



THE RISING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI) EPIDEMIC

As STI rates increase all over the world, Samoa's STI crisis is only going to get worse. Samoa for many years has had some of the highest rates of STI's within the pacific region (particularly Chlamydia, known locally as Ma'i afi). Recent estimates of new STI infections that these rates are going to increase. Resources and funding for STI's as well as many other infectious diseases are shrinking across the health sector.

CURRENT CASES DETECTED...

From people that were screened, national surveillance indicates that Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea are very high (roughly 1 out of every 5 people tested positive for either in 2017). Syphilis is steadily on the rise since 2015 and is becoming high prevalence for an infection that is usually rare, relative to general populations.

Percent of People Testing Positive 2015-2017

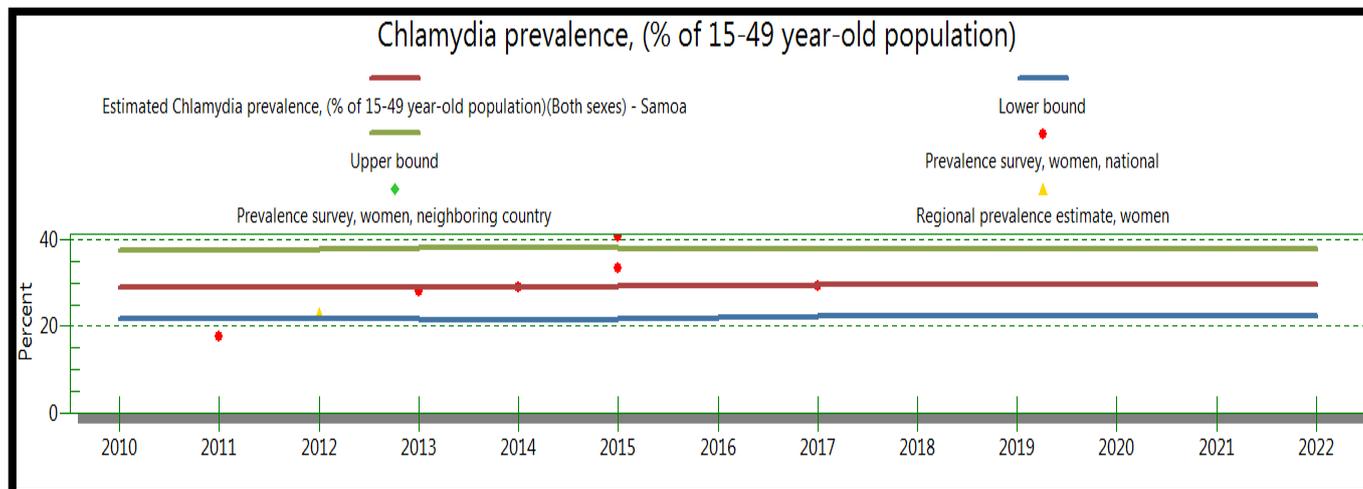
STI	2015	2016	2017	Status
Chlamydia	26%	Not Tested	20.7%	Remains high
Gonorrhoea	Not Tested	Not Tested	21.2%	Remains high
Syphilis	0.30%	0.4%	0.7%	Increasing

*Data reported by NHS Laboratory Services, represents all specimens tested nationally

ESTIMATED UNDETECTED CASES...

The number of people tested was used to estimate how much STI's there are in the rest of the population for the coming 5 years. The following results estimate the total prevalence of Chlamydia in Samoa for the total population. Estimates are produced using the Spectrum Model (95% CI).

- ❖ Chlamydia prevalence is estimated to be around 29% in 2018 increasing to 31% by 2022.





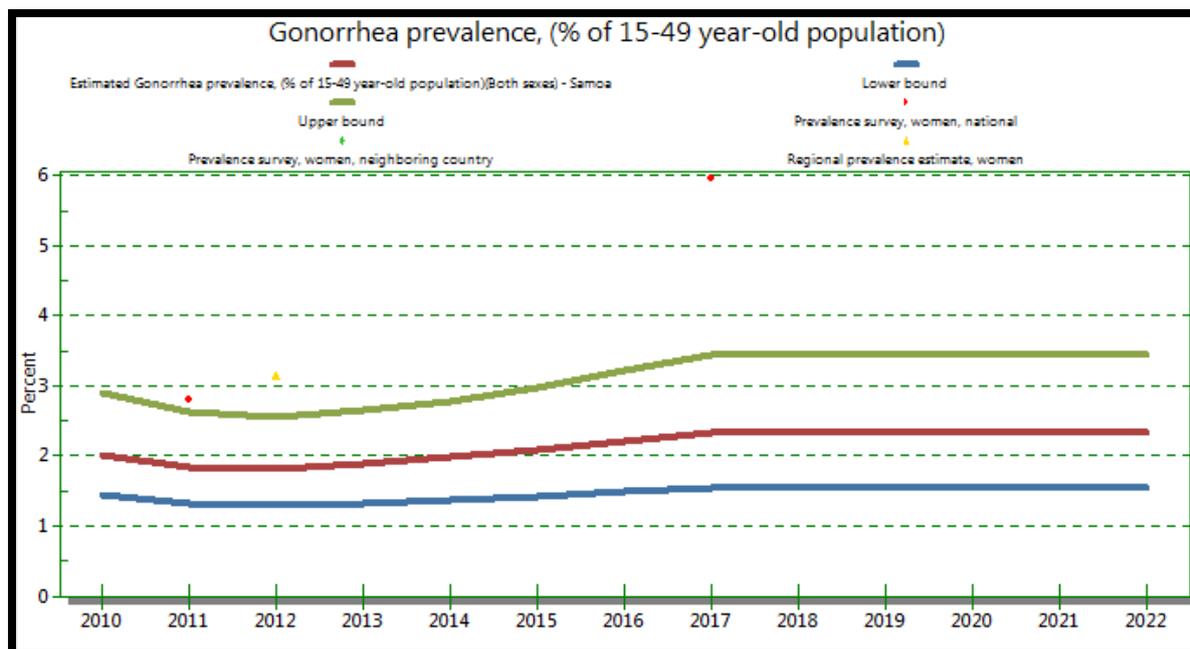
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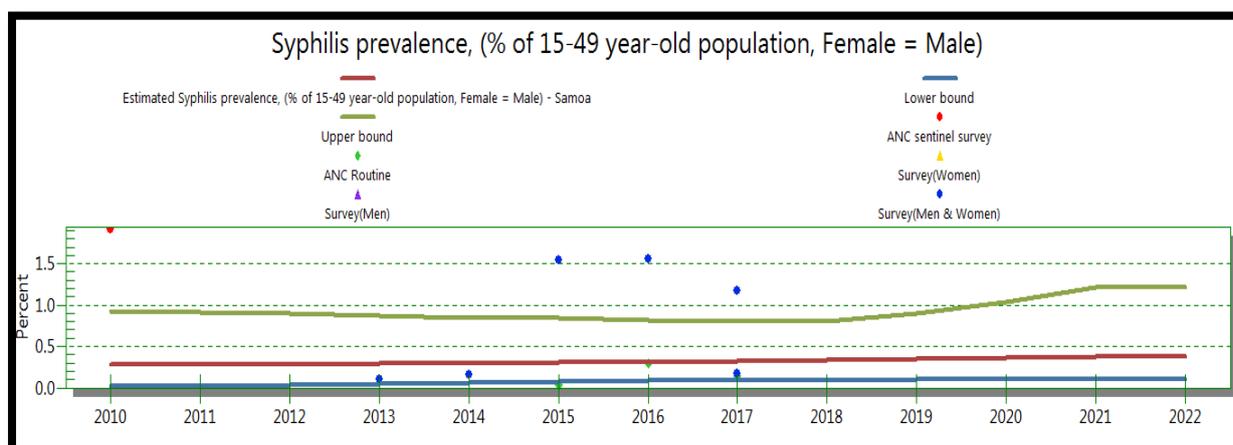
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- ❖ Gonorrhoea prevalence is estimated to remain at the same rate from 2018- 2022, but more data are needed to make projections more accurate.



- ❖ Syphilis prevalence is estimated to be about 0.8% in 2018, increasing to nearly 1.2% by 2022.



HIV AND STI TESTING COVERAGE BETWEEN 2010-2017...

People tested for at least 1 STI increased from **7,853 in 2016** to **14,727 in 2017** (87.5%). This is a very promising result, as increasing voluntary testing is the best way to control STI rates. Testing links people to care and treatment. Though HIV and Syphilis testing are high, Chlamydia testing is low. The need for improving awareness and access for testing services is ongoing.

Why was there such a large increase in testing? In 2016-2017, the HIV,STI and TB programme up-scaled public awareness efforts in order to increase voluntary testing, promote dialogue on sexual health to reduce stigma, and encourage people to access treatment services. One of these initiatives was the T3 Campaign: Talk it, Test it, Treat it to prevent STI's (Siaki, Talanoa, ma Togafitiga). Throughout 2017, the call volume to the STI Clinic and the Ministry of Health HIV programme office increased significantly after the T3 campaign was launched. More clients were



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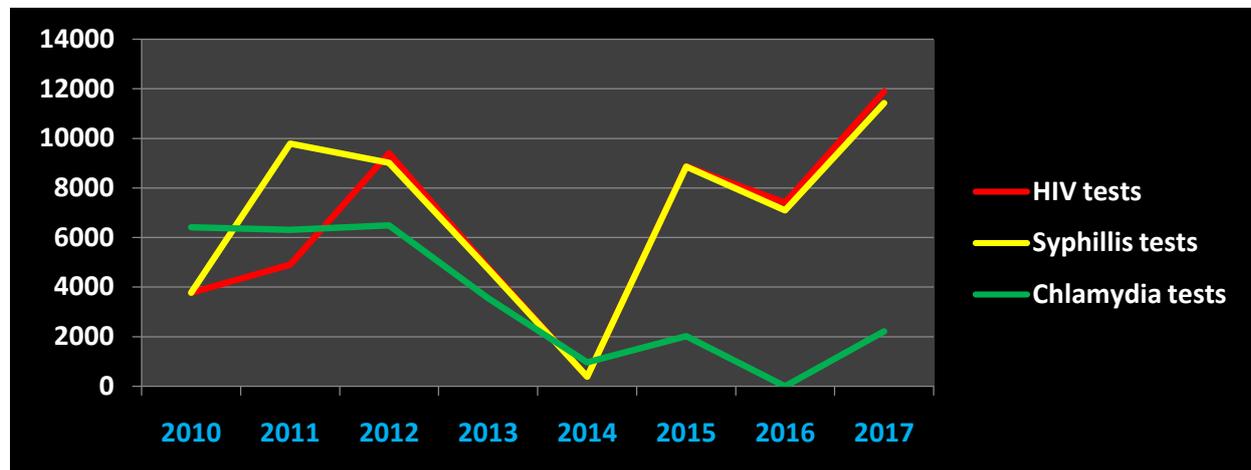
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contacting staff to learn more about services and sexual health. Although this increase in voluntary testing can only be ecologically inferred as a result of the T3 campaign, HIV testing rates have never been higher, nor have increased by such a significant amount in previous years.

HIV and STI Tests Conducted Between 2010-2017



Testing Coverage	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
HIV tests	3,765	4,909	9,394	4,807	385	8,870	7,408	11,882
Syphilis tests	3,766	9,781	9,005	4,738	379	8,851	7,085	11,418
Chlamydia tests	6,399	6,306	6481	3,553	961	2,025	0	2,207

*Data reported by NHS Laboratory Services, represents all specimens tested nationally

** Data not available for Gonorrhoea for all years

For inquiries, please contact the HIV, STI, and TB Programme at the Ministry of Health via phone 68100 ext. 195 or go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HIVSTITBMoH/>

T3 Talk it
Test it
Treat it

For any Sexually Transmitted Infections

Don't just make choices
Make the right Choice

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: 68100 ext 195
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES: 66700
SAMOA FAMILY HEALTH ASSOCIATION: 26929