



Test'n'Treat: Peer-Led HIV & STI Testing

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HIV and STI Peer Testers

WHO recommend community-based peer-led HIV testing (*Evidence Brief: Innovative Diagnostic HIV Testing, 2024*)

Numerous studies have shown that peer-led interventions are highly effective in increasing HIV testing rates among men who have sex with men (Shangani et al., 2017)

NGOs is well established and highly successful in New Zealand (*Evidence Brief: Innovative Diagnostic HIV Testing, 2024*)

Positive Women
Wāhine Kaha



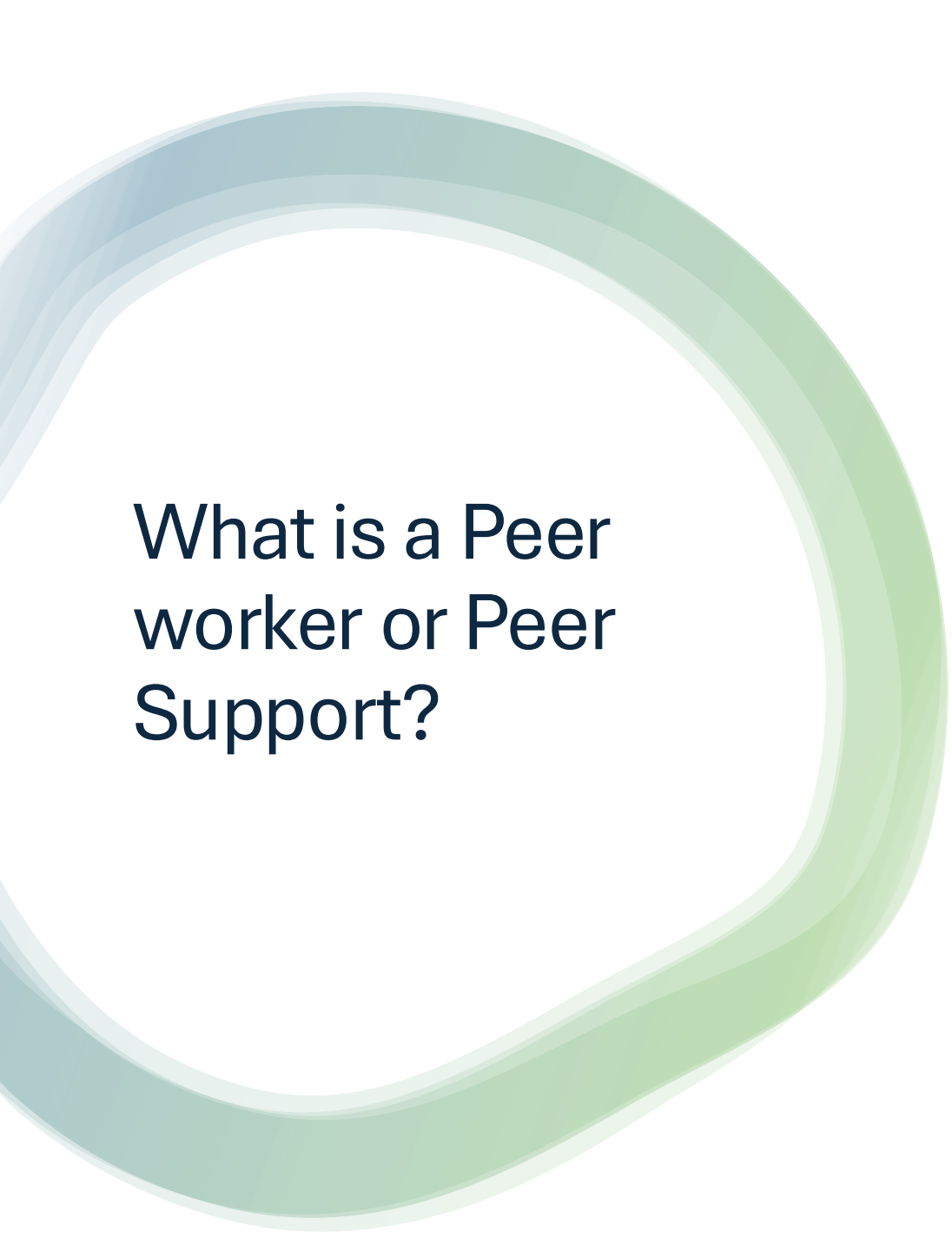
**Burnett Foundation
Aotearoa**



**Examples of Peer testers in Aotearoa,
New Zealand**

Tasman Sea





What is a Peer worker or Peer Support?

Peer support provides emotional and practical help from someone who has experienced a similar challenge. Shared experiences and characteristics, such as age, background, or health, build trust and understanding. Being accepted into the person's social circle enhances connection, offering a level of empathy that professionals may not easily achieve. (Harris et al., 2015)



Ka Puta Ka Ora
Emerge Aotearoa



Examples of Peer Support in Aotearoa, New Zealand

There are over 200 Peer-Support services in New Zealand

Funding - Te Whatu Ora: Health New Zealand



Request for Proposal Expanding Innovative HIV and STI Testing

\$1.9 M was available for 2024/2025 financial year between multiple organisations



What they need

Increased access to and uptake of testing for HIV and STIs in priority populations.

Reduced stigma associated with HIV and STI testing.

Reduced number of new locally acquired HIV infections.

Improved Māori health and well-being in relation to HIV by delivering on our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.

Improved surveillance of HIV and STIs in New Zealand.

Sexual health stats 2024

(New Zealand Communicable Disease Incidence Survey) (CDIS)



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Chief Medical Officer's statement declaring syphilis a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance

A statement from Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd AO, declaring syphilis a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance.

cases

cases

cases

cases



Pregnancy rates

- A study in 2009, only 64.3% of women get full sexual health screening (Ekeroma et al., 2012)
 - Between 2017 – 2024, 57% of women who tested positive for syphilis, had either no or late antenatal care (Scott et al., 2025)
 - This means none of these women are getting HIV tests.
- 

Missed opportunities

In New Zealand, 25% of chlamydia and gonorrhoea tests are conducted on males (*New Zealand Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Dashboard, 2025*)

In a study done by Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa, 63% people say that a health practitioner had never discussed STI tests (2023 Family Planning Survey on Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Prevention, 2023)

In a study done by Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa, 33% people say that STIs were not covered as part of relationships and sexuality education at school (2023 Family Planning Survey on Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Prevention, 2023)

58% of gay men are out to their health practitioner
(Adams et al., 2008; Harris et al., 2015; Ludlam et al., 2024)

47% of rainbow people do not feel comfortable talking to their GP about their sexuality, gender identity or STI
(Ludlam et al., 2024)

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What We do now

Rapid HIV and Syphilis testing for
everyone

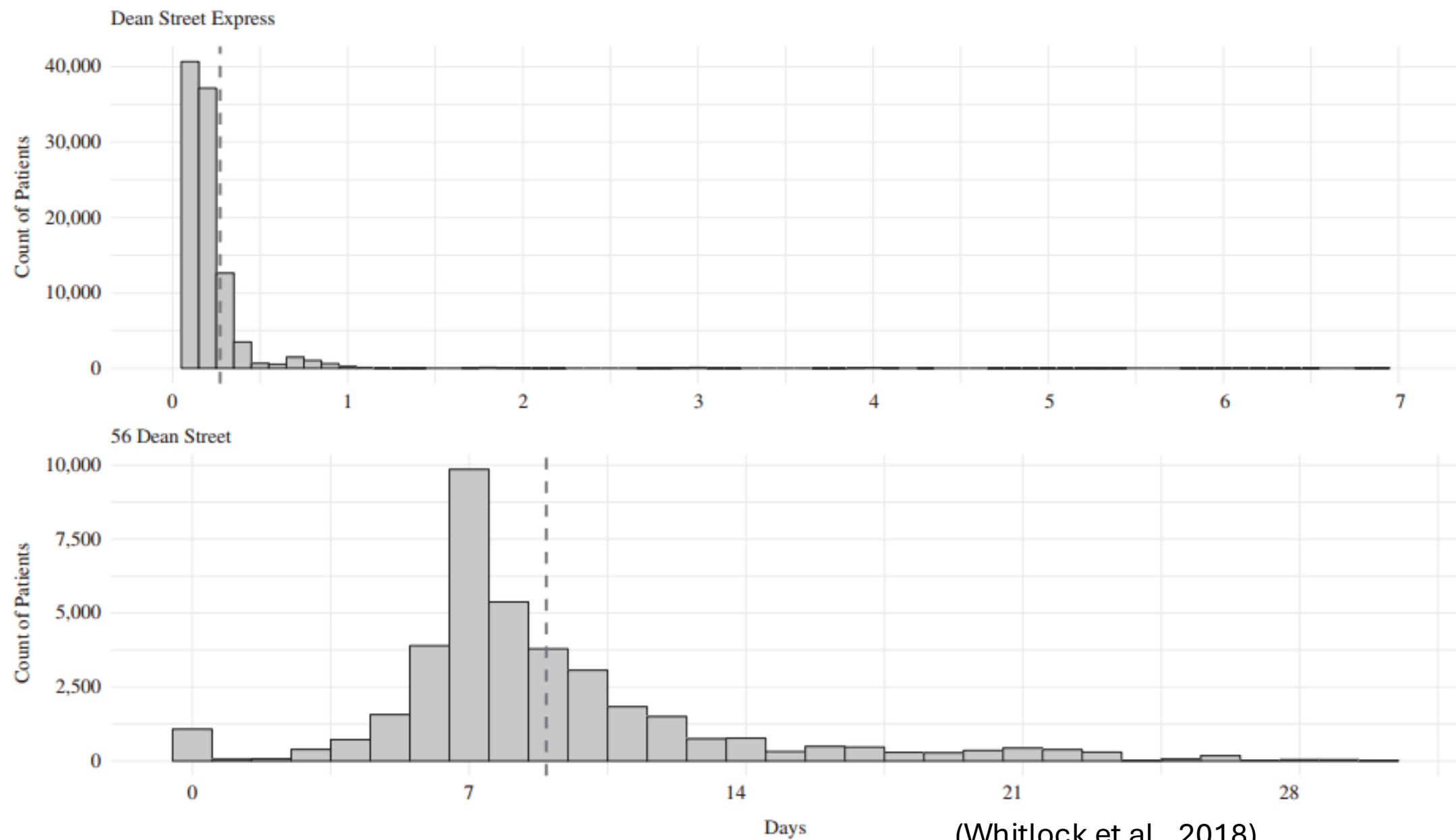
Rapid Hepatitis C for everyone

Swab and urine tests that is sent
of to the lab
(Restricted access)

Case Study - London

Compared to standard sexual health clinics in London, Dean Street Express offers a rapid testing service for asymptomatic infections. This service delivers faster results for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea, enabling earlier treatment, shortening the infectious period, and ultimately reducing transmission rates (Whitlock et al., 2018).





(Whitlock et al., 2018)

Figure 2. Time from testing visit to results being reported to patients by text message; for Dean Street Express and 56 Dean Street. Broken vertical lines denote the mean.

Innovative STI Testing



Beginning September 4, Body Positive Inc., in collaboration with Auckland Sexual Health Services, will offer Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea testing using GeneXpert technology, providing results in 90 minutes. Our aim is to provide test results to patients within 24 hrs either by text for negative results or phone call for positive results.

Innovative STI Testing



This service expansion includes extended clinic hours, allowing for same-day testing and access to PrEP and DoxyPEP, enhancing convenience and timely prevention for patients. This service will be a peer-led service while being supervised by nurses.

We are looking to hire a nurse.

Our ambition for the clinic

Full range of
Sexual health
testing

Vaccinations
(including
Mpox)

Anal cancer
screen

Hepatitis C
testing and
treating

PreP clinic

PeP Clinic

Treatment



**I HAVE SEXUAL
HEALTH CHECKS**

test'n'treat
FAST • FREE • CONFIDENTIAL

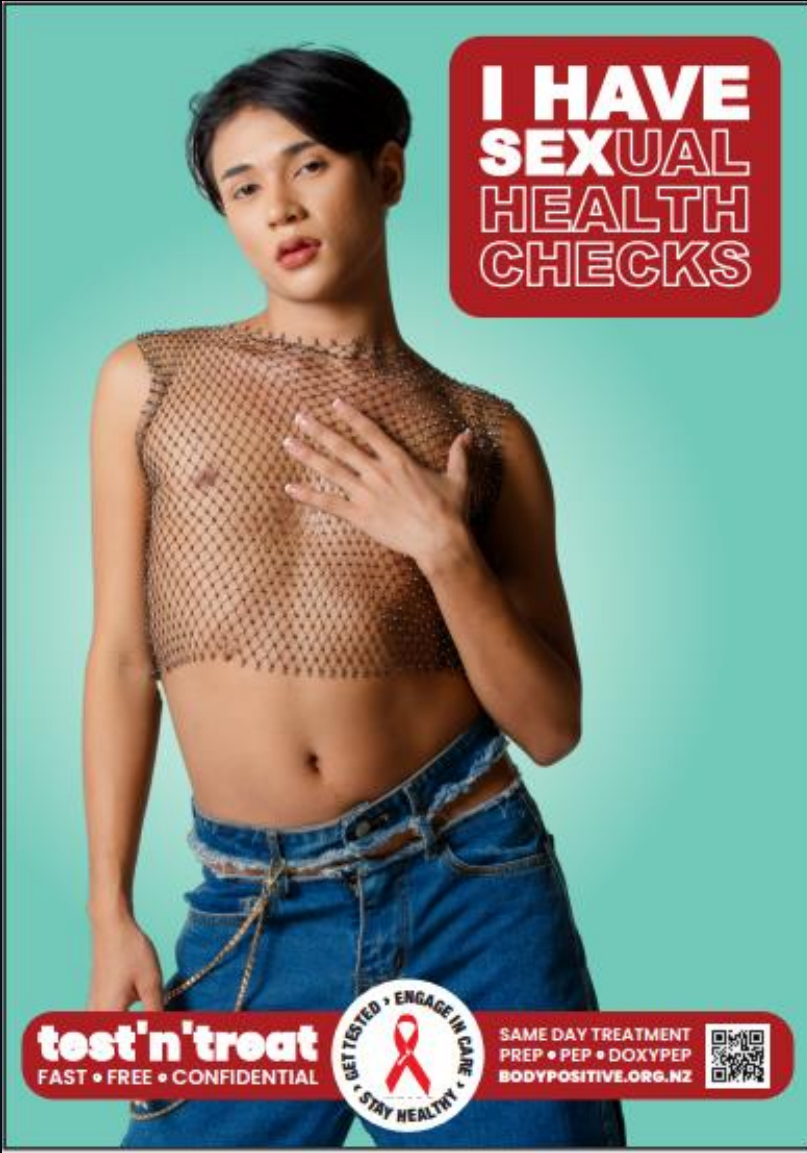


SAME DAY TREATMENT
PREP • PEP • DOXYPEP
BODYPOSITIVE.ORG.NZ



Marketing

- Our aim to market the clinic by
 - Billboard in the city
 - Press Releases
- Social Media Advertising
- Flyers and promo material
- Approaching and building relationships with local businesses like hostels, GP offices, Sex on sight venues, etc



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Why is this important In a New Zealand context

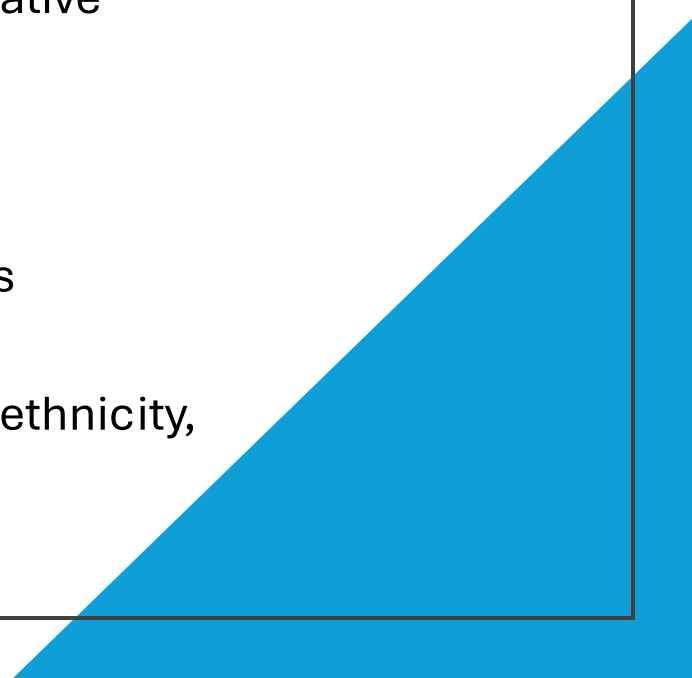
- High numbers of STI cases including:
 - Syphilis
 - Chlamydia
 - Gonorrhea
- Not only are we seeing high numbers with MSM but also in Māori and Pasifika communities.
- The figures in the annual STI reports, shown on the previous slide, do not reflect how many people are not getting tested. If they are not getting tested, they are not getting treated.
- We are receiving positive STI cases as many as 178 for under the age of 14 and 6664 for under the age of 19 in New Zealand (*New Zealand Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Surveillance Dashboard, 2025*).
- MSM are 86 x more likely to get syphilis than msw

Our focus

We will offer free and confidential STI testing for everyone in the Rainbow Community, with a focus on Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and people living with HIV, but we are open to test all



What we hope to achieve

- Increase testing for HIV and STI's
 - Shorten the time patients wait to receive their test results
 - Notifying the patient of their results regardless if it is positive or negative
 - Providing faster treatment for HIV and STI patients
 - Reduce anxiety surrounding testing
 - Reduce transmission of HIV and STI's
 - Reduce human error from test which may be seen In self testing kits
 - Provide status neutral conversations through our peer-testers
 - Make HIV, STI and STBBI testing available to everyone regardless of ethnicity, Sexuality, Gender Identity, Visa Status, Income.
- 

How does this help you?

Puts less pressure on the health system.

Increased access to and uptake of testing for HIV and STIs in priority populations.

All positive test results, will be seen by ASHS nurse on sight.

With this peer-led program, we will
Reduced stigma associated with HIV and STI testing.

Reduce local transmission

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Question?