

# *The Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI)*

## *12th Annual Expert Meeting 2012*

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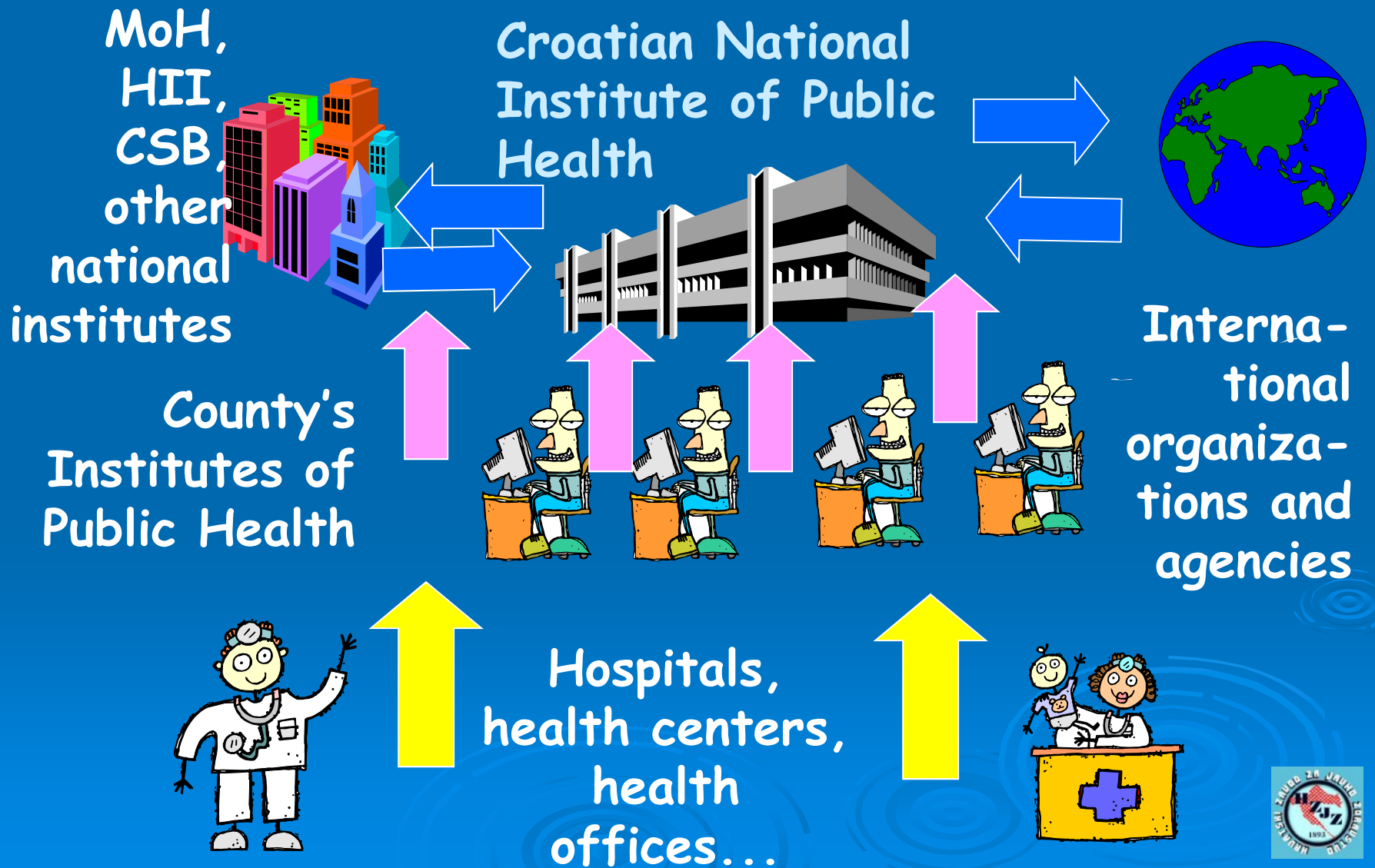
# *Misuse of pharmaceutical opioids in Croatia*

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# Health Indicators - data flow



# Legislation:

- Combating Drug Abuse Act
- Guidelines for the Use of Methadone in the Substitution Therapy of Opiate Drug Users in **January 2006**
- Guidelines for for the pharmacotherapy of opiate addicts with buprenorphine in **November 2006**

**Acts are here, the network service exists,  
experts are trained but still ...**

## Drug treatment system in Croatia:

- inpatient treatment;
- outpatient treatment;
- rehabilitation therapeutic communities

# Drug treatment system in Croatia:

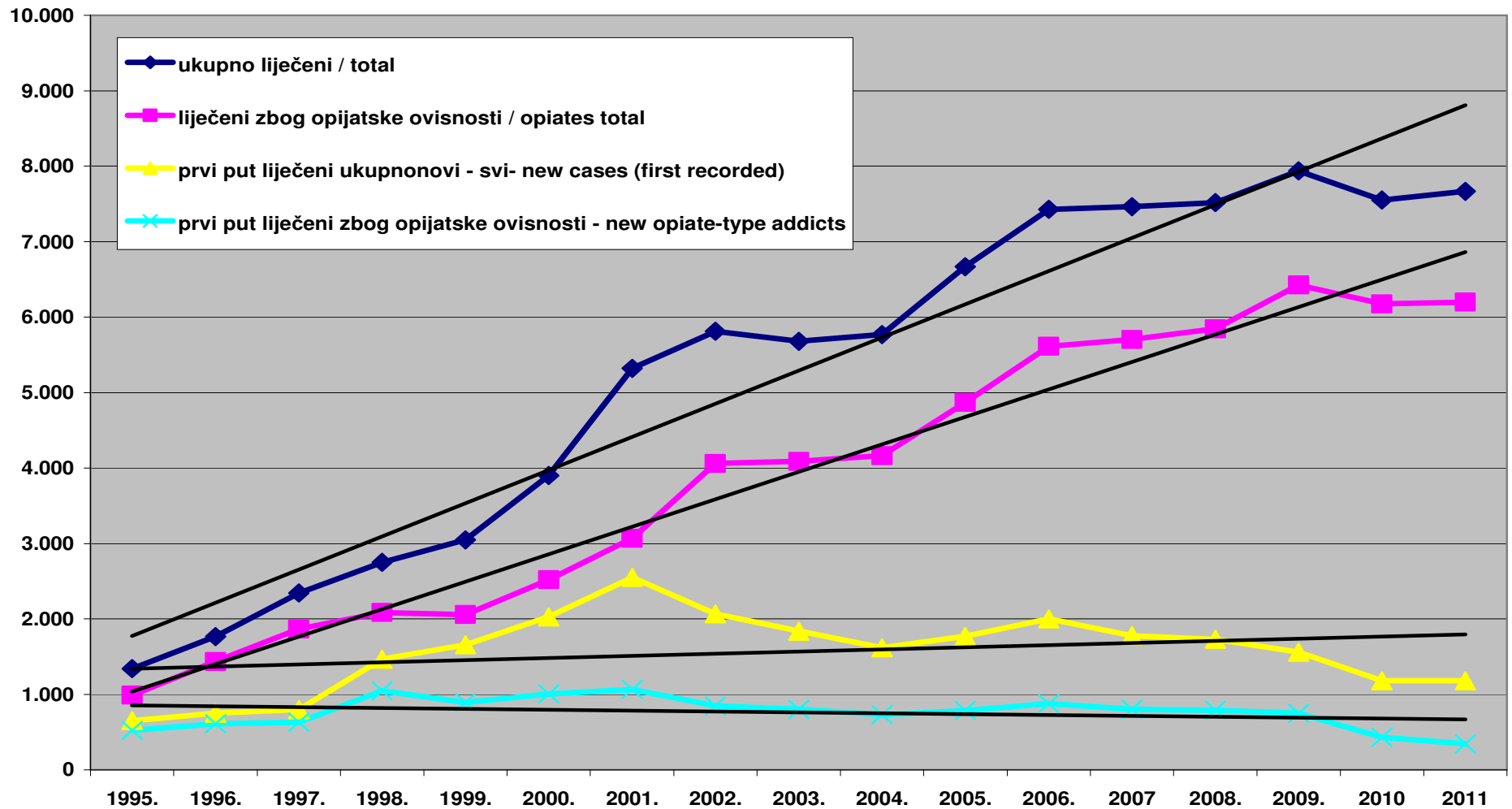
- Treatment system - Outpatient treatment is provided by 21 Services for Mental Health and Addiction Prevention in PHI
- financed from national insurance company
- There is no waiting lists



## TREATMENT SYSTEM:

- Licensed medical doctors in treatment centres prescribe substitution treatment.
- However, the treatment is predominantly provided by general practitioners.

# Treated drug addicts





# Treatment-related drug misuse

Some examples of misuse done by patient:

- drugs prescribed for oral use, taken intravenously
- taking a therapy prescribed for another patient
- reselling the therapy (methadone or buprenorphine) to another person(s), not necessarily to a previous drug addict – black market

# Misuse

Possible reasons:

- People with previously undiagnosed psychosis or depressive psychosis often enter the world of addiction so that they get from relatives or another person methadone or buprenorphine



# Treatment-related drug misuse

Misuse may be also done by other persons:

- lack of due care/negligence of a doctor who provides therapy
- absence of or poor control within the system (e.g. obtaining drug from several doctors where each doctor is unaware of the the prescription given by another)

# Opiate addicts treated in 2010

	Methadon	Buprenorphine+ (naloxon)	Morphin	Naltrexon	other	No medication	Total
Short-term maintenance	27 (1,0%)	41 (2,0%)					68
maintenance	1.905 (68,0%)	2.294 (98,0%)					4.199
Slow detoxification	776 (28,0%)						776
Rapid detoxification	84 (3,0%)						84
No medication						723	723
Other types of pharmacotherapy			4	27	85		116
Total	2.792	2.335	4	27	85	723	5.966



# Opiate addicts treated in 2011

	Methadon	Buprenorphin+ (naloxon)	Morphin	Naltrexon	other	No medication	Total
Short-term maintenance	51 (1,9%)	93 (4,0%)					144
maintenance	1.982 (80,0%)	1.935 (80,0%)		19			3.936
Slow detoxification	548 (20,9%)	358 (15,0%)					906
Rapid detoxification	37 (1,4%)	19 (1,0%)					56
No medication						503	503
Other types of pharmacotherapy			14		189		203
Total	2.618	2.405	14	19	189	503	5.748

## Reasons to worry...

- We have noticed that there is more people taking methadone than they treated prescribed
- for more deaths of people who had not previously been treated in toxicology was found methadone
- in conversations with their therapists they talked about large amounts of methadone "on the street" ...
- ...on that way drug addicts "create" new drug addicts



# Treatment-related drug misuse

- This problem has been recognised once the analysis has shown not only a large number of people on methadone therapy, but also an increase in the number of people who died from methadone overdosing
- Moreover, the analysis of data on fatal overdosed persons has shown a large proportion of persons who have never been previously treated
- Fatal overdosing with methadone or buprenorphine is verly likely to occur in combination with alcohol (strong effects on the central nervous system)



# Treatment-related drug misuse

How to prevent treatment-related drug misuse:

- Established special services centres,
- or a licensed psychiatrist, shall in the first instance regularly (at least once a week ) monitor addicts who are undergoing toxicological analysis of urine in order to determine patient-specific treatment needs.





# Treatment-related drug misuse

## How to prevent treatment-related drug misuse:

- stronger cooperation between general practitioners and services for outpatient treatment of addicts
- General practitioners could also examine the patient's body for any needle marks on veins.
- If positive changes in patient's behavior are missing, there must be possibility for abandoning, decreasing the prescribed dose or suspension of the therapy.



# Treatment-related drug misuse

- More active engagement of the Commission of the Ministry of Health (Reference Center) in controlling the work of licensed doctors, psychiatrists, etc.



# Treatment-related drug misuse

and now a discussion and some useful suggestions ...



# Treatment-related drug misuse

Thanks!

