

HIV Sentinel Surveillance at ANC Sentinel Sites



Overview of Training & Session Plan



Session Plan

Session

Key Topics

Session 1: Introduction to HIV Sentinel Surveillance

What is HIV Surveillance? Objectives and uses of HIV Sentinel Surveillance; Roles and Responsibilities of personnel involved in surveillance;

Session 2: Know your Sentinel Site - Group Work and discussion

Group work to understand the functioning of the health facility at the sentinel site

Session 3: Methodology of HIV Sentinel Surveillance at ANC sites

Eligibility criteria; sampling methodology; Testing strategy;

Session 4: Managing Data Forms

General principles of completing and managing data forms & other documentation

Session 5: Laboratory Procedures

Specimen collection, processing, packaging and transportation

Session 6: Monitoring & Supervision; Coordination

Tiers of Supervision; Instructions;

Key Objectives of Training

- ▶ Understand your role, as well as other site personnel's role clearly in the surveillance process
- ▶ Understand thoroughly the guidelines and instructions for implementing HIV Sentinel Surveillance at your site
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the data forms, transportation sheets and other documentation at the sentinel site
- ▶ Understand the standard operating procedures for sample collection, storage and transportation

Ground Rules

- ▶ Pay close attention and actively participate in the discussions
- ▶ Do not hesitate to ask questions, but do wait for your turn and allow others to complete their questions/ comments
- ▶ Keep phones on silent mode

Introduction of Participants...

Session 1: Introduction to Surveillance



Session Objectives

At the end of this session, participants should be able to understand:

- ▶ The concept of Surveillance
- ▶ Definitions, Objectives & Application of HIV Sentinel Surveillance
- ▶ Roles and Responsibilities of personnel involved in surveillance

Definition

- ▶ Surveillance is defined as “an ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data regarding a health related event for use in public health action to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve health.”

Second Generation HIV Surveillance – Key Features

- ▶ Tailoring the HIV surveillance system to the pattern of the epidemic in a country
- ▶ Behavioural surveillance for collection of information on risk factors and practices, STIs, etc.
- ▶ Making best use of other sources of information to increase understanding of the HIV epidemic and the behaviours that spread it
- ▶ Better use of surveillance data to plan prevention and care interventions, improve national response and to measure impact

What is HIV “Sentinel” Surveillance

- ▶ **HIV Sentinel Surveillance** is defined as “a system of monitoring HIV epidemic among specified population groups by collecting information on HIV from designated sites (sentinel sites) over years, through a uniform and consistent methodology that allows comparison of findings across place and time, to guide programme response.”
- ▶ **Sentinel Site** is defined as “a designated service point/facility where blood specimens & relevant information are collected from a fixed number of eligible individuals from a specified population group over a fixed period of time, periodically, for the purpose of monitoring the HIV epidemic.”

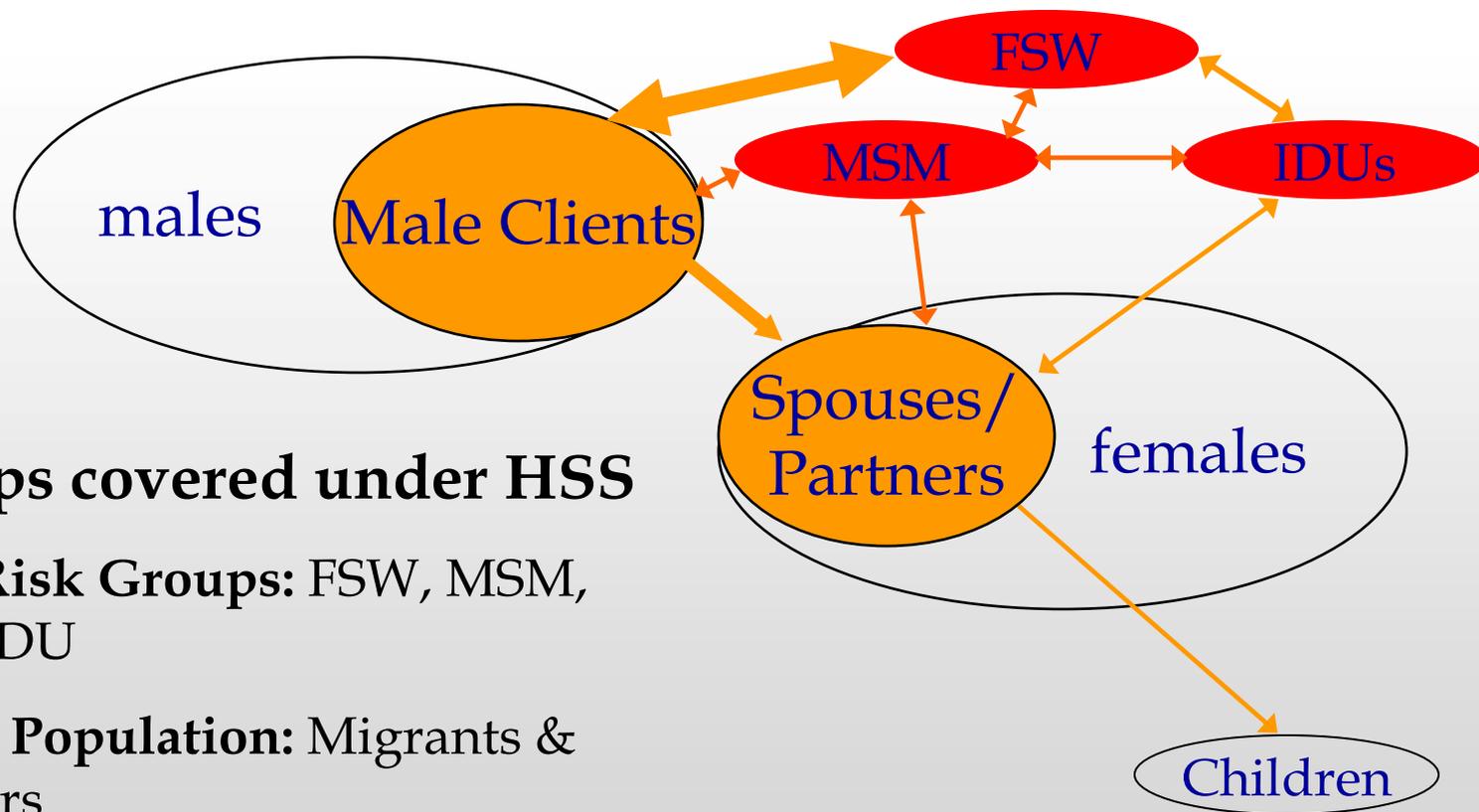
Objectives of HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS)

- ▶ To monitor trends in prevalence of HIV infection over time
- ▶ To monitor the distribution and spread of HIV prevalence in different population subgroups and in different geographical areas
- ▶ To identify emerging pockets of HIV epidemic in the country

Important applications of HSS:

- ▶ To estimate and project burden of HIV at state & national levels
- ▶ To support programme prioritization and resource allocation
- ▶ To assist evaluation of programme impact
- ▶ Advocacy

Epidemiological Basis of HIV Surveillance



Groups covered under HSS

High Risk Groups: FSW, MSM, TG & IDU

Bridge Population: Migrants & Truckers

Low Risk Population: Pregnant women attending ANC Clinics

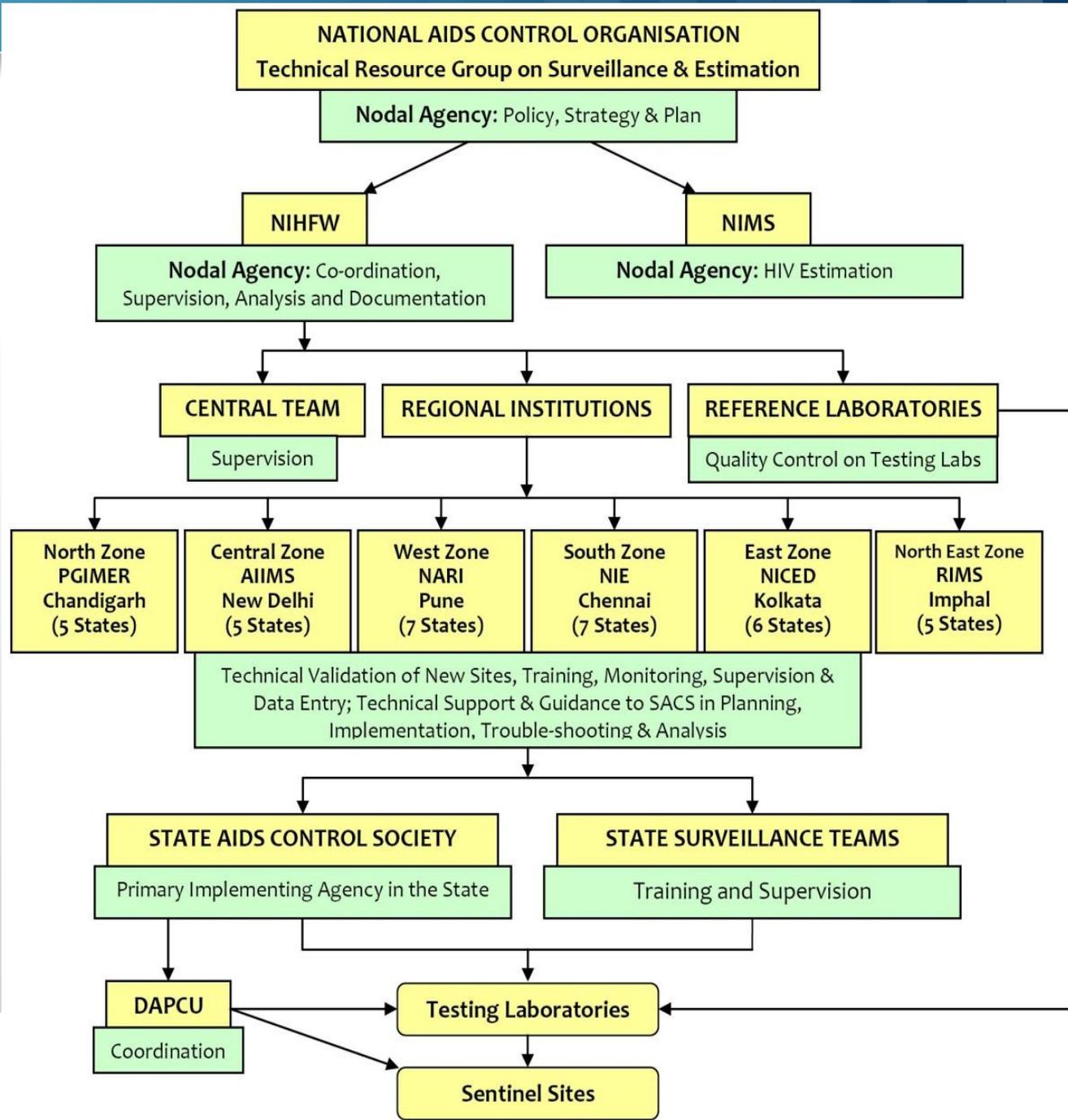
(Adapted from Dr. Tim Brown's work on the Asian Epidemic)

Why surveillance among ANC clinic attendees?

- ▶ Pregnant women represent the sexually active segment of general population, and hence taken as proxy for monitoring HIV among general population
- ▶ Unlinked Anonymous Testing strategy is possible only at those clinics where testing and blood specimen collection is done routinely. At ANC clinics, routine blood specimen collection is done for Syphilis and Hemoglobin testing, a part of which can be used for HIV testing
- ▶ Pregnant women represent a more homogeneous group than persons attending any other clinic/ OPD
- ▶ Pregnancy, being physiological, does not introduce any bias in HIV prevalence which other illnesses/ diseases may introduce due to underlying factors common to HIV
- ▶ Facilities for antenatal care are available across the country at different levels of health care system and hence are feasible for implementation

Roles and Responsibilities of Sentinel Site Personnel

Implementation Structure for HSS



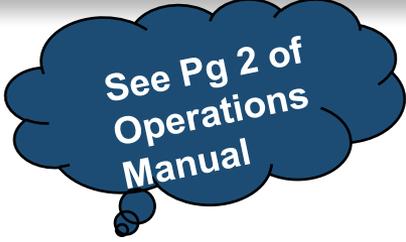
Roles and Responsibilities

State AIDS Control Societies (SACS)

- ▶ Ensure the supply of all consumables and release of funds required for surveillance to the sentinel sites
- ▶ Provide site code, sub-site numbers to all sites along with allocation of sample size in case of composite sites
- ▶ Ensure availability of operational manuals, wall charts, data forms, stamps/pre-printed stickers, etc.
- ▶ Ensure training of the personnel involved at all the sentinel sites and testing labs in the state
- ▶ Ensure sensitisation of NRHM officials/ CMOs/ Supdts. of hospitals from general health system about HSS
- ▶ Ensure adequate HR and infrastructure at sentinel sites
- ▶ Monitor surveillance through supervision visits and regular coordination

Roles and Responsibilities

Sentinel Site In-charge



See Pg 2 of
Operations
Manual

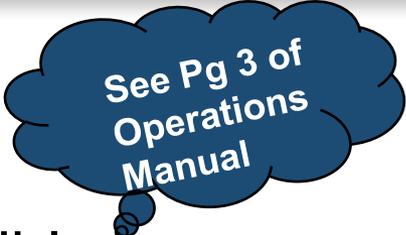
- ▶ Responsible for all arrangements and activities for HIV surveillance at the site.
- ▶ Attends trainings conducted for surveillance by the SACS
- ▶ Conducts a pre-surveillance on-site training for all staff
- ▶ Correctly identifies the eligible respondents as per the inclusion criteria and ensures consecutive sampling
- ▶ Ensures that sample number is not linked with individual's identity thus maintaining unlinked anonymous testing
- ▶ Ensures adherence to standard operating procedures (SOP) by the site staff while collecting, processing & storing blood specimens

Roles and Responsibilities (contd.)

Sentinel site in-charge

- ▶ Monitors progress in sample collection on daily basis
- ▶ Checks filled forms every day for completeness, discuss issues, if any, with concerned staff, guide them and sign the filled forms
- ▶ Arranges for transport of blood specimens under proper cold chain along with sample transportation sheet (STS) to RI.
- ▶ Ensures that results of routine tests are provided to the respondent subsequently
- ▶ Contacts nodal person at SACS for any clarification/ problem regarding staff, availability of the listed consumables, user manuals, flow charts, data forms and stamps/ pre-printed stickers or any other methodological issues

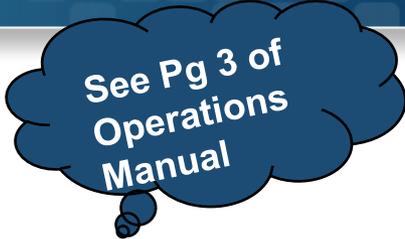
Roles and Responsibilities Nurse / Counselor



See Pg 3 of
Operations
Manual

- ▶ Assists the site in-charge in identifying the eligible respondents
- ▶ Fills the data form for the eligible respondents as per the instructions given
- ▶ Ensures unlinked anonymity by seeing to it that data form does not carry any personal identifiers
- ▶ Ensures that the filled data form and the respondent reach laboratory technician for blood collection
- ▶ Ensures proper storage of data forms and weekly transport of data forms to RI
- ▶ Assists the site in-charge in the overall implementation of surveillance at the site

Roles and Responsibilities Laboratory Technician



See Pg 3 of
Operations
Manual

- ▶ Verifies the completeness of data form before taking blood specimen; refers back to nurse/counselor immediately if any fields missing or illegible
- ▶ Collects blood specimen following universal safety precautions
- ▶ Separates sera from blood specimens, labels and store them as per SOP
- ▶ Takes care and precautions to avoid damage to specimens (haemolysis, contamination, leakage etc.)
- ▶ Assists site-in-charge in storage, packing and transportation of blood specimens every week and in their documentation:
- ▶ Strictly follows instructions for labeling and ensures appropriate labeling of specimens for routine testing and surveillance
- ▶ Strictly adheres to all the prescribed bio-safety measures

DISCUSSION

END OF SESSION 1