

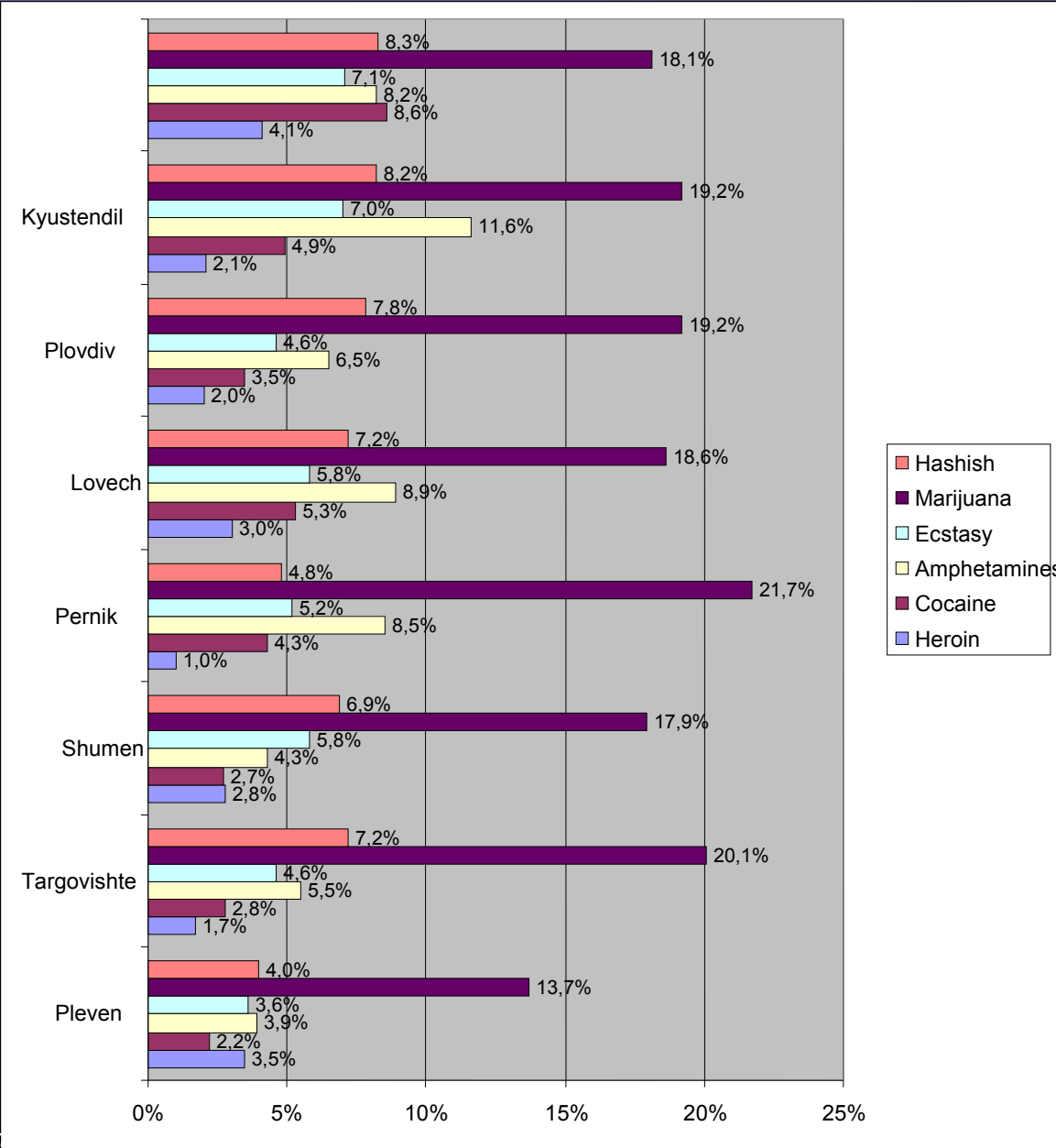
IDU risk group and viral hepatitis

VHPB-Country Meeting on
“Burden and PREVENTION OF
Viral Hepatitis in Bulgaria”

Drug use among the general population

- On the data of the NFP from the last representative survey on the use of and the attitudes towards the different **psychoactive substances** 5.2 % of the adult population aged between 18 and 60 years have lifetime prevalence of drug use this means 225,000 – 235,000 individuals, and if we add the persons under 18 years we can summarize that at least 315, 000-330, 000 Bulgarian citizens have lifetime prevalence of drug use.

LIFE TIME PREVALENCE OF NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES
AMONG STUDENTS



Source: National Focal Point

Problem Drug Use

- **Of the number of the problem heroin users in Bulgaria is between 20,000 and 30,000.**
- **The number of the problem heroin users over the last few years remains relatively constant and stable and even with slight indications of initial reduction.**
- **Unfortunately, however, indications observed of increasing the number of the problem amphetamine substance users.**

- Heroin remains the main problem substance causing treatment demand;
- Injecting continues to be the most widely spread pattern of use among those who have demanded treatment;
- The injecting use of synthetic drugs has increased (amphetamines; methadone, etc.)

Behavioural data

year	IDU with primary drug opioids%	Users sharing needles/syringes %
2000	79.6	56.0
2001	78.0	53.4
2002	77.4	53.8
2003	74.9	60.3
2004	75.9	56.0
2005	78.3	47.6
2006	81.9	62.1
2007	80.7	50.8
2008	79.5	47.6
2009	77.6	44.2

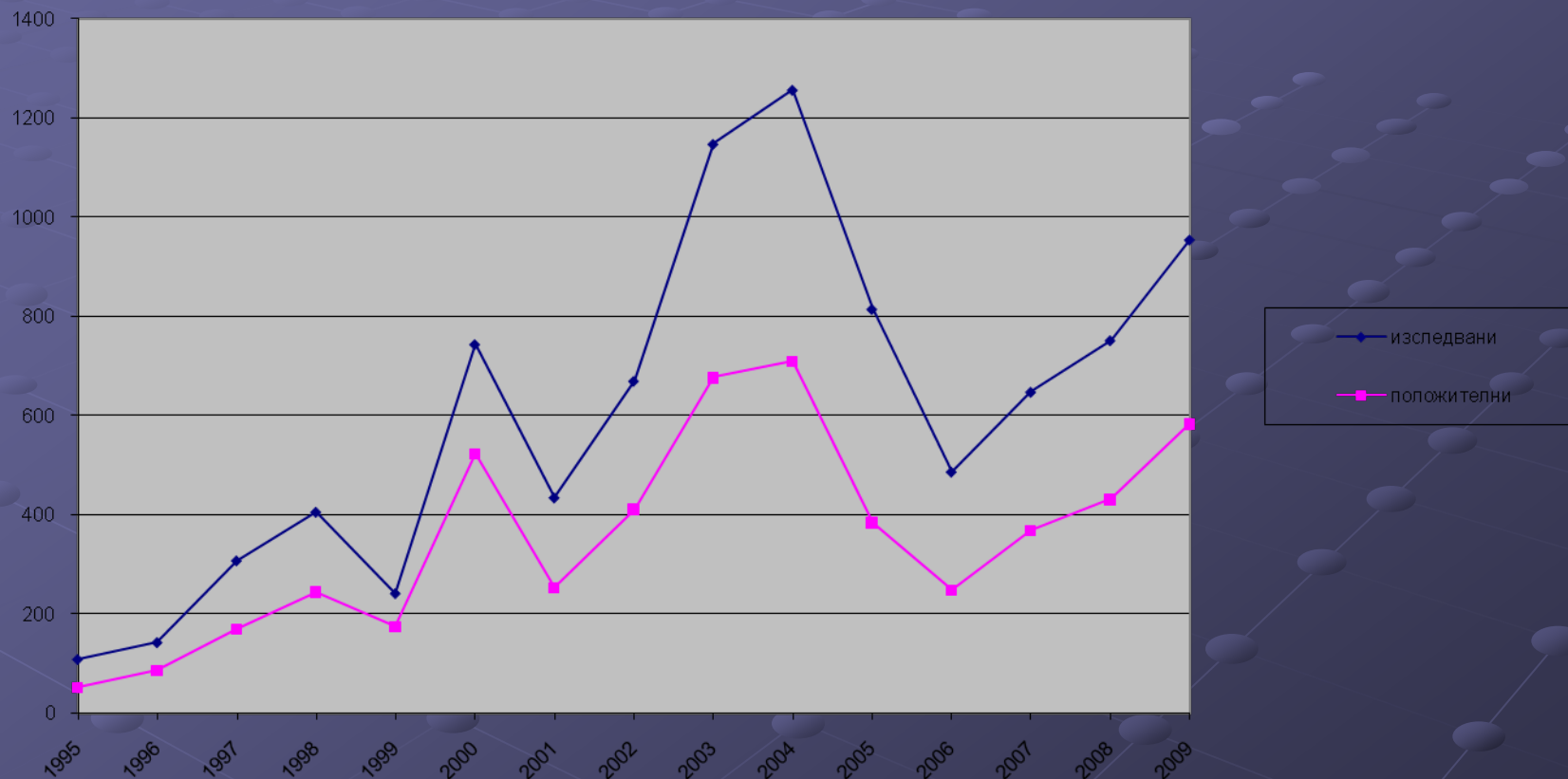
SEROLOGIC TESTS OF THE INJECTING DRUG USERS 2009г. - Sofia

TYPE OF TEST	NUMBER TESTS	OF POSITIVE RESULT
Ab against HIV	960	26 2.71%
Ab against HCV	955	584 61.1%
HbsAg	941	55 5.85%
Syphilis	950	46 4.84%

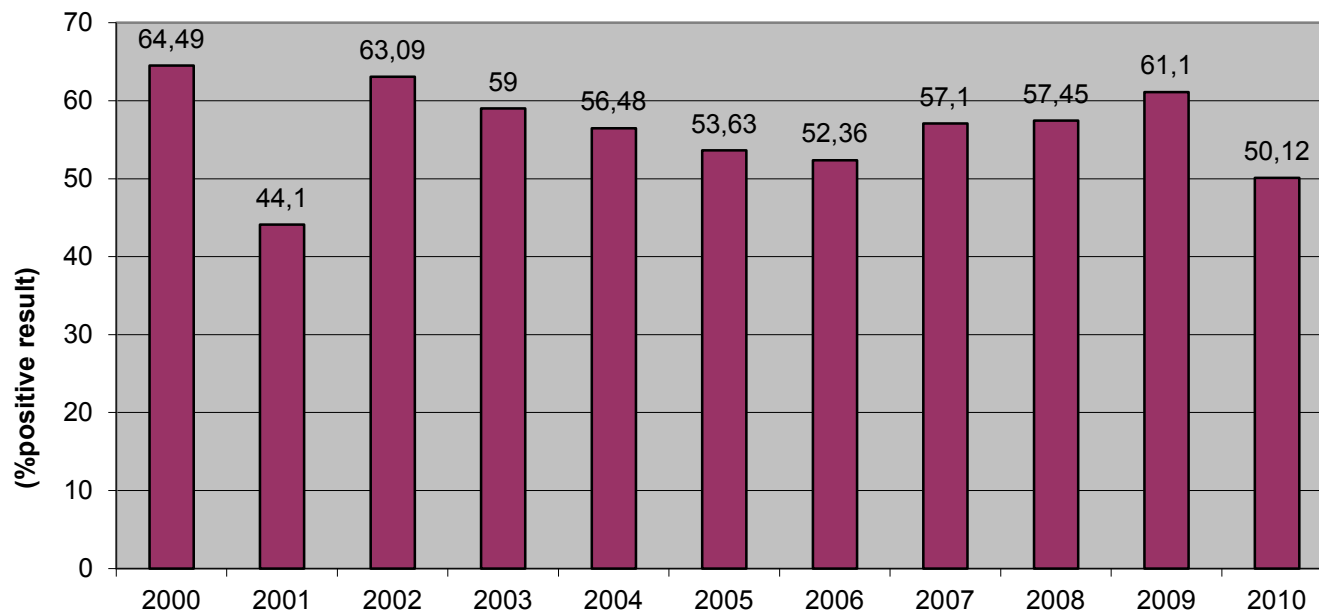
HEPATITIS C PREVALENCE AMONG THE IDUs

- The tests to find antibodies against hepatitis C among the injecting drug users in Sofia were first done in 1995 at the National Center for Addictions. Out of 109 tested for this period 53 (49 %) injecting drug users had positive results for antibodies.
- According to the report of the “Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS” program for the period 2004 -2008 on the data of the second generation epidemiologic control over HIV in 10 towns of the country 64% of the IDUs were positive for antibodies against hepatitis C.

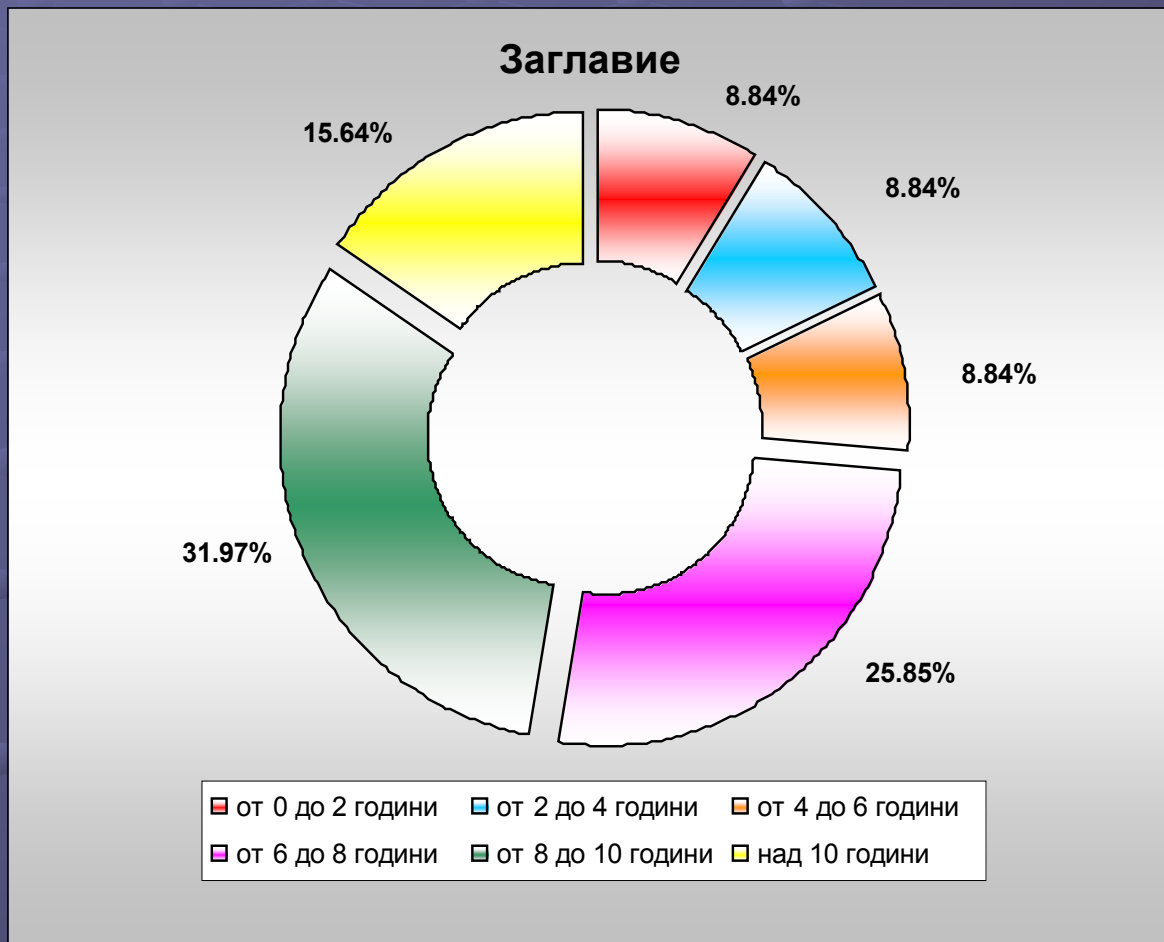
HEPATITIS C PREVALENCE AMONG THE INJECTING DRUG USERS - Sofia



IDUs were positive for antibodies against hepatitis C.



According to time elapsed since the first injection of drugs the infected individuals tested are distributed as follows:

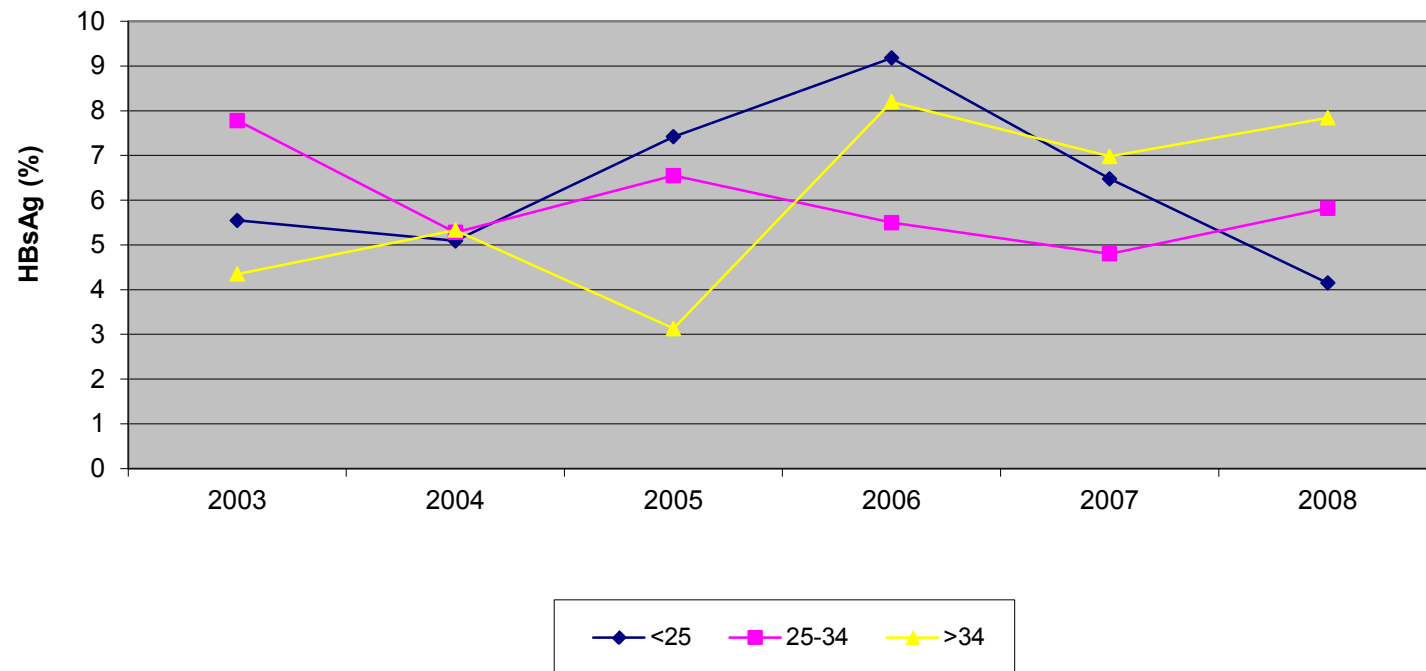


Conclusion

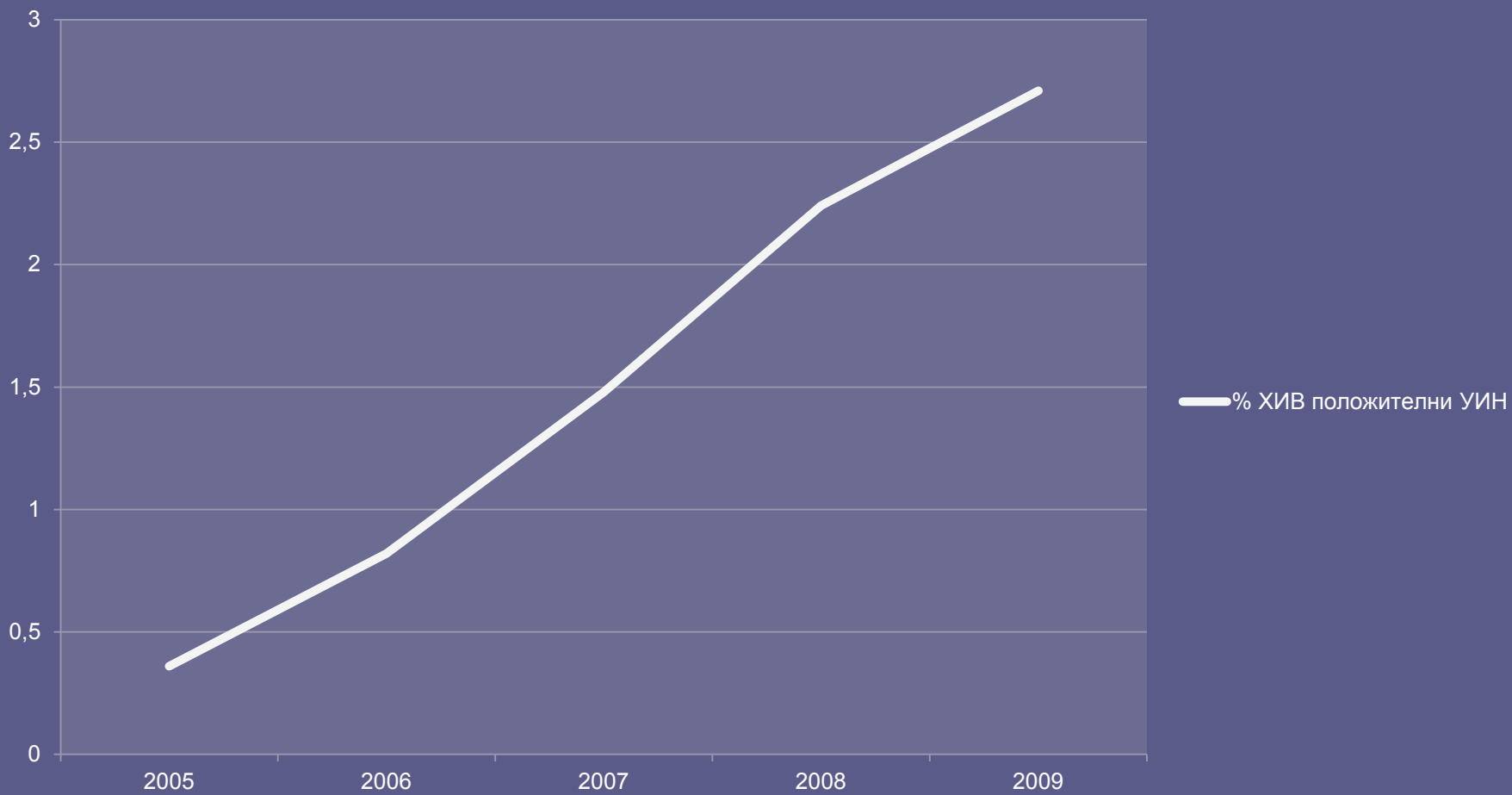
- The prevalence of hepatitis C infection among the IDUs in Bulgaria does not differ from the prevalence of the infection in the other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Proving hepatitis C infection by the anti-HCV antibodies as marker of a current or past HCV infection in 22% of the cases has not been confirmed by HCV-RNA, thus emphasizing the necessity of finding the nucleic acid of the virus in each case of a positive sample for the anti-HCV
- The infecting of 8.84% of the IDUs occurs even in the period from 0 to 2 years since the first injecting use of the drug, thus reducing the option of successful activity in the sphere of prevention of the DRID.

HBV

prevalence of hepatitis B viral infection



HIV - PREVALENCE AMONG THE INJECTING DRUG USERS 2005-2009 г.



Prevention of infectious diseases related to drug use

- The prevention of infectious diseases, related to drug use, is a constituent part of both the basic documents, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria.
- Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS” National Program, Component 4 “Reducing the susceptibility of the injecting drug users (IDUs) to HIV by increasing the coverage of the group by the complete package of preventive interventions”
- National Strategy to combat addictions (2009 – 2013).

Treatment of infectious diseases related to drug use

- The treatment of the HVC infected individuals, who are addicted to opiates, is funded by the NHIF. According to the requirements of the NHIF the drug addicted individuals can be included in a program for treatment with interferon only if they have not used drugs in the course of 12 months. Individuals, who are health insured and who are on substitution treatment with methadone are not included in the treatment either. This contraindication continues to restrict the options for the treatment of the addicted individuals.
- The treatment of the patients in the acute and chronic phase of hepatitis B is accessible only for health-insured addicted individuals.