

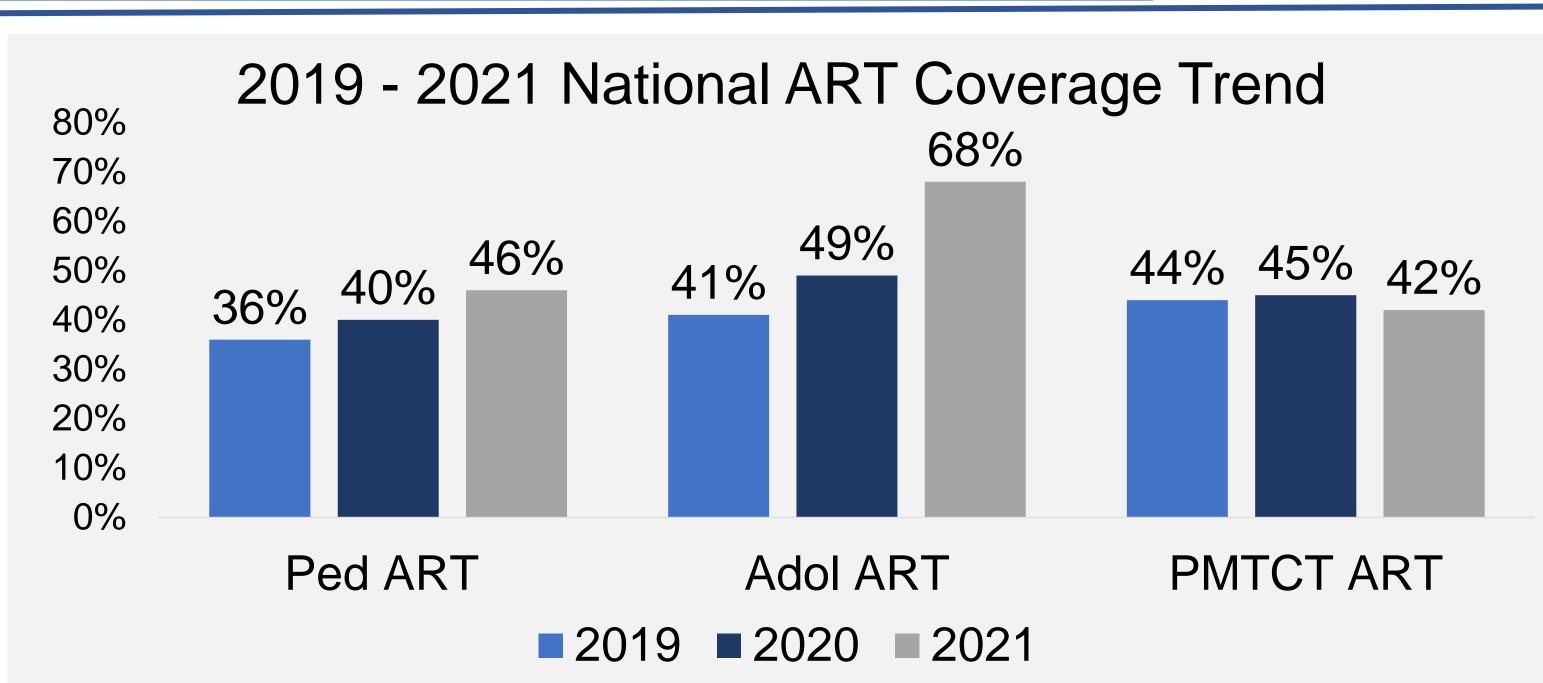


HIVST among children, adolescents and pregnant and breastfeeding women: implementation results and enablers for scale-up

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BACKGROUND

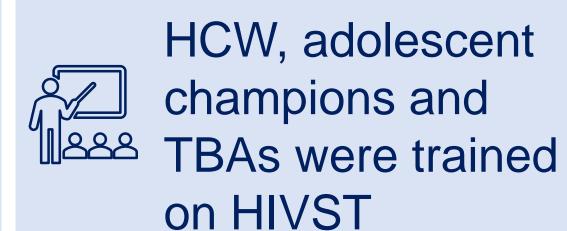


Since 2016, WHO has recommended HIV self-testing (HIVST) for under-reached populations, and in 2019, approved use among children aged 2-11 years by trained professionals. National guidelines for HIVST further allow caregiver-assisted testing; however, HIVST for all populations is limited. CHAI is supporting the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) to demonstrate effective HIVST delivery models and identify enablers for scale-up.

METHODS

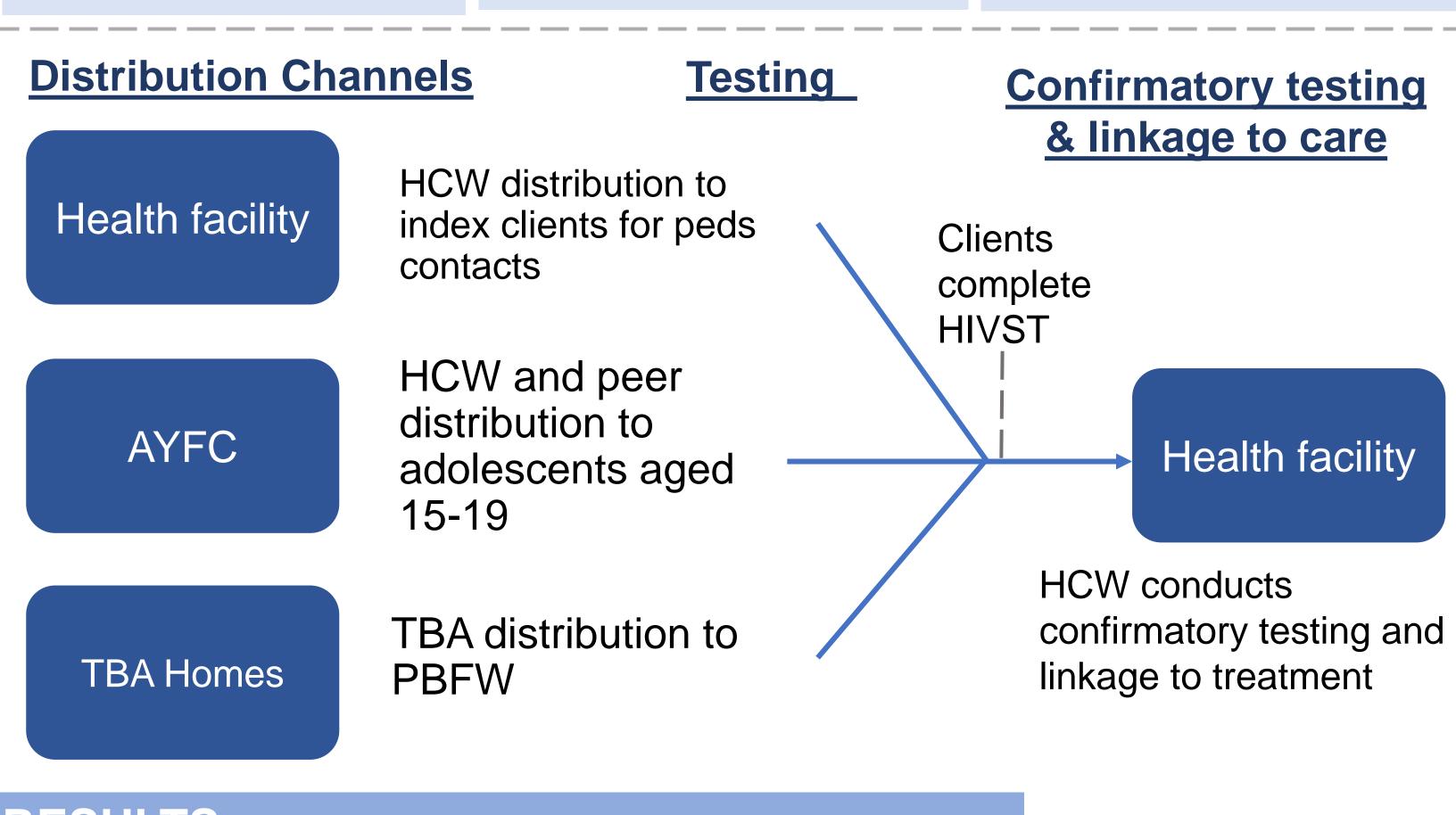






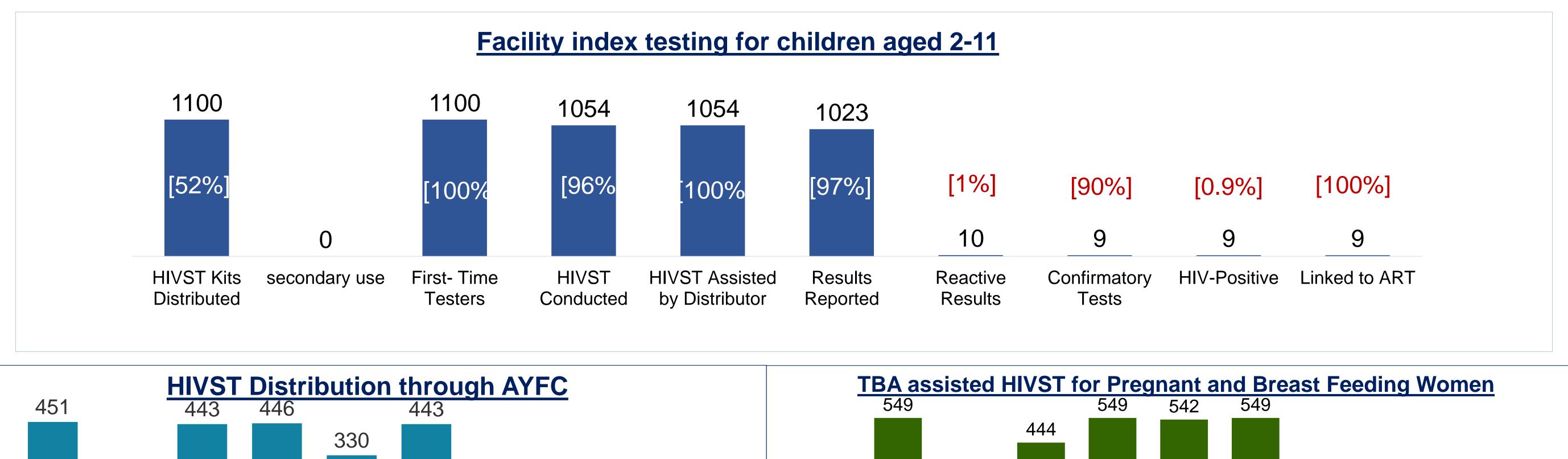


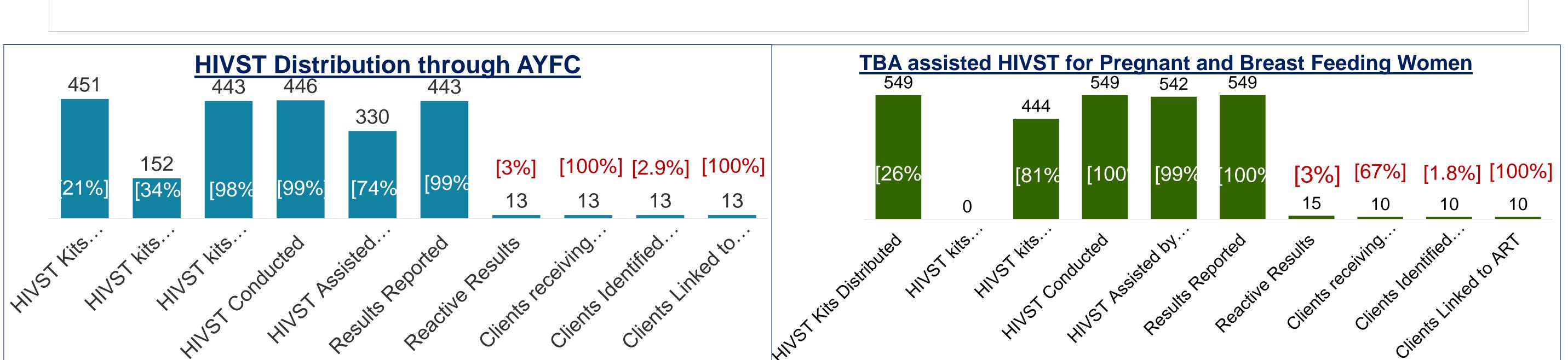




Between April - December 2021, CHAI and FMoH supported training and commodities for HIVST among children aged 2-11 of index clients via HIV testing services (HTS) officers at 9 facilities, adolescents/ young people (AYP) via adolescent champions at 9 Adolescent and Youth Friendly Centers (AYFC) and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW) via 8 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in Anambra and Akwa-Ibom states. Data collected included client demographics, testing history, HIVST mode, results, confirmatory testing and ART linkage from FMoH monthly summary forms and operational insights from CHAI-led learning sessions.







CONCLUSION

Decentralized, peer-driven models for HIVST can be effective for testing, including adolescent social network testing, and ART linkage; however, uptake was low and further research is needed on improving yields among children. To optimize impact, HIV programs should leverage existing venues and cadres serving target populations, prioritize demand generation and train distributors to provide support aligned with client preferences.