



HPTN
HIV Prevention
Trials Network

Engaging PWIDs in a research study

HPTN 074 Vietnam

Chu Viet Anh, MPH
Thai Nguyen, Vietnam

Outline

- HIV and PWIDs in Vietnam
- HPTN 074 overview
- Engaging PWIDs in HPTN 074: challenges and solutions

HIV in Vietnam

- 1990: First case of HIV/AIDS diagnosed in a PWID in Vietnam
- 2014: 256,000 PLWH
- After 20 years: HIV in Vietnam is considered a “mega epidemic” among PWIDs
- 45% attributed to injecting drug use

Sources: Ivker R. *Lancet*. 1996;348(9035):1162; Wolfe D. *Lancet*. 2010;376(9738):355-366; Ministry of Health of Vietnam, June 2009; UNAIDS. *Optimizing Viet Nam’s HIV Response: An Investment Case*. 2014; Nguyen Minh Tam, presentation, VAAC, 2012.

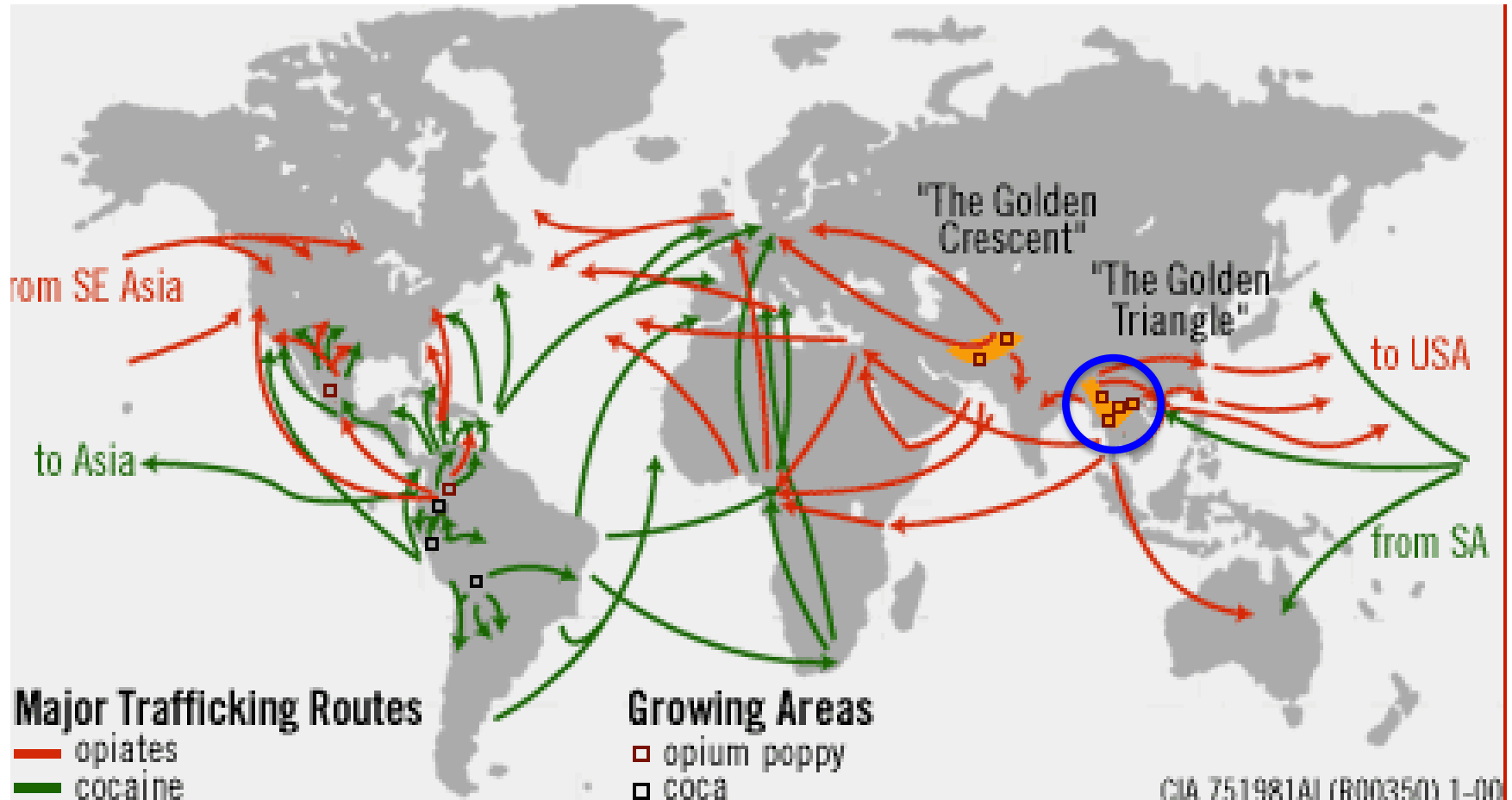
HIV is concentrated in key populations in Vietnam

- General population: 0.26%
- Sex worker: 2.6%
- MSM: 3.7%
- **PWIDs: 10.3%**

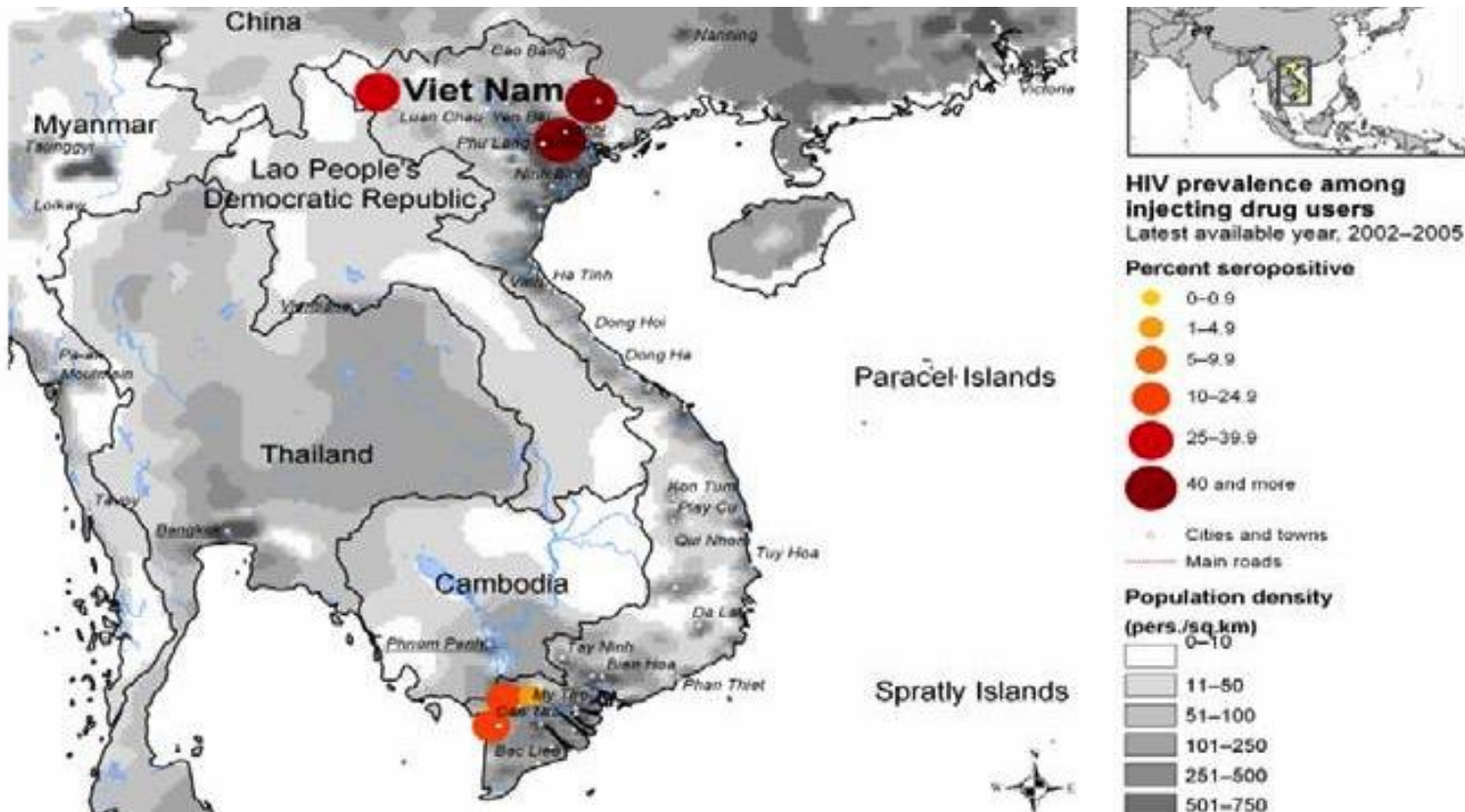
Complex socio-political context of PWID in Vietnam

- Golden Triangle has fueled Asia's drug epidemic
- Shift from smoking opium to injecting heroin
- *Doi Moi* has led to growth and development
- Drug users increased 70% between 2000-2004

The Golden Triangle

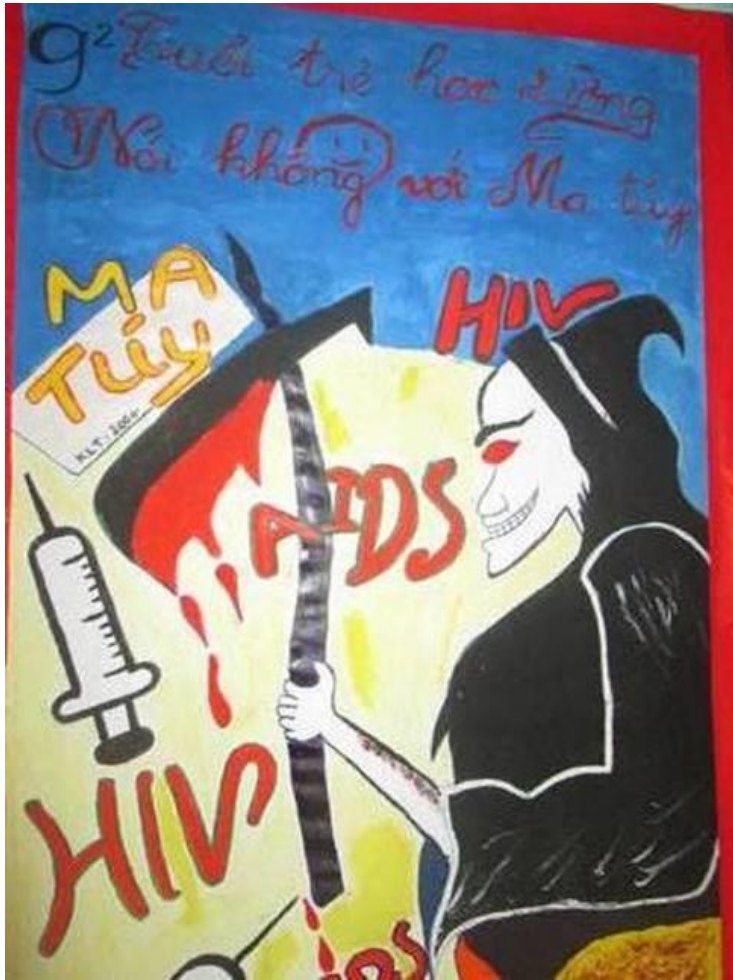


70% of HIV infections among PWID are in concentrated regions of Vietnam



PWIDs in Vietnam – A vulnerable group

- Drug use is labeled a “social evil”
- Historically, government has used crackdowns, mass arrests and forced detoxification to discourage drug use
- Stigma and discrimination against PWID





Thai Nguyen province



Our previous studies among PWID in Thai Nguyen

1. HIV/STD Network Prevention Trial (1R01 MH64895)
 - *Goal:* To reduce HIV, injecting and sexual risk among PWID and their risk networks
2. Prevention for Positives (1R01 DA37440)
 - *Goal:* To reduce HIV risk behaviors among HIV-infected PWID

HPTN 074 overview

- Target population: People who inject drugs (PWIDs)
- Targets:
 - Enroll: at least 167 units (an index + at least 1 injection partner)
 - FU participant: 12 - 24 months, retention rate at least 90%
- Site activated: Feb 2015
- First enrollment: 21 Apr 2015
- Recruitment end: May 2016
- Study end: May 2017

Initial recruitment strategies

- Working closely with recruiters
- Engaging peer educators, leaders of self-help groups
- Meeting with the CAB

Community advisory board (CAB)

- Engage people from different groups, including participants, leaders of self-help groups
- Help understand participants
- Protect participant's safety and rights
 - Authorities understand the contribution of the study for HIV/AIDS prevention in Vietnam
 - Authorities help protect participants
- Increase the study's prestige and dispel rumors

CAB roster

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Nguyen Duc Vuong	Pho Yen District Health Center	Truong Be Thien	Thai Nguyen city Health Center
Nguyen Van Chinh	Local authority	Nguyen Duc Viet	Police
Tran Van Chinh	Doctor, HIV/AIDS prevention	Hoang Van Thang	Thai Nguyen PAC
Ngo Ngoc Tam	DOLISA	Ho Quynh Trang	Thai Nguyen PAC
Do Thi Hong Khanh	Women Union	Ha Chi Dan	Leader of self-help groups
Pham Thi Thom	PLWH	Hoang Thi Van	Resident
Pham Van Minh	PWID	Le Xuan Vinh	Farmer



Dedication of recruitment staffs

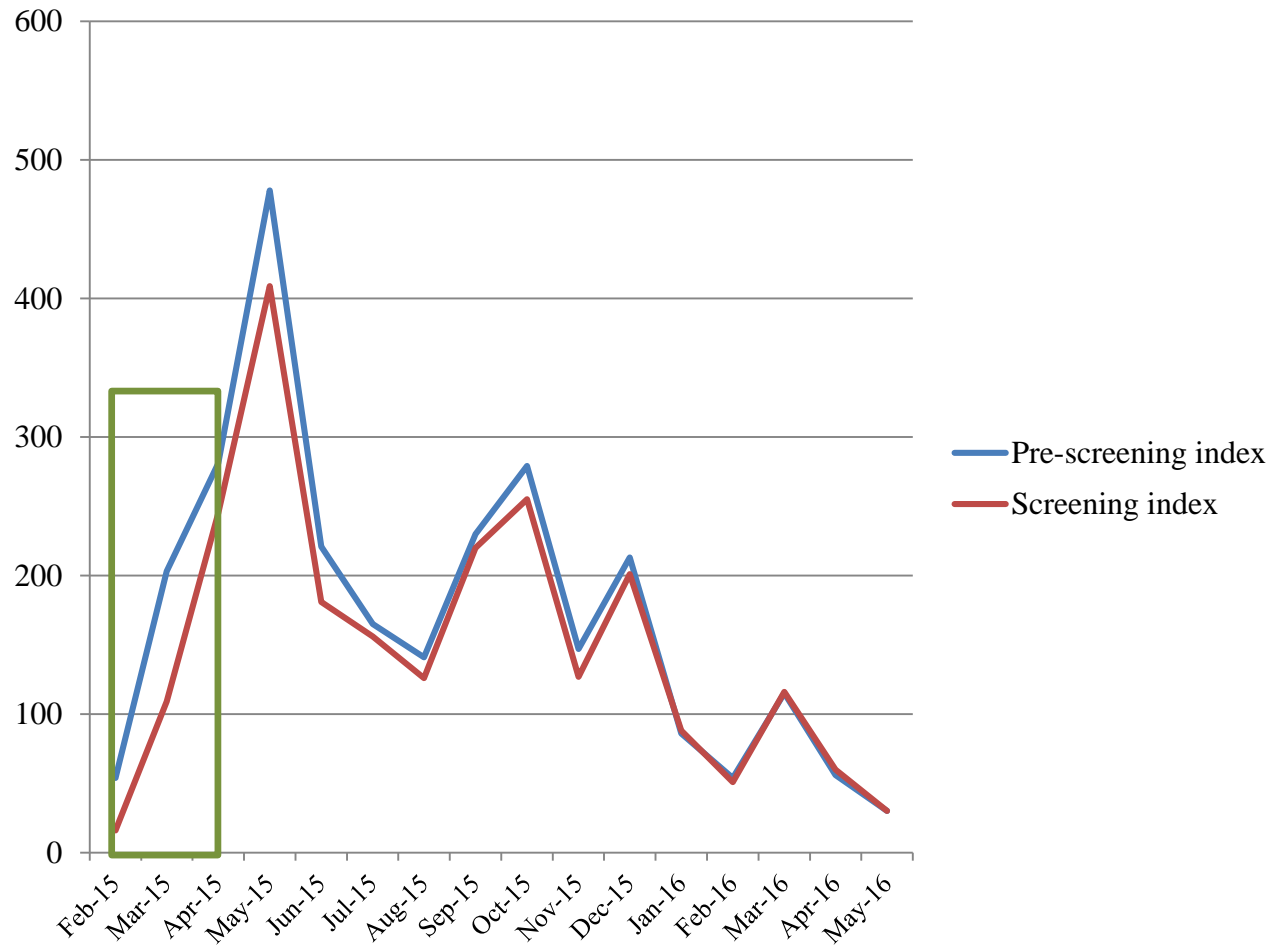
- Residents in the community
- Trainings: study procedures, soft skills
- Encouragement at work
- Closely monitor
 - Progress update
 - Orientation/strategies
 - Booster training need assessment: soft skills
- Listen, share and support

Key values

- No stigma and discrimination
- Honest and trustworthy
- Supportive

Screening and enrollment

Cumulative Screening:
Peer referral: (65%)
Community outreach: (32%)
Others: 3%



Identifying the challenges

- To identify and understand the recruitment challenges:
 - Consulted CAB
 - Worked closely with recruiters
 - Analyzed data from our tracking data base
 - Employed GPS

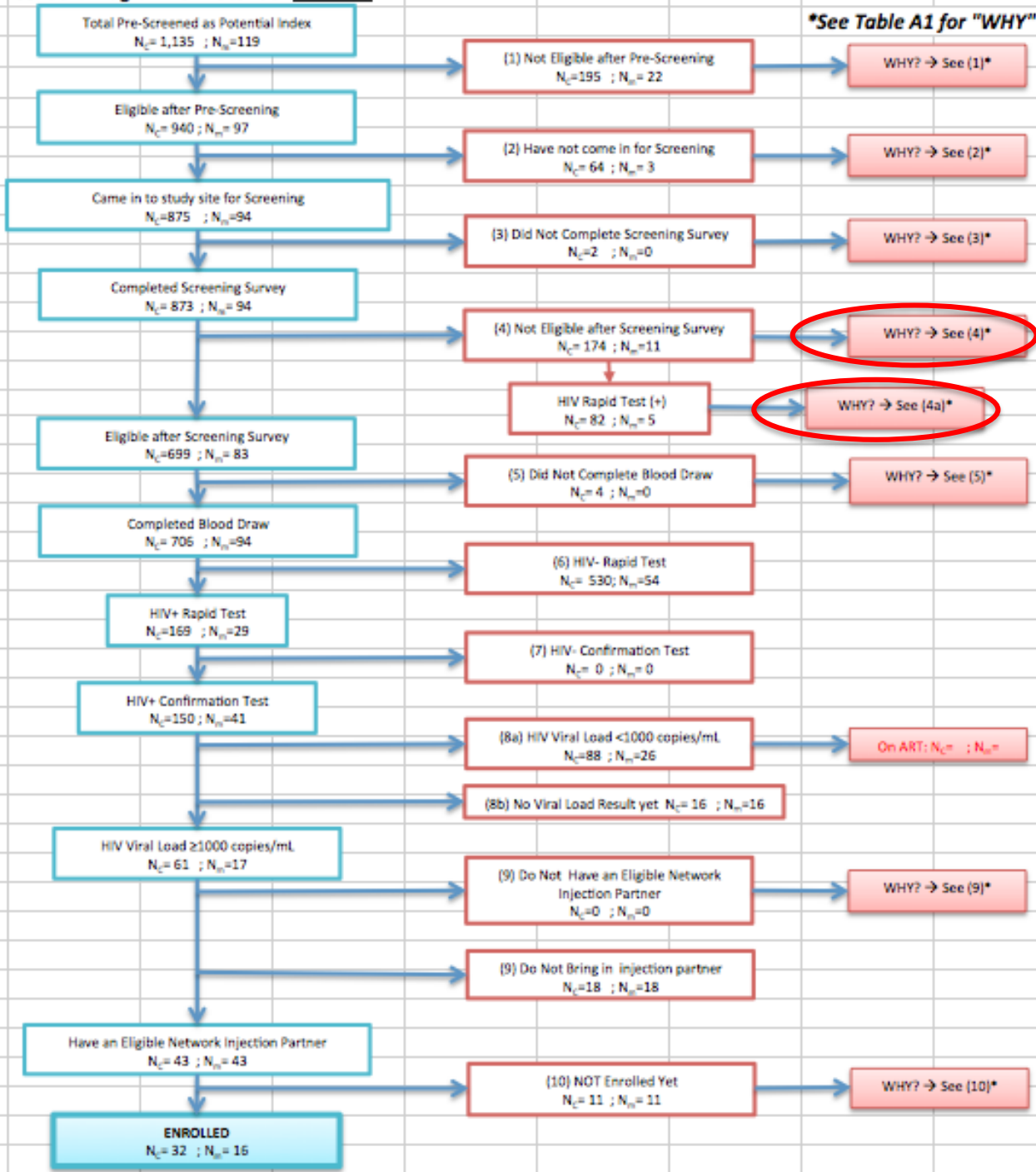
Major challenges in recruitment and retention

- Coverage of MMT and ART
- Rumors about the study (at the beginning of the study only)
 - Police/authorities
 - Cross check ART and MMT services
- “Social evils” elimination campaigns
 - Rehabilitation centers
 - Incarceration
- Community stigma and discrimination
 - PWIDs hide their injection status
 - PWIDs travel far away from home for work

Combined key solutions

- Use **data** to understand and monitor the issues
- GPS mapping
- **Encourage information spread in the target population**
- **Build rapport and increase mutual understanding** between study staffs and participants and their family members

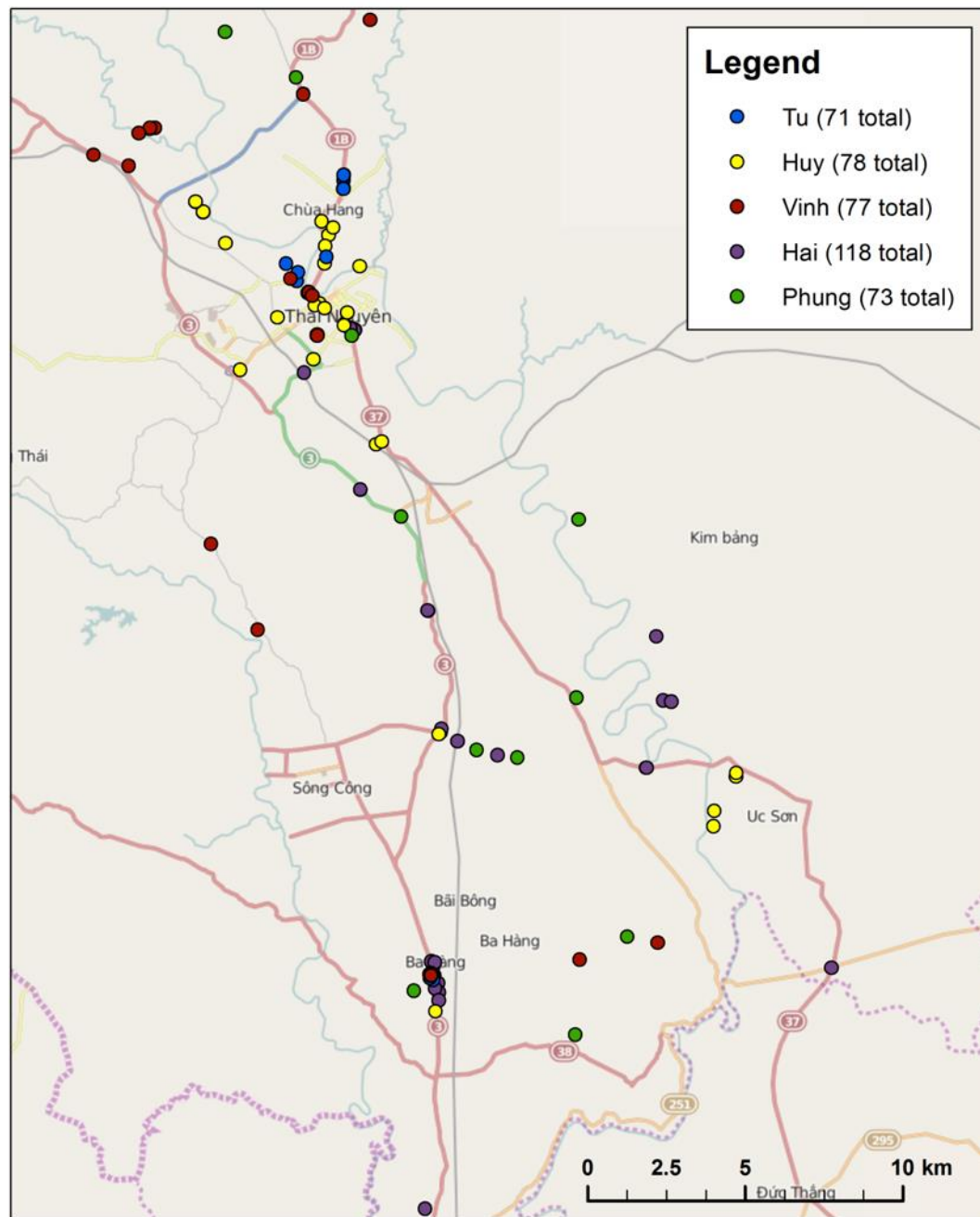
Consort Diagram for Potential INDEXES



Point when became ineligible	Cumulative N	Reason Ineligible	Cumulative n
(4) Not Eligible after Screening Survey & <i>HIV negative</i>	91	Did not inject within last 3 months	4
		Injected < 2times/week	19
		Unable to verify injection anatomy	11
		Did not share needles/syringes in last month	83
		Not willing to introduce a partner	3
(4a) Not Eligible after Screening Survey & <i>HIV positive</i>	82	Did not inject within last 3 months	2
		Injected < 2times/week	14
		Unable to verify injection anatomy	6
		Did not share needles/syringes in last month	46
		Not willing to introduce a partner	4
		Currently on ARV treatment & adherent	49

GPS map

6 August GPS Points by Recruiter



Encourage information spread

- Community approach to introduce the study to potential participants
 - Appropriate words
 - Appropriate dressing
 - Appropriate context – street context
- Disseminate flyers with appropriate messages
- Collaborate with “key persons” – peer educators, leaders of self-help groups, “prestigious” PWIDs
- Encourage “word of mouth”
 - Be friendly, no stigma and discrimination
 - Support participants as much as possible
 - Transparent: procedures, benefits, risks and discomforts
 - Incentive for peer referral

Flyer

3

BY PARTICIPATING, YOU MIGHT GAIN

- ✓ Free HIV test
- ✓ Free CD4 and HIV viral load tests, if needed
- ✓ Referral to MMT and early ARV services

THAI NGUYEN PROVINCIAL HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM



PARTICIPATE IN THE
“Cùng bạn”
(HPTN074)

FOR A BETTER LIFE



“CUNG BAN - HPTN 074” PROJECT

Branch 1: Pho Yen District Health Centre
Ba Hang Town, Pho Yen District, Thai Nguyen Province
☎ (0280) 3864.525

Branch 2: Ground Floor, Building E, Medical Centre of Thai Nguyen City
Group 34, Phan Dinh Phung Ward, Thai Nguyen City
☎ (0280) 3656.188



HOT LINE

0912 456 769

PROJECT PURPOSE

Cung Ban is a research project to help us understand more about factors that impact HIV transmission in the community

1

WE INVITED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU

- ✓ Identify as an active injection drug user
- ✓ Are between 18 and 60 years old

2

HPTN

HIV Prevention
Trials Network





Build rapport and increase mutual understanding

- With both enrolled and not enrolled participants and their families as well (if applicable)
- Act as a friend
 - Care about their needs/thoughts/situations before talking about our needs.
 - Frequently contact
 - Listen and appropriately answer questions
 - Support them as a friend can do
- Respect “the contract” - ensure participant’s confidentiality
- Dispel rumors about the study

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The HIV Prevention Trials Network is sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, all components of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The HPTN 074 study team acknowledges
Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control
Thai Nguyen People Committee
Thai Nguyen Prevention AIDS Center
Pho Yen District Health Center
Thai Nguyen City Health Center