





TEST AND TREAT: INNOVATIVE WAYS FORWARD

AIDS 2018 POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

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Innovative HIV testing through provider-based testing and partner notification

Partner Notification Services

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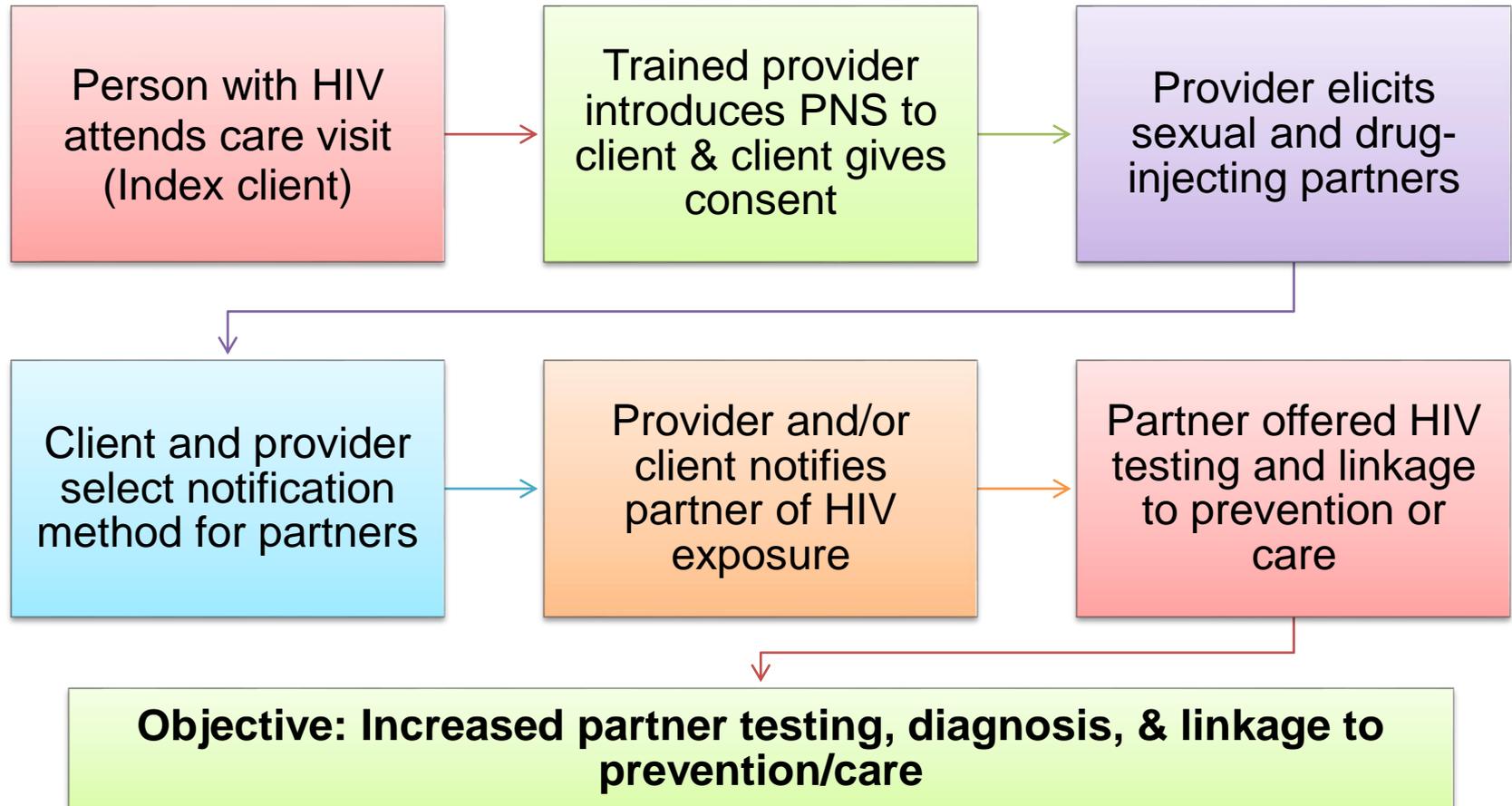
DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



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Partner Notification Services (PNS)





History & Rationale



- Longstanding component of infectious disease management
 - Including for TB and STIs
 - Until last decade, HIV PNS limited to some high income countries
 - Increasing evidence of safety & effectiveness → global scale-up
 - Sexual and drug injecting partners of PLHIV have increased likelihood of being:
 - HIV-positive OR
 - At high risk for HIV acquisition
 - Opportunity for:
 - High yield HIV case-finding
 - Linking partners to HIV prevention and treatment
- Achieve 90-90-90 – decrease HIV transmission & morbidity



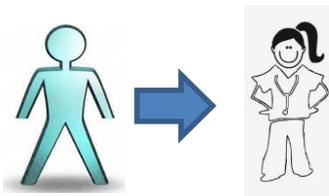
Options for Notifying Partners



Assisted Approaches
Passive



Provider Referral = Health care provider calls or visits partners to notify them of exposure and offer testing



Contract Referral = Client agrees to notify partner(s) within specific time period after which the provider will contact the partners with the client's permission



Dual referral = Client and provider notify partners together



Client Referral = Index client tells partner(s) about HIV and encourages them to get tested



WHO Recommendations



Key evidence showed that assisted PNS:

- Increases HIV testing uptake & linkage to care among partners of PLHIV
- High test positivity (yield)
- Safe – social harm very rare
- Assisted is best (provider, contract, or dual vs passive referral)



Recommendation:

Voluntary assisted PNS should be offered as part of a comprehensive package of testing and care offered to people with HIV

*strong recommendation
moderate quality evidence*





Principles of PNS



Client centered
and focused

Confidential

Voluntary and
non-coercive

Comprehensive
and integrative

Non-
judgmental

Culturally,
linguistically
appropriate

Free

Accessible and
available to all



Implementation Considerations



- Can vary by provider type, setting (community, facility, self-test), and population
- Voluntariness and confidentiality:
 - Notification should be made only to partner(s)
 - Criminal justice, law enforcement, and non-health personnel should not be involved
- Should be offered periodically
 - People's situations and partnerships change
 - Readiness to consent to PNS and/or share status with partners may change
- Preferred notification approaches and contact methods may vary by context and individual





Key Potential Challenges



- Laws or policies that stigmatize, criminalize, or discriminate against key populations or PLHIV
 - Complicate delivery and monitoring PNS
 - May increase reluctance to participate
- Eliciting, locating, and notifying partners
 - Requires well-trained providers
 - Can be significant investment
 - Affected by relationship dynamics
 - May be especially challenging for non-primary/casual partners and for mobile, vulnerable, or key populations



"We have two options...boldly tackle the challenges ahead, or hold off and hope an asteroid strikes."



PNS vs. Index Testing



Partner notification

- Trained providers
- Ask PLHIV about sexual or drug injecting partners
- **Notify** named contacts about potential exposure and offer HIV testing
- Voluntary
- Passive and active referral options

Index testing

- Trained providers
- Ask PLHIV about sexual or drug injecting contacts, households, and **children**
- **Offer HIV testing** to household contacts who could have been exposed to HIV – e.g. sexual/drug injecting partners and children
- Voluntary
- Passive and active referral options

Both can be implemented in either community or facility settings
Important to consider terminology acceptable to setting you work in and the community



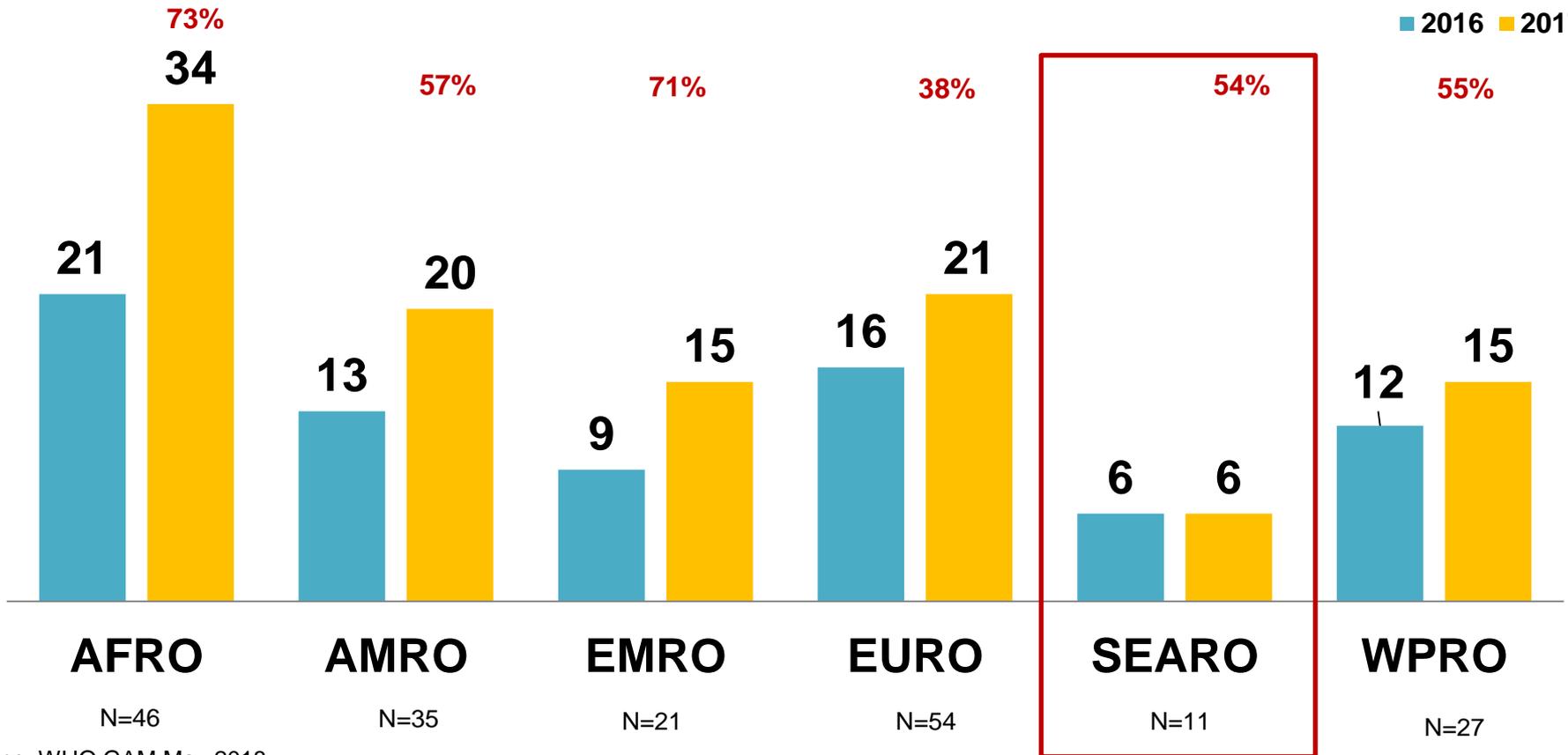
Country Policies



Ongoing review

■ 2016 ■ 2017

Uptake of assisted partner notification and index testing policies by region



Source: WHO GAM May 2018



Acknowledgments



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For questions, please contact: dkatz7@uw.edu



Resources



- WHO Guidelines: <https://bit.ly/2leVwV8>
- WHO Policy Brief: <https://bit.ly/2IJX7C5>
- WHO Guidelines slide set: <https://bit.ly/2IJXc8R>
- WHO Index testing slide set: <https://bit.ly/2jYsJFW>
- AIDSFree HTS Knowledge Base:
<https://aidsfree.usaid.gov/resources/hts-kb>
- SEARO/WPRO PNS Webinar (Aug 2018):
<https://bit.ly/2QvtZST>