

# Antenatal syphilis screening program in Mozambique: Partner notification and treatment

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# IMPORTANCE OF PARTNER NOTIFICATION

- Prevent reinfection of the index patient
- Clinical importance for the contacts
- Reduce the spread of STD/HIV-AIDS
- Greatest impact in people with more than one current sexual partner

# IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PARTNER NOTIFICATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

- Polygamy is culturally accepted in most of the country
- Casual sex with multiple partners is frequent
- Migrant workers
- Domestic violence is common

# IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PARTNER NOTIFICATION IN MOZAMBIQUE (2)

- Syphilis prevalence in pregnancy is ~10%
- HIV prevalence in pregnant women is ~15% (~18% in the central region and up to 26% in Sofala Province)
- Prenatal care attendance rate of ~95% in urban and ~50% in rural settings (>1,000,000 first antenatal visits per year).
- >100,000 syphilis cases should be diagnosed and treated in antenatal care
- At least an equivalent number of partners should be treated.

# PARTNER NOTIFICATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

- Patient referral system: health service personnel encourage index patients to notify their partners
- Partner notification results depend on appropriate counseling, which according to national norms should:
  - Enhance the need to receive correct treatment for the index case and the partner(s).
  - Promote safe sex.
  - Reinforce the importance to continue attending prenatal control

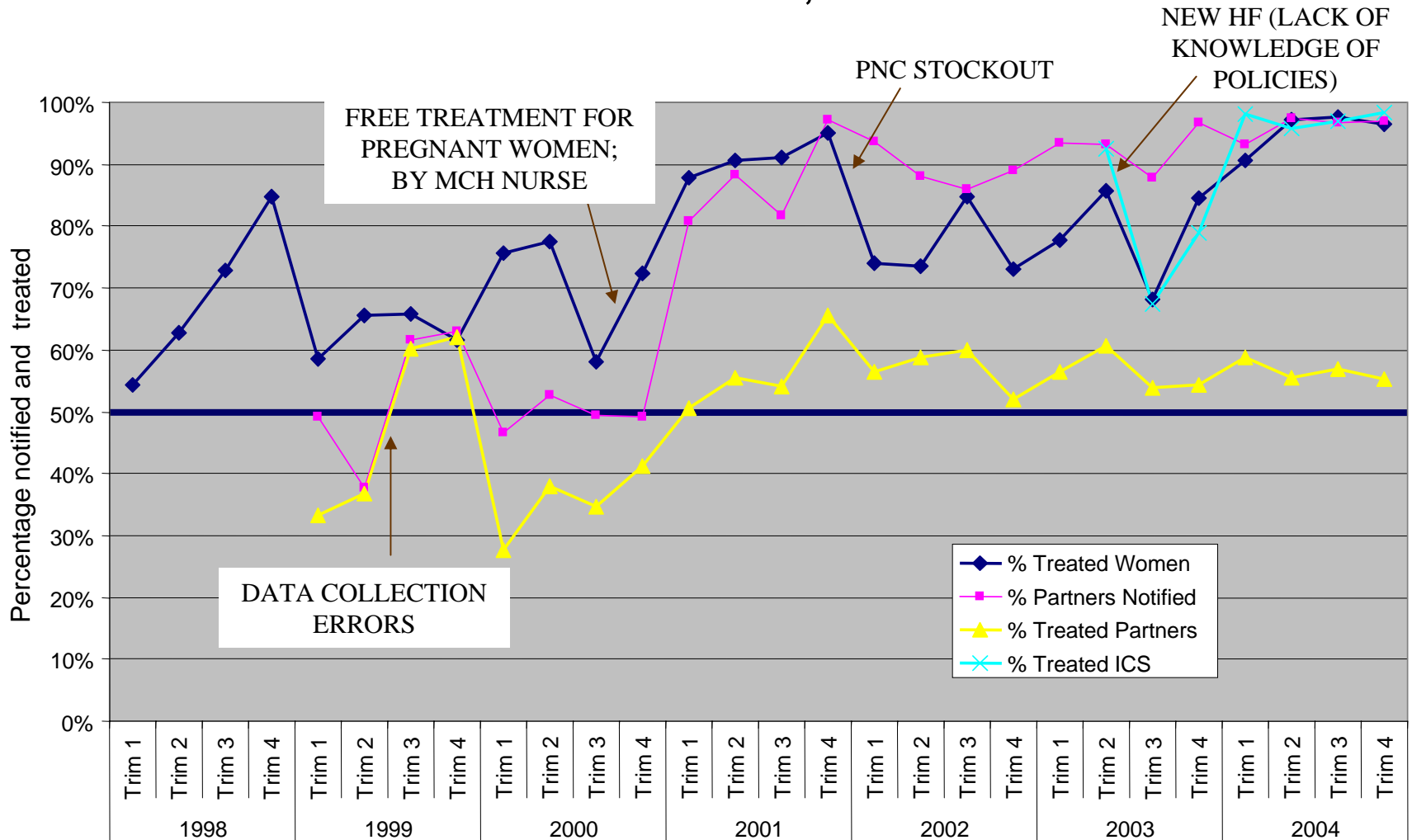
# PARTNER NOTIFICATION IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE (2)

- A notification card is provided for every women testing positive for syphilis
- Partners are encouraged to go to the prenatal care clinics and are treated by antenatal care nurses



- Privacy and confidentiality are key elements in the process

# PERCENTAGE OF SYPHILIS POSITIVE WOMEN AND THEIR PARTNERS TREATED WITH AT LEAST ONE DOSE OF B-PNC, 1998-2004



# PARTNER NOTIFICATION

- For every two women testing positive for syphilis in antenatal care one man is being treated.
- It is likely that we are underestimating partner treatment: The system only tracks the partners visiting the antenatal care clinics, those visiting STI clinics, private or traditional practitioners and/or pharmacies are not registered.
- Many women don't notify their partners
  - Fear of domestic violence and family disruption
  - Partners are migrant workers
  - Single mothers
  - Casual partners

# CHALLENGES

- Community work to:
  - Adapt health services and health promotion messages to local/cultural needs and reality
  - Link the health services with the community
- Design and test strategies to improve sexual partner referrals
- Strengthen the capacity of the system to provide social and psychological support
- Develop testing strategies outside the ANC context for people in the reproductive age group (i.e. VCT for HIV, youth health centers, etc.)



**THANK YOU!**