

Partner Referral to Opioid Agonist Therapy for Probationers in Ukraine



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Background

- In Ukraine, there are a large number of addictive patients at high risk for HIV. As of today, there are 285,000 PWIDs, but only 13,100 (4.9%) are in therapy. This is significantly lower than the recommended coverage level (20%).
- PWID comprise a large proportion of all convicts (estimated to be up to 50%), and they have indications for OAT while being in the penitentiary systems. Before the first OAT program in Ukrainian prisons became possible, we piloted OAT linkage intervention for probationers.
- Social networks were implemented in our pilot study on 2 sites. We involved probationers and their PWID partners. For all participants was used SBIRT model.
- SBIRT is a comprehensive, integrated, public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with substance use disorders, as well as those who are at risk of developing these disorders. The primary components of SBIRT are:
 - Universal Screening (S) to identify substance misuse, abuse, and dependence.
 - Brief Intervention (BI) provides feedback about unhealthy substance use. It also focuses on education, increasing patient insight and awareness about risks related to unhealthy substance use, and enhances motivation toward healthy behavior change.
 - Referral to Treatment (RT) helps facilitate access to addiction assessment and treatment.

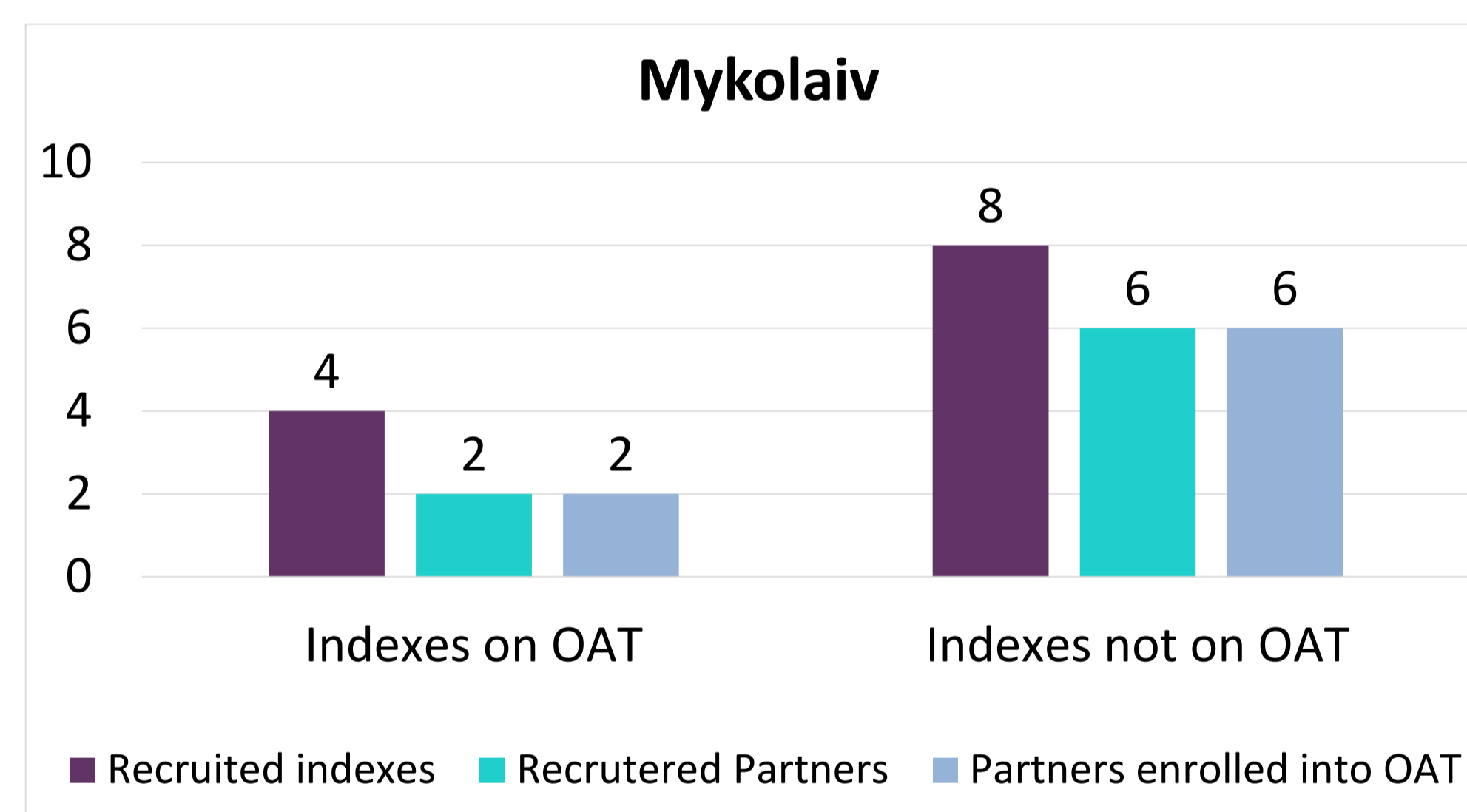
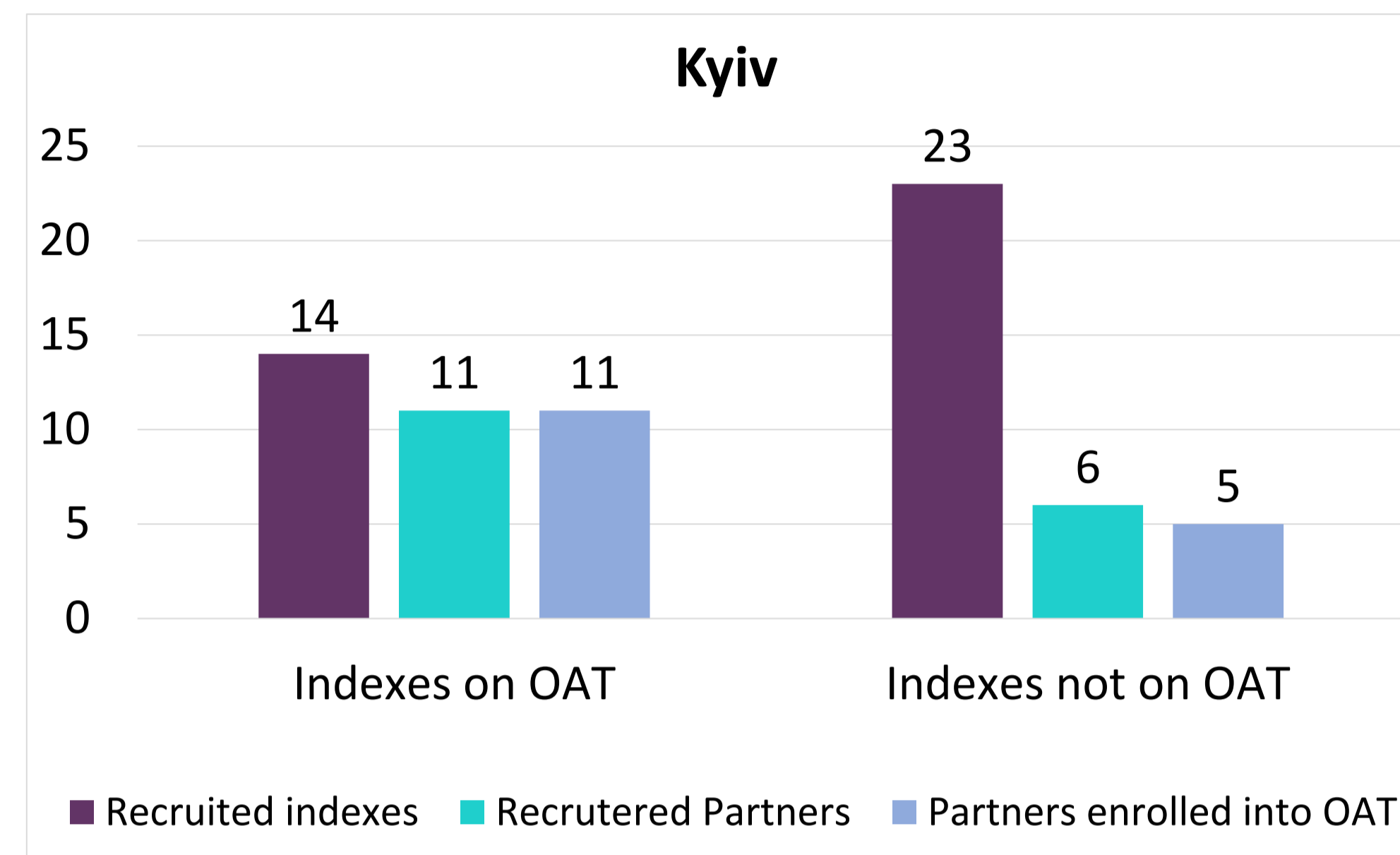
Aim

- Our aim was to investigate 2 hypotheses:
- whether partner involvement would increase enrollment of indexes into OAT;
 - evaluate the efficacy of enrollment of new PWIDs (Partners) to OAT by probationers.

Methods

- The Partner enrollment rate was assessed in two comparison groups:
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 - In the “intervention” group, Index and Partner dyads were recruited together.
- Each Index could enroll up to 2 Partners. Follow-up included at least 3 months of observation.

Results



Conclusions

- in both groups, there was a high enrollment rate of Partners in OAT
- most enrollment did not occur in dyads (Probationer+Partner)
- need more time to analyze the retention of these Partners in the OAT program

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MATLINK-Partners

