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European Facility survey Questionnaire (EFSQ) 's Results for Palestinian Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Facilities.

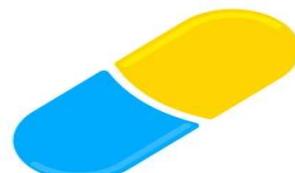
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Illicit Drug Use in Palestine

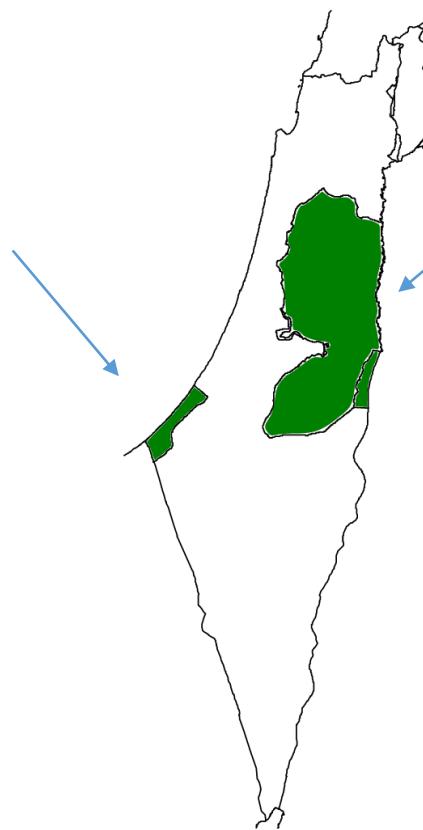
In 2018, A National Study on Illicit Drug Use in Palestine was done in cooperation with the Palestinian Institute of Public Health & WHO and showed:

26500 (18% of the males age above 15 years old) are dangerous drug users in Palestine



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And in Gaza,
10047 people
are dangerous
drug users, and the
two most used
types are Tramadol
and Pregabalin.



16453 persons are
dangerous drug users
in the West Bank, and
the two most used
types are hashish and
synthetic marijuana





Injecting Drug use

Out of the **26,500** who are dangerous drug users, **1,118** are injecting drug users.



In Gaza, they inject cocaine, while in the middle and south of the West Bank they mainly inject heroin, and in the north of the West Bank, they use cocaine and heroin in the same proportion.

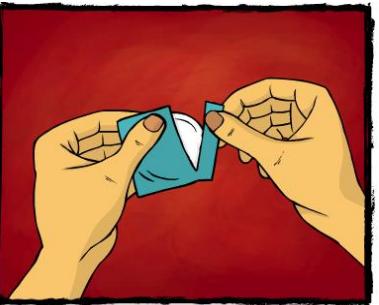
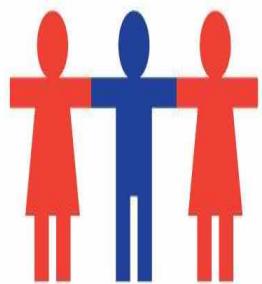


Among the persons who used drugs seriously, **61%** in the northern West Bank and **20%** in the central West Bank started using **under the age of 18**, while no cases were found in Gaza and the southern West Bank.



Risky Behaviors

The percentage of condom use during sex is very low. The lowest percentage was in Gaza, **8%**, and the highest percentage was in the northern West Bank, **33%**.



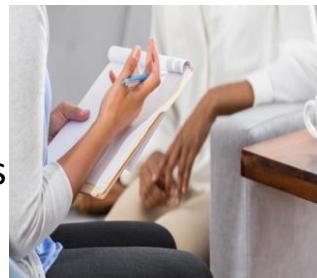
No cases of AIDS were found among the drug abusers. About **11%** of them were infected with hepatitis C in the central West Bank and about **5%** of them were in Gaza and the north & south of the West Bank. Less than **4%** of them are infected with hepatitis B



52% of people who use drugs seriously use more than one type of drug in the West Bank compared to **53%** in Gaza



Most people who use drugs seriously do not seek treatment for drugs that are not taken by injection



About **50%** of people who use drugs in Gaza, and the north & south of the West Bank have a relationship with more than one partner. In the middle of the West Bank, **50%** have a relationship with **5 partners** or more

94% of people who use drugs at risk smoke cigarettes and hookahs



52% of people who use drugs in a dangerous way drank alcohol at least once in the West Bank, while **3%** in Gaza

OUTPATIENT treatment facilities (total number of units and clients) in [2019].

Type of program	Discription \ characteristic of the program	Total number of units	Total Number of clients
Specialized out patient Units (OAT centers)	Specialized governmental unites run by the M.o.H that provide maximum out patient service for PWUDs and people with Alcohol Misuse Disorders including OST , Harm reduction , Psychological and social support , Mental health service	1	470
specialized Mental Health Units	Mental clinics run by the M.o.H and other privet, provide services for people with SUD specially synthetic drugs , and alcohol Misuse Disorders	12	860
Methadone Dispensing Stations	These are stations run by the M.o.H where they provide ORT with Methadone , and provide minimum mental health service based in PHC in each district	13	780

INPATIENT treatment facilities (total number of units and clients) in [2019].

Type of program	Discription \ characteristic of the program	Total number of units	Total Number of clients
Hospital based residential units	M.o.H psychiatric hospital , the provide inpatient treatment service for a period of time , including detoxification for Patient with SUD and Psychiatric treatment service for patients with sever mental disorders.	One hospital Governmental Hospital	25
Non hospital residential treatment units	Provides Inpatient service to the patient with SUD and alcohol misuse , including detoxification , and rehabilitation long term and short term treatment	4	215
Total		30	2350



Distribution Of Substance Misuse Facilities in the West Bank in 2019



Dispensing MTD Stations



Inpatient Facility



Opioid Agonist Treatment Center



Mental Hospitals



LISBON
ADDICTIONS
2022



European Facility survey Questionnaire (EFSQ) 's Results for Palestinian Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Facilities.

Background

The was supported by **EMCDDA's EU4MD** project and was conducted by the Anti-narcotics Department at the Palestinian Ministry of Health, after the Palestinian minister of health's approval.

Arabic version was translated from English in cooperation with Arab Countries who are participating in the survey, all remarks were discussed and adjusted to ensure the questionnaire is compatible with the Palestinian Treatment Protocol.



Methods & sampling

A list of SUD treatment facilities was prepared by the Narcotic Department at the M.o.H . An email was sent to them, explaining the purpose of the survey, and obtaining consent from them for participation.

An introductory face-to-face workshop was held for the 18 Participating facilities. Soft copies of Arabic & English versions were sent via email since the Arabic hard copy was given to the participants.

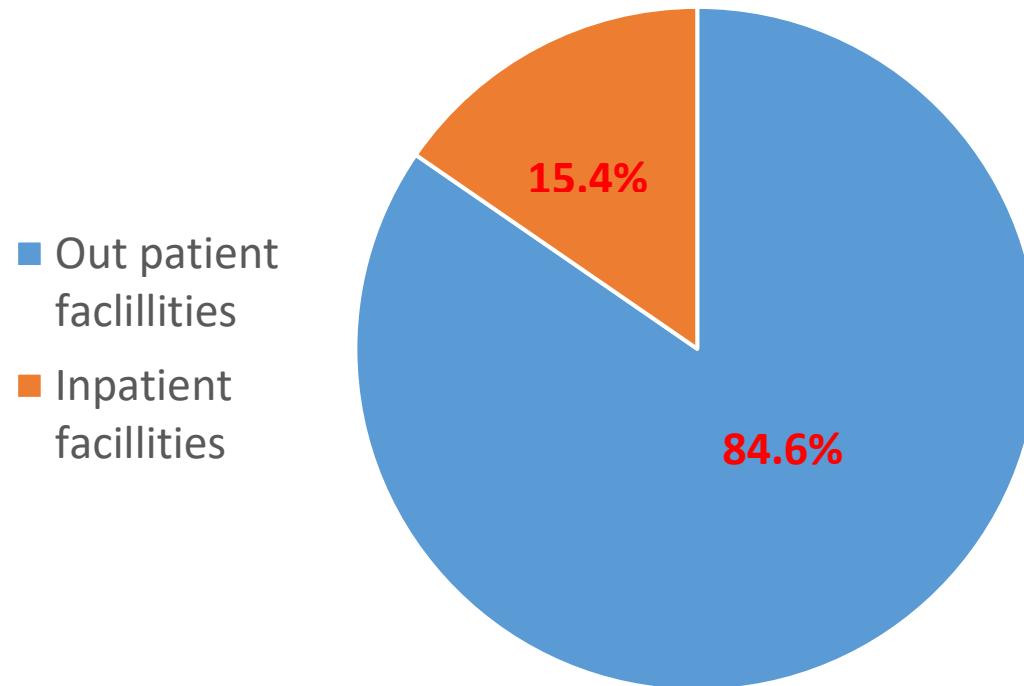
The facilities were from different program types, inpatient centers (**one governmental center & 3 Private centers**), one outpatient Governmental center for **Opioid Agonist Therapy** (OAT), and 13 governmental **Dispensing Stations** in **12 Palestinian districts** (**Ramallah, Jenin, Bethlehem, Qalqilia, Nablus, Tulkarm, Tubas, Jerich, Albireh, Salfeet, Hebron, and Jerusalem,**) in the west bank.

After discussion and adjustment, a period of one month was given to the facilities to respond to the EFSQ questionnaire, sent by email or hard copy.



Results

A total of **13** responses were received which **86.6%** rate. In Palestine, treatment facilities provide different types of SUD services, Outpatients' services included OAT, & psychosocial treatment. While inpatients treatment included detoxification and rehabilitation. Out of 13 responding facilities, **11** were outpatient ,and **2** were inpatient treatment facilities. The majority were outpatients facilities, **84.6%** from the total sample.



Type of program	Discription	Number of participating Facilities	Number of facilities that responded to the survey
Specialized out patient Units (OAT centers)	Specialized governmental unites run by the M.o.H that provide maximum out patient service for PWUDs and people with Alcohol Misuse Disorders including OST , Harm reduction , Psychological and social support , Mental health service	1	1
Methadone Dispensing Stations	These are stations run by the M.o.H where they provide ORT with Methadone , and provide minimum mental health service based in PHC in each district	13	10
Non hospital residential treatment units	Provides Inpatient service to the patient with SUD and alcohol misuse , including detoxification , and rehabilitation long term and short term treatment	4	2
Total		18	13

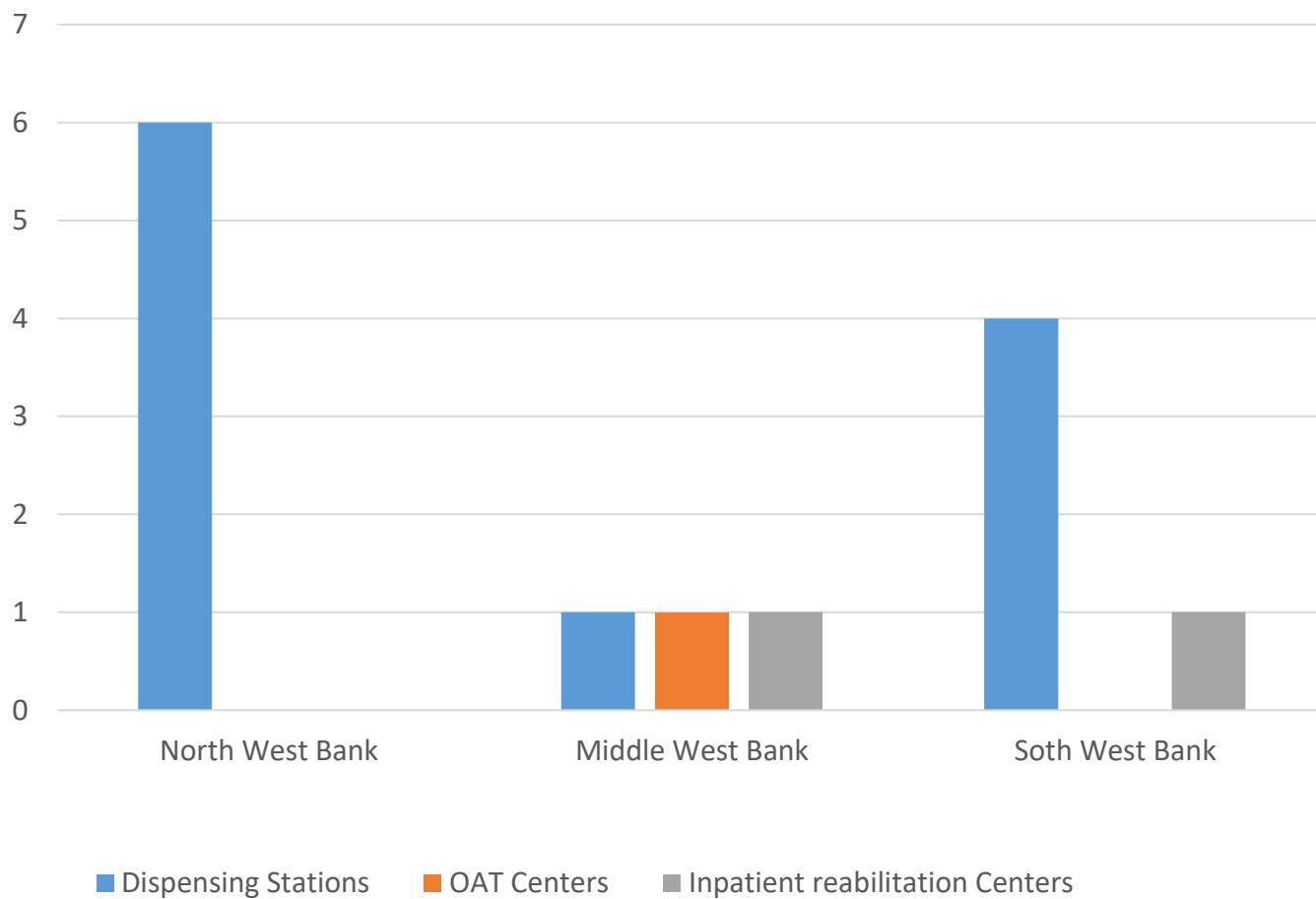


Number of Participating Units by Region & type

Results

About 84.6% of the facilities (Dispensing station & OAT) provide service 5 days a week, working from the morning till the afternoon. This limits the number of patients seeking help since most of them work in the morning and cannot come for daily OAT.

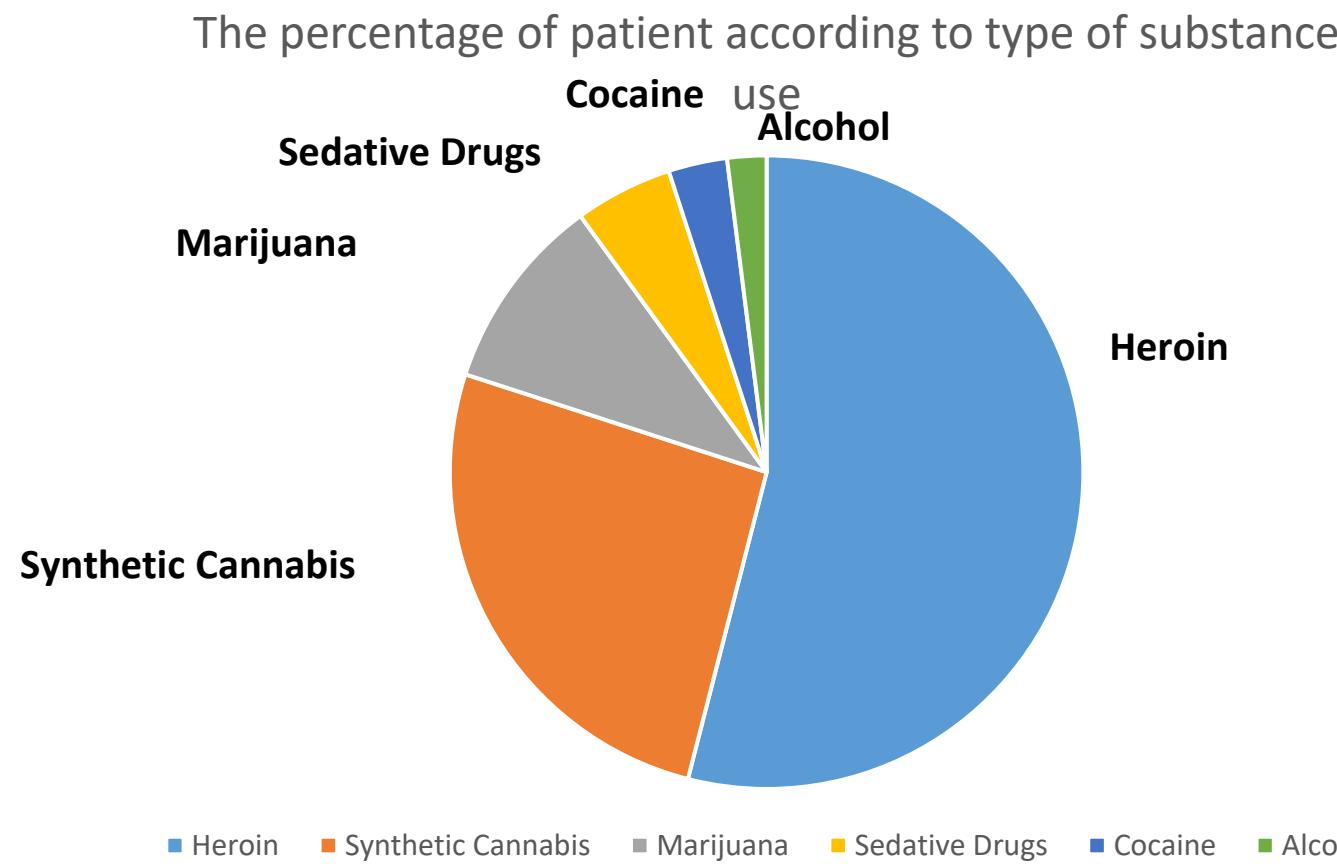
15.6% of the facilities provide service 24 hours 7 days a week.





Clients & Type of drug Misuse.

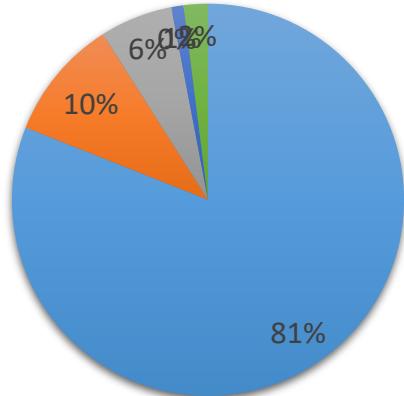
The majority of clients seeking treatment at SUD centers are heroin users about **54%**, while **26%** use Synthetic Cannabis, and **10%** reported using Marijuana, **5%** Sedative drugs, **3%** Cocaine & **2%** alcohol.





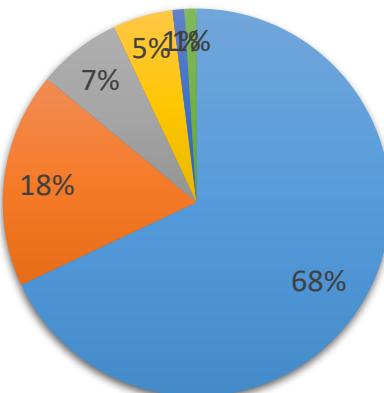
Percentage of patients in reference to Unite type

Dispensing Stations

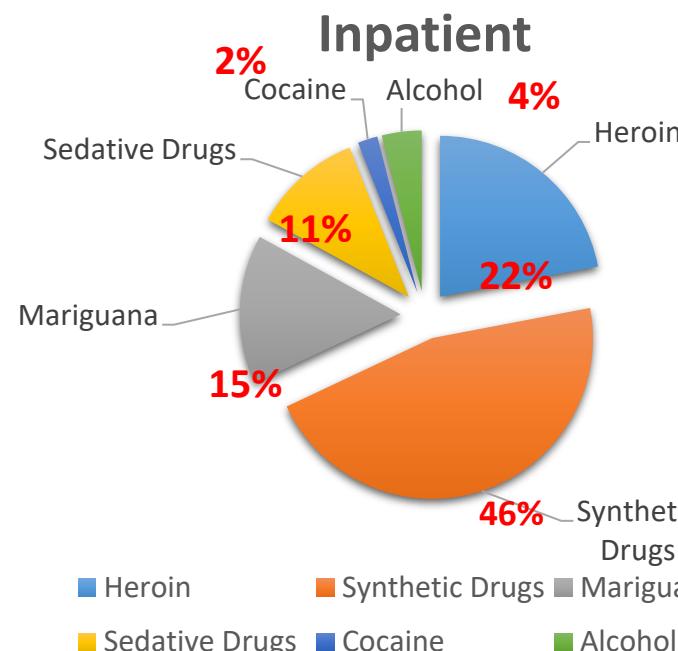


■ Heroin ■ Synthetic Drugs ■ Marijuana
■ Sedative Drugs ■ Cocaine ■ Alcohol

OAT Center



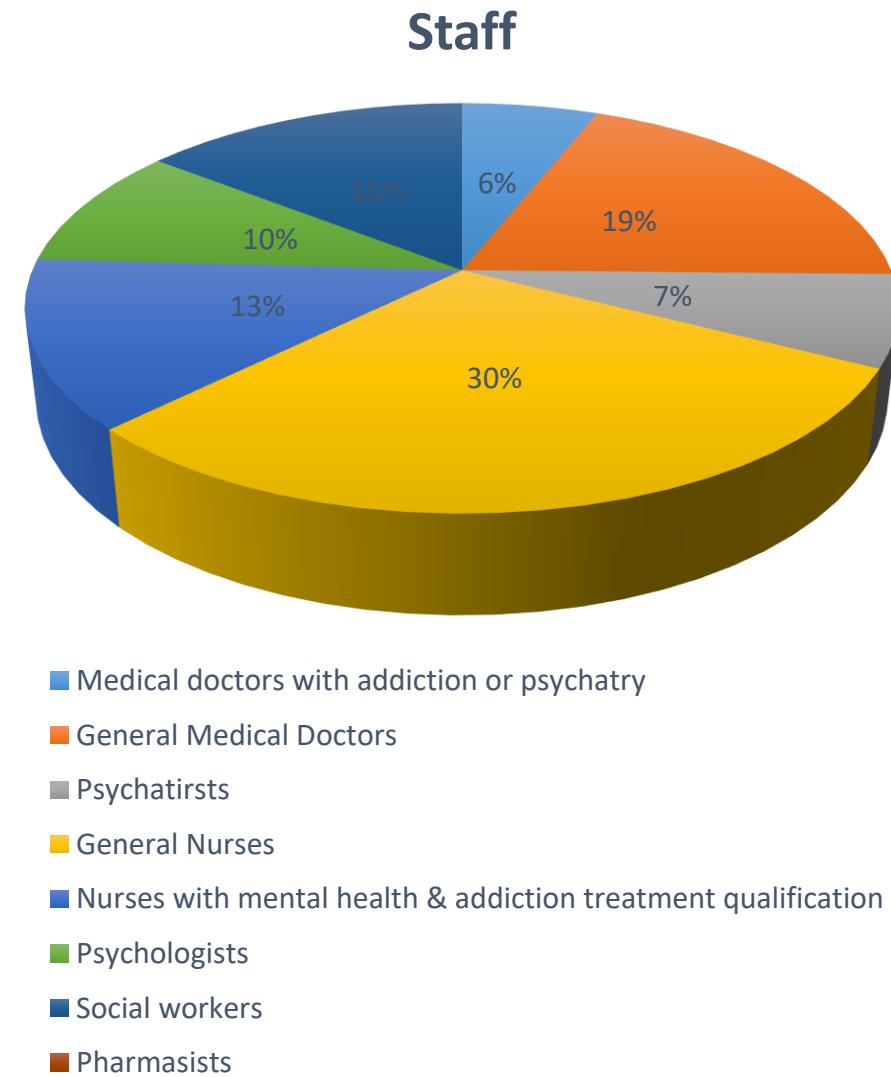
■ Heroin ■ Synthetic Drugs ■ Marijuana ■ Sedative Drugs ■ Cocaine ■ Alcohol





Staff (employees & volunteers)

The staff number of staff working in all SUD treatment facilities was 134 employees and 25 volunteers, they were classified as follows:
Medical doctors specialized in addiction Medicine or psychiatry were 5 %, general medical doctors 16%, psychiatrists were 6%, general nurses were 25%, Nurses with mental health & addiction qualification were 11%, while psychologists were 8%, and social workers 12%, since pharmacists accounted 7%



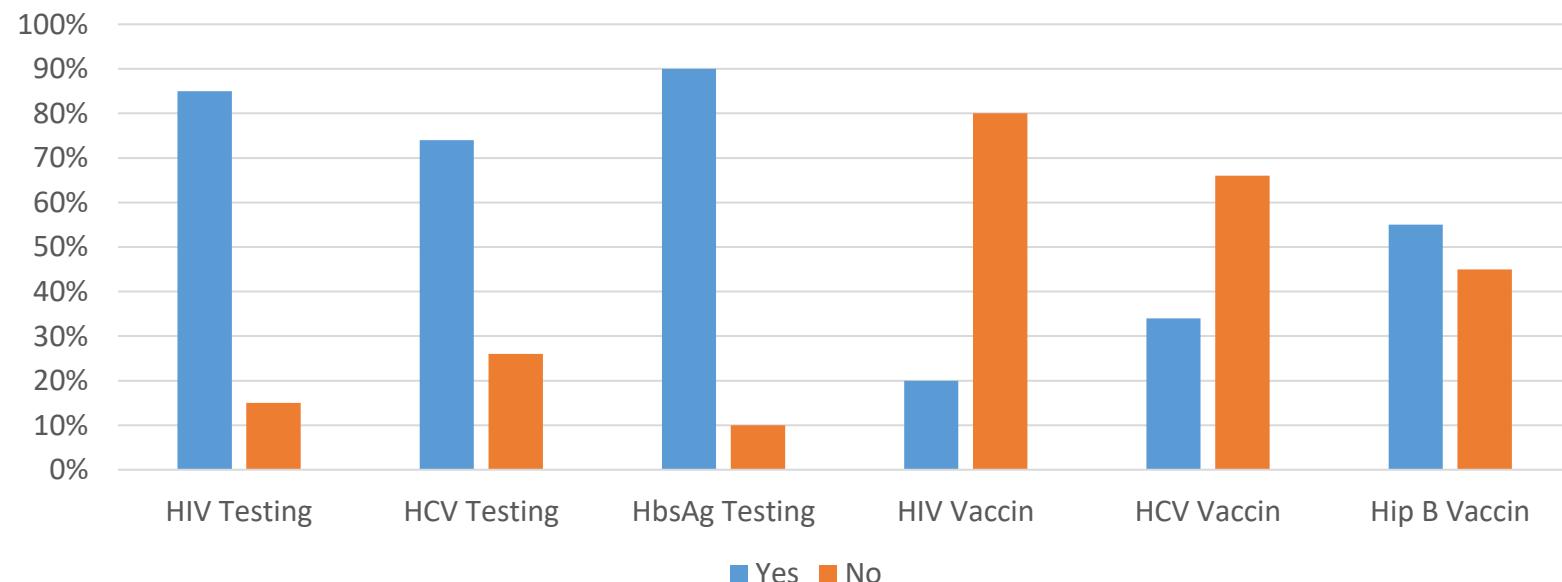
Harm Reduction Services & Testing for Infectious diseases.



Harm Reduction Service is an important need in Palestine to be provided to PWUDs, this program was started recently in 2019, and according to the survey, it was found that about 65% of the facilities do not provide injection equipment including clean syringes, since 32% reported not to have take-home Naloxone program, while 84% of the facilities provide Group therapy and family therapy, as well as psychological interventions

Concerning Infectious diseases testing & vaccination it was as shown in the table below

Infectious diseases testing & vaccination





Impact of COVID-19 on SUD treatment Services :

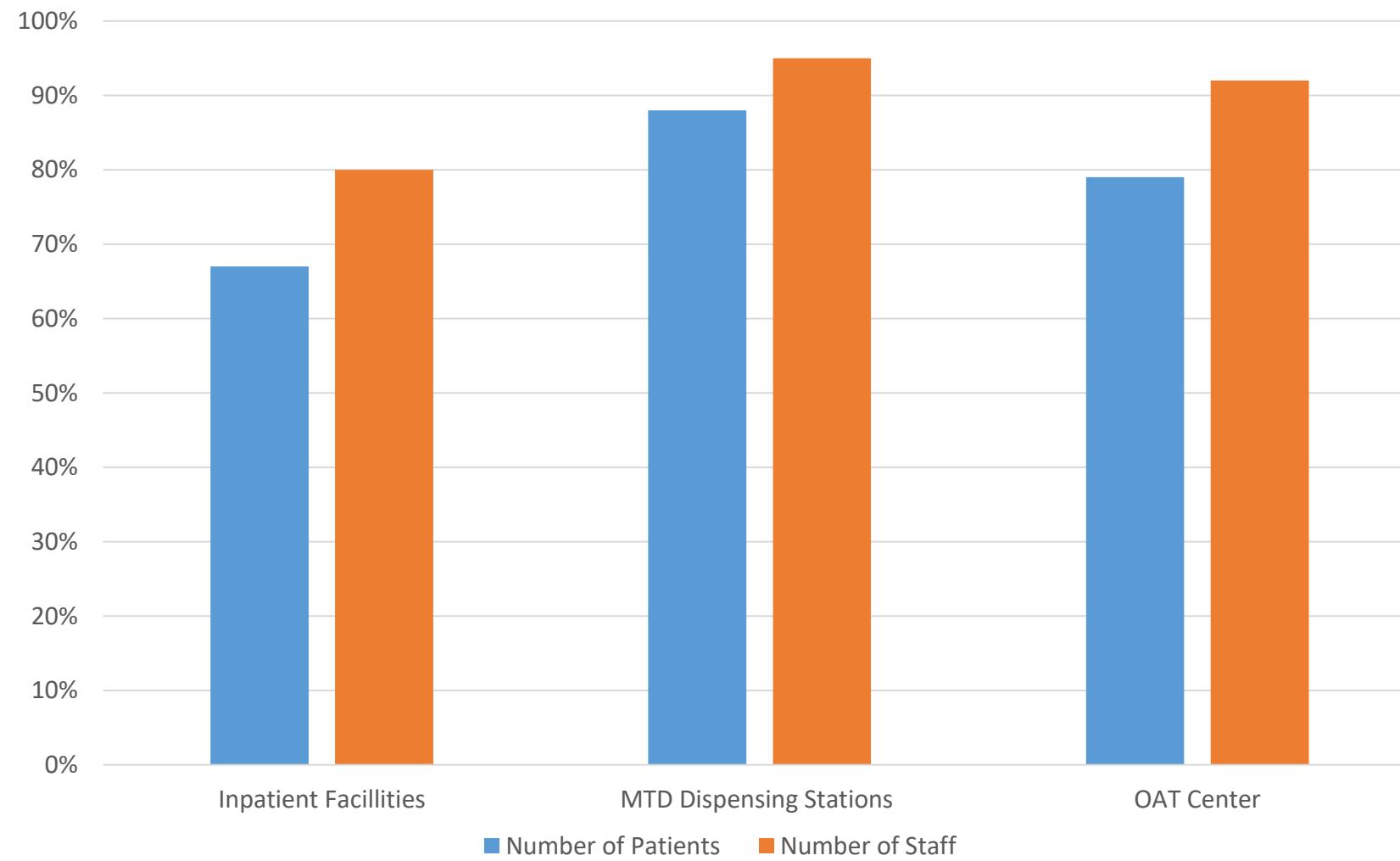
During the COVID-19 Pandemic, all participating facilities reported being affected, almost 98% continued their service, 90% of them reported a decrease in opening days, only 25% were accepting new patients, while 16% provided a take-home Methadone, meanwhile, 76% increased online counseling

Condition	Number of facilities
Restrict Opening Hours	11
Closed for the whole period of time	2
Fewer Staff meeting	8
Limited face-to-face client-staff contact	10
Restriction of group activities	11
Increased online contacts	10
Increased take-home MTD and other materials	7
Restriction od new admissions	10



Infected Clients & Staff with COVID-19 Virus

Chart Title





Conclusion

The findings provided insight into the needs and challenges faced in SUD services.

1. Some treatment facilities benefit from greater availability of treatment types, and some have a lack of availability of treatment facilities which was a major barrier to treatment accessibility.
2. Also, the Israeli occupation & the checkpoints were considered to be a major barriers to accessibility.
3. In addition, the limited coverage represents a major barrier to accessibility too
4. An additional limitation was the lack of a naloxone overdose program.

This can be addressed by providing proper training to additional specialists and more facilities .



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**Thank You for your
Attention**