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# Bridging the Gap in Integrated HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C Testing:

## Overcoming Accessibility Barriers through Community-Led Strategies in Malmö, Sweden

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## OBJECTIVES

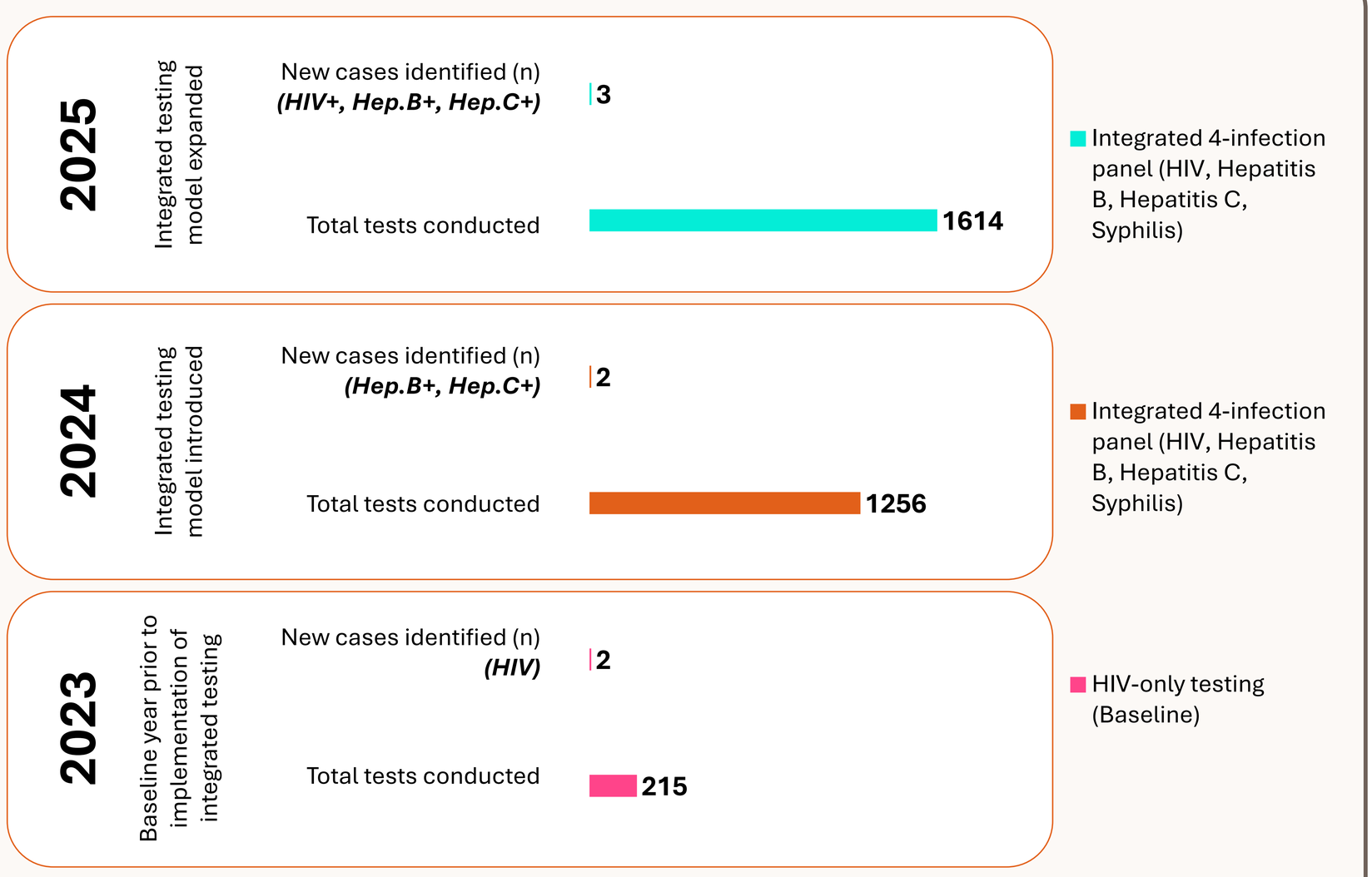
- Evaluate a community-led, data-driven model for integrated HIV, hepatitis B/C and syphilis testing among migrant and key populations in Malmö.
- Assess the effectiveness of community-based outreach compared with facility-based testing in reaching underserved populations.
- Identify barriers and opportunities for improving access to testing and prevention services.
- Generate evidence to support equitable testing strategies aligned with Sweden's goal of ending HIV transmission by 2030.

## METHODS

- Conducted needs assessments and situational mapping to identify migrant communities and high-prevalence areas.
- Collected and analyzed data through surveys, interviews and secondary data sources to inform outreach planning.
- Applied lessons learned from the CORE (Community Response to Ending Inequality in Europe) and Mi-Health UK projects to adapt international best practices to the Swedish context.
- Implemented a targeted, community-led outreach model, shifting from facility-based testing to a strategy focused on improving access for underserved populations.

## RESULTS

- Conducted targeted testing interventions in Rosengård and Värnhemstorget, two areas with high concentrations of migrant communities and other underserved populations.
- Community-based testing significantly improved engagement with high-risk groups compared with traditional facility-based approaches.
- A single outreach activity in Rosengård resulted in more than 20 HIV tests in one day, demonstrating strong community uptake.
- Testing activities in Värnhemstorget identified cases of hepatitis B and hepatitis C, highlighting the interconnected burden of HIV and other infectious diseases among marginalized populations.




## CONCLUSIONS

- Despite Sweden's progress in HIV prevention and care, significant barriers to testing accessibility remain, particularly for migrant and key populations.
- Findings show that facility-based testing alone is insufficient to reach populations most affected by health inequalities.
- Community-based outreach proved effective in expanding access to HIV, hepatitis and STI testing and reaching individuals who might otherwise remain untested.
- A targeted, data-driven outreach model should be prioritized to support equitable access to testing and contribute to Sweden's goal of Zero HIV Transmission by 2030.

