



Reaching high risk population using HIV Self Testing approach, Mozambique, January 2023 to June 2024



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
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BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization recommends HIV self-testing (HIVST) as an additional approach for testing. Although HIV testing is offered routinely in all public HIV testing services (HTS) facilities in Mozambique. There are many missed opportunities for testing among people who present themselves for other reasons at health facilities, including high risk population who are often not tested regularly. Based on the 2021 Population-based HIV Impact Assessment, an estimated 23.4% of people living with HIV still did not know their HIV status. To fill the coverage gaps in HIV testing services, Mozambique introduced HIVST community distribution in 2022 to increase testing coverage and strengthen uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services.

METHODS

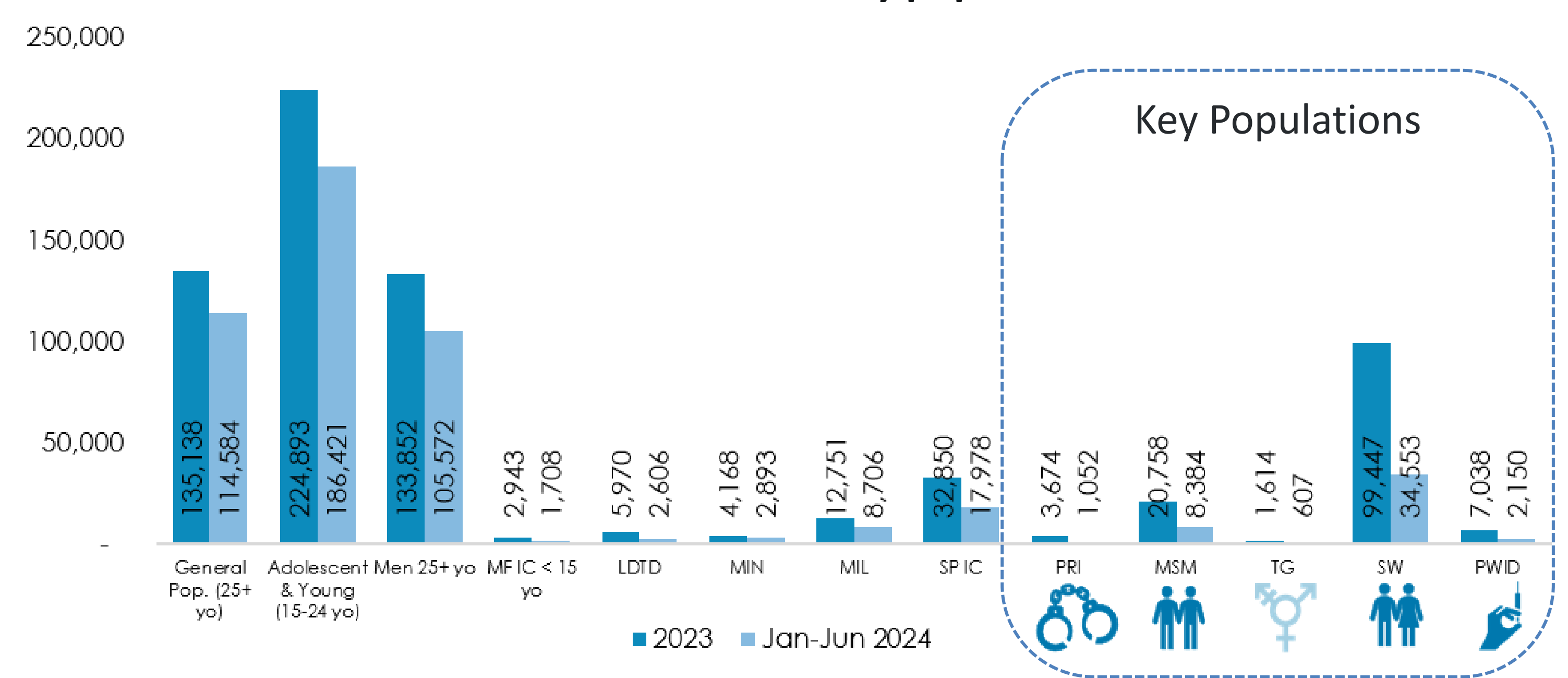
In 2021, the Mozambican Ministry of Health conducted a HIVST pilot in 5 provinces with large populations, which continued with national expansion in May 2022 of the distribution of HIVST in the community areas. These areas included formal and informal workplaces, hotspots for key populations, door-to-door, prisons, places of concentration by adolescents and young people and men, technical schools, universities, play parks, gardens, bars, football fields, etc., to ensure HIV testing diagnosis for all key and vulnerable populations. HTS providers, lay counsellors and other community actors were trained using a HIVST package to ensure a standardized approach implementation. We analyzed aggregated HIVST program data from January 2023-June 2024 to better understand the impact of self-testing on health facility base testing numbers and positivity in the country.

RESULTS

Nationally, 1,170,212 HIVST kits were distributed from January 2023 to June 2024. Of these, 72% were distributed through primary distribution (HIVST kits given directly to the end user), and 49.7% were distributed to men. Most of the kits were distributed to adolescents and young people aged 15 to 24 (n=411,314), men aged 25 years and older (n=239,424), key populations (n=179,277), and sexual partners of index cases (n=50,828).

The data shows that 5,850 clients with positive HIVST results presented themselves at HTS services to confirm their results, with 59% of confirmations conducted at the community level. Overall, national data indicates that 2% of people identified as HIV-positive were identified through HIVST confirmatory testing.

HIVST kits distribution by population*



HIVST+ Confirmation by province and HTS modality, 18 months

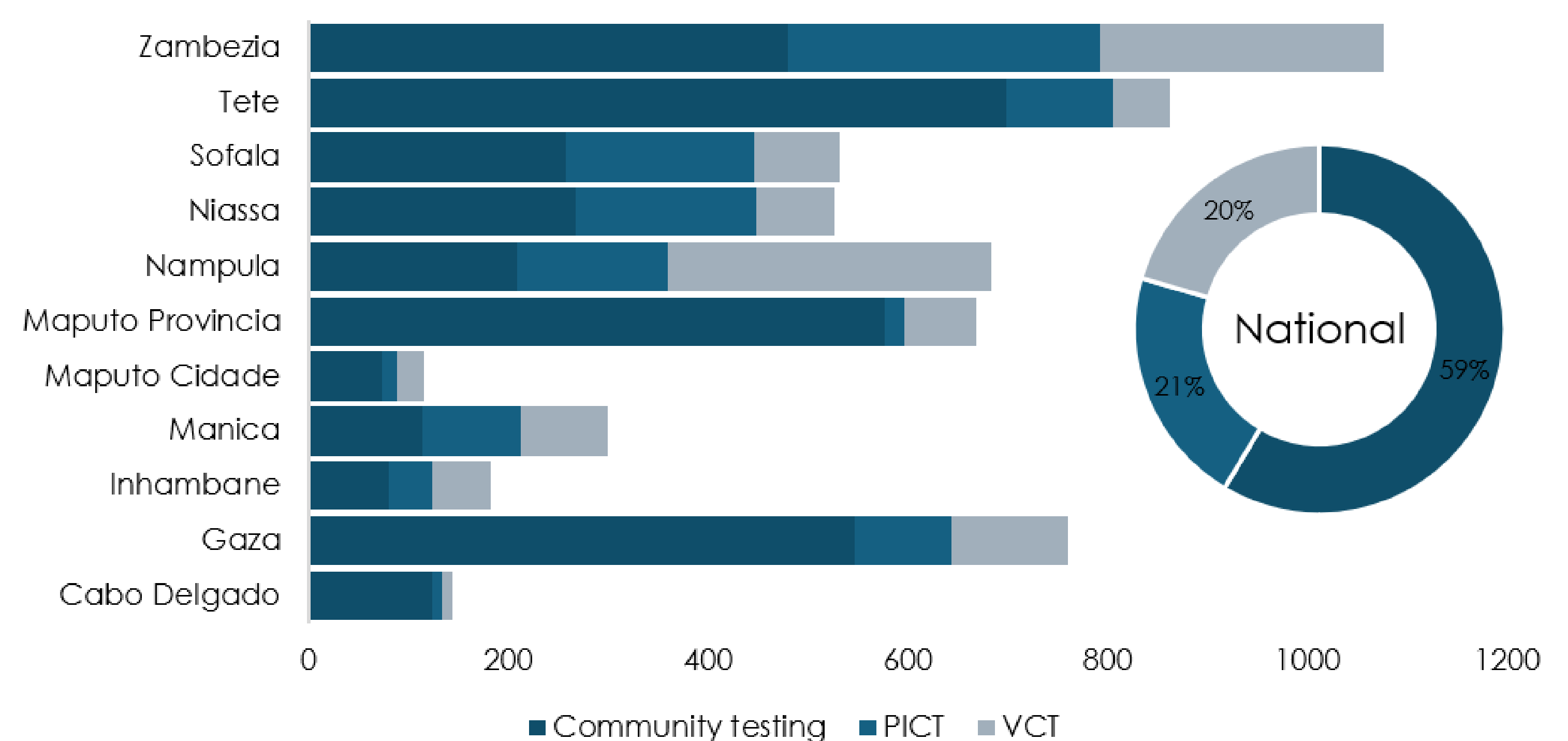
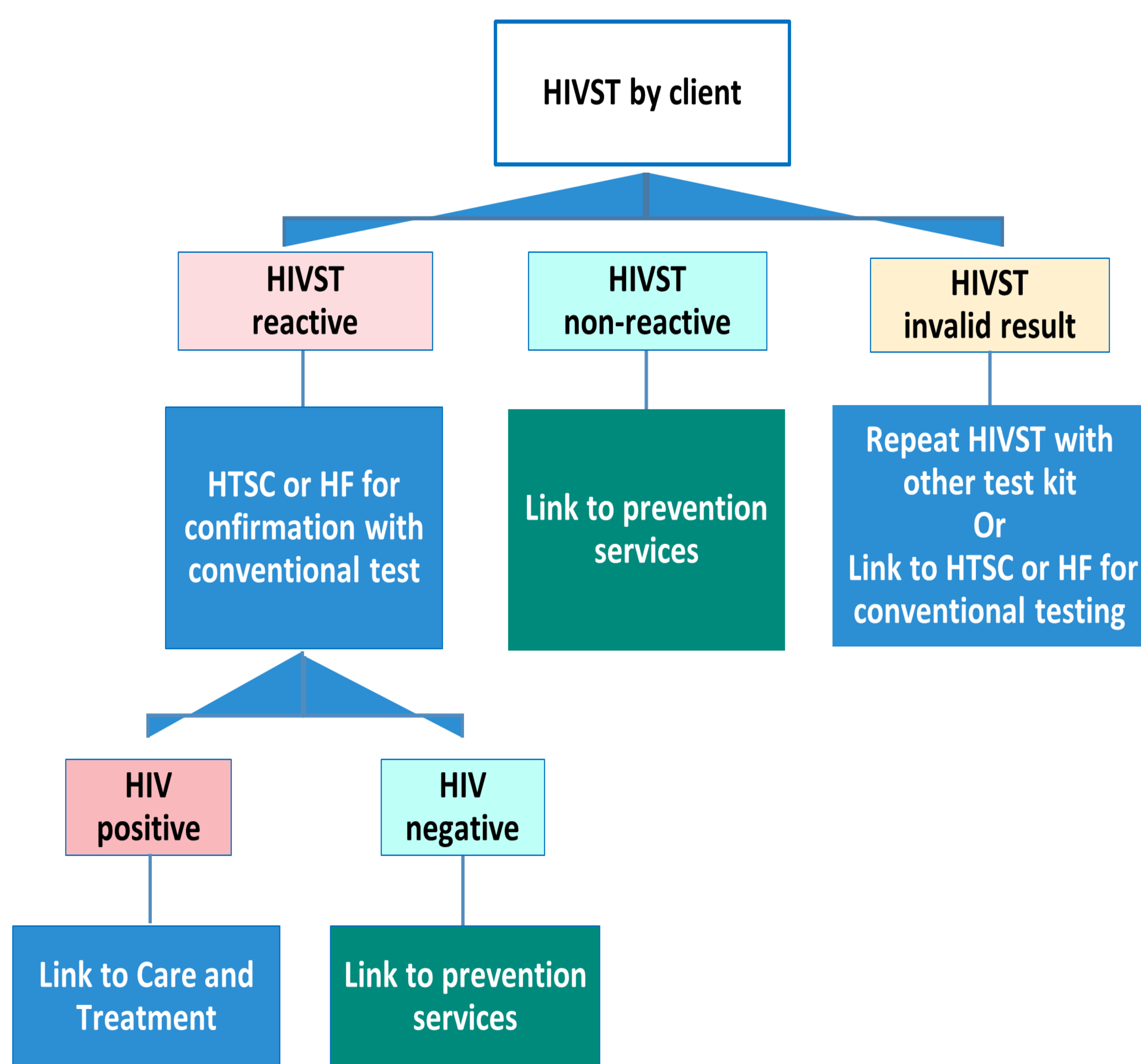


Figure 1: The HIVST Algorithm



Population Legend*

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| General Pop. (25+ yo) | General Pop. (25+ yo) |
| Adolescent & Young (15-24 yo) | Adolescent & Young (15-24 yo) |
| Men 25+ yo | Men 25+ years old |
| MF IC < 15 yo | Mather/father of index case (<15 yo) |
| LDTD | Long distance truck driver |
| MIN | Miners |
| MIL | Militar |
| SP IC | Sexual parther index case |
| PRI | Prisoners |
| MSM | Men who have sex with Men |
| TG | Transgender people |
| SW | Sex worker |
| PWID | People who Inject Drugs |

