

Impact of outreach strategies and contact categories on completing HIV testing services (HTS): Lessons learned from a three-year implementation at male-friendly clinic in Haiti

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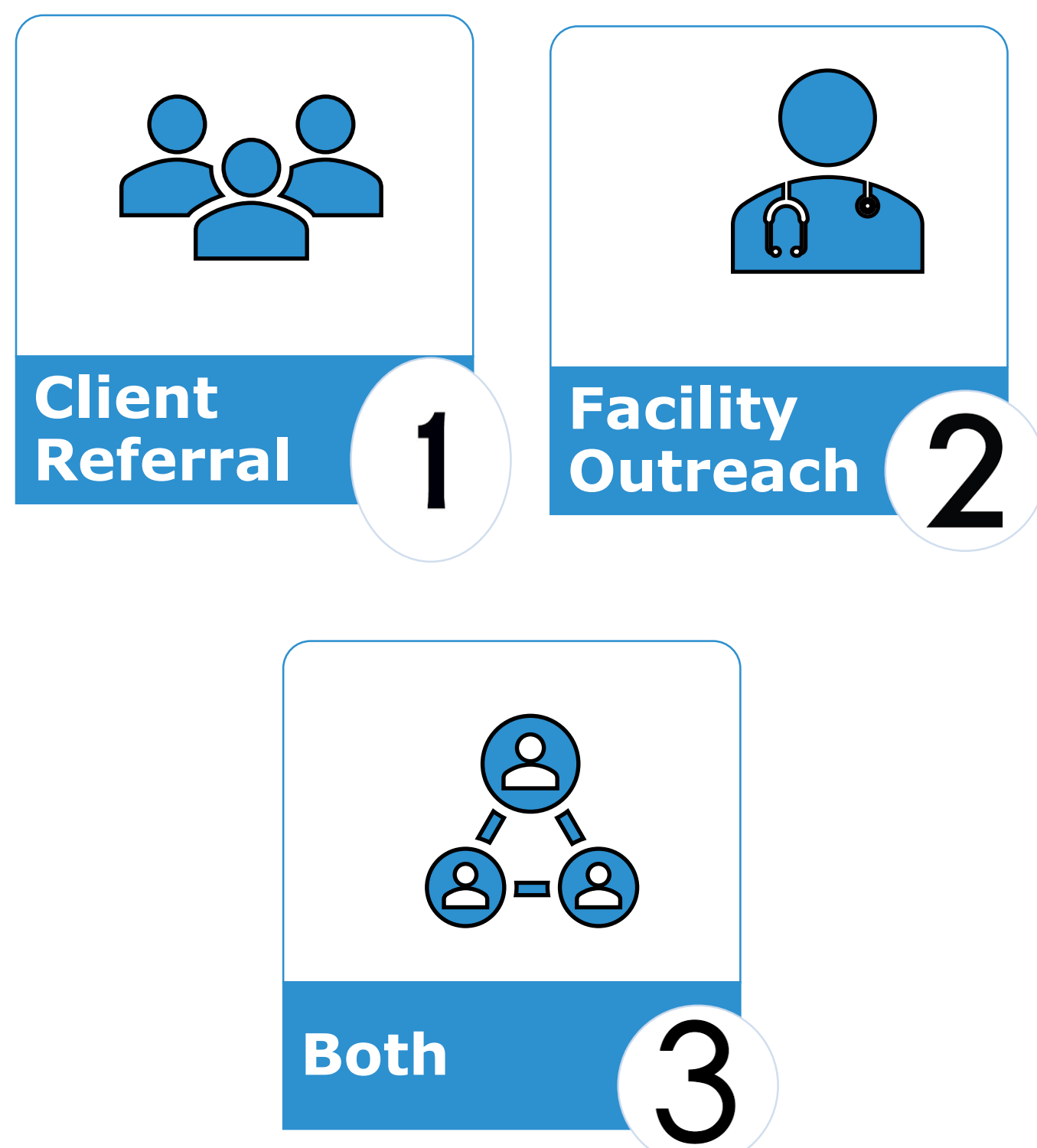
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Background:

The Ministry of Health published the national guidelines for Index Contact Testing (ICT), a strategy to increase HIV Testing Services (HTS) efficiency in Haiti in 2018. HTS are offered to relatives, social contacts and sexual partners of clients newly identified HIV-positive or currently on treatment

ICT OUTREACH STRATEGIES



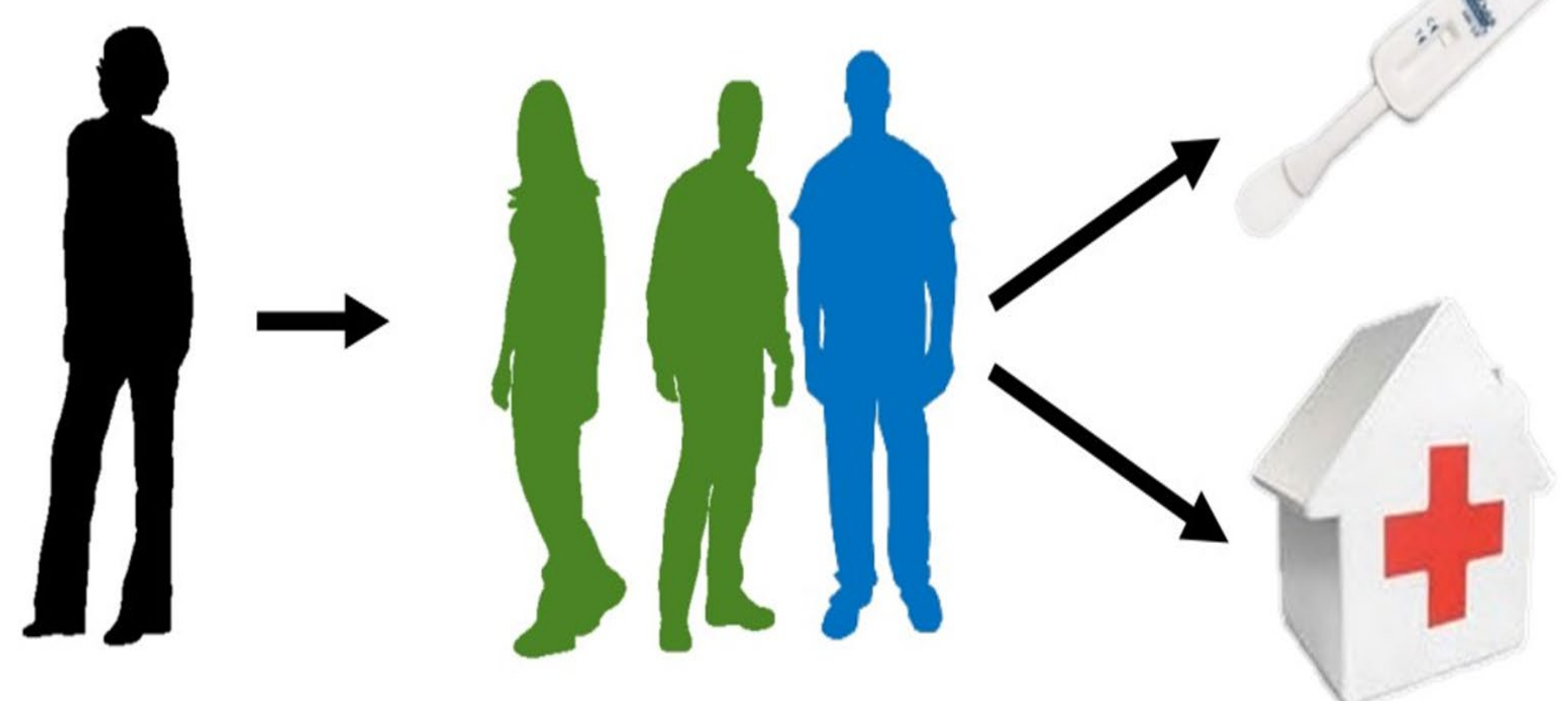
Social contacts of clients are mostly investigated by facilities working with key and priority populations and represent less than 1% of contacts tested nationwide.

Methods:

A retrospective analysis using descriptive statistics was performed on ICT results at Klinik Eritaj (KE), a male-friendly clinic in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from March 2020 to December 2023 on the ICT app. A multiple linear regression analysis was performed to examine the influence of the variables Contacts categories and Outreach strategies on the variable completion of HIV testing.

Results:

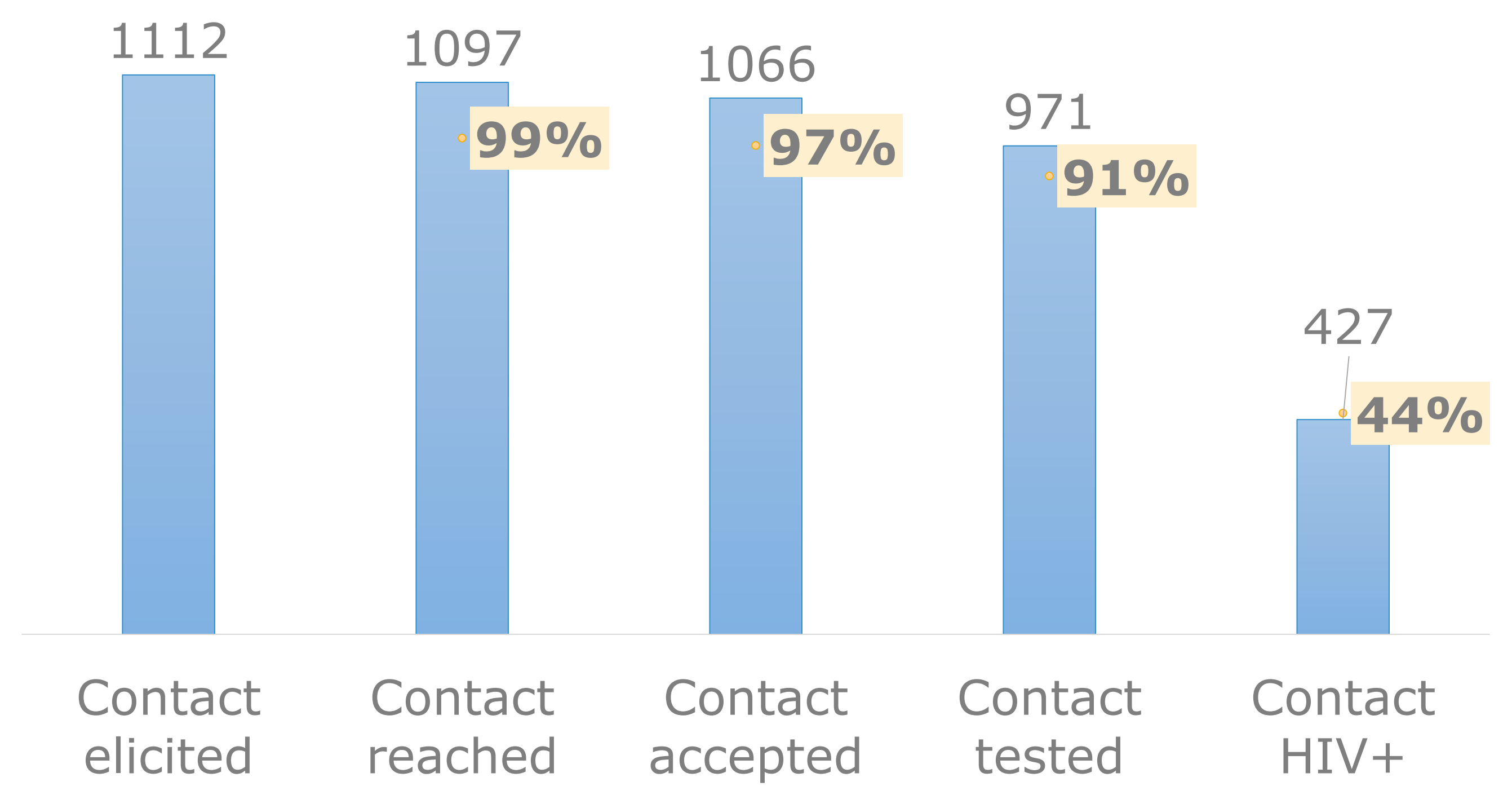
For the period, 1112 contacts were elicited (Males=581;Females=531) including 528 sexual partners (47%), 425 social contacts (38%), 159 children (14%). A total of 1097 contacts were reached: 87% by the index, 12% by the facility, 1% using a mixed approach. A total 1066 accepted HTS and 971 were tested. Among the contacts: 82% of the sexual partners completed the HIV-test compared to 85% of the children ($p=.455$) and 95% of the social contacts ($p<.001$).



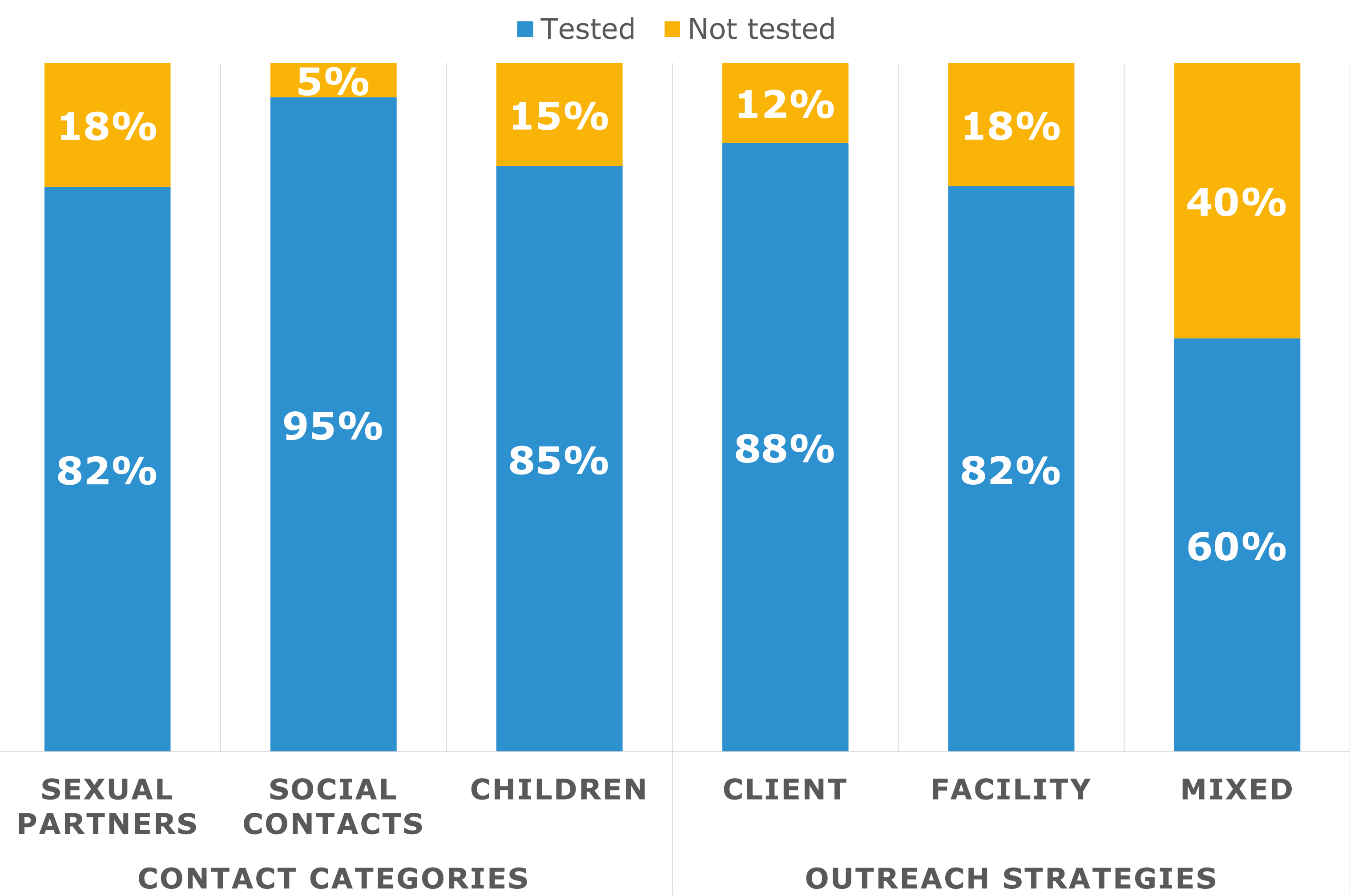
Client Referral, the winning strategy for contact tracing

Picture source: index-ressources-test-epic

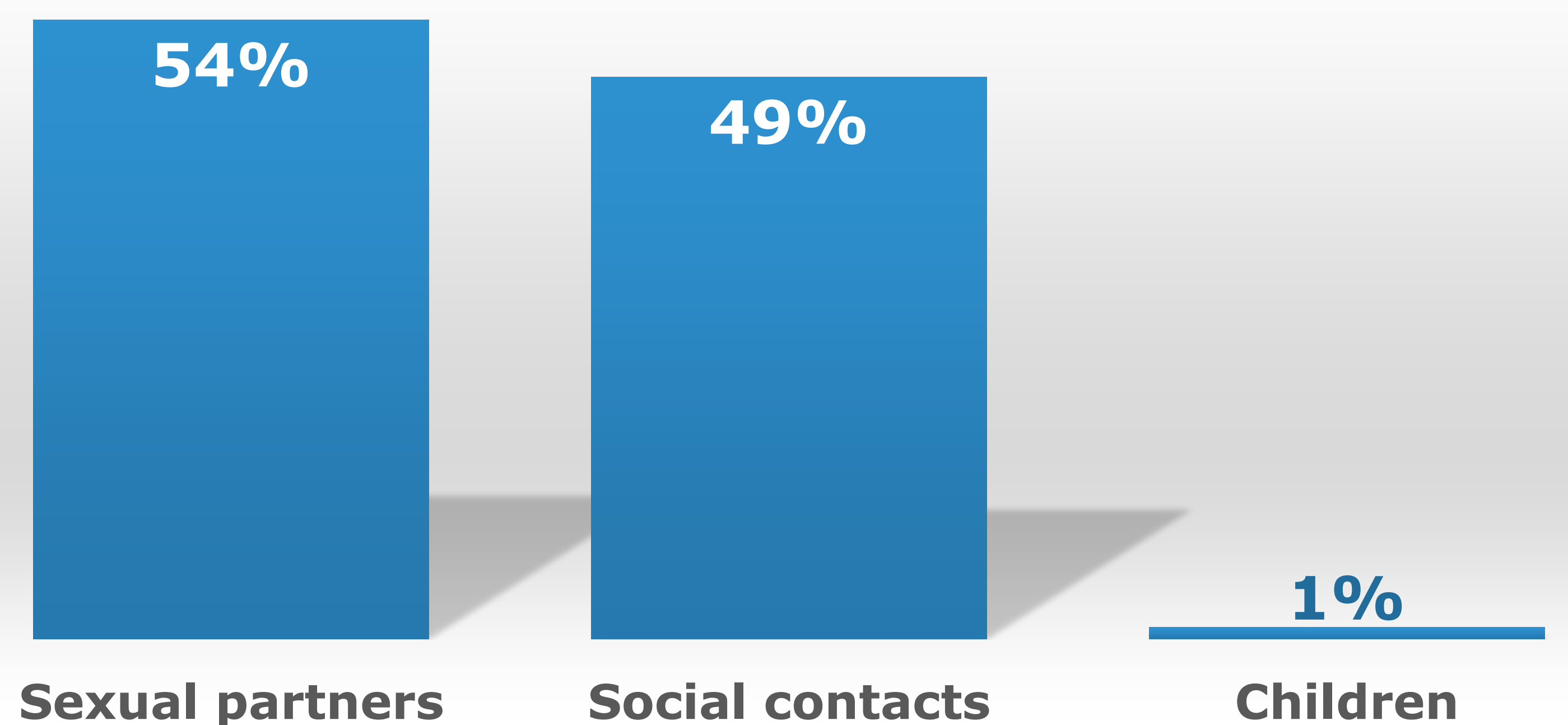
ICT Cascade



HIV TESTING OUTCOMES N= 1112



HTS_Positivity Yield by Categories



88% of those reached by the client completed an HIV test compared to 82% of those reached by the site ($p=.041$) and 60% of those reached with a mixed approach ($p=.007$). Over 44% of those tested overall were positive and enrolled ARV: 54% of sexual partners, 49% of social contacts, 1% of children. Only 6% of both sexual partners and social contacts tested HIV negative were enrolled on PrEP.

Conclusion:

Overall ICT strategy led to increased HTS positivity rate at KE. Client referral should be prioritized as outreach strategy for better outcomes. Positivity rate and testing completion are high among social contacts. Including this contact category into ICT at all sites may further increase HTS efficiency.

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