

# Declines in HIV and STIs followed by recent increases in an urban Haitian clinic

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## Background

### Clinic Background

- GHESKIO (Haitian Study Group on Kaposi Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections) was founded in 1982 in Port-au-Prince to promote research and care of AIDS patients. In 1991, an STI clinic was added as the first STI clinic in Haiti
- Between 1991 and 1994, staff diagnosed STIs combining both syndromic presentations and etiological diagnosis
- In 1995, restrictions in operational funding resulted in the diagnosis of STIs relying on major syndromic presentations only

### Study Objectives:

- To retrospectively analyze two decades (1995-2015) of GHESKIO STI clinic data and describe the evolution of genital ulcers, urethral and vaginal discharge, syphilis, and HIV among patients attending the STI clinic in urban Haiti.

## Methods

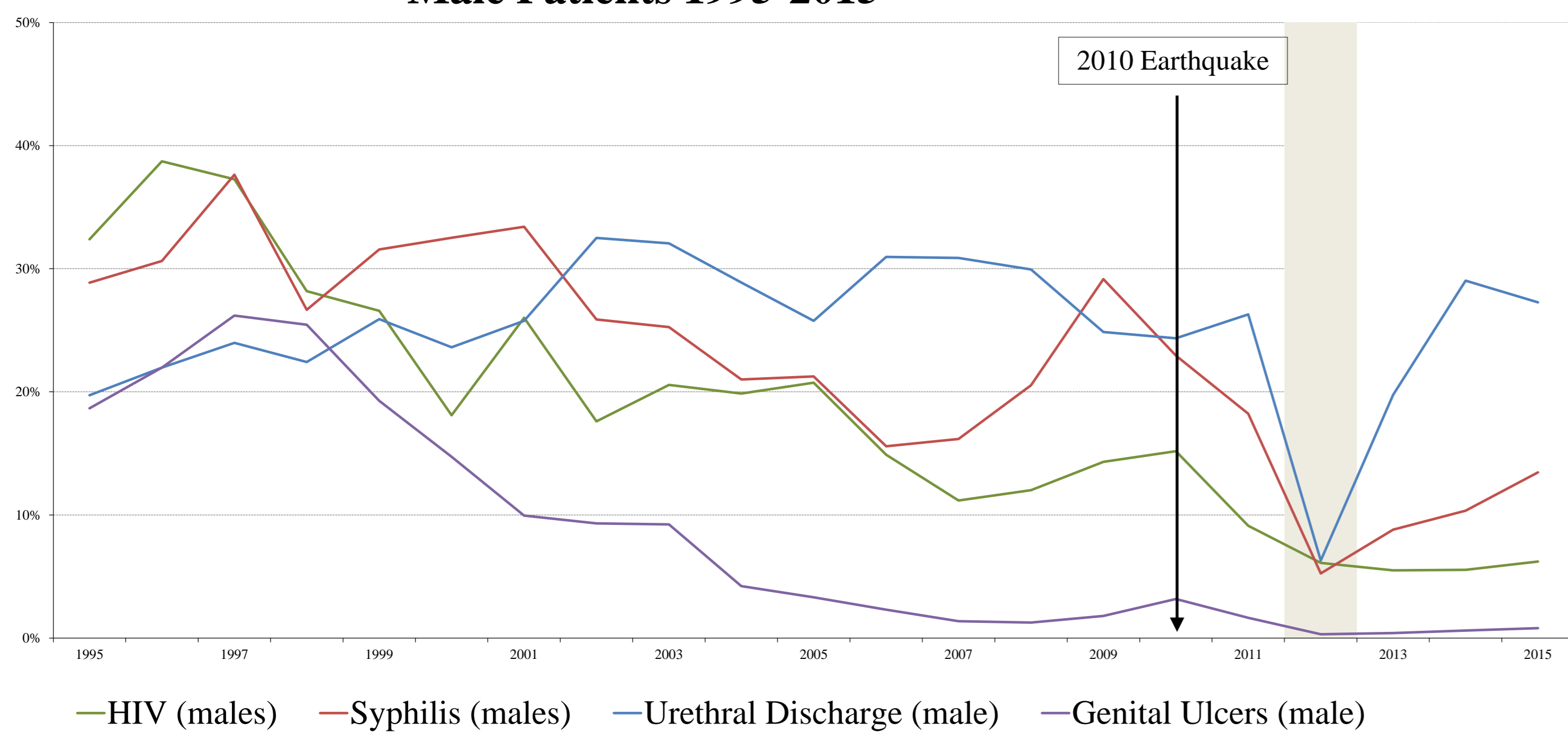
### Methods:

- Categorization of observed symptoms into 4 Syndromic categories: Genital ulcers, urethral discharge, vaginal discharge, and other
- HIV and syphilis tests offered with formal consent
- Treponemal or non-treponemal tests for syphilis with retest at 3 months
- Two positive rapid tests for HIV and retest at 3 months if negative
- Same day treatment of STIs

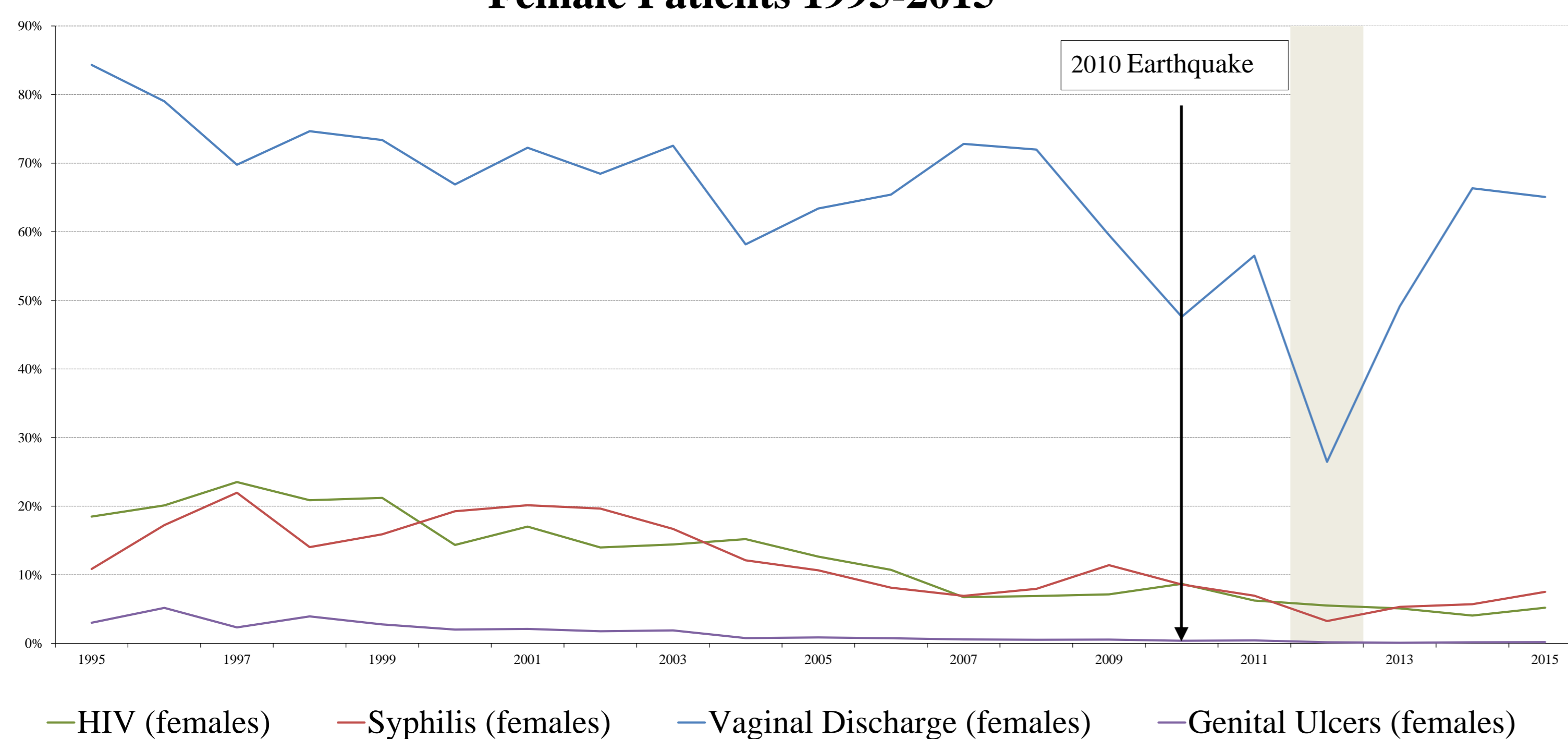
## Results

- Total of 107,863 patient visits (83,678 female, 24,185 male)

**Figure 1. Male Patient Diagnosis Trends, as a Percentage of All Male Patients 1995-2015**



**Figure 2. Female Patient Diagnosis Trends, as a Percentage of All Female Patients 1995-2015**

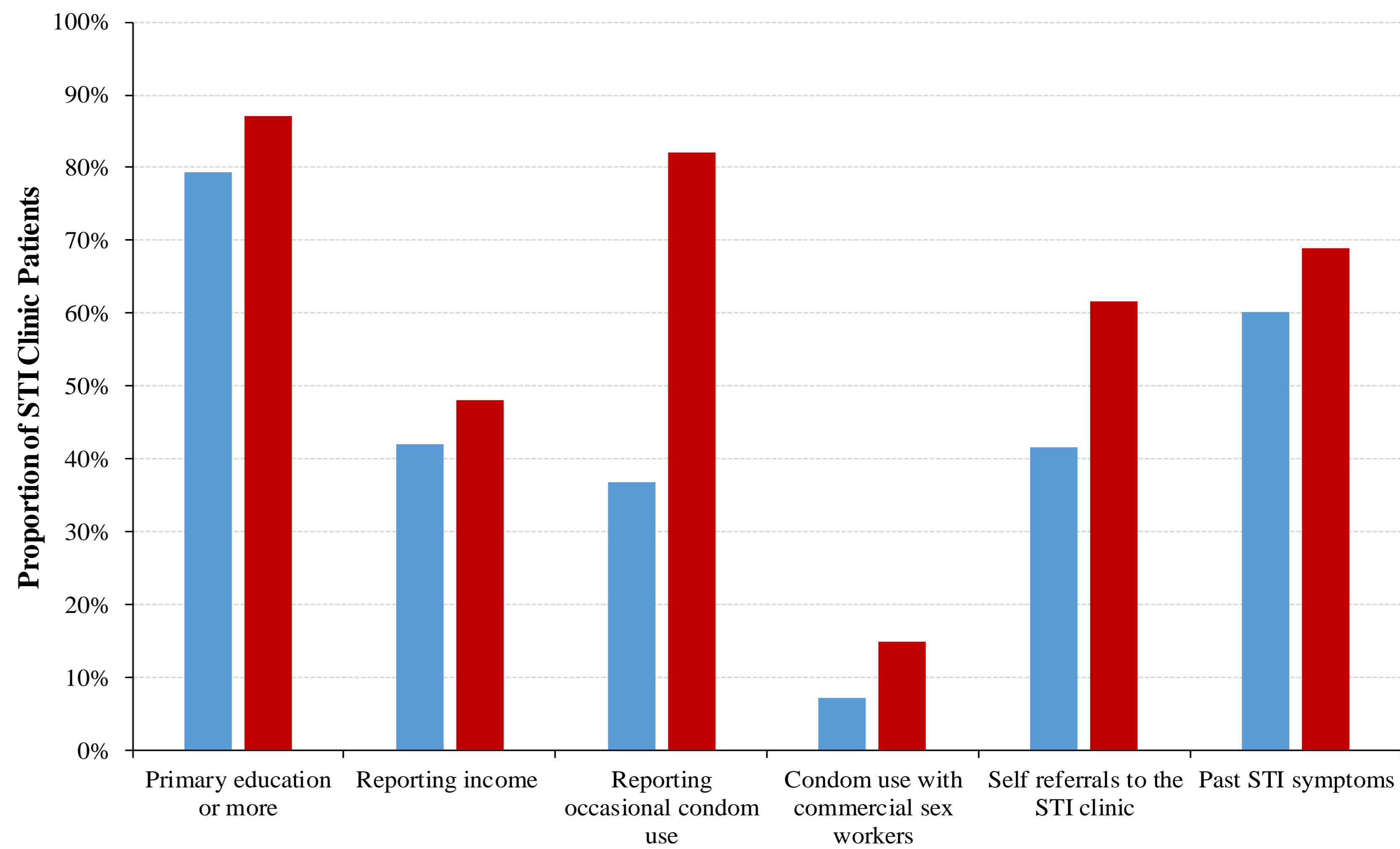


## Results (Cont'd)

### Factors Associated with Disease Trends

All Patients

■ 1995 ■ 2011



- Increased proportion of patients with at least primary education (79% in 1995 to 87% in 2011;  $p < 0.01$ )
- Increased in at least some reported income (42% in 1995 to 48% in 2011;  $p < 0.01$ )
- Increase in occasional use of condoms as opposed to no condom (37% in 1995 to 82% in 2011;  $p < 0.01$ )
- Increase in use of condoms with commercial sex workers (from 7% in 1995 to 15% in 2011;  $p < 0.01$ )
- Increase in self referrals from 42% to 62% ( $p < 0.01$ ) and slight increase in reported past symptoms of STI from 60% to 69% ( $p < 0.01$ )

## Discussion and Conclusion

- Despite difficult conditions, prevention and treatment of HIV and other STIs appear to have resulted in a decline in prevalence of these diseases among patients presenting to the STI clinic between 1995 and 2011.
- This decline could be a result of massive national information and prevention campaigns about safer sexual practices following the emergence of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s and increased use of condoms
- This decline is confirmed by the Sentinel Prenatal clinics Surveillance throughout the country from 1993 to 2012 (7.6 to 5.8% for syphilis and 6.2 to 2.4% for HIV)
- The decrease in genital ulcer disease may be due to a simultaneous decrease in syphilis and HIV prevalence; particularly presentation with advanced AIDS and associated severe herpes
- Although a majority of vaginal discharge cases are due to non STI causes, we attribute the decrease in vaginal discharge to the reduced role of STI agents
- However, prevalence of syphilis and urethral discharge (in males) may be increasing post-earthquake.
- We attribute the increase in urethral discharge to increasing Neisseria gonorrhoeae resistance to quinolone
- The increased proportion of patients testing positive for syphilis and urethral discharge (in males) at GHESKIO in recent years may be due to economic factors post-earthquake
- This indicates a need for additional efforts to prevent a resurgence of STIs and HIV in Haiti

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