



Health

MARCH 2016

# NSW HIV STRATEGY

## 2015 ANNUAL SNAPSHOT



## INTRODUCTION

Since the launch of the *NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015: a new era*, NSW has successfully enhanced and reprioritised efforts across prevention, testing and treatment to make significant progress towards the Strategy targets. Over the last three years, there have also been significant advances in our knowledge and understanding of HIV prevention, testing and treatment including evidence showing the benefits of immediate initiation of HIV treatment and evidence showing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is effective in preventing HIV infection in high risk people.

The *NSW HIV Strategy 2016-2020 (the Strategy)* continues the NSW Government's commitment to achieving the virtual elimination of HIV transmission in NSW by 2020, building on the targets and activities that proved successful in implementing the *NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015*. It is based on current evidence, and continues the focus by NSW on preventing, testing for and treating HIV. The Strategy identifies key settings for action including publically funded sexual health services, general practice and primary health care, Aboriginal community controlled health services, needle and syringe program outlets, antenatal care, drug and alcohol services, mental health services and emergency departments.

## PROPORTION OF NEW DIAGNOSES IN 2015



**81%**

among gay men



**15%**

among heterosexuals



**2%**

among Aboriginal people



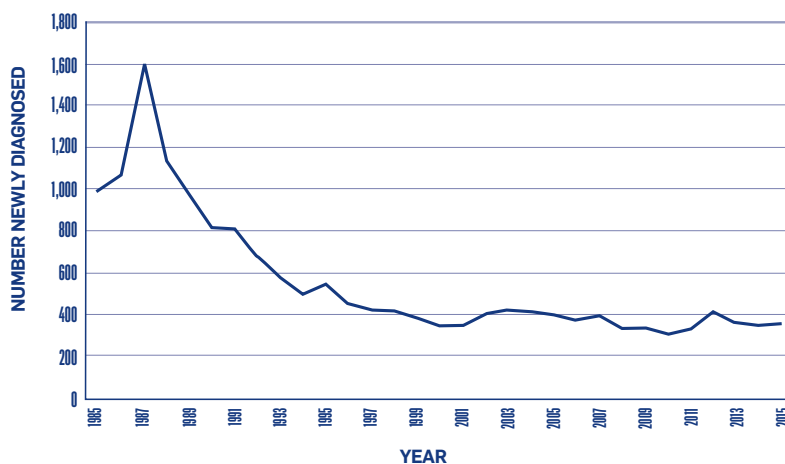
**1%**

among injecting drug users

## NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV IN NSW 1981 – 2015

### CURRENT SITUATION:

In 2015, there were 350 new diagnoses of HIV, a 15% decrease compared with the same period in 2012.



## KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND STATUS

### [ TEST MORE ]




#### PRIORITIES

Continue to increase testing frequency in high risk populations and reduce late diagnoses of HIV:

- Deliver targeted community mobilisation such as NSW HIV Testing Week to encourage people to test more **often**;
- Support General Practice to deliver HIV testing as part of routine care;
- Strengthen efforts to notify and support sexual and injecting partners of people newly diagnosed with HIV to have an HIV test;
- Provide a mix of testing options and introduce new testing technologies where appropriate, including dried blood spot self-sampling.

#### CURRENT STATUS

In 2015:

- Almost 500,000 HIV tests were done in NSW. 7%  than in 2014
- Over 45,000 HIV tests were done in NSW public sexual health clinics. 32%  than in 2014
- Among gay and homosexually active men, HIV tests in NSW public sexual health clinics  by 64% compared to 2014.

### [ TREAT EARLY ]

#### PRIORITIES

Continue to support the rapid initiation of HIV treatment among people newly diagnosed as well as increase the proportion of all people with HIV on treatment:

- Support linkage and retention in care for people with HIV by providing comprehensive support to doctors through the specialised NSW HIV Support Program.
- Strengthen HIV services to support rapid treatment initiation, treatment adherence and retention in care.
- Strengthen shared care arrangements between GPs and HIV specialists to support the health needs of people with HIV in the community setting.

#### CURRENT STATUS

 **92%**

of people with HIV receiving care in public HIV services were on treatment in 2015.

 **82%**

of the people newly diagnosed with HIV in NSW in the first half of 2015 had commenced treatment within six months of diagnosis.

### [ PREVENT ]

#### PRIORITIES

Make available a full range of prevention tools and risk reduction options in NSW.

- Expand access to PrEP to all people who are at a high risk of HIV infection.
- Deliver targeted and innovative community mobilisation and prevention interventions for priority populations including a focus on condoms.
- Provide a responsive NSW Needle and Syringe Program, to reduce sharing of injecting equipment.

#### CURRENT STATUS

 **Men who have sex with men**

Among gay men with casual sexual partners surveyed, 64% reported practicing safe sex\*. This has remained stable since 2009. (SGCPS, 2015)

 **Sex Workers**

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

 **People Who Inject Drugs**

14% of people who inject drugs reported receptive sharing of needles and syringes. (NSW NSP Enhanced Data Collection, 2014)

**The Government will continue to actively monitor and report on HIV surveillance data in NSW, and will continue to make changes to programs and services that are necessary to strengthen our response to achieve the targets in the *NSW HIV Strategy 2016-2020*.**

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS - 2015

### HIV TESTING HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE

In 2015:

- There was a 32% increase in HIV tests done in NSW public sexual health services compared with 2015.
- HIV testing has increased significantly among priority populations.



in Gay and  
homosexually active men



in Sex workers



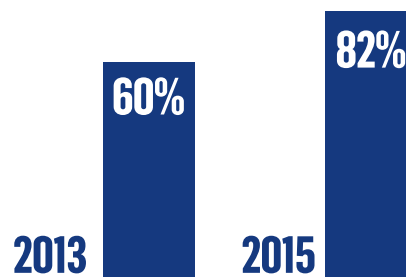
in People who inject drugs



in Aboriginal people

### THE GAP BETWEEN HIV DIAGNOSIS AND COMMENCEMENT OF ART HAS BEEN REDUCED

The proportion of people newly diagnosed with HIV in NSW who commenced treatment within six months of diagnosis, lifted from 60% in 2013 to 82% in the first half of 2015



### MAINTAIN HIV PREVENTION AS A PRIORITY



Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV negative people at high risk of becoming HIV infected



Sustained the central role of condoms



Increased the distribution of injecting equipment through the NSW Needle and Syringe Program



Maintained the virtual elimination of HIV transmission between mother and child, among people who inject drugs and within the sex industry has been sustained



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

Suggested citation: NSW Ministry of Health, NSW HIV Strategy 2016-2020, March 2015