

Provision of comprehensive HIV prevention services for sex workers reduces HIV risk in Central Asia

The TUMAR project



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CAPACITY
CENTRAL ASIAN PROGRAM ON AIDS CONTROL IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Deryabina, A., Hausner, D.S., Aubakirova, B.,
Asymova, S., Musaeva, Z., Khodakevich, L.

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Background

- ◉ Sex workers are the second most affected population by HIV epidemics
- ◉ HIV prevalence among sex workers before the start of the project in 2006 was
 - 3.7% in Kazakhstan
 - 2.5% in Kyrgyzstan
 - 1.4% in Tajikistan
- ◉ Low coverage with comprehensive services

TUMAR Project

- October 2007 – July 2009
- Principal recipient: JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.
- Donor: Central Asia AIDS Control project
- Technical support: USAID-funded CAPACITY Project



TUMAR

REACHING HIGH COVERAGE IN 7 PREVENTION MODEL SITES:
IMPLEMENTING HIV PREVENTION SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE POPULATION:
IN KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN



Expected program outcomes

- ◉ **Knowledge:** Increasing level of knowledge among sex workers about HIV/STIs, modes of HIV transmission and prevention
- ◉ **Behavior:** Decreasing rates of highly unsafe practices among sex workers
- ◉ **Disease burden:** Decreasing rates of HIV and STIs

Program objectives

- To provide information and education on HIV prevention
- To provide sex workers with individual means of protection
- To provide quality medical services when needed
- To decrease stigma & discrimination related to HIV and PLHIV

Main activities

- ◉ Outreach work
- ◉ Drop-in Centers
- ◉ Coordination and partnership building
- ◉ Capacity building for different services providers

Working with partners

- Technical working groups were set up at every site
- Partnership was developed with local administrations, religious leaders, law enforcement bodies, and others
- Agreements were signed with medical institutions for the provision of medical services to clients

Trainings

- Medical specialists
- Police
- Religious leaders
- Journalists
- Project staff



Drop-in centers

- ◉ Condoms, syringes
- ◉ HIV Education
- ◉ Consultations by:
 - ◉ Psychologist
 - ◉ Gynecologist
 - ◉ STI specialist
- ◉ Legal support
- ◉ Social support
- ◉ Referrals



Outreach

- ◉ Condoms, syringes
- ◉ IEC materials
- ◉ Short sessions
- ◉ Referrals



IEC materials

- Brochures for clients
- Video clip for clients and general population
- Outreach guidelines for outreach workers

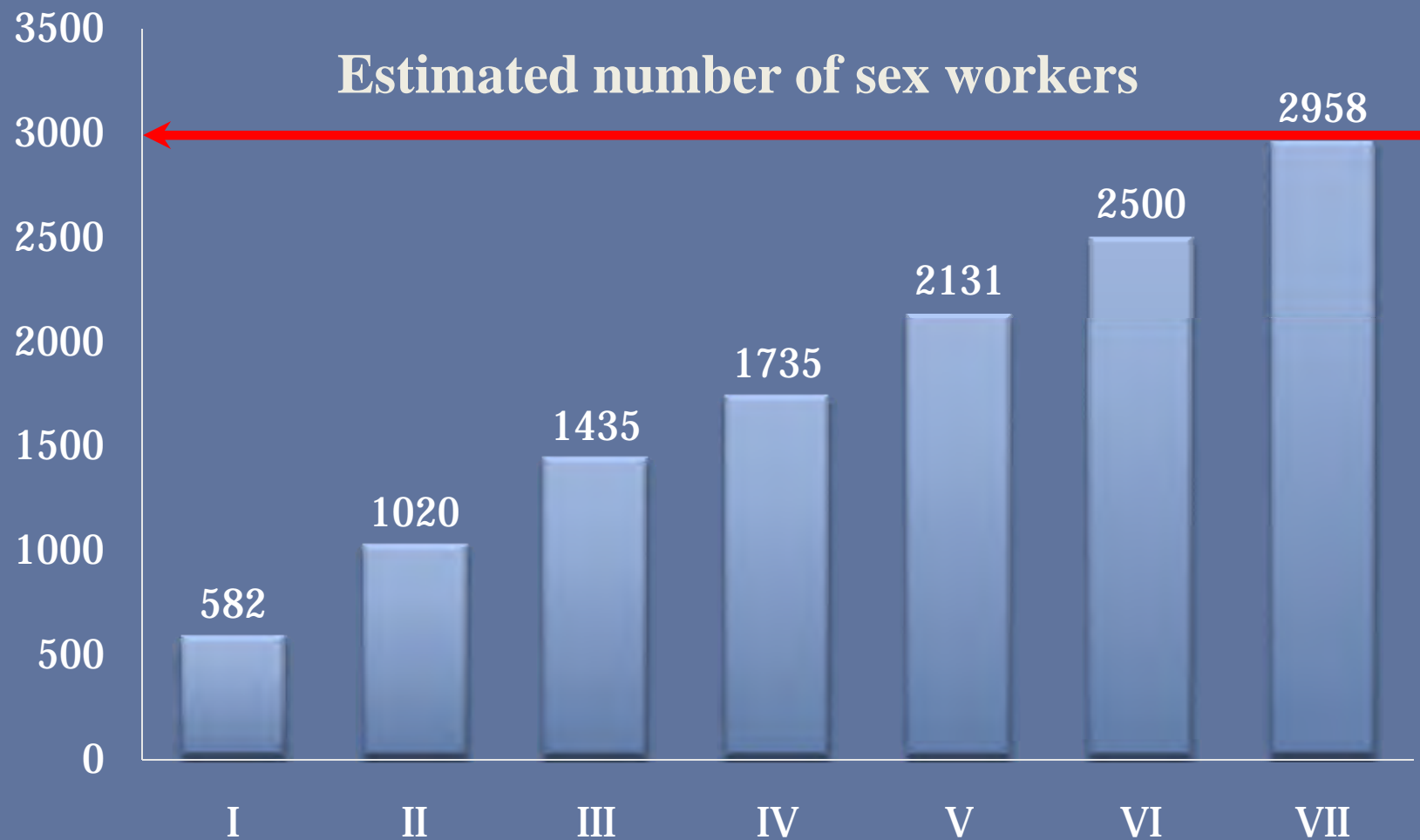


Referrals

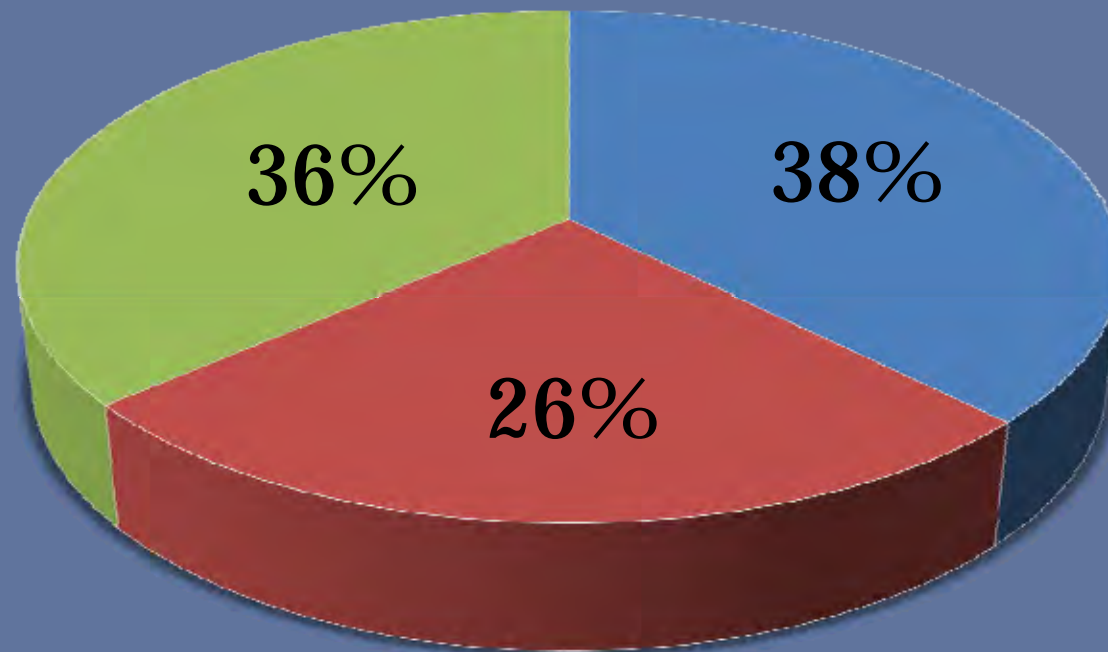
- STI diagnosis and treatment
- VCT
- PMTCT
- Gynecological assistance
- Detoxification
- Treatment for injection-related complications

Ongoing Monitoring of Coverage

Cumulative number of contacts with clients by project quarters

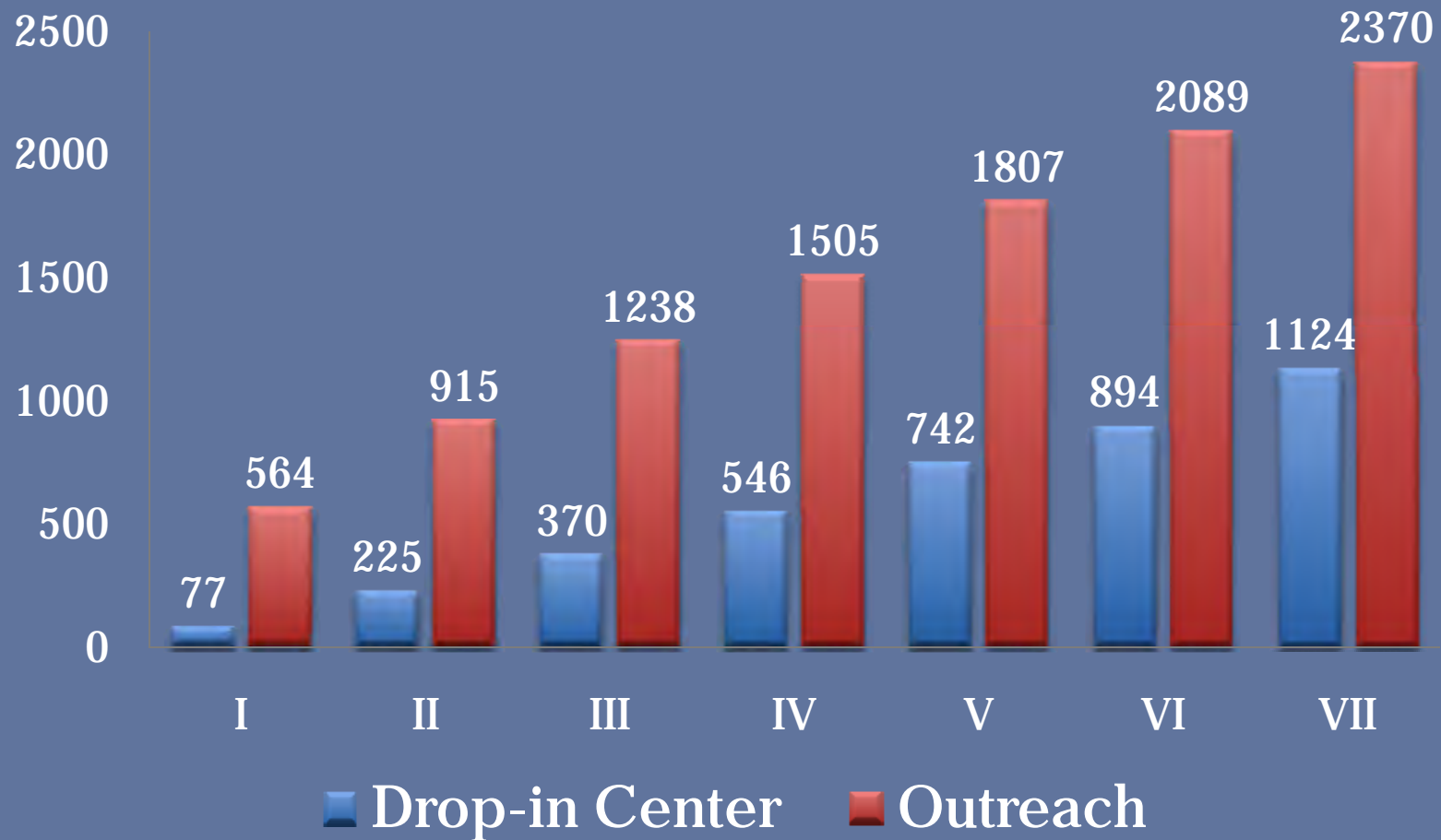


Frequency of contacts with clients



■ 1 contact ■ 2-4 contacts ■ 5 and more contacts

Cumulative number of clients by quarters and type of contact



End-line evaluation

Behavioral Survey

- Design: Comparison of project and control sites at end-line
- Sites: 2 intervention and 2 control sites
- Sample: 150–250 respondents per site
- Sampling: Respondent-driven
- Timing: June 2009

Key results

Condom use behavior

Indicator	Project		Control
	Clients	Non-clients	
Always used condoms with clients during the last month	80,5% [76,7-84,2]	75,9% [69,7-82,1]	60,3% [55,9-64,8]
Used condoms with the last client	92,9% [90,4-95,3]	87,7% [82,9- 92,5]	68,6% [64,4-72,9]

Diagnostic testing behaviour

Indicator	Project		Control
	Clients*	Non-clients	
Were screened for STIs during last 6 months	75,8% [71,7-79,9]	52,9% [45,7-60,2]	35,5% [31,-39,8]
Had an HIV test during last 6 months	63,8% [59,2-68,3]	39% [32-46,1]	28,6% [24,5-32,7]

* Clients who had 5 or more contacts with the project were 1.5 times more likely to be screened for STIs

STI symptoms

- Reported STI symptoms during the last 6 months:
 - Project group: **35,1% \pm 3,9**
 - Control group: **52,6% \pm 4,6**
- Those who did not use a condom during the last sex were 2 times more likely to report STI symptoms

Knowledge about modes of HIV transmission

Indicator	Project		Control
	Clients	Non-clients	
Mentioned injecting drug use	70,8% [66,5-75,2]	61,5% [54,5- 68,5]	32% [27,8-36,3]
Mentioned unprotected sex	96,5% [94,7-98,2]	87,7% [82,9-92,4]	69,7% [65,5-73,9]
Mentioned both injections and sex and had no misperceptions	44,7% [40-49,4]	52,9% [45,7-60,2]	20,4% [16,8-24,1]

Conclusion

- ◉ TUMAR achieved a high level of coverage in a short time period
- ◉ TUMAR clients had:
 - Higher levels of HIV knowledge
 - Higher proportion of reported condom use
 - Higher level of HIV testing
 - Higher level of recent STI screening
 - Lower level of self-reported STI symptoms

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- ◉ Local sub-grantees
- ◉ Outreach and Drop-in Center workers
- ◉ Clients
- ◉ JSI country staff in Central Asia