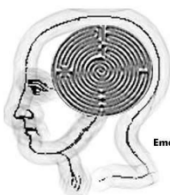


# IDU's mobility and the risk for HIV infection

Ngo "Labyrinth"-Prishtina

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## NGO “Labyrinth”-Background

- NGO “Labyrinth” was founded in June 2002 as a local organization.
- Labyrinth deals with prevention and treatment of drug abuse
- Prevention of diseases related to drug abuse, such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

# Study objectives



Explore the level of mobility and identify the accompanying risky behaviors among IDU while traveling in and out of Kosovo in 2008

in collaboration with Foundation Partnership in Health

with the SIDA NGO Trust Fund support

# Methodology



- Key informant interviews using a standard questionnaire
- In-depth focused group discussion.
- Target: IDU-s from both inside and outside of Kosovo
- Information collected on
  - frequency of travel
  - destination of the places visited
  - risky behaviors



# BACKGROUND

- **Drug situation in Kosovo**  
up to 6000 IDU
- **Labyrinth data (sample, N = 557)**  
95% Heroin Users  
50 % Injecting Drug Users  
  
76% started drug use in Kosovo  
24% abroad (e.g., Germany and Switzerland).  
39% were extradited to Kosovo





# Results

## Mobility abroad





## Frequency of traveling abroad

- 44% traveled abroad once a year
- 7% traveled abroad once a month
- 22% traveled once in 3 to 6 months

**On average IDU-s travel  
once a month  
to neighboring countries**

# Purpose of travel

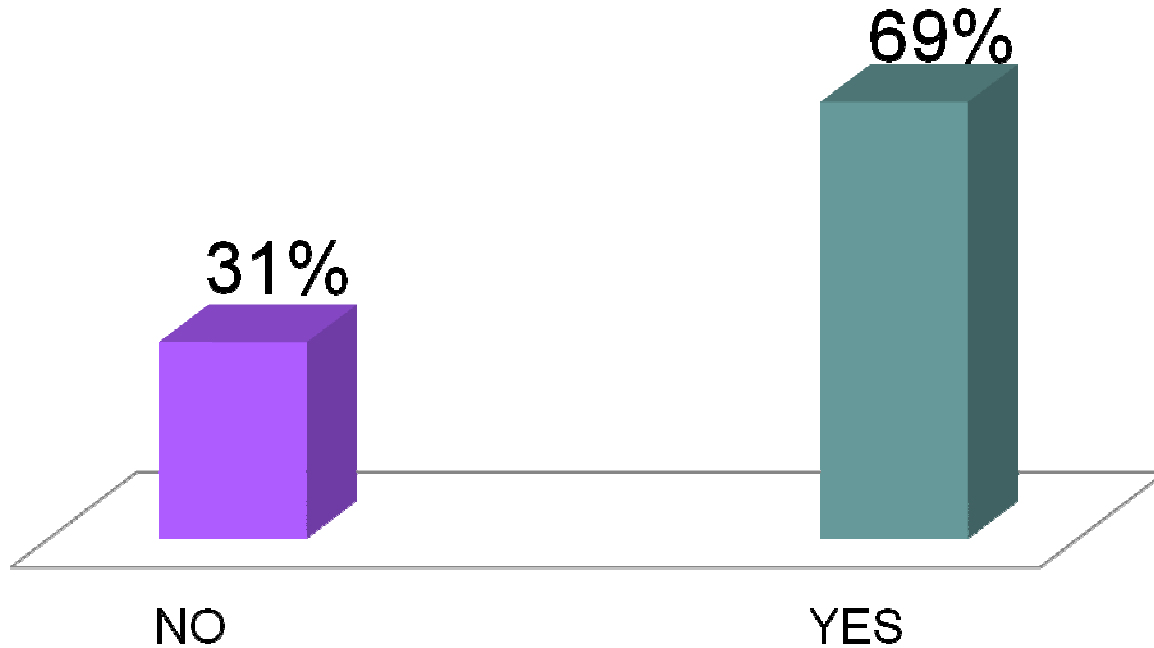


- only 26% responded that they travel abroad specifically for the purpose of using drugs
- 34 % responded that they have contacts with other IDU, inhabitants of the place they had visited.

# Drug use behaviors while abroad



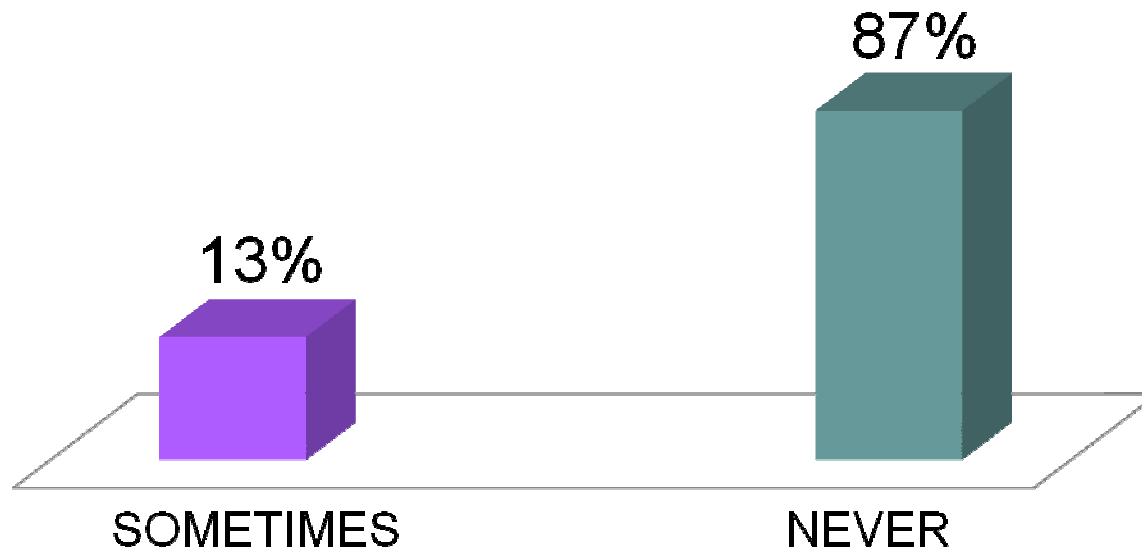
Figure 1: Percent using drugs while abroad





# Sharing needles

- Figure 2. Percent sharing injecting equipment

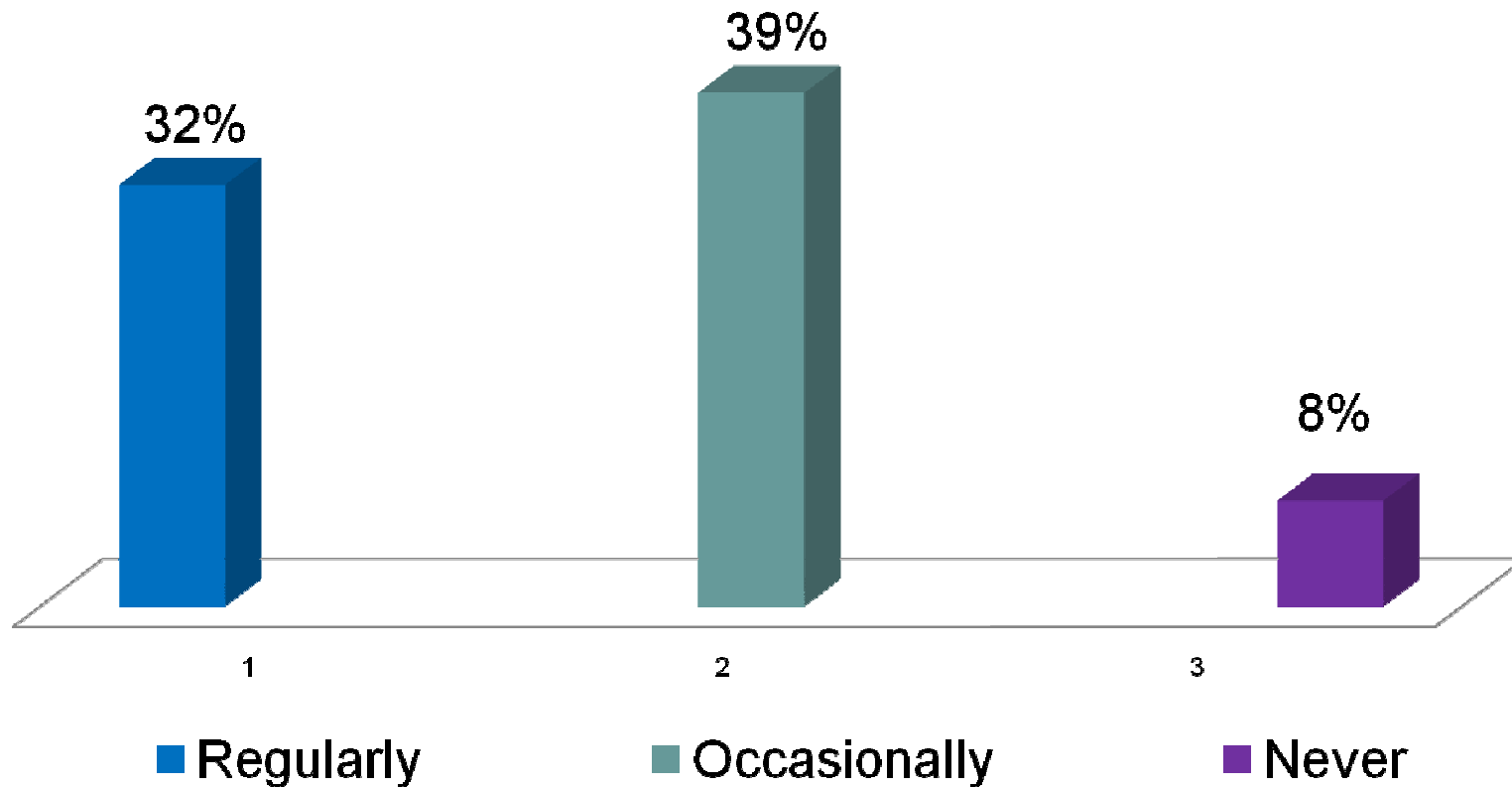


# Risky sexual behavior

36% engaged in sexual behavior while abroad



Figure 3. Condom use



# Mobility within Kosovo



## Frequency

18%	Daily
24 %	Once a week
26 %	Once a month
16%	Once in 3 to 6 month
12 %	Once a year
4 %	Never



# Drug use behavior

- 63 % reported traveling specifically to use and buy drugs
- 68 % reported using drug while traveling
- 20 % shared injecting equipment with other IDU
- They shared it with 2 to 3 individuals

# Risky sexual behavior



- 22 % reported that they engaged in sex while traveling
- 5 % never used condoms

# Conclusions



## **Mobility was associated with risk of HIV exposures**

- Data suggest that IDU's in Kosovo engage in risky behaviors inside and outside country.
- Frequency of needle and syringe exchange and the non-usage of condoms suggested a high HIV exposure risks among mobile IDU-s in Kosovo

# Recommendations



- To study behavior of migrant population who come to Kosovo for holidays (IDU's).
- Regional study on the mobility of IDU-s is warranted to enable more in-depth analyses as well as to inform future policy and programme for countries in the region and in Europe



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!!!**