

# Integration of Non-HIV Screening and Referrals into dHTS in South Africa

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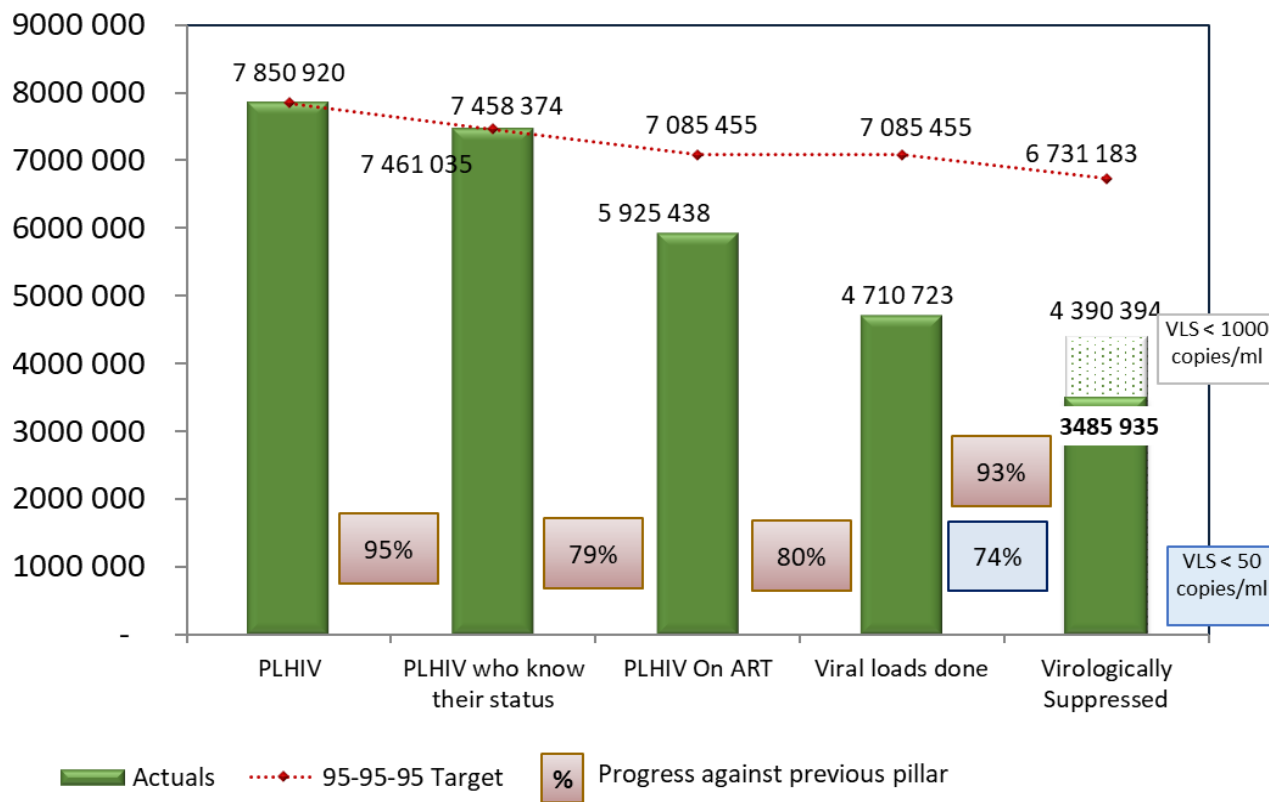


# Outline

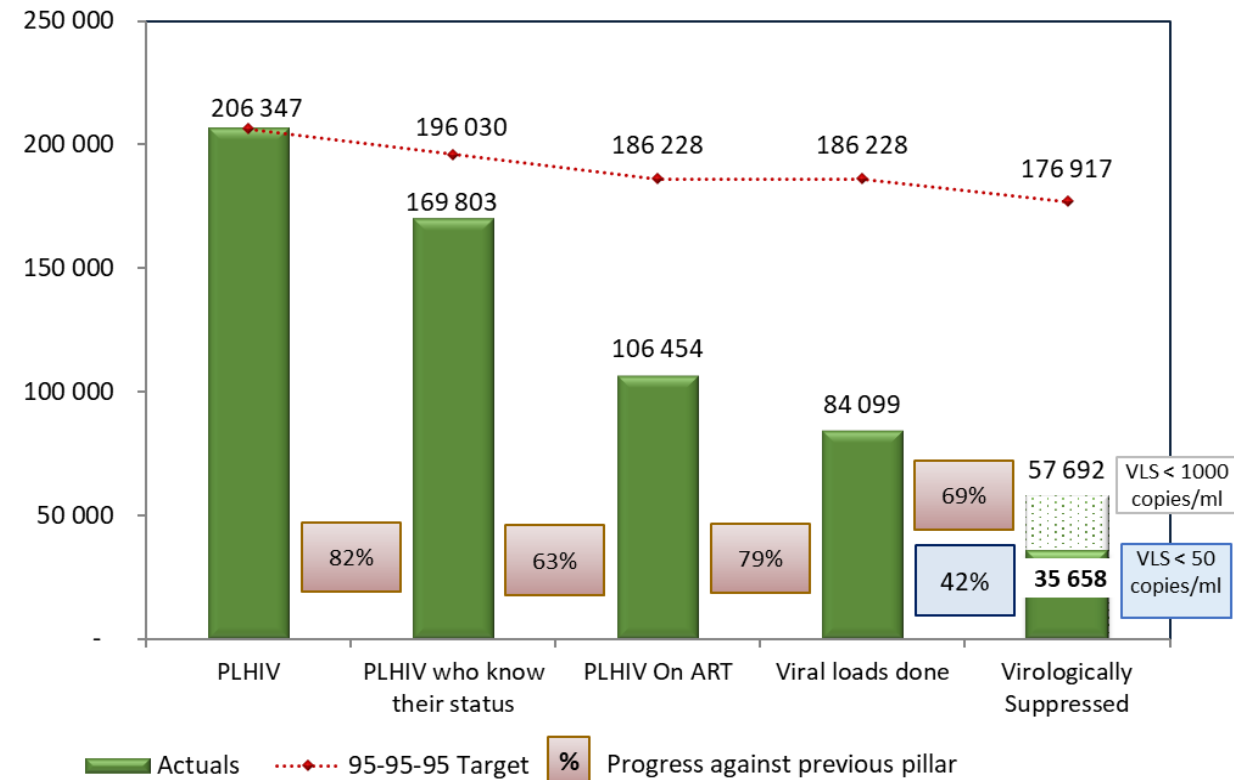
- Background
- Integration approach
  - Screening for additional services into HIV testing
  - Screening for intimate partner violence into index testing services
- Results
- Successes
- Challenges
- Next Steps

# South Africa Progress Towards 95-95-95 Targets, General Population and Children <15 Years

95-95-95 Cascade - Total Population  
South Africa (Mar 2024) - Public & Private sector

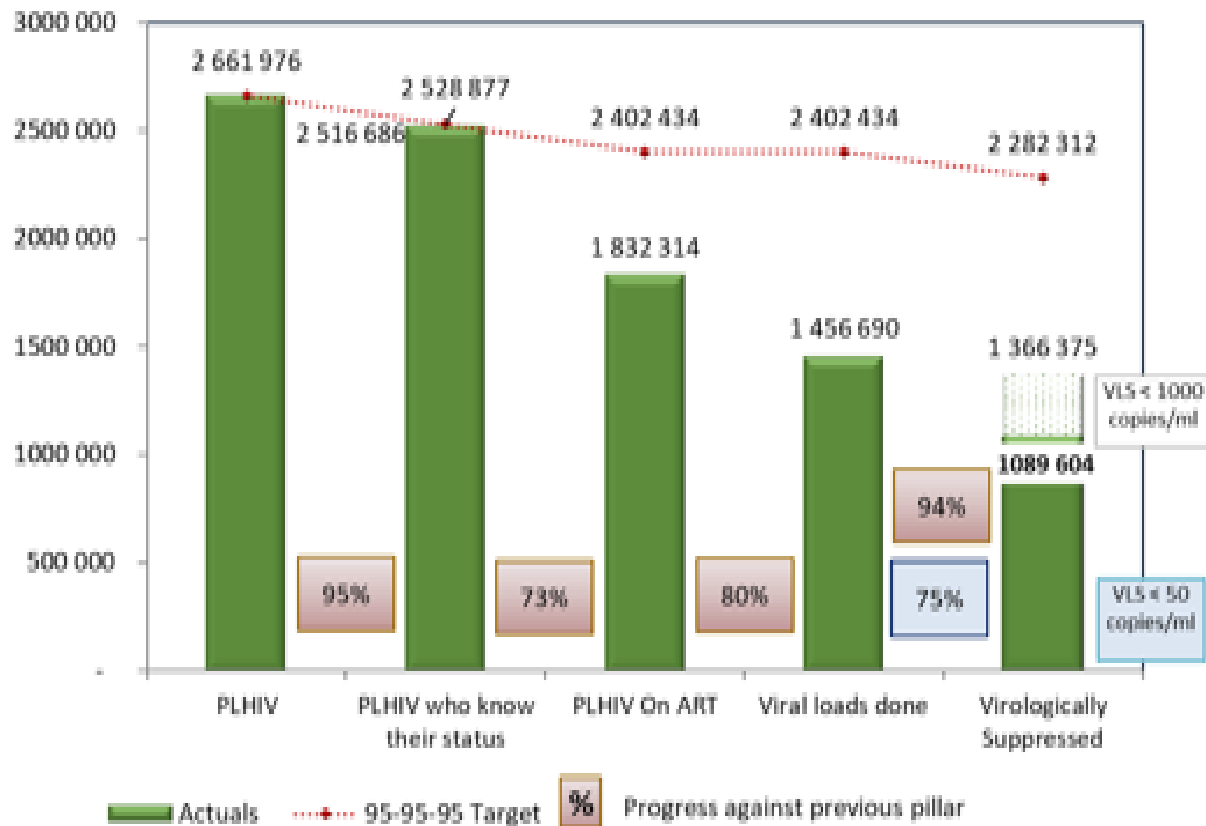


95-95-95 Cascade - Children (<15)  
South Africa (Mar 2024) - Public & Private sector

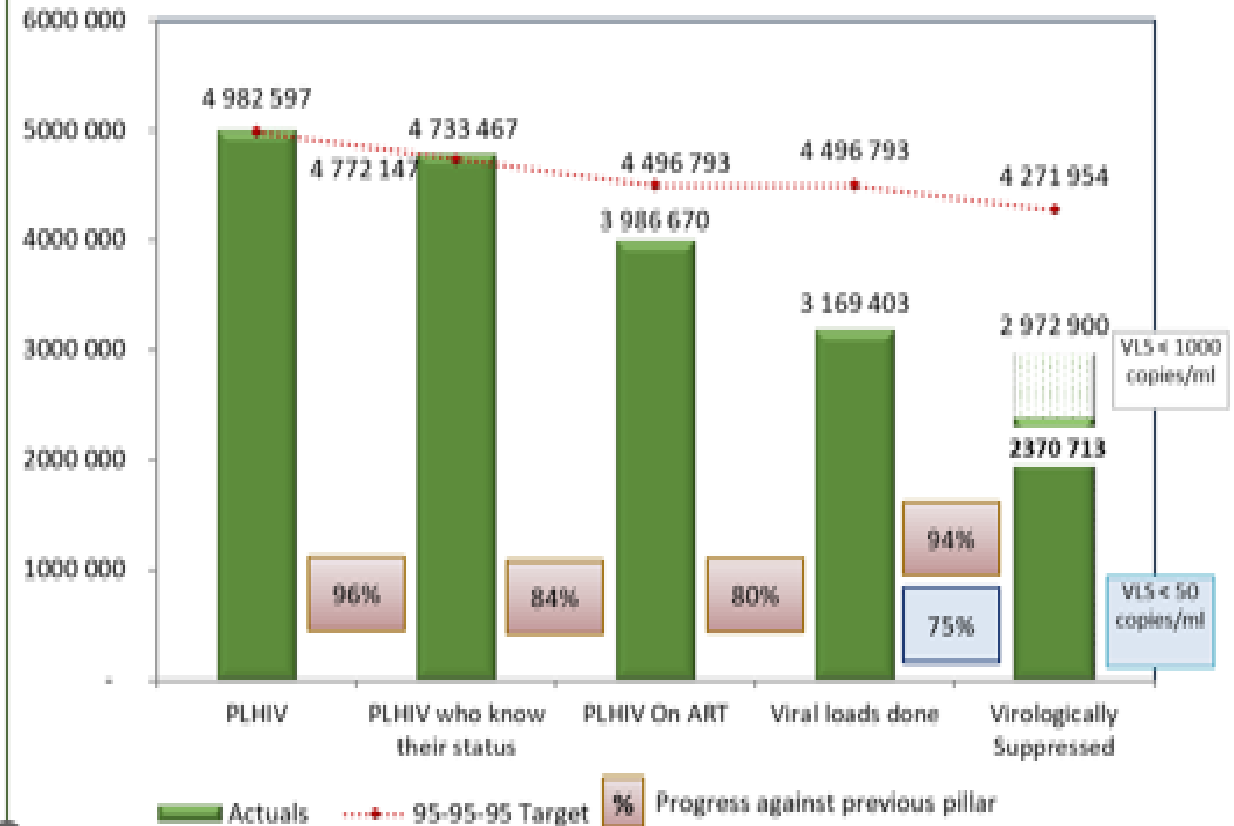


# South Africa Progress Towards 95-95-95 Targets, by Sex

95-95-95 Cascade - Adult Males  
South Africa (Mar 2024) - Public & Private sector



95-95-95 Cascade - Adult Females  
South Africa (Mar 2024) - Public & Private sector



# NDOH Integrated Screening Approach

- The NDOH committed to ensure Universal Health Coverage and achieving SDG 3: "Ensuring healthy lives and promotion of well-being for all, at all ages."
- HIV testing services are a gateway to linkages for primary health care and other health promotion and prevention services
- NDOH applies the **IDEAL Clinic approach** for service integration, a holistic approach to service delivery utilizing **point of care screening** and;
  - **Early identification** of other health issues and needs of clients testing for HIV
  - **Appropriate referrals** for comprehensive preventative and curative services
  - **Enhance rapport** with clients, "it is not just about HIV, but you as a human"
  - **Increase client convivence** and prevent long and unnecessary waiting times

# Screening Integration Steps in South Africa

**TB and STI screening questions** were the first to be integrated into the HTS pre-counselling session along with active referrals for additional services as needed

NDOH performs **routine and frequent HTS tool (consent form, HTS registers) revisions and updates** regularly to promote inclusion of additional health related screening based on lessons learned and staff feedback

With each tool update, NDOH conducts rapid **in-service trainings** at provincial, district and subdistrict levels.

# Screening Tool for TB, STI, and MH within HTS

TB SCREENING (for adults and children)			STI SCREENING (All clients should be screened for STIs regardless of clinical presentation)			
Close contact with a person with confirmed & infectious TB patient recently	Yes	No	Do you have any genital discharge or ulcers (sores)	Yes	No	Do not know
Do you have a cough for two weeks or more?	Yes	No	Has/have your partner(s) been treated for an STI in the last 8 weeks? (Not applicable to children)	Yes	No	Do not know
Do you have a fever or high temperature for more than two weeks?	Yes	No				
Are you or the child experiencing weight loss? (Or is the child not growing well?)	Yes	No	If the client answered "YES" to any of the above questions, refer to the clinician for further management.			
Are you sweating a lot at night?	Yes	No	MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING			
If HIV negative and answered "YES" to one (1) or more of these questions, please refer to a clinician. All HIV positive clients to be referred for TB testing. (Regardless of answers above).			Are you sleeping poorly or has your sleeping patterns changed?	Yes	No	
			Have you ever intentionally hurt yourself or thought of hurting yourself?	Yes	No	
			Referred to clinician/ Counsellor or social worker	Yes	No	

RESULTS			REFERRALS (mark with x)	
PCR	Reactive	Non-reactive	ART (for HIV +ve)	
HIV screening (initial) test	Reactive	Non-reactive	PrEP (for HIV -ve)	
HIV confirmatory test 1	Reactive	Non-reactive	PEP (for HIV -ve)	
HIV confirmatory test 2	Reactive	Non-reactive	VMMC	
Final HIV Result	HIV +ve	HIV -ve	Condoms	
			OVC	
Syphilis result (if dual test used)			Other Services (specify):	

All clients should be counselled and referred/linked to appropriate services regardless of HIV status.

- Tool created in 2023, and used at all HTS sites in South Africa
- The data populated on the tool is included in the HTS register and analyzed on DHIS2
- **5 TB Screening** questions aimed to identify TB symptoms and refer for testing as per the TB guidelines.
- **3 STI screening** questions, including the subsequent referral pathway if the client responds yes to any question
- **Mental health questions** are written in layman's terms to elicit honest responses
- **Prevention and other referrals** are included at the end of the consent form.

# Additional screening for TB, STI, NCDs, MH, RH are included in the HTS register

## Screening questions are included in the HTS register

- TB screening for further diagnostic procedures
- STI screening for STI syndromic management
- Cholesterol for further diagnosis and management
- Blood pressure for management by clinicians
- Mental health referrals for appropriate referrals

## Test for clinicians

- Blood sugar test
- Pregnancy screening test

## Using HTS platforms for PREP education and initiation

- Condom distribution
- Referrals for other services

SCREENING							Referral
TB screening	STI screening	Cholesterol test	Blood Pressure	Blood sugar test	Pregnancy screening	Mental health	
Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	1.TB / 2.STI / 3.SRH / 4. Mens Health/ 5.NCDs / 9.PrEP / 10.PEP
Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	
Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	
Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	





Before ART:  
high VL,  
highly  
transmittable

A few weeks  
to months of  
ART: VL is  
reduced

Six months of  
ART: VL  
undetectable



# Post-screening and testing linkages

## Biomedical HIV prevention interventions

- Pre-Exposure prophylaxis linkage services
- Post Exposure prophylaxis linkage services
- Condom distribution
- Voluntary Male Circumcision

## Treatment Literacy

- U=U ( Departmental messaging)
- Adherence support
- Social and behavioral change (SBC) interventions

Screening, referral and linkage to Sexual Reproductive Health services for youth

*Has your partner/contact ever hit, kicked, slapped, or otherwise physically hurt you?*

*Has your partner/contact ever threatened to hurt you?*

*Has your partner/contact ever forced you to do something that made you feel uncomfortable?*

## Screening for Intimate partner violence within index testing service

- **3 IPV questions** in the Index Testing service register
- Referrals for additional social supports are made if the client accepts.
- The counselor guides the client in developing a safety plan
- Given intimate partner dynamics and HIV, IPV screening is critical
  - For example, many women may protect their intimate abusing partner—which can have detrimental effects on treatment adherence and exacerbates HIV-related stigma

# Results

Since initiating the integrated screening tool in 2023

- 100% screening and referral for TB at HTS entry point
- 100% screening and referral for STI at HTS entry point
- An increase in identification of IPV cases and referrals at HTS entry point (data still being collected and analyzed).

# Successes and Challenges

## Successes

Lay counselors have been certified as “First Responders” through LIVES training for clients experiencing intimate partner violence

Successful linkages to social and South African Police Services for clients experiencing intimate and gender-based violence

High TB case identification through screening with positive Gen-Xpert diagnosis

## Challenges

Clients who refuse to be linked to any services

Perceptions of HIV related stigma and discrimination continues to persist

Documentation and quantification of bi-directional linkages is suboptimal and needs improvement

# Next Steps

- Continued integration of additional non-HTS services into the HTS program
- Ensure that the HTS data is captured into DHIS2
- Improvement efforts directed at documentation of bi-directional referrals
- Development of expanded district focused referral pathways
- Training of peer educators and community health care workers on HTS services and integration
- Ensuring that community level data is captured at the facility for reporting and planning purposes



# Thank You!

