

Syphilis Point-of-care Rapid testing and Immediate Treatment Evaluation (SPRITE): Implementation across 5 Ontario Public Health Units



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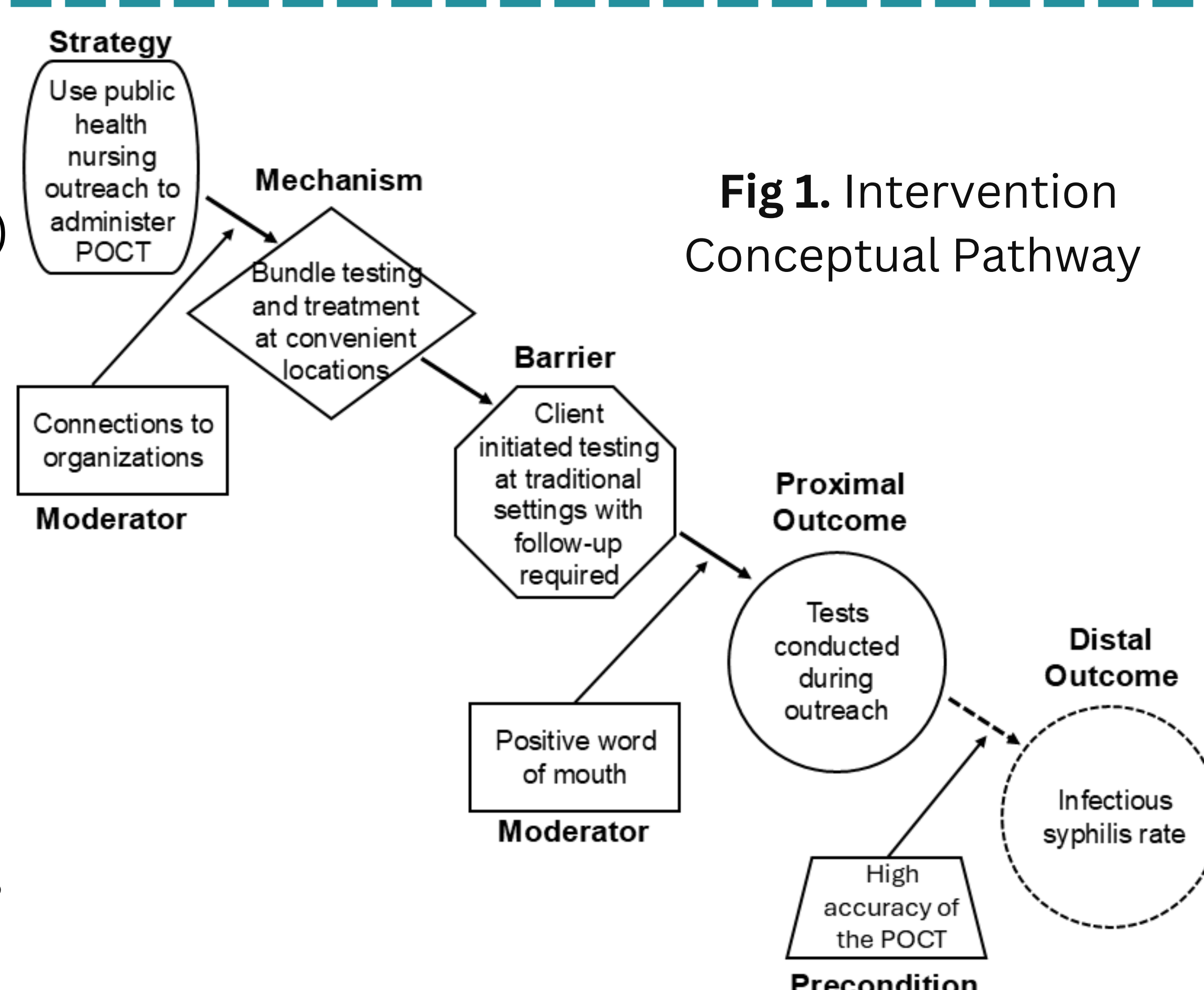


Background

- Syphilis is a curable infection caused by the bacterium, *Treponema pallidum*
- Rates of **infectious syphilis** have **increased by 340%** in Ontario since 2013; street-involved individuals are disproportionately affected^{1,2}
- In 2023, Health Canada **approved the first syphilis & HIV point-of-care test (POCT)**

Methods

- **5 Ontario Public Health Units (PHU)** participated from August 2023 - August 2024
 - Hastings Prince Edward Public Health (HPH)
 - Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health (KFLAPH)
 - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU)
 - Ottawa Public Health (OPH)
 - Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU)
- To **address access barriers** faced by street-involved populations, we **implemented an outreach model of care using POCTs** (Fig 1)³



Results

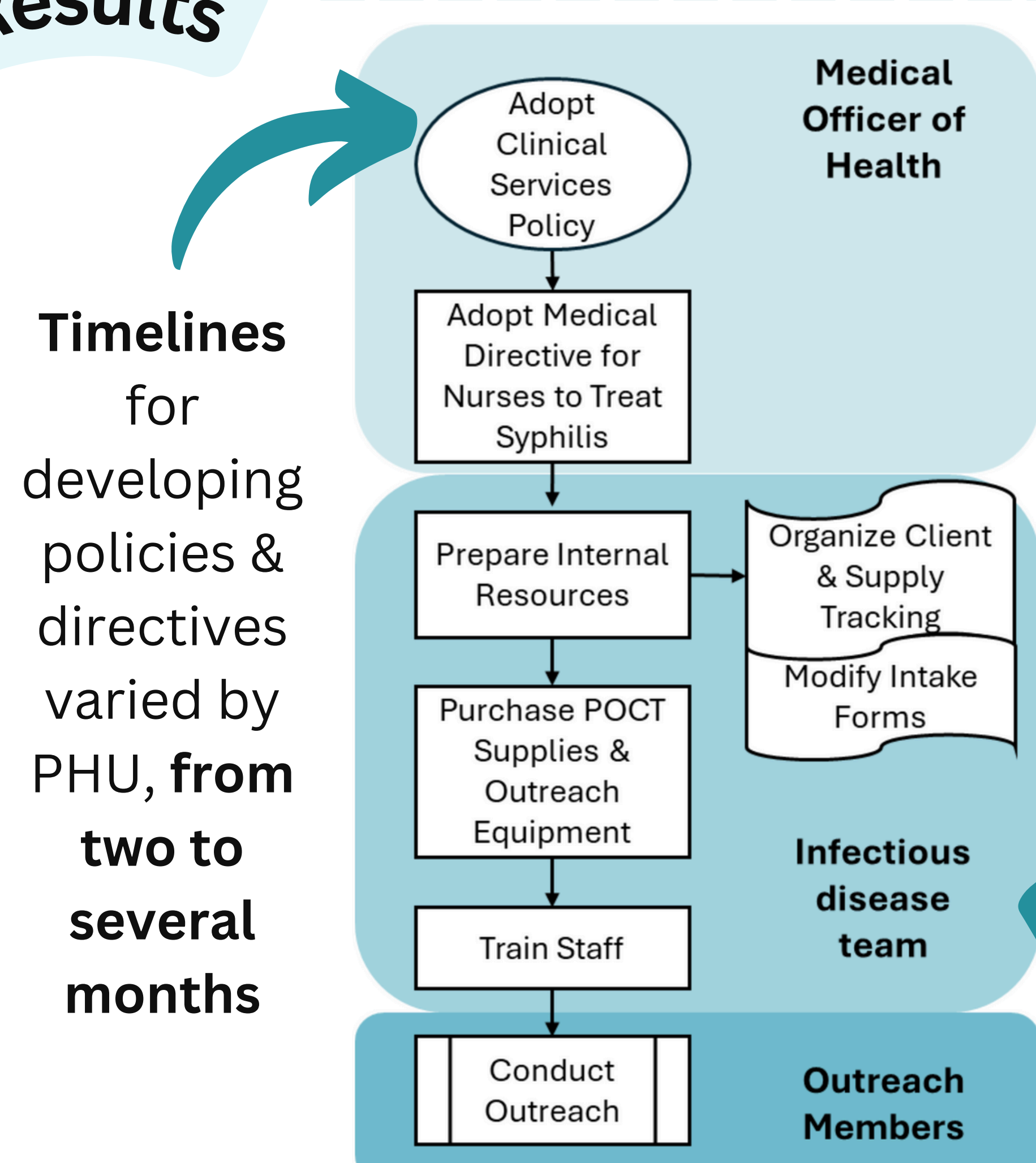


Fig 2. Example Organizational Process Flow

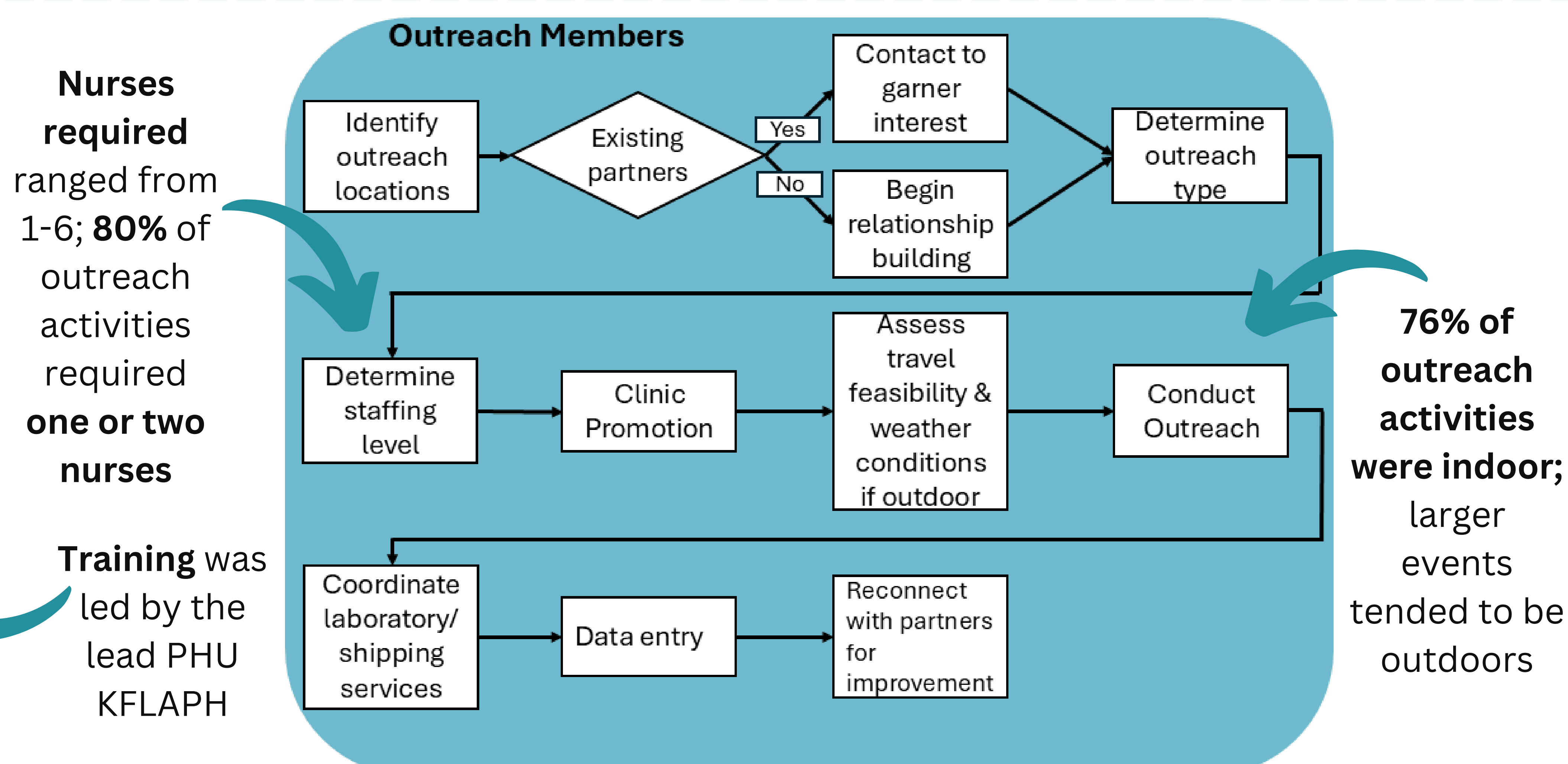


Fig 3. Example Outreach Process Flow

The outreach model was flexible with different outreach preferences by PHU

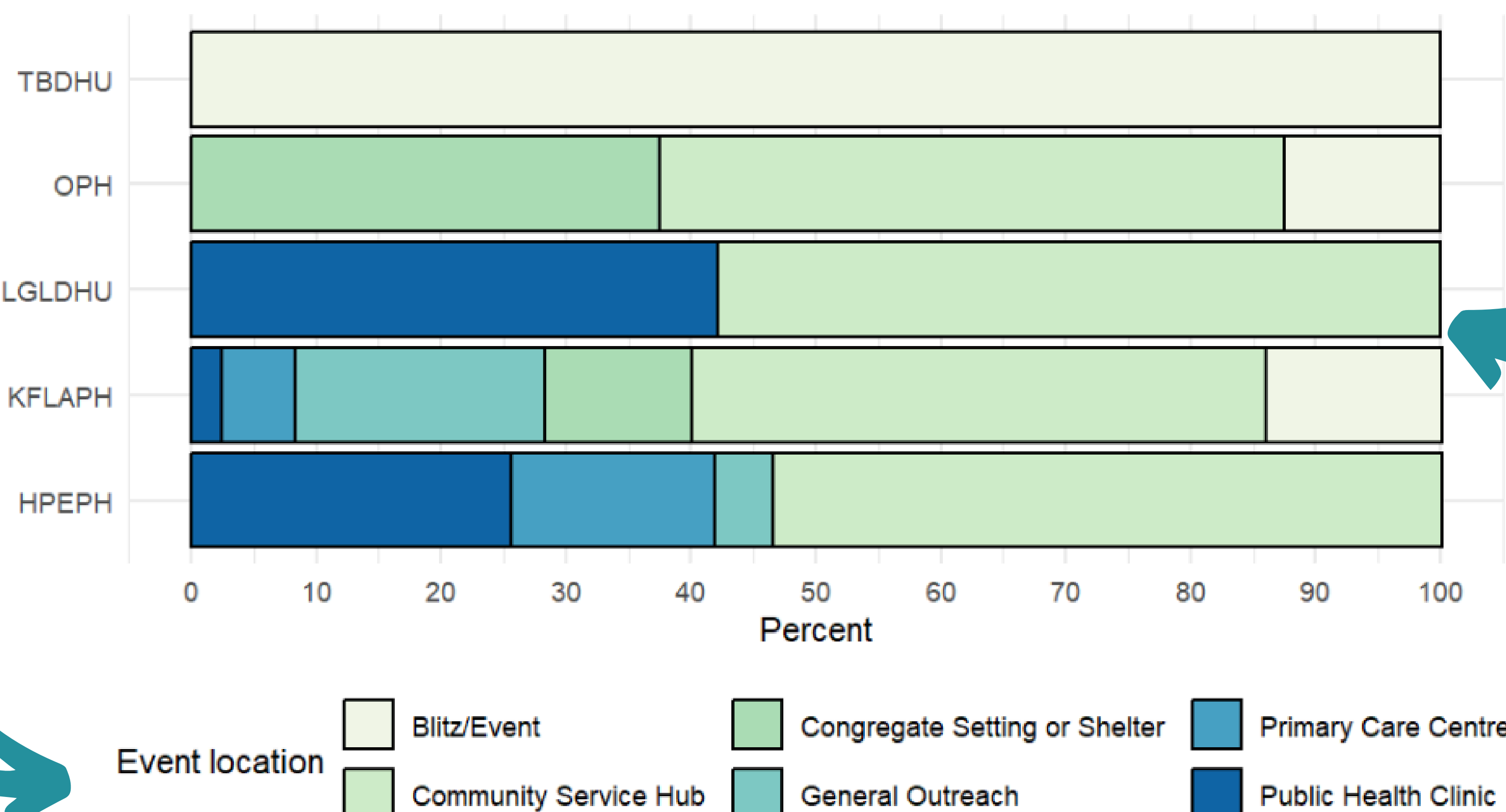


Fig 4. Distribution of outreach events by PHU

585 people were tested across 164 outreach initiatives; median tests per initiative ranged from 1-10; 16% of events resulted in no tests

Conclusion

Nursing outreach administration of POCTs was **successfully implemented in 5 PHUs**, with an additional **3 PHUs since onboarded**

References

1. Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario: Syphilis, infectious [Internet]. Public Health Ontario; 2025 [cited 2025 March].
2. Syphilis in Canada, Technical Report on Epidemiological Trends, Determinants and Interventions. Ottawa: Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2022.
3. Meza RD, Weiner BJ, Lewis CC, Pullmann MD, Klasnja P. (2023) Causal Pathway Diagrams: A toolkit for selecting, tailoring, and optimizing implementation strategies.

Collaborators

