

STI INTEGRATION INTO HIV PROGRAMMES



Integrating Syphilis into HIV, ANC, PreP, KP and SRH Programmes



“From Silos to Systems: Strengthening Syphilis Response Through Integration”



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25 Sep 2025

FRAMEWORK FOR STI GUIDELINE DELIVERY, 2025



Recommendations
on the delivery of health
services for the prevention
and care of sexually
transmitted infections



- Evidence-informed recommendations for the delivery of STI services
- Support the implementation of other WHO recommendations on STI prevention and care, including the management of people presenting with STI symptoms, the screening of certain asymptomatic populations, and the treatment of individuals with confirmed STIs along with their sexual partners.

Health systems should be structured and strengthened to deliver quality-assured, accessible, equitable and people-centred services for the prevention, screening, diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted infections.

Decision-makers should consider local and regional health system capacity, resources and population needs when selecting interventions to deliver these services.



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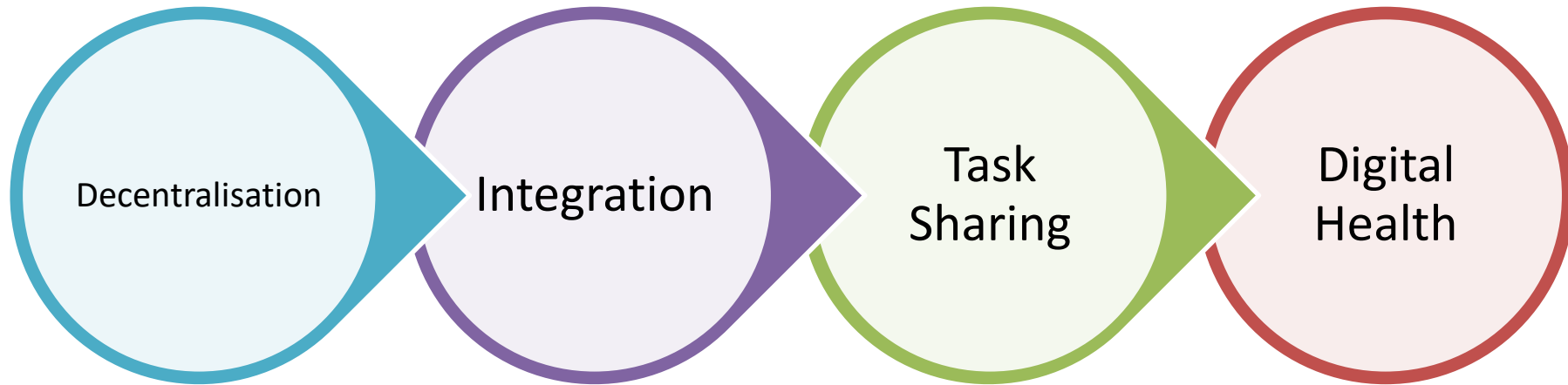
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FRAMEWORK FOR STI GUIDELINE DELIVERY



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Global STI situation



1. 30 different STIs , multiple infections are possible



2. High rates of STIs



3. Increasing rates of STIs in some populations

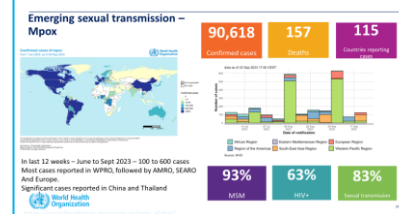
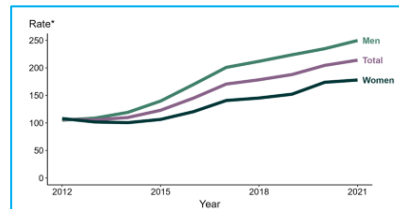


4. Emerging & Re-emerging STIs



5. Increasing antimicrobial resistance

RESPONSE IS LOW AND SLOW



- **374 million new cases** of gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis & trichomoniasis (age 15-49) in 2020
- **> 200 million adults** with prevalent GUD due to either HSV-1 or HSV-2
- **1 in 3 men** have genital HPV
- **High rates of STIs in MSM** and SW
- **Increasing STI** in countries w/ good surveillance systems (US and UK)
- **Emergence** of sexual transmission of **mpox**
- **Emerging gonorrhoea resistance** to the last-line treatment - ceftriaxone and cefixime

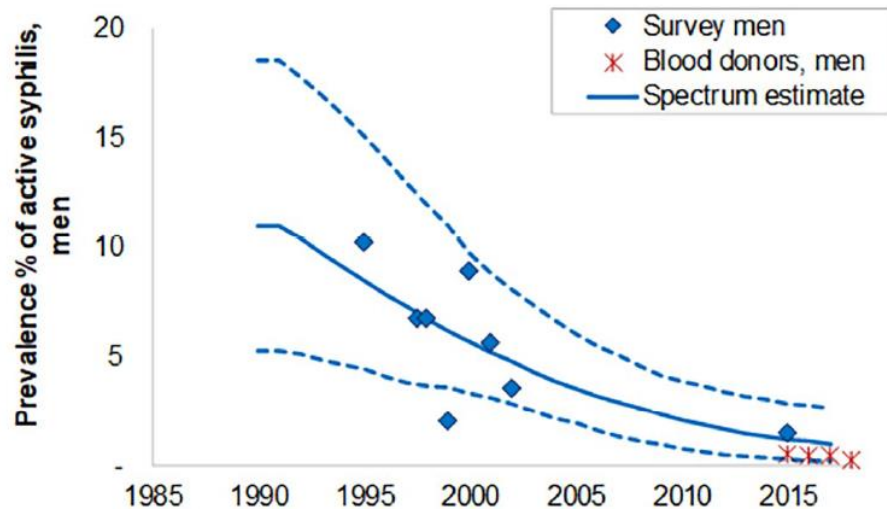
Syphilis remains a challenge



WHO reported that 8 million people globally were infected with syphilis in 2022, with most infections occurring in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Southern Asia: Modes of transmission as follows:



- **WHO spectrum model: decline in syphilis prevalence from 1990s**
 - Syndromic management introduced
 - ANC screening implemented
 - Mortality associated with HIV
- **Recent data, however:**
 - Concerning rise in syphilis prevalence (ANC survey)
 - Concerning risk in cases of congenital syphilis



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Testing recommendations in STI consolidate guidelines



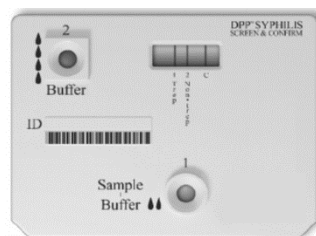
Syphilis testing services

- Syphilis self-testing¹
- Dual treponemal/non-treponemal (active syphilis) rapid diagnostic tests²

Syphilis self-tests



Trep/non-trep tests



STI partner services

“Enhanced” partner services strategies, including expedited partner therapy (EPT)



1. Towns JM, Tieosapjaroen W, Mello MB, et al. The Lancet Public Health. 2023.

2. Zhang Y, Goh SM, Mello MB, et al. Sexually Transmitted Infections. 2022;98(8):608-16.



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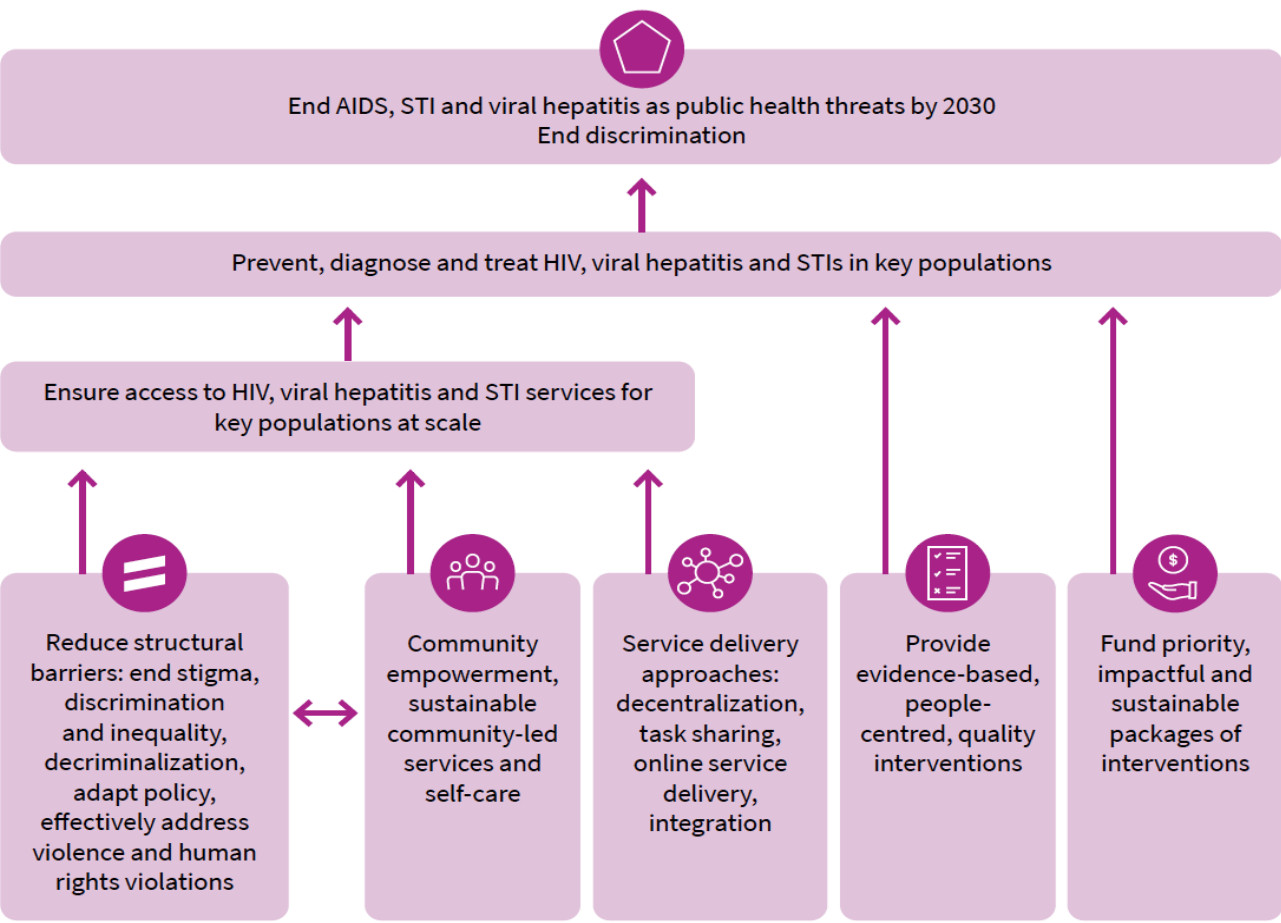
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How we can optimize the response to HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs in key populations



Fig. 2. Theory of change: addressing HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs in key populations



Align integration with the six WHO pillars



Service Delivery: KP-friendly, youth-friendly, respectful care

Health Workforce: Training on syphilis + HIV/STI/SRH integration

Information Systems: Unified registers, defined data elements

Medicines & Diagnostics: Stock benzathine penicillin, rapid tests

Financing: Budget for integrated services, not vertical silos

Leadership & Governance: Clear roles, accountability, communication – Tripple Elimination, Call an Action to eradicate Syphilis



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Integration of STI services

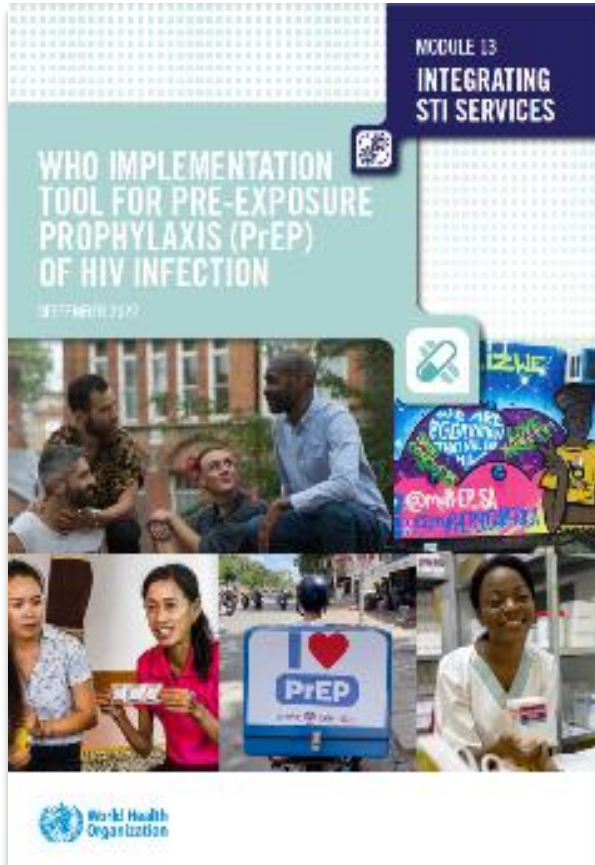
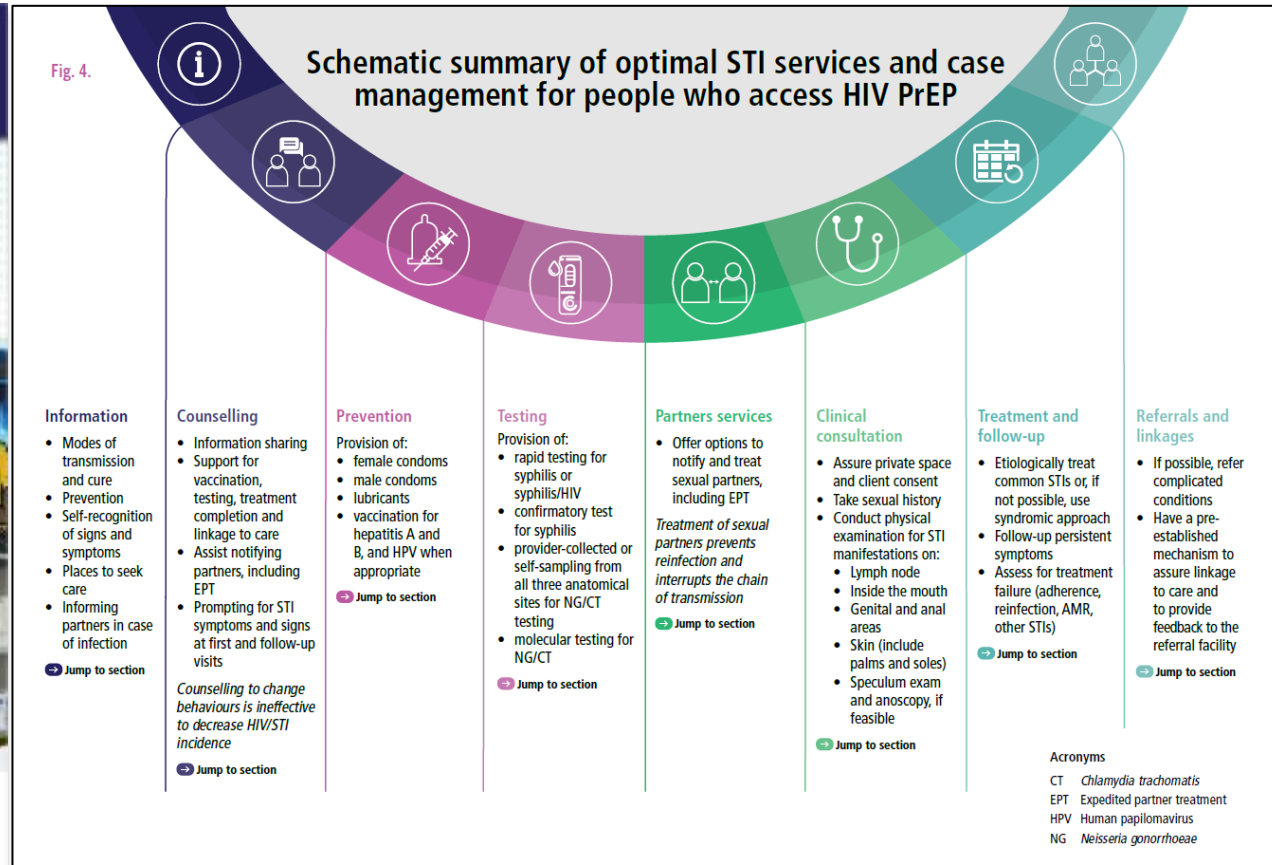


Fig. 4.



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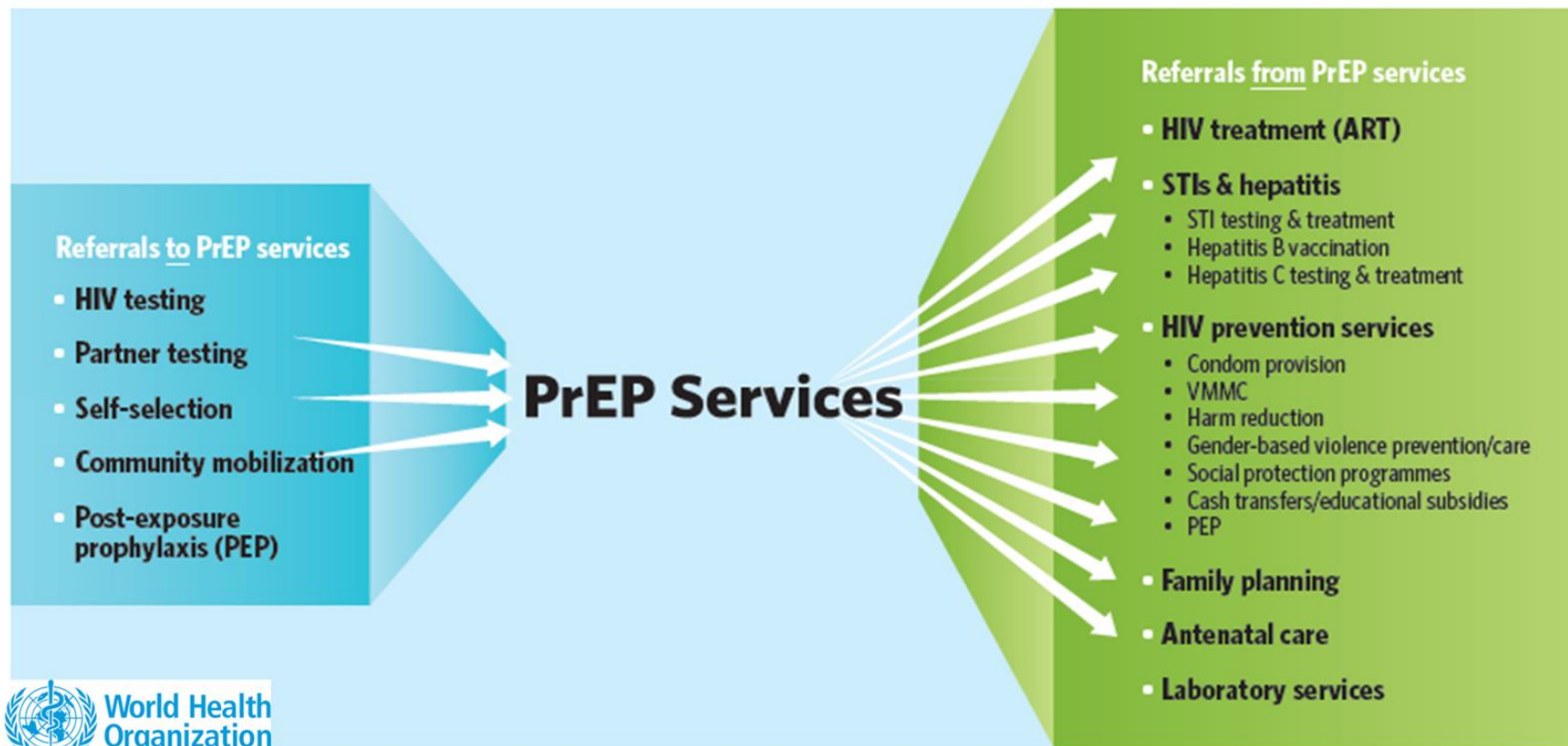
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Integration of services



PrEP Services: referrals and linkages



Why Integration Matters (ANC-SA)



Rising congenital
syphilis cases

Missed opportunities
across ANC, HIV,
STI platforms

Integration improves
**efficiency, equity,
and outcomes**

Syphilis increases
HIV transmission
and worsens
pregnancy outcomes



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Current Gaps & Fragmentation in SA



**Limited linkage
between STI and
other health
services**

**Late ANC
booking and
missed testing
opportunities**

**Vertical
programming
limits continuity**

**Weak partner
tracing and
psychosocial
support**



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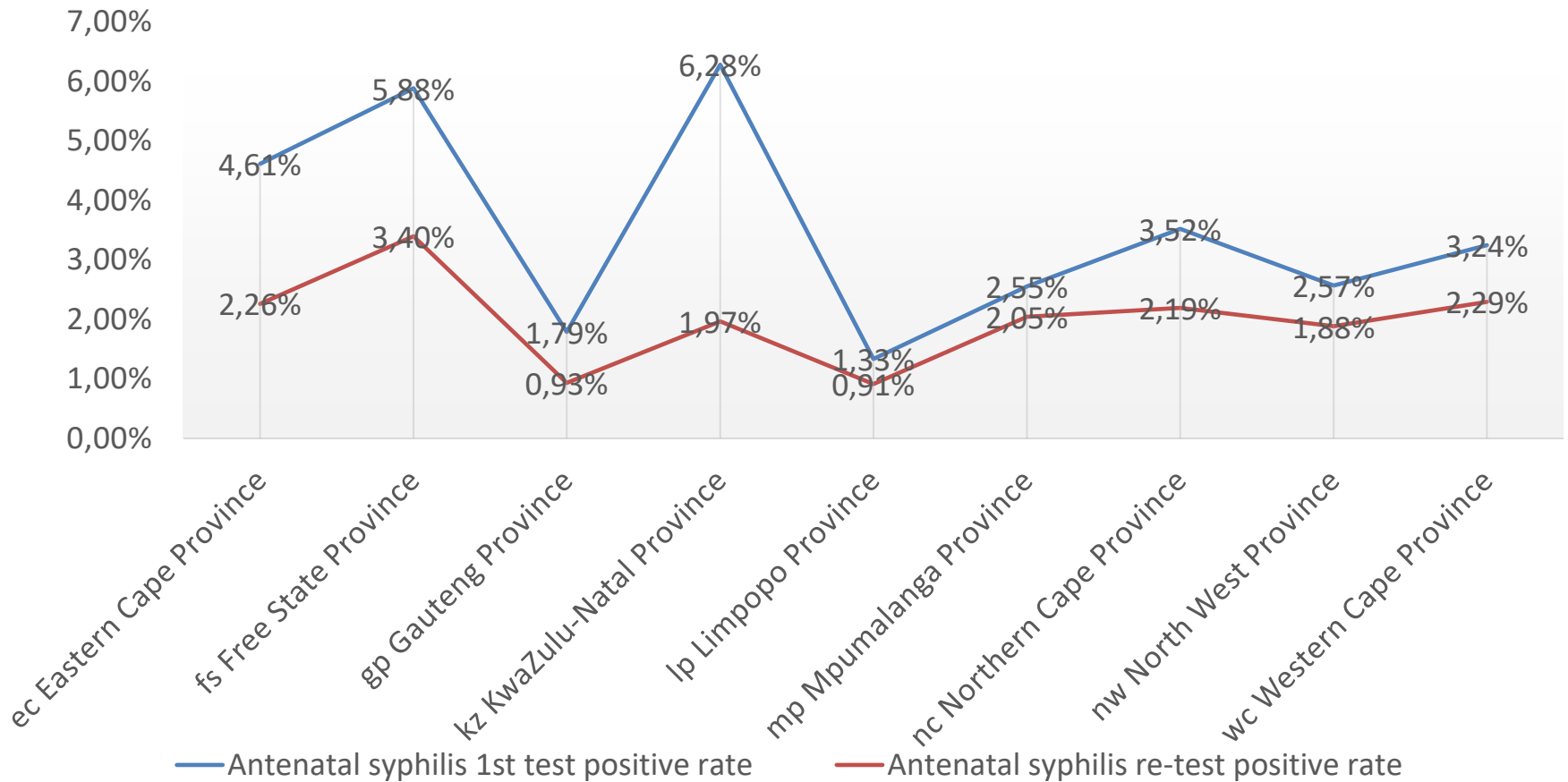


Integration Opportunities



Entry Point	Integration Opportunity
HIV	Dual HIV/syphilis rapid testing
STI	Syndromic management , POCT , partner notification
SRH	Safer conception, contraception counselling, PrEP linkage
ANC	Routine syphilis screening at booking, every BANC visit , delivery, PNC
Mental Health	stigma reduction, psychosocial support
KP	Sex Workers , MSM , TG , PWID , Inmates
AGYW	Youth Friendly Facility
VMMC	Men's Corner , Men's Health

ANC 1st & Re-test Positive, 2024/25



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THANK YOU



SPECIAL THANKS TO WHO TEAM AND NDOH STI UNIT



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