

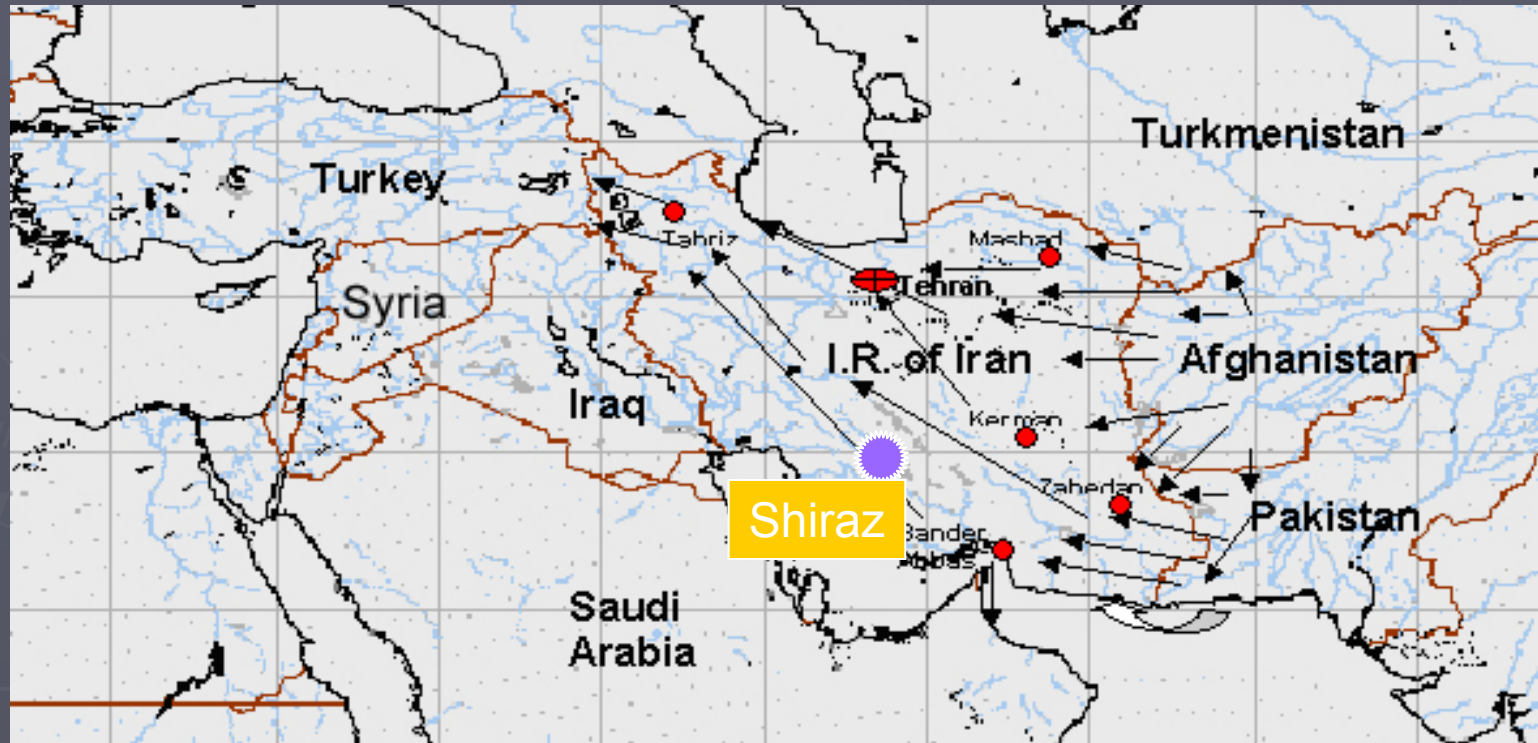
Substance Abuse in Iran; A Brief Overview

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Iran; some basic facts

- ▶ Located in Middle East
- ▶ Population: 68,000,000 / 40% below 15 Yr
- ▶ Population growth rate: 1.3%
- ▶ Annual *per capita* income: 2,300\$

Iran is located on a major trafficking course!



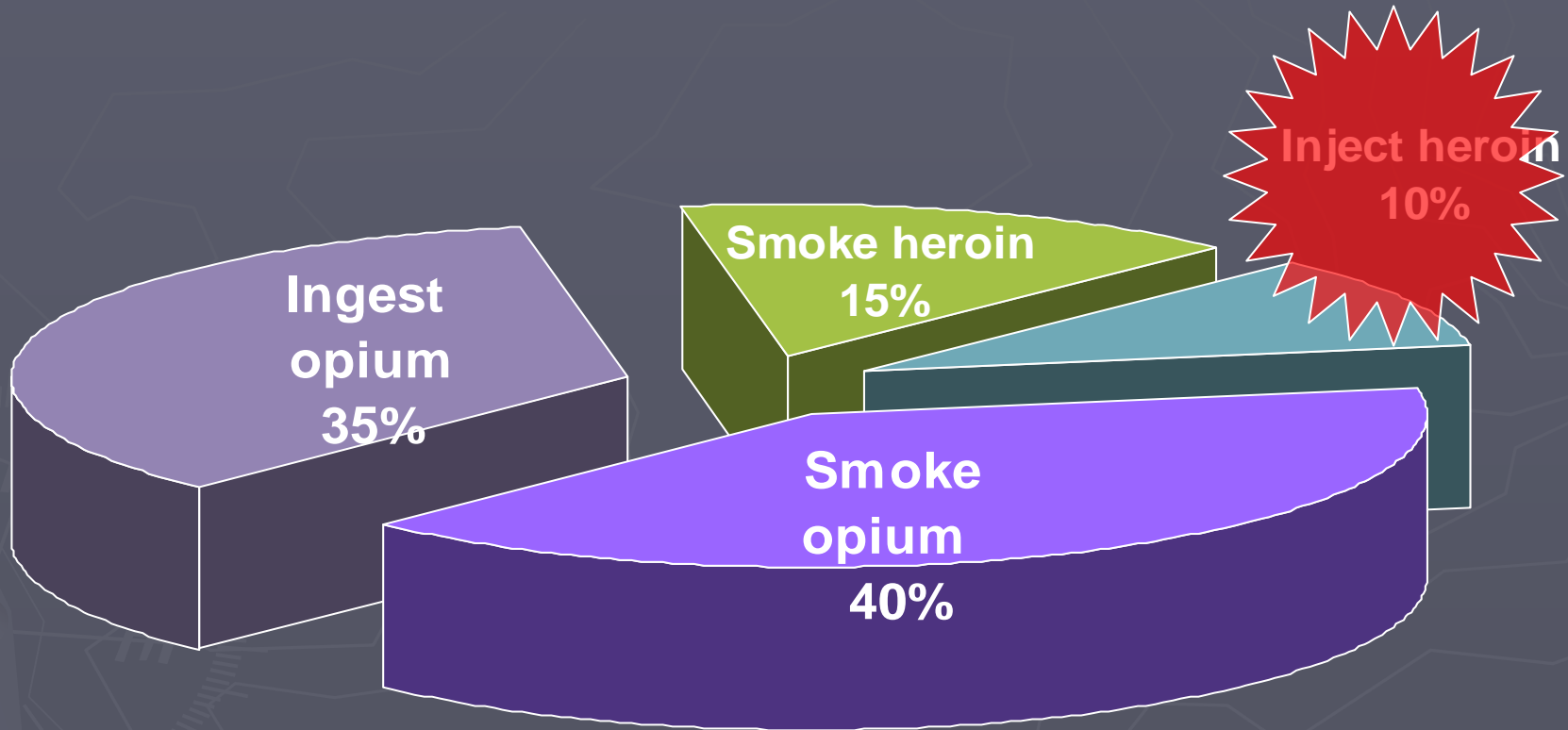
Iran; facts about drug abuse

- ▶ According to the “Epidemiological Study of Drug Abuse in IRAN” (2001):
 - Some 3,761,000 people use opioids in Iran.
 - About 2,547,000 fit DSM-IV diagnosis for *opioid abuse*.
 - 1,158,000 meet diagnostic criteria for *opioid dependence*.

Iran; facts about drug abuse (continue)

- ▶ About 94% of abusers are male.
- ▶ In 75% of drug abusing individuals the main habit is ingesting or smoking *opium*.
- ▶ A **fourth** of Iranian addicts abuse *heroin*, **half** of whom inject the drug.

Mode of opioid consumption in Iran



Iran; facts about drug abuse (continue)

- ▶ Alcohol abuse is not so common and 250,000 abusers are thought to be present in the country.
- ▶ Amphetamine was a rarity 2 years ago but it is **rapidly** growing.
- ▶ Cocaine abuse is still a rarity.

Iran; facts about drug abuse (continue)

- ▶ According to data from Iranian Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ):
 - Annually 1,000 tons of opium, heroin and morphine is consumed in the nation.
 - Some 5 billion dollars is spent on drugs annually.
 - Afghanistan produces more than 3,600 tons of opioids; large quantities are trafficked to Iran.
 - Iranian police confiscates more 200 tons a year.

Injection drug abuse in Iran

- ▶ Around 16% of Drug Abusers in Iran have history of IDU.
- ▶ IDU appears 2-12 years after starting drug abuse.
- ▶ Mean age of starting IDU is 26.
- ▶ Most of IDUs are men between 20-40 years and most of needle sharing occurs between 20-29 y of age.

Epidemiological Study of Drug Abuse in IRAN (2001)

Current State of HIV/AIDS in IRAN

- ▶ More than 11,200 cases of HIV/AIDS have been registered.
- ▶ Around **60%** of the cases were through needle sharing in IDUs.
- ▶ Estimated 30,000-40,000 HIV/AIDS cases are in the country.
- ▶ Needle is available

Till 1996 there was no
medical treatment allowed
for addiction!

*Drug use was a crime and drug
users criminals!!!*

In 1996 the law changed
as;

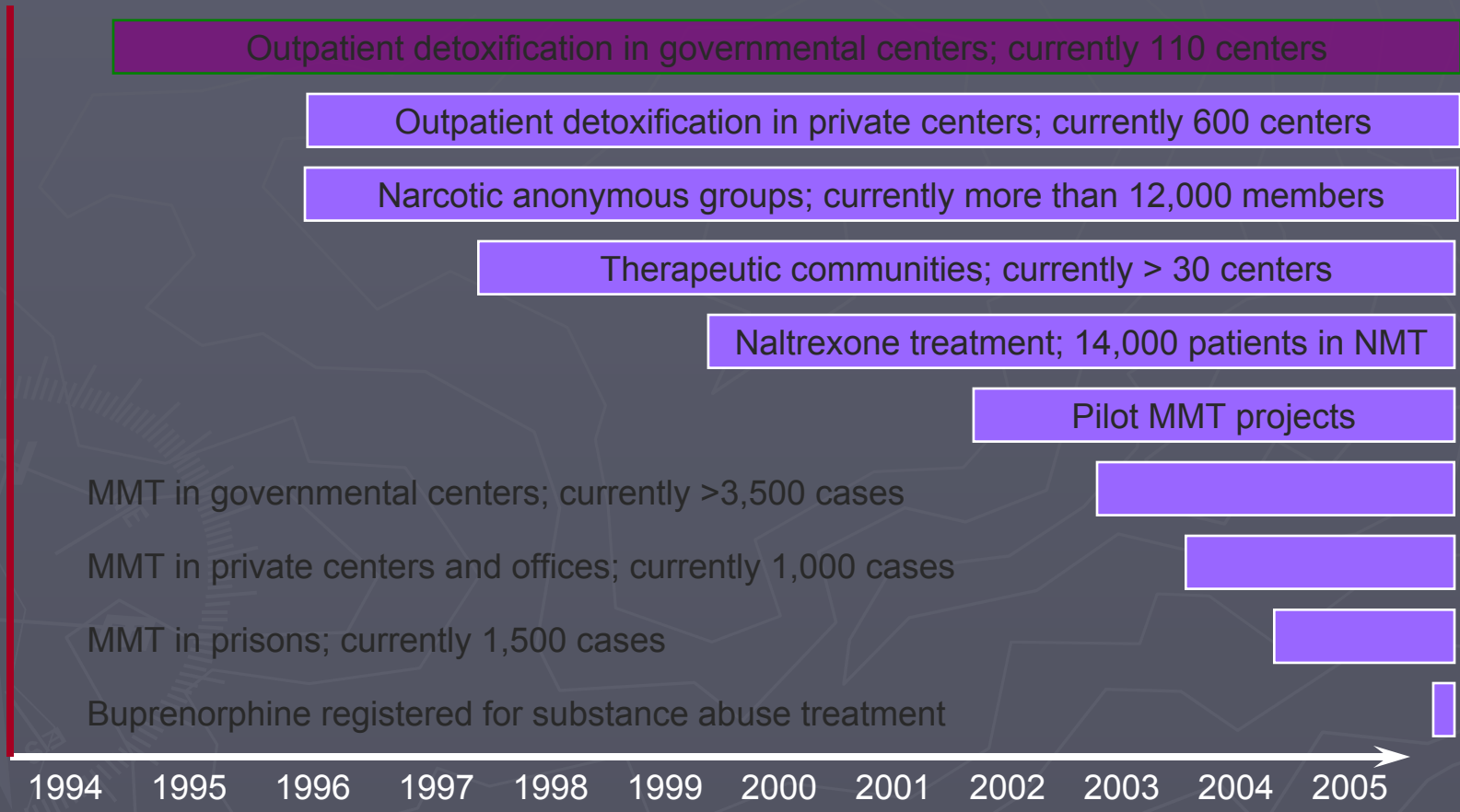
Drug use is still a crime but if
drug users seek treatment they
are free from prosecution!

From 1996

- ▶ Detoxification centers (up to 110 public and around 600 private)
 - Using clonidine, rapid detox and ultra-rapid
 - Extensive use of naltrexone*, and moderate to high dose individual and group interventions.
- ▶ Inpatient services up to 500 beds in the nation.
- ▶ TCs (more than 35 centers), 2 for **females**
- ▶ NA groups and other self-help (more than 12,000 members), separate groups for **women**
- ▶ Community based networks
- ▶ MMT and BMT facilities covering up to 6,000 clients.

More than 14,000 are on naltrexone maintenance but formerly it was 20,000

Drug abuse treatment in Iran



Treatment in Iran provided through

- ▶ Governmental sector
- ▶ Universities
- ▶ Welfare Organization
- ▶ Prison Organization
- ▶ Private centers and offices
- ▶ NGOs(active in detox – counselling

- ▶ In the recent year up to 200,000 drug users received some sort of treatment;
- ▶ mostly detoxification and short-term psychotherapies.

Outcome of detox and naltrexone maintenance in different cities

City	Number entering treatment	Retention after 6 months
Meshad	189	80 (42.3%)
Rasht	184	35 (19.0%)
Kermanshah	139	13 (9.4%)
Yazd	183	14 (7.7%)
Total	695	142 (20.4%)

MMT in Iran

- ▶ In September 2002, MMT was officially initiated in Iran.

Results I:

- ▶ Remaining in MMT after 3 months: 79%
- ▶ Remaining in MMT after 6 months: 73%
- ▶ Average daily dose: 77 mg (range 25-160mg)
- ▶ Average dose in patients finishing 3 months: 74mg

Results II:

- ▶ Outcome measures showed that MMT dramatically decreased illicit drug, intravenous injection, criminal behavior and violence after 3 months.
- ▶ Clients claim that after initiation on methadone they save an average of 1,500,000 (~200\$) Rials a months.
- ▶ The MMT costs only 25\$ a month for every client.