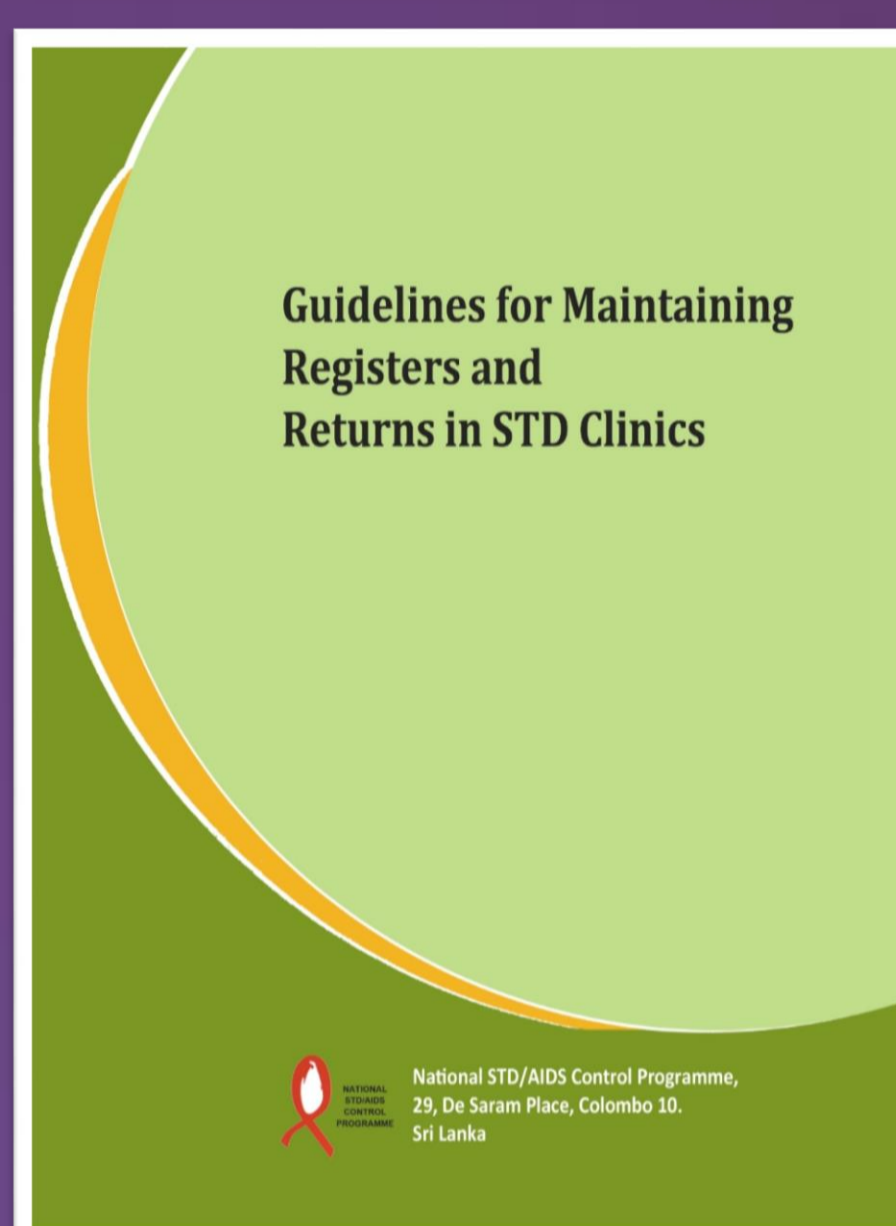


Surveillance of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in Sri Lanka: experiences from a resource constrained setting

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Introduction

- Surveillance of sexually transmitted infections is invaluable in assessing the risk for HIV infections in various communities and geographical locations.
- National STD/AIDS control programme of Sri Lanka has developed a mechanism to regularly collate island wide STI data using both paper based and electronic reporting systems.
- Objective of this paper is to describe magnitude and trends of STIs in Sri Lanka over last 10 years.



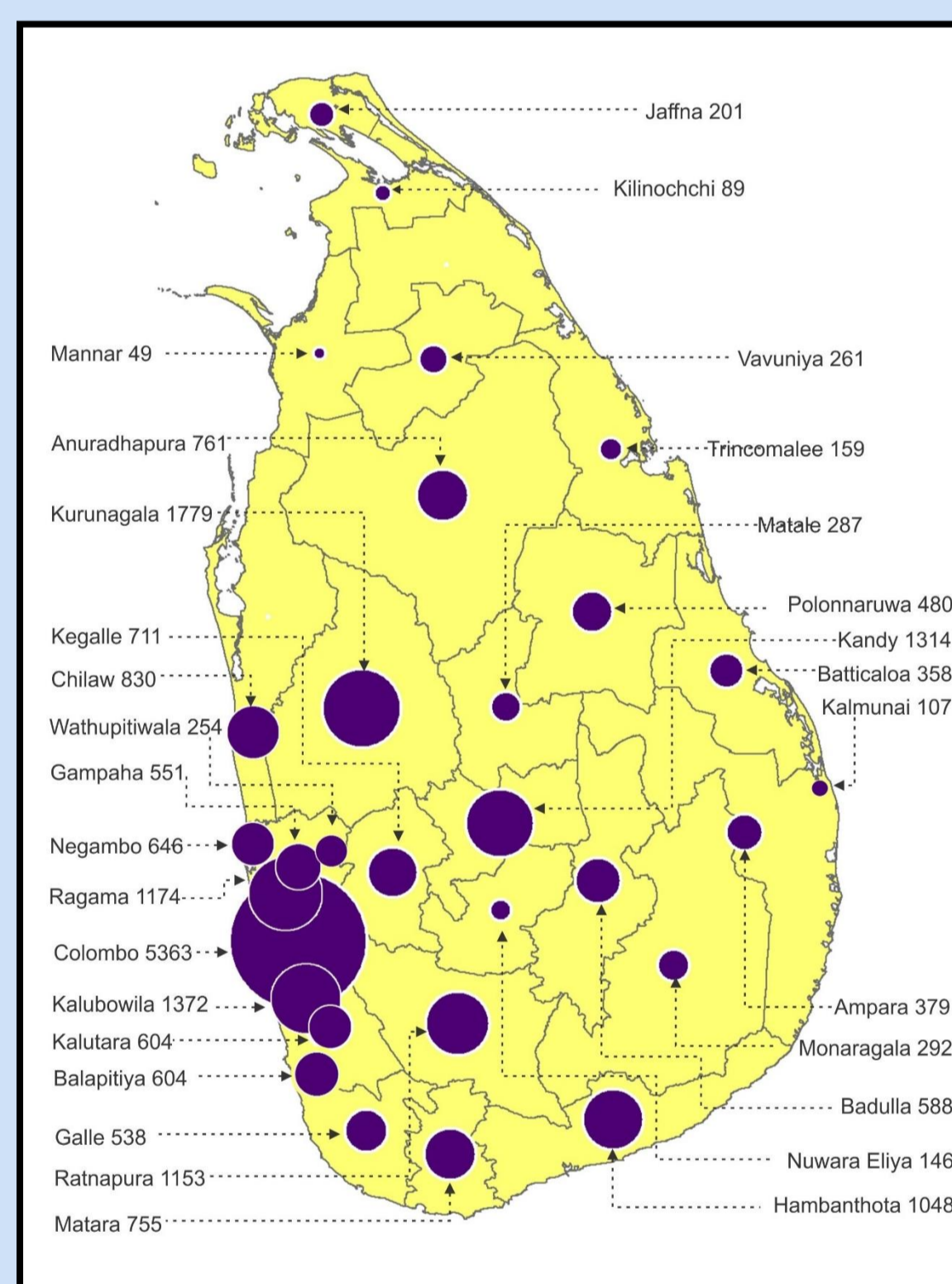
Methods

- Following STI related data sources were reviewed
 - nationwide public STD clinics, antenatal services, blood transfusion services
 - antimicrobial sensitivity pattern for gonorrhoea, STI prevalence studies
- Data are presented to demonstrate the magnitude and trends of STIs over the last decade.

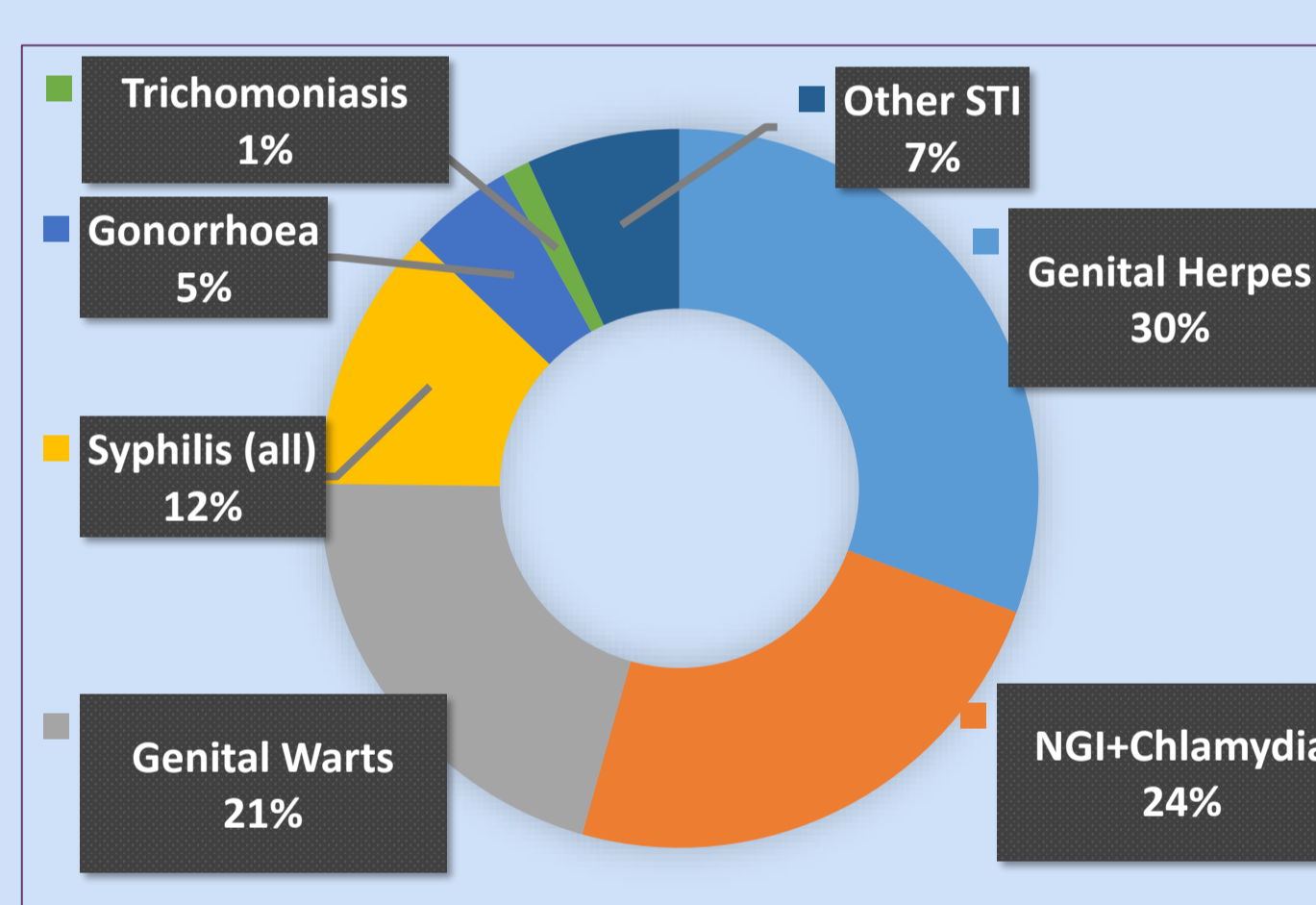
In Sri Lanka, none of the STIs are notifiable and the main source of STI data are from the 30 public STD clinics. Regular Staff training and availability of standard formats and written guideline are essential to carry out a STI surveillance system from multiple reporting units. Above pictures show staff training in STI data management and guidelines developed on recording and reporting of data.

Results

No. of new clients registered in STD clinics during 2015

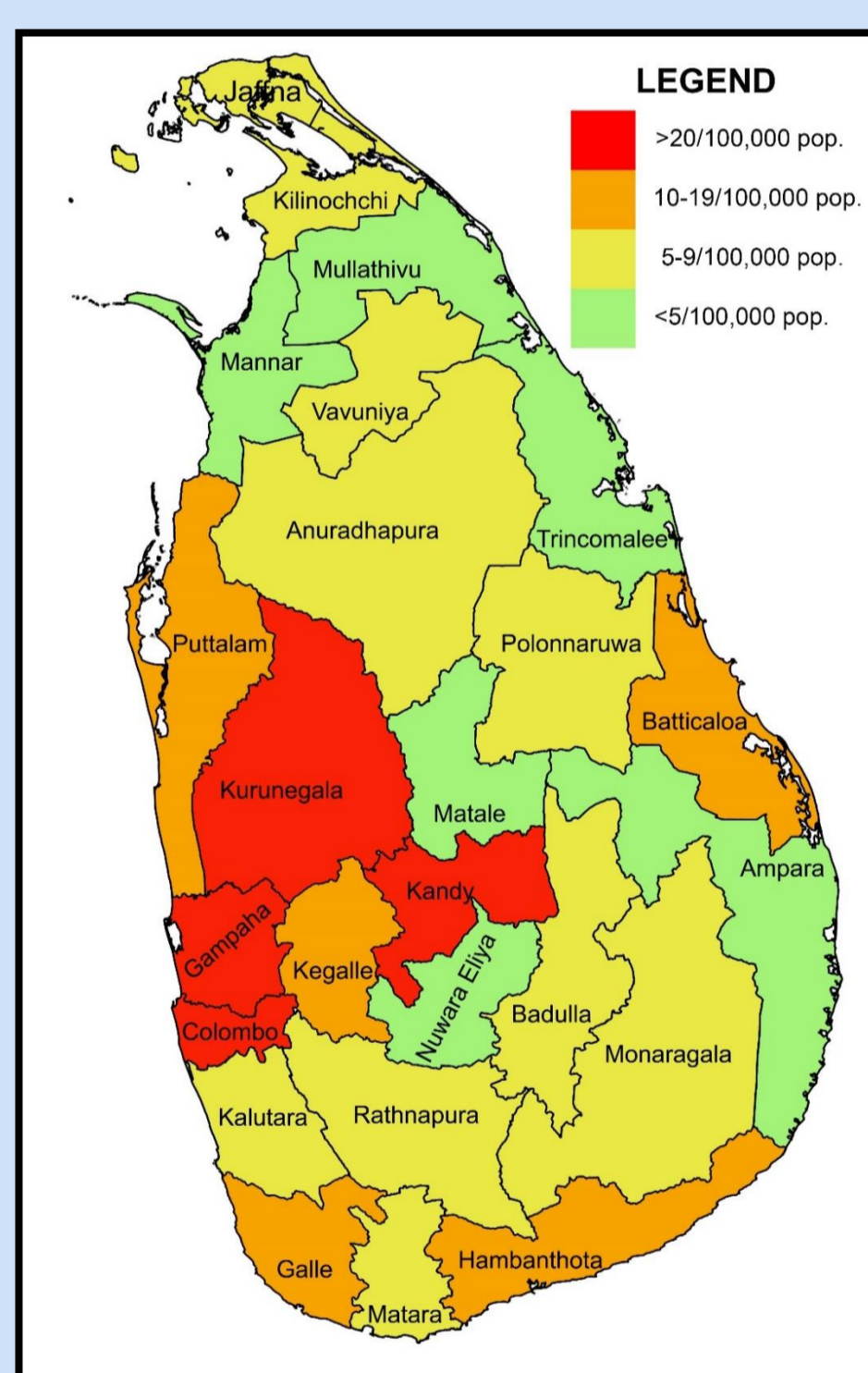


No. of new clients registered in STD clinics during 2015

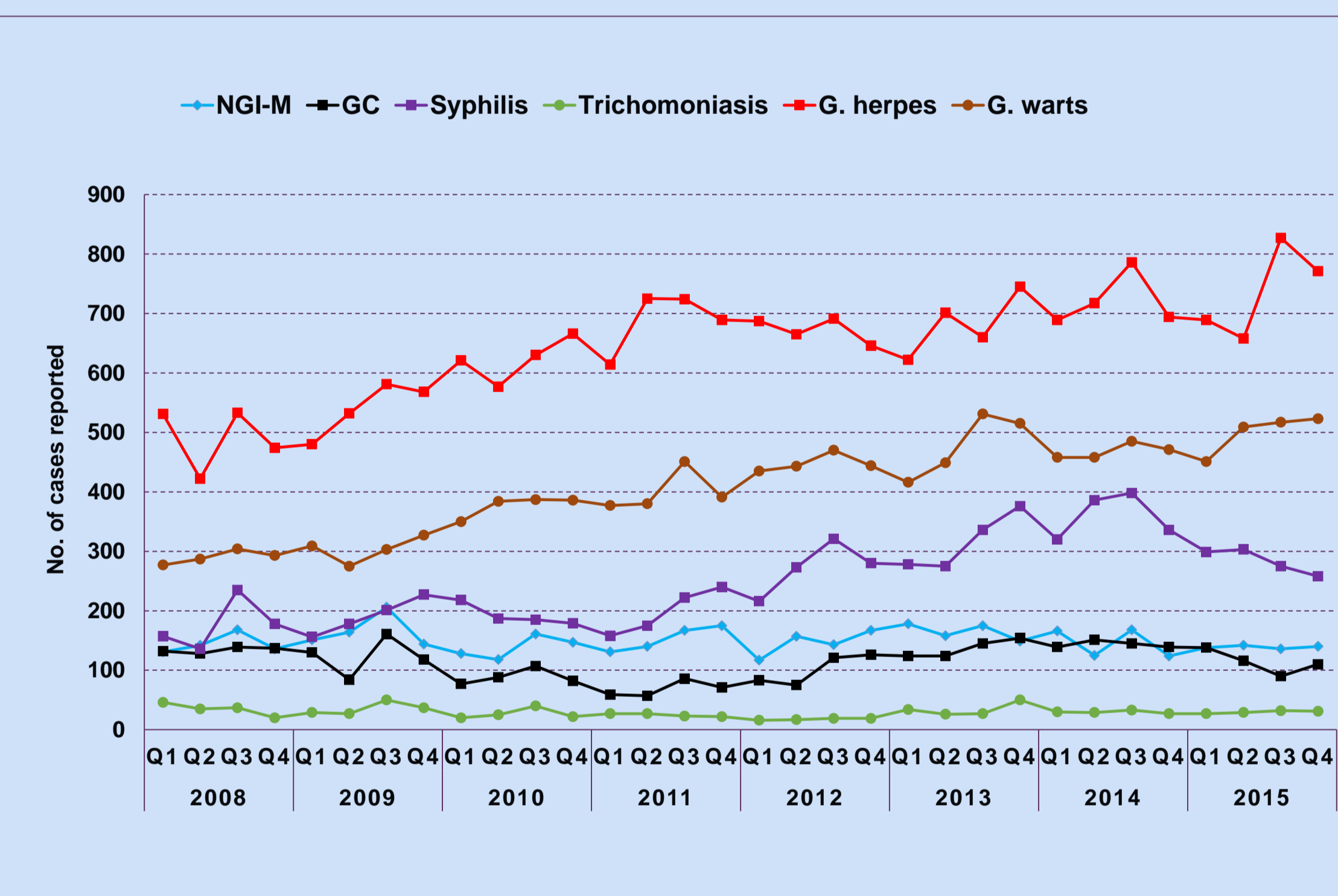


A total of 9,621 STI episodes were reported in Sri Lanka during 2015. The commonest STI diagnosis was genital herpes (30% of all STIs) followed by non-gonococcal genital infections (22%).

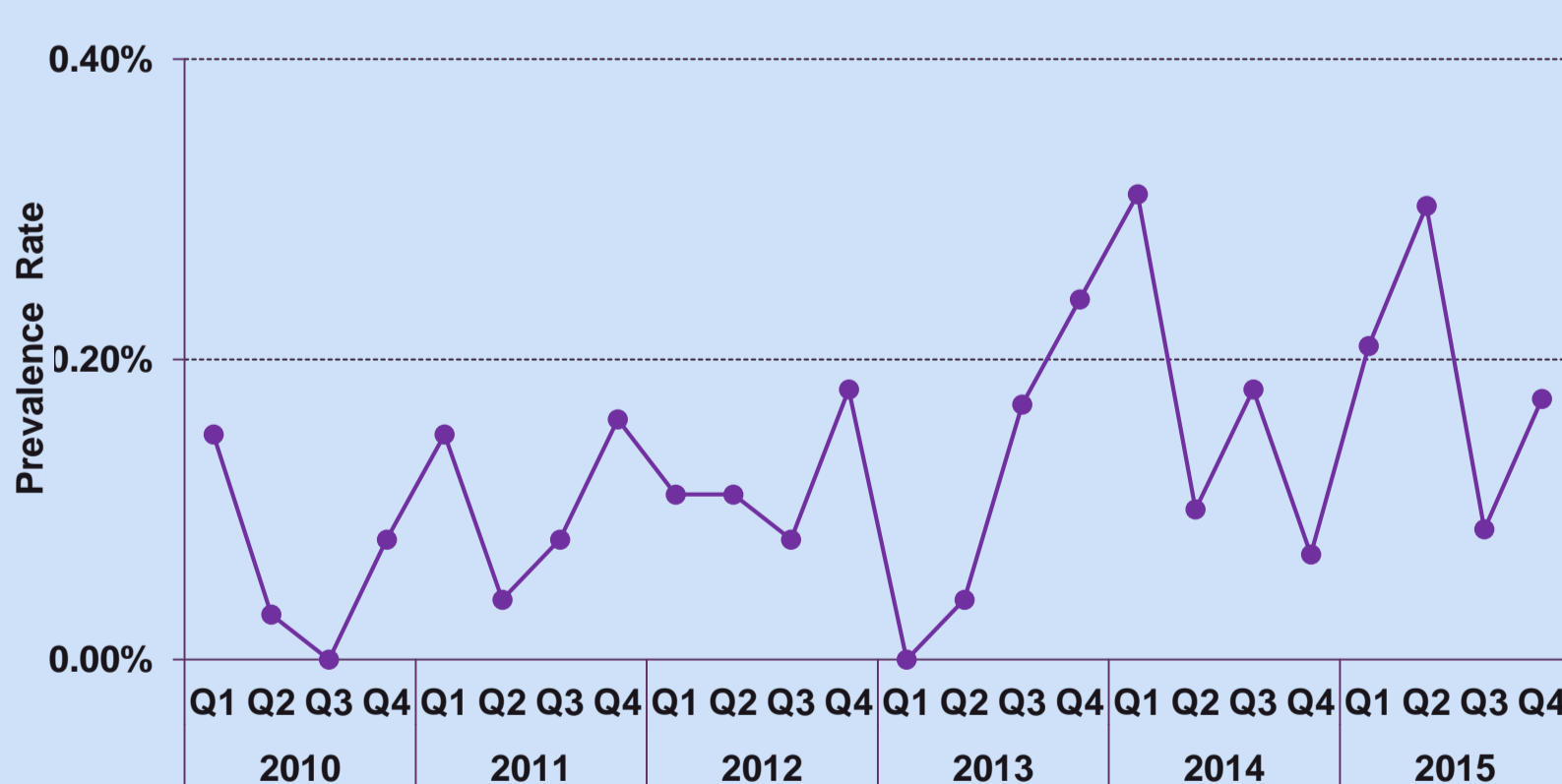
Prevalence of curable STIs* per 100,000 population in 2015 (*syphilis, gonorrhoea, non-gonococcal infections & trichomoniasis)



Trends of sexually transmitted infections in Sri Lanka, 2008-2015

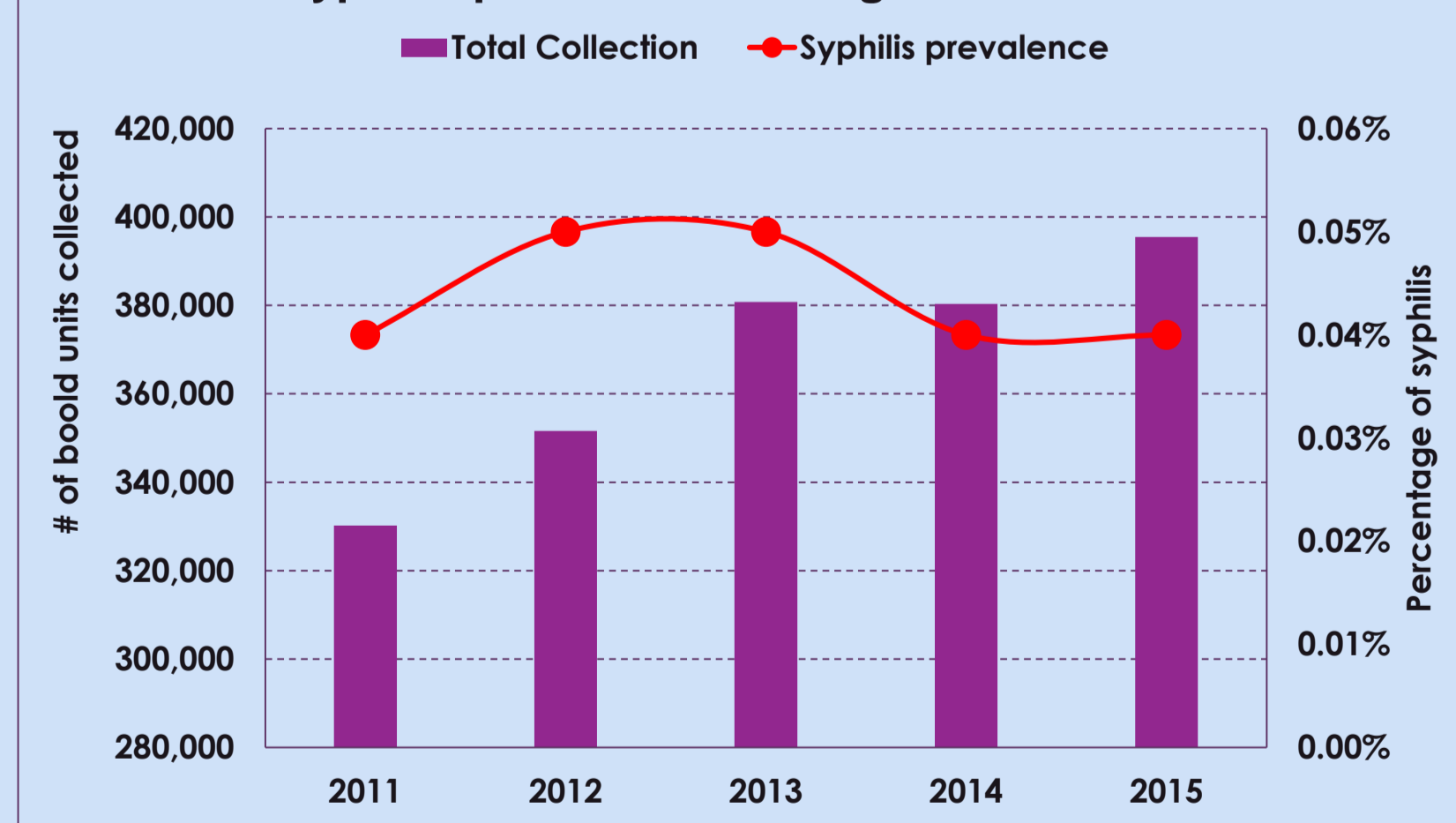


Antenatal Syphilis Prevalence in Colombo, 2010-2015

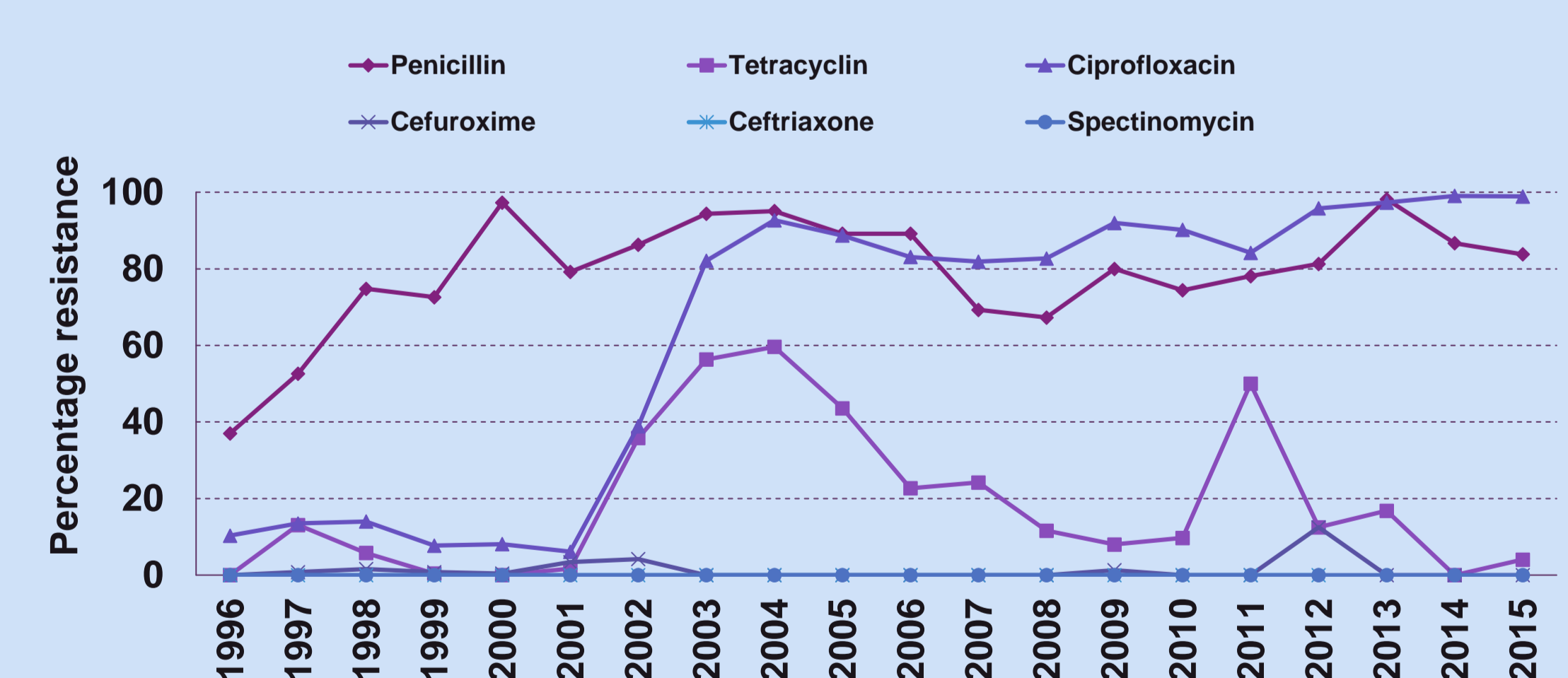


Syphilis prevalence monitoring is routinely conducted among blood donors and antenatal women. Colombo ANC syphilis prevalence represents urban antenatal women which is higher than that of rural areas. However, blood donor syphilis prevalence is much lower than ANC prevalence most probably due to pre-donor screening process of voluntary donors.

Syphilis prevalence among donated blood



Gonococcal antibiotic resistance pattern 1996-2015



Monitoring of gonococcal antibiotic sensitivity pattern remains an important component of STI surveillance. Currently cefixime is used as the 1st-line medication for uncomplicated gonorrhoea infections.

Conclusions

It is important to maintain a robust STI surveillance system in order to assess the changing HIV risk in various geographical and risk populations. This is more important in low HIV prevalence settings where change in HIV prevalence is a less sensitive indicator. However, caution should be taken in interpreting STI surveillance data as they are subjected to number of biases. Genital herpes remains the most common STI (30% of all STIs in 2015) and there is an increasing trend. Prevalence of curable STIs are considerably high in some districts, which indicate necessity to scale up of HIV prevention activities in these districts. Syphilis prevalence does not show increasing trends among antenatal and donated blood samples. Monitoring of antibiotic sensitivity pattern is crucial due to frequent antibiotic resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. Penicillin and ciprofloxacin shows very high resistance to gonorrhoea. Up to now, *N. gonorrhoea* remains 100% sensitive to spectinomycin and ceftriaxone in Sri Lanka.