



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Population-level Approaches to Increase STIBBI Testing

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February 4, 2020

Land Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the Algonquin nation whose traditional and unceded territory we are gathered upon today.

I would also like to acknowledge that I live, work and play on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations

Objectives

- Describe learnings from BC, related to:
 - Get Checked Online
 - Provincial HIV Testing Guidelines

Get Checked Online

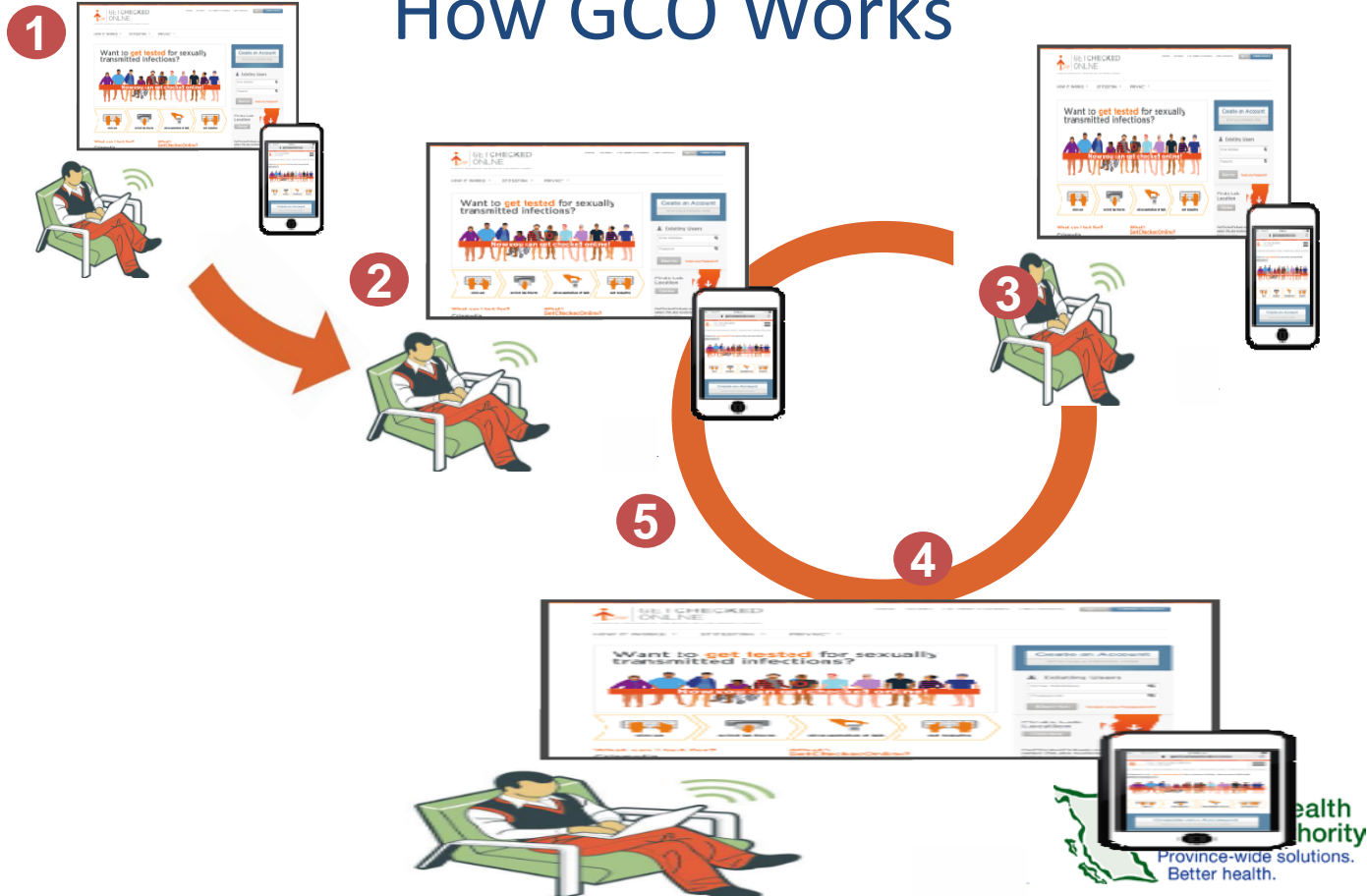
- Provides access to testing for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) via the internet
- A “virtual clinic” of the BCCDC with BC PHL and RHAs
- Integrated with current STI clinical and public health practices at the BCCDC Provincial STI Clinic



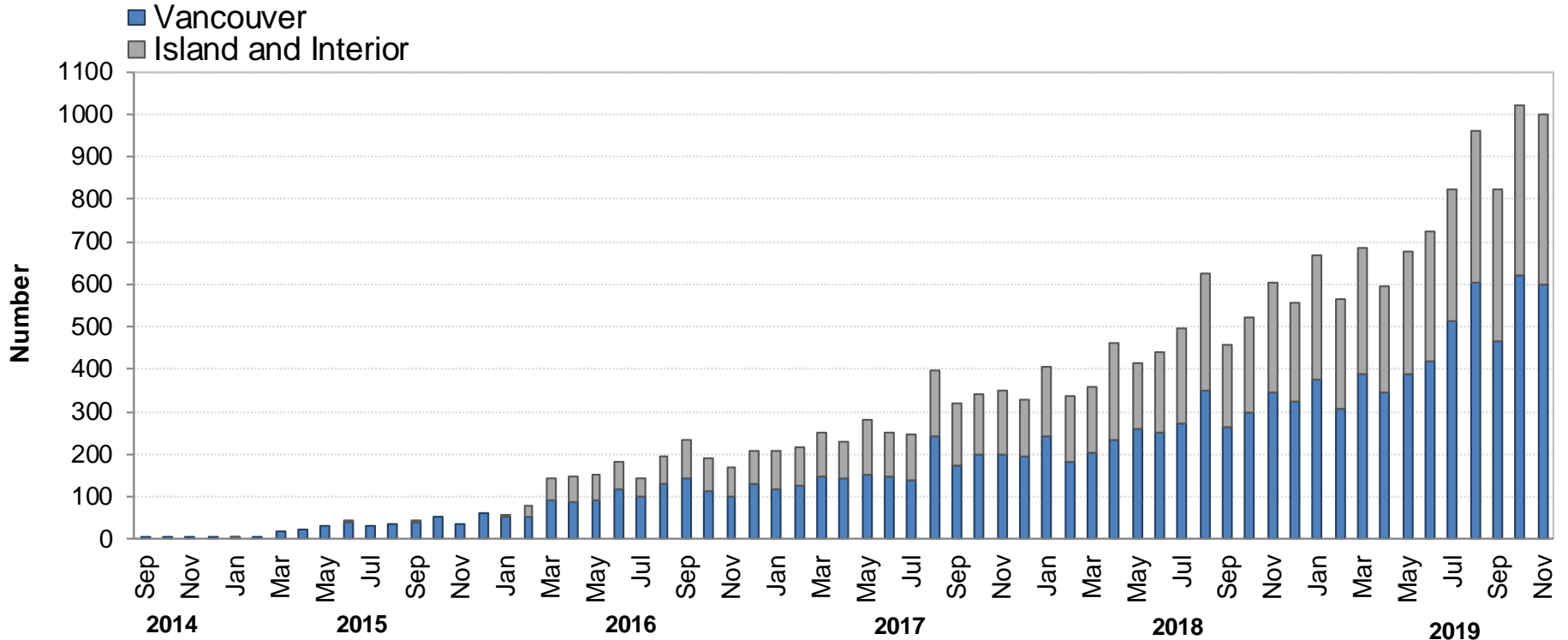
GCO Objectives

- **Increase uptake and frequency** of testing to diagnose infections earlier
- **Reach populations** with higher rates of STBBI & that face multiple barriers to accessing testing (youth; gbMSM; people in rural areas)
- **Increase clinic capacity** and improve ability of BC's health care system to provide STI testing
- **Scale-up** provincially and evaluate effectiveness at multiple levels

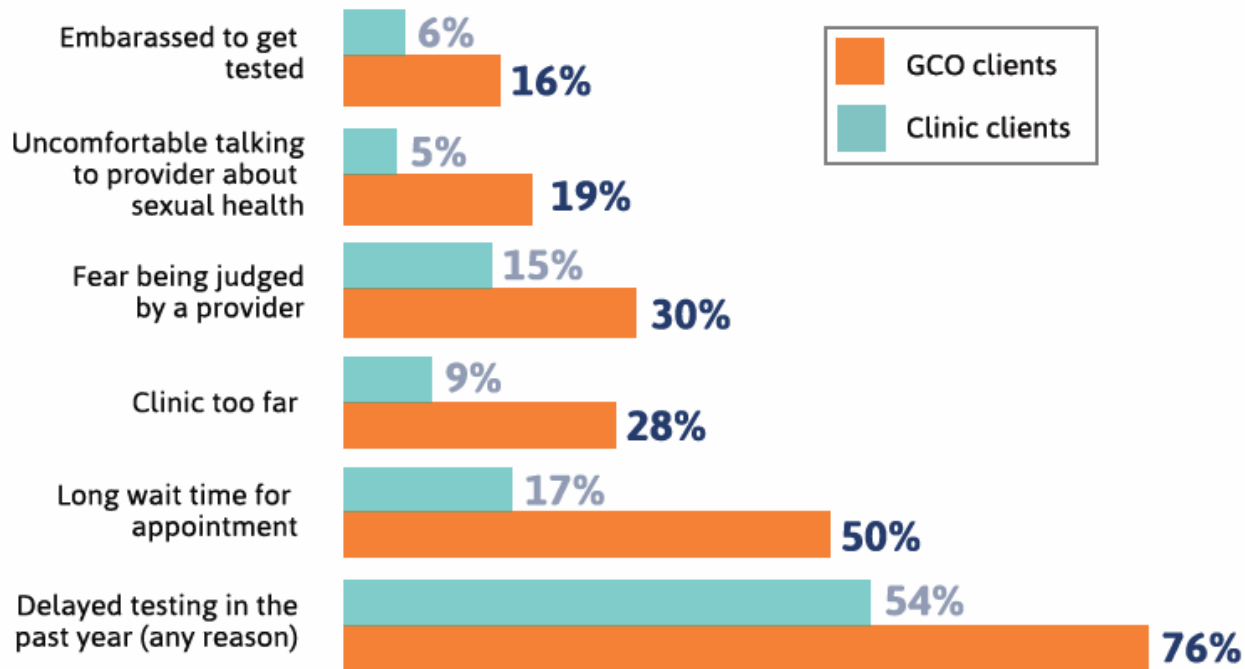
How GCO Works



Completed Test Episodes by Month and Region



Mitigating Barriers



Outcomes

- Users face/faced barriers to traditional testing (clinic, HCP, stigma)
- GCO is well-accepted, highly valued for convenience, privacy
- Up to **1 in 5** of people are testing for the first time
- Almost half test more than once using GCO
- **1 in 20** testers diagnosed with an STI

Learnings for Implementation

- Involve internal stakeholders early (clinical staff, laboratory, privacy, security, IT, risk management, senior leadership)
- Develop partnership with clinicians and community laboratories
- Involve end-users and external community stakeholders at every stage

HIV Testing Guidelines

- Providers offer an HIV test:
 - **Every 5 years** for 18-70 yo
 - **Every year** for those 18-70 yo who belong to populations with a higher burden of HIV infection
 - **Once** for patients >70 yo if HIV status unknown
- Providers offer HIV tests whenever:
 - Ordering diagnostic bloodwork
 - Patient presents with symptoms of HIV infection
 - Patient is pregnant
 - Patient is testing for or diagnosed with a STI, HBV, HCV, or TB



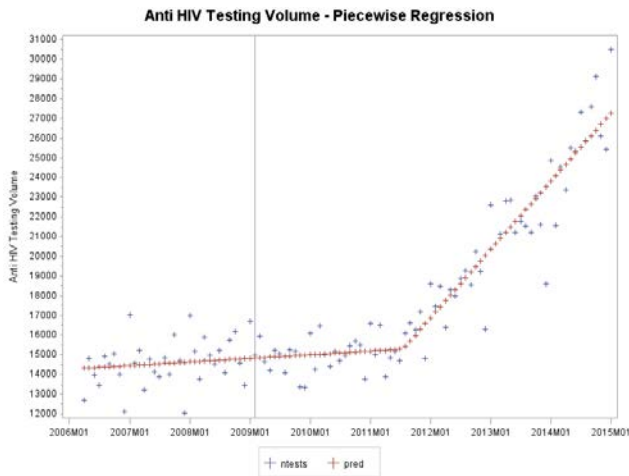
HIV TESTING GUIDELINES
FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Goals of HIV Testing Guidelines

- **Reduce** number of new HIV infections
- **Diagnose** those living with HIV as early as possible
- **Reduce stigma** by normalizing and routinizing HIV testing

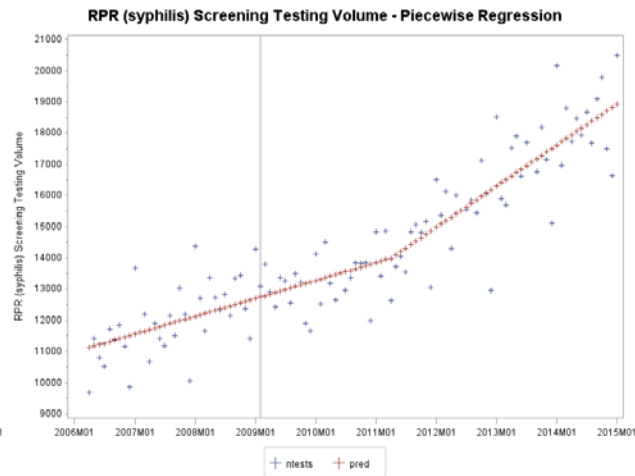
Changes in Testing Trends

HIV



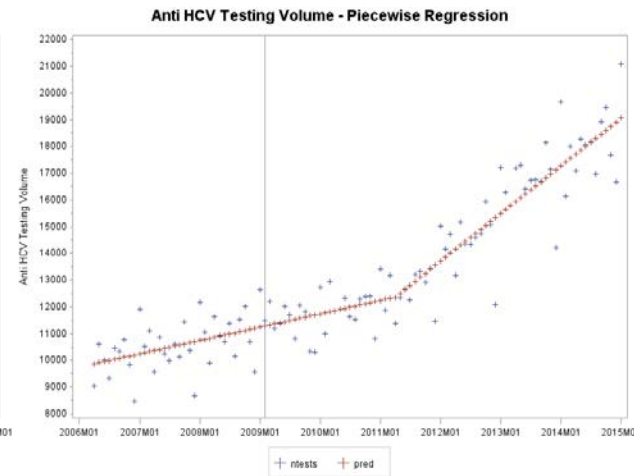
$p < 0.0001$

Syphilis



$p < 0.0001$

Hepatitis C



$p < 0.0001$

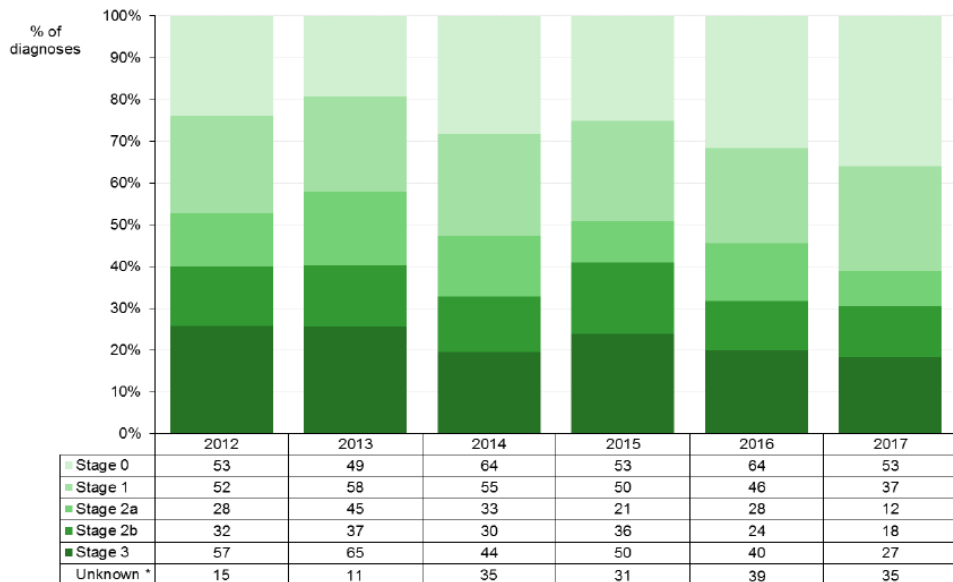
Timing of HIV Diagnosis

Inter-test intervals* in BC, 2017 versus 2006-2011

Characteristic	Category	Median Inter-Test Interval* (year)	
		2017	2006-2011
Overall		1.0	1.7
Gender	Female	1.1	1.8
	Male	1.0	1.7
Age Group	25 - 29 yrs	0.4	1.6
	30 - 39 yrs	1.1	1.5
	40 - 59 yrs	1.4	2.3
	60+ yrs	3.0	2.6
Exposure Category	gbMSM	1.0	1.3
	PWID	1.0	1.8
	Heterosexual contact	0.7	2.7

* Time between first positive test for HIV and the most recent negative HIV test in the past 10 years

Stage of Infection at Time of HIV Diagnosis, 2012 to 2017



Data table is comprised of case counts

* Percentage calculations do not include counts with stage unknown

Learnings for Implementation

- Engage clinicians to increase testing
- Work with community stakeholders, particularly those belonging to populations disproportionately affected
- Testing guidelines in one STIBBI can affect testing for other STIBBIs



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Questions?

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