



Health

December 2014

NSW HIV STRATEGY 2012-2015: *A NEW ERA*

2ND ANNUAL REPORT
OF PROGRESS



INTRODUCTION

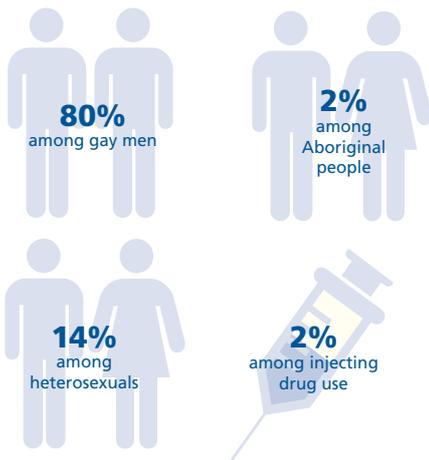
Almost two years since the launch of the NSW HIV Strategy 2012 – 2015: A New Era, NSW has made significant progress in increasing access to and uptake of services for HIV testing, treatment and prevention. Major initiatives have taken place across NSW to mobilise affected communities and the health sector around the cause of Ending HIV. Achieving the ambitious targets set in the NSW HIV Strategy requires long-term commitment, and there is still more work to be done. However, we now see signs of early progress as we work towards achieving the targets, and our ultimate goal of virtually eliminating HIV transmission by 2020.

CURRENT SITUATION

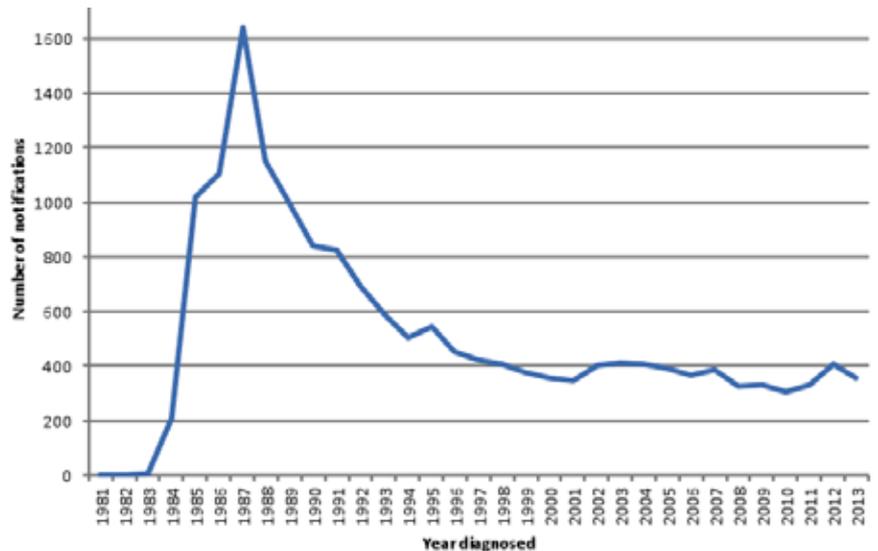
In the first three quarters of 2014, there were 263 new diagnoses of HIV, a decrease of 2% compared with the same period in 2013, and a 15% decrease compared with the same period in 2012.

HIV IN NSW 2014

Proportion of notifications:

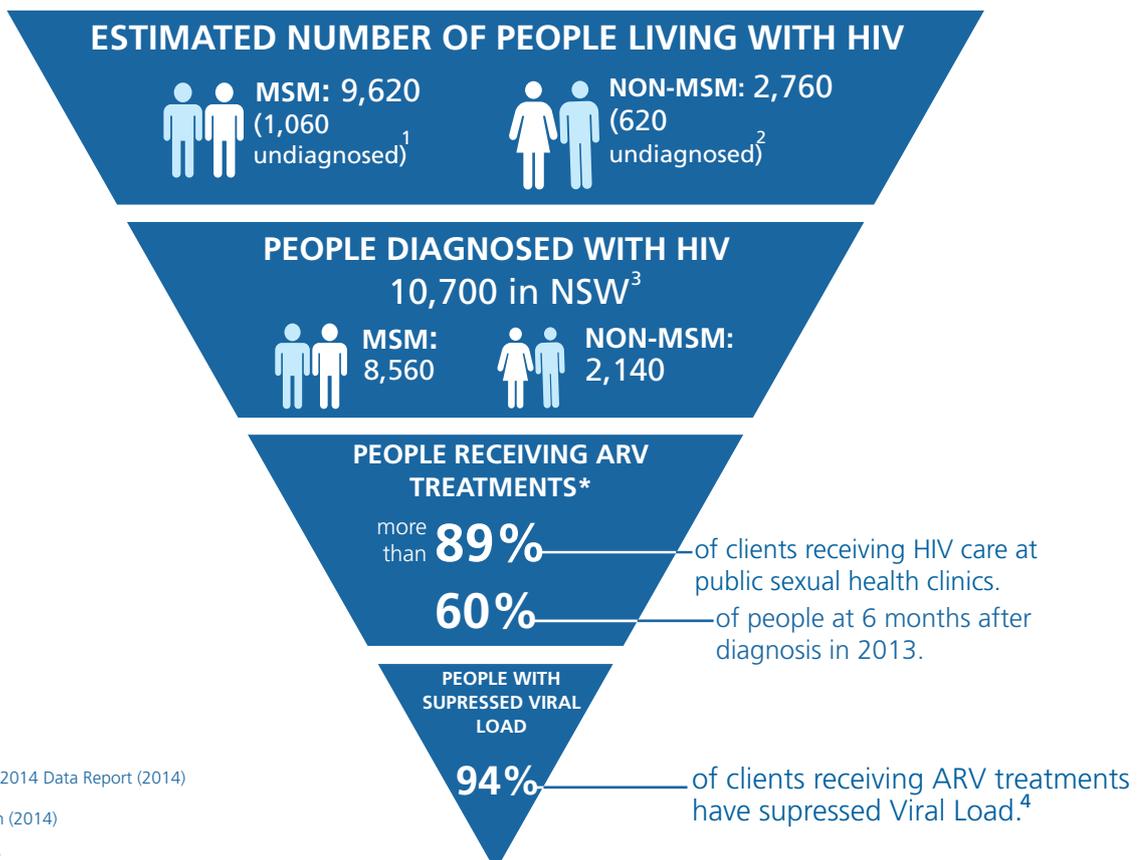


NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV IN NSW 1981 – 2013



AIDS-related deaths have fallen dramatically in NSW because of effective HIV treatment. The lifespan of people living with HIV on treatment is now not much different from the average population life expectancy of people who are HIV negative.

HIV IN NSW OVERVIEW 2014



* NSW HIV Strategy Q3 2014 Data Report (2014)

1: COUNT (2014)

2: Jansson, Kerr & Wilson (2014)

3: NAPWA(2010)

4: AHOD, 2014 & SGCPs

GOAL: WORK TOWARDS THE VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF HIV TRANSMISSION IN NSW BY 2020.

NSW has a strong track record of achievement in preventing the spread of HIV. However, in 2012 there was a concerning increase in HIV notifications. In response, NSW released a new Strategy on 1 December 2012 which refocussed efforts to dramatically drive down the number of new infections by increasing testing, treatment and safe sex practices. This Snapshot captures the first two years of the Strategy in action.



KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND STATUS

TEST MORE

HIV Testing needs to be targeted at higher risk groups. Significant action has been taken to make HIV testing 'top of mind' and to make it easier to have a HIV test:

- Awareness raising initiatives such as the **'Test More' campaign** and the **NSW HIV Testing Week**.
- Actively involving high risk groups via **social media** and community based **"pop-up" HIV testing sites**.
- Investing in the the first fixed **community based HIV testing service** of its kind in NSW on Oxford St, Sydney.
- **Supporting health providers**, especially GPs, to **encourage HIV testing** and to remove barriers to offering testing for high risk groups.
- Providing a mixture of **HIV testing options** including Xpress clinics and Rapid HIV testing with results in 30 minutes in clinical and community settings.

CURRENT STATUS

HIV tests done in Jan-Sep 2014:

13,568 (4%) more HIV tests than in 2013
32,941 (10%) more HIV tests than in 2012

July-September 2014:

25% increase in HIV tests in public sexual health clinics in NSW compared to the same period in 2013

TREAT EARLY

NSW Government is **strengthening the provision of HIV care** and removing the barriers that limit patients' access to treatment. Access to and uptake of services for HIV treatment has been improved:

- **Providing comprehensive support** to doctors and patients when an HIV diagnosis is made through the specialised NSW HIV Support Program.
- **Awareness raising campaigns and peer support programs** for high risk groups to encourage and support uptake of HIV treatment.
- **Investing in GP training** to enable quality HIV care in community settings

CURRENT STATUS

Year ending 30 September 2014:

People with HIV who have been dispensed **antiretroviral treatment: 9,232**

More than 89% of clients in public HIV and sexual health clinics are on treatment.

PREVENT

The NSW Government is **refocussing efforts to strengthen the safe sex culture** and support behaviour that reduces risk of infection. Significant action has been taken to improve the prevention of HIV transmission:

- Targeted **awareness campaigns** and peer support programs to **strengthen condom use among gay men**.
- **Investments in new HIV prevention** approaches including a demonstration project of HIV pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at high risk of HIV infection in NSW.
- **Provision of sterile injecting equipment** for people who inject drugs by increasing the number and diversity of **Needle and Syringe Program (NSP)** outlets.
- **A strong NSW Health HIV brand** to unite partner organisations, at-risk communities, the medical community and the public behind the cause of "Ending HIV". The brand was developed to leverage off the success of the ACON "Ending HIV" campaign.

CURRENT STATUS

Men who have sex with men



65% reported practicing **safe sex*** with casual partners. **Stable since 2009.** (SGCPS 2014)

* always protected or avoided anal sex.

Sex Workers



Evidence show almost **universal condom use** and **high levels of HIV testing.** (Donovan et al (2012))

People who inject drugs

2014 in comparison to 2013:

NSP outlets in NSW increased by **12%**
Injecting equipment distributed in NSW increased by **2%**

(NSP Enhanced Data Collection)

THE YEAR OF TESTING: 2014



The inaugural NSW HIV Testing Week



76% of gay men reporting an HIV test in the last 12 months.

The highest level recorded since 1996. (SGCPS 2014)



Investment in the **first fixed community based HIV testing service** of its kind in NSW on Oxford St, Sydney.



An additional 1,674 rapid HIV tests were performed in community sites compared to same period in 2013.

TAKING TESTING TO THE PEOPLE



Pop-up sites



Community-based Testing Services



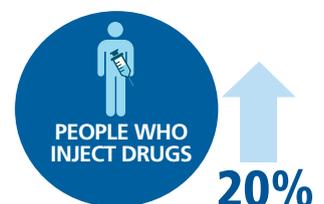
Social Media

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN TESTING

From July to September 2014:

There was a **25% increase** in HIV tests done in public sexual health services in NSW compared to the same period in 2013

Including increases in high risk groups:



There are early signs that testing is picking up more infections earlier.
We need to continue to encourage people to stay safe and get tested regularly, to help us to end HIV.

www.health.nsw.gov.au