



Health

## SNAPSHOT

2nd Edition March 2014

# HIV STRATEGY 2012-2015

## A NEW ERA



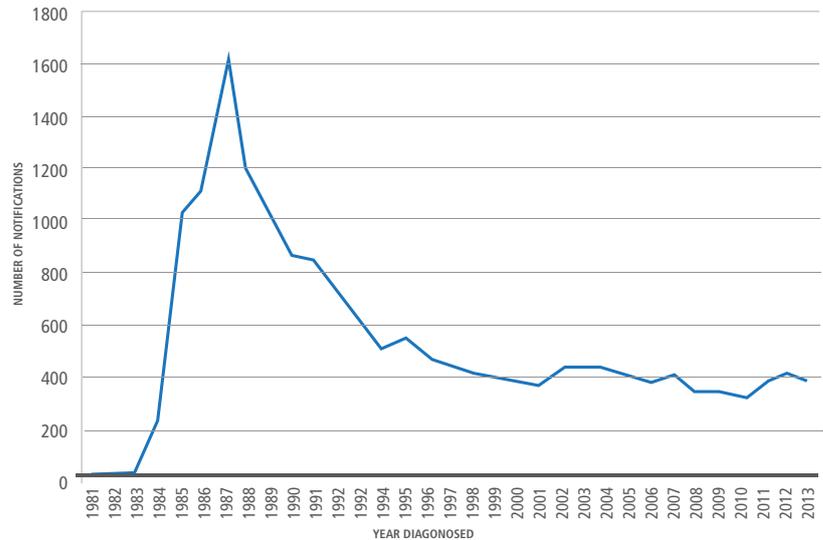
## CURRENT SITUATION

Current estimates are that around 10,500 people are living with diagnosed HIV infection in NSW. An estimated 10-20% of all people with HIV infection in NSW are undiagnosed and therefore do not know they are infected. In 2013 there were 357 new diagnoses of HIV, a decrease of 13% compared with the previous 12 months. Most infections reported were in gay and homosexually active men (78%) with heterosexual contact accounting for 17% and injecting drug use 3% of notifications.

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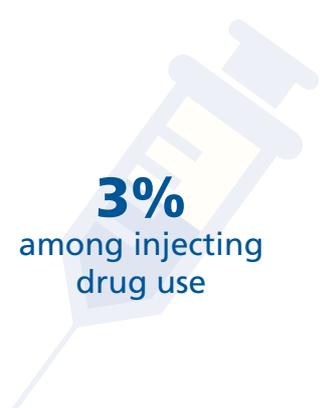
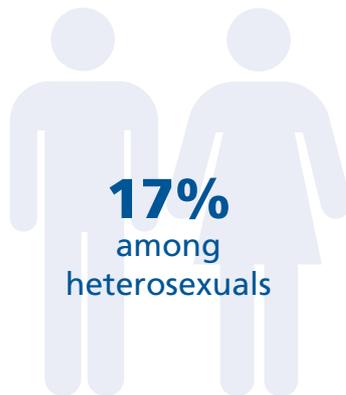
NEW DIAGNOSED HIV IN NSW 1981 – 2013



AIDS-related deaths have fallen dramatically in NSW because of effective HIV treatment. International research shows that the lifespan of people living with HIV is now not much different from the average population life expectancy.

## 2013 HIV STATISTICS IN NSW

Proportion of 2013 notifications:



RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN HIV PREVENTION, THE NSW GOVERNMENT HAS SAVED \$13 DOLLARS IN CLINICAL CARE COSTS.\*

# 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 refocused efforts to dramatically drive down the number of new infections by increasing testing, treatment and safe sex practices. This Snapshot captures the first 12 months of the Strategy in action.



## KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND STATUS

### TEST MORE

Testing leads to early diagnosis which enables early treatment and prevents transmission. Testing needs to target high risk populations. Action has been taken in 2013 to significantly improve access to and uptake of HIV testing services:

- Public awareness campaigns such as “pop-up” rapid HIV testing sites to encourage high risk groups to have a HIV test and test more often;
- Supporting health providers, especially GPs, to encourage HIV testing and to remove barriers to offering testing for high risk groups;
- Making HIV testing easier by providing a mixture of HIV testing options including Xpress clinics and Rapid HIV testing sites in clinical and community settings.

In 2013 HIV testing has increased both overall in NSW, and among high risk groups including MSM.

An additional 27,218 HIV tests were done in NSW in 2013 overall compared with 2012.

### TREAT EARLY

NSW Health is strengthening the provision of HIV care for people with HIV and removing the barriers that limit patients’ access to treatment. Action has been taken in 2013 to significantly improve access to and uptake of services for HIV treatment:

- Providing comprehensive support to both doctors and patients at the critical time when an HIV diagnosis is made through the newly established NSW HIV Support Program
- Increasing the amount of HIV drugs that a patient can pick up from hospital pharmacies on each visit.
- Making home delivery of HIV treatment possible to improve treatment access for people with HIV who live in rural areas, or who are in full-time employment.
- Strengthening HIV care in general practices through education and training and establishing co-management with HIV specialists.

At least 7887 people living with HIV in NSW are on antiretroviral treatment\*.

Treatment coverage among clients receiving HIV care at public sexual health clinics is high at approximately 90%.

\*an underestimate as complete data from all pharmacies was not available in 2013.

### PREVENT

The NSW Government is committed to refocussing efforts to strengthen the safe sex culture in our communities and support behaviour that reduces risk of infection. Action has been taken in 2013 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 gay men and heterosexual men and women at high risk of HIV infection in NSW.
- Provision of sterile injecting equipment for people who inject drugs through 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 and to ensure community messages and health messages worked in tandem.

#### Men who have sex with men

Among gay men with casual sexual partners surveyed, 64% reported practicing safe sex\* (SGCPS 2013)

\* 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

In 2013 the number of NSP outlets across NSW increased by 5% and the number of units of injecting equipment distributed in NSW increased by 10% compared with 2012.

# THE YEAR OF TESTING: 2013

## WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Including increases in testing across all high risk groups.

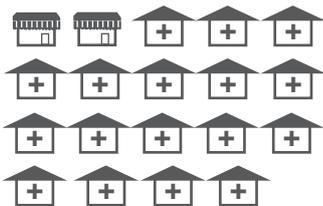


This is an increase of around 27,000 tests compared with 2012



## INNOVATIONS IN TESTING

**19 rapid testing sites across NSW**  
(17 clinics + 2 shopfronts)



Results in 30 mins

**2x** pop up testing sites



**Ad templates provided across LHD and health services**



**TESTING LEADS TO EARLY DIAGNOSIS WHICH ENABLES EARLY TREATMENT AND PREVENTS TRANSMISSION**

[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)