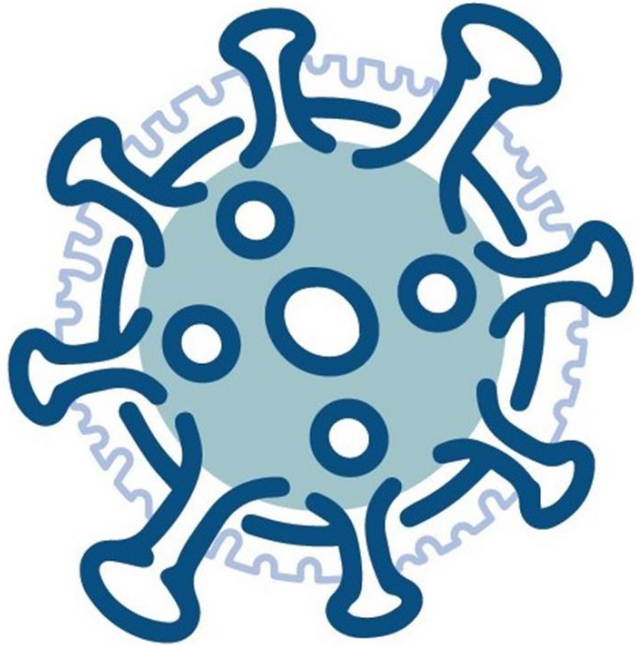
- Estimated client opioid(heroin + opium) around 4-5% over the time
- no significant proportion in general
- Lack of integrated data of outcome indicator (no. of overdose, ER visit, criminal/violence related to opioid)
- Lack of trending analysis(esp.subgroup-age,sex,area)

Impact of COVID-19 : Methamphetamine



Concernings

Health care workers : 2P safety



settings	treatment	COVID- related
Primary (health Volunteer, PCU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss follow up,• relapse• aggression duet to not enough methadone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exposure/risk to infected• Protective equipment• vaccine efficacy,• fear of clients as reservoir/spreader• More Attention to COVID (staff, structure, system)
Secondary (district hos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase severity (injected,mixed,overdose)• Diversion (selling)• Carry on (laws)	
Tertiary (provincial hos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diversion (selling,injecting)• Overdose death	
Specialist/excellent cen. (rehab hos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• accessibility• Diversion (selling, injecting, mixing)• Quality of care• Continuum of care	



Society : less attention to this vulnerability groups

First wave of COVID-19



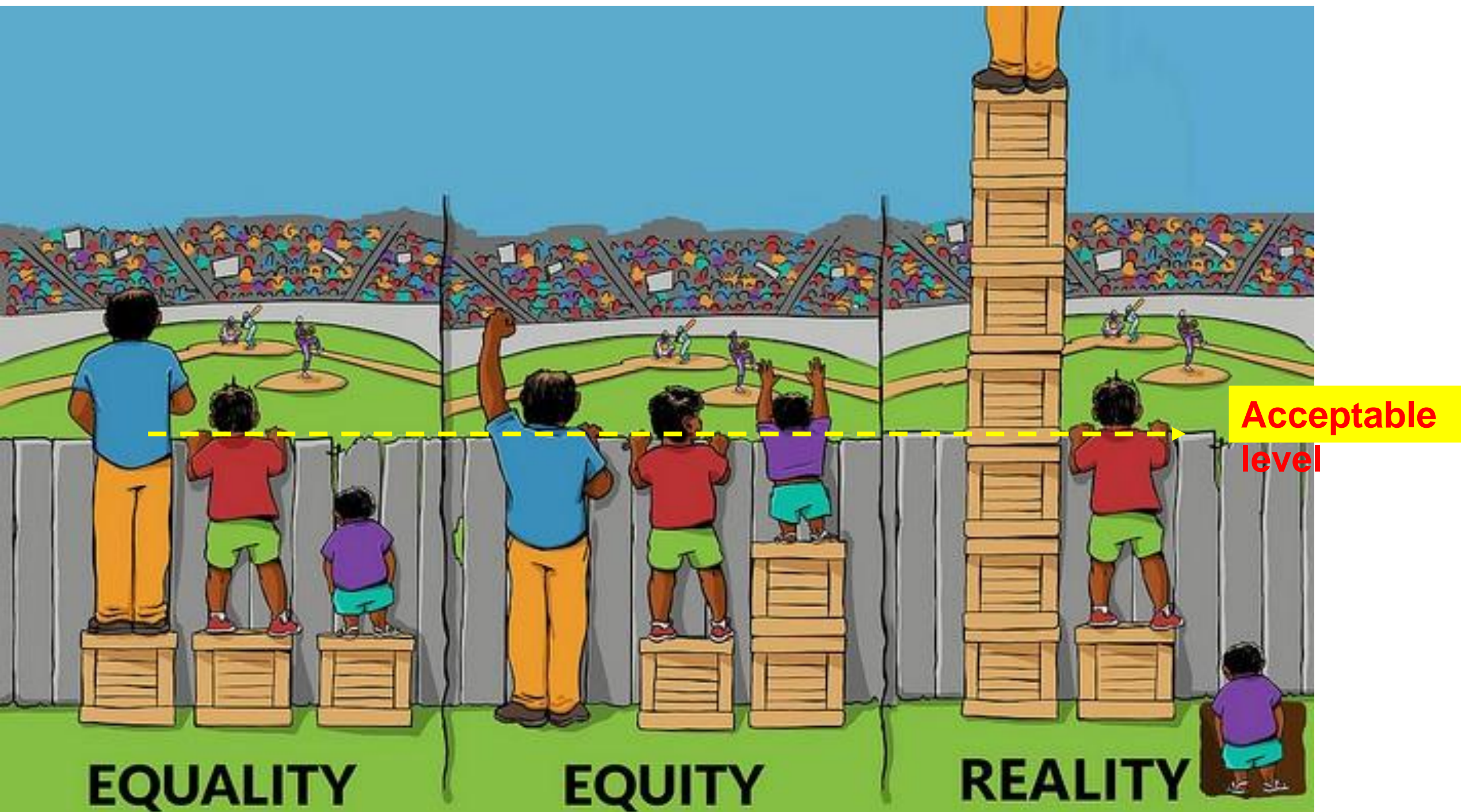
New drugs mixture

VUCA

- Volatility
- Uncertainty
- Complexity
- Ambiguity



Second wave ???



Thank You

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