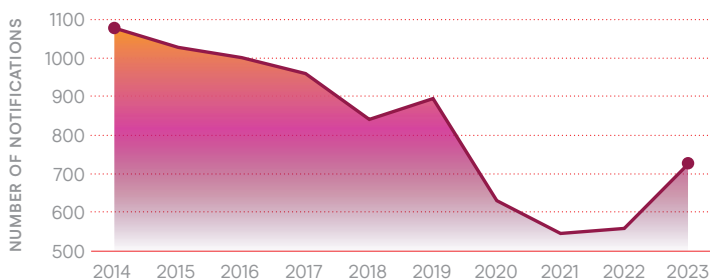


Key Stats



30,010

people were estimated to be living with HIV at the end of 2023

2,360

people were unaware they were HIV positive

Key Points



There were 722 HIV notifications with a first ever diagnosis in Australia in 2023



This represents a 33% decline in notifications since 2014



80% of HIV-negative gay and bisexual men who had casual partners were regularly using at least one strategy to protect themselves against acquiring HIV, up from 69% in 2014



From 1 April 2018 to the end of December 2023, 74,597 people had ever taken PrEP



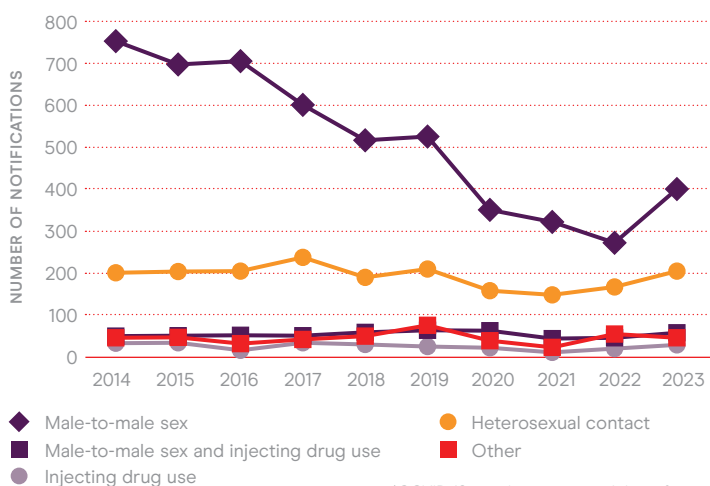
Most HIV transmission occurs where one partner has HIV but does not know it



Australia has adopted a virtual elimination of HIV transmission target: 90% reduction from 2010

HIV Notifications by Exposure 2023

For male-to-male sex, HIV diagnoses have declined by 43% between 2014 and 2023.*



*COVID-19 may have impacted these figures

Innovations in HIV

TREATMENT AS PREVENTION

There is zero risk of sexual transmission from someone on HIV treatment with an undetectable viral load.

- HIV treatment is essential for anyone with HIV and must be accessible for all who need it.
- Removing the co-payment for HIV treatment will eliminate cost as a barrier to access, and this has already occurred in New South Wales and Queensland.
- Long-acting injectables became available for HIV treatment in 2021. People can now opt for one injection every two months.

PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

The use of medication by people at risk of HIV to prevent HIV acquisition.

- Continued community messaging is needed to drive demand for PrEP, particularly among priority populations not yet accessing PrEP.
- Providing PrEP to people ineligible for Medicare will ensure all people in Australia, regardless of their visa category, have access to this prevention strategy.
- Urgent need for culturally informed and responsive awareness and education among populations not currently accessing PrEP, particularly among young gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men (GBMSM) under the age of 25 years, trans community members and GBMSM who were born overseas or who live outside the inner-city areas.
- Liberalising PrEP access through pharmacy and nurse dispensing will ensure supply can meet demand for this medication.
- Long-acting injectables for PrEP are available overseas and address barriers to access. Subsidised access is needed to further scale up PrEP in Australia.

HIV SELF-TESTING

HIV test device that allows testing at home.

- Australian research shows HIV self-test devices increase testing among infrequent and non testers.
- Self-test devices need to be widely available to people at risk of HIV including through supermarkets and community health centres.
- Australia's needs to incentivise manufacturers of innovative testing technology to enter the market.

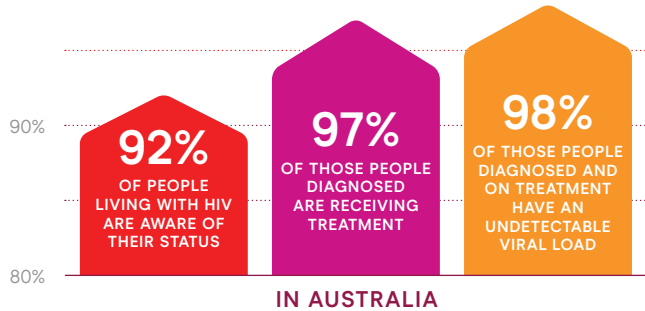
PEP (POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

Month-long daily treatment to prevent HIV acquisition following risk exposure.

- PEP should be available in all hospitals and Medicare Urgent Care Clinics.

UNAIDS Global Target by 2025

95:95:95



13% of people living with HIV in Australia do not have a suppressed viral load

HIV prevalence among people aged 15 years or older

The estimated HIV prevalence in Australia (the proportion of people who are living with HIV) in 2023 was 0.14% among adults aged older than 15 years.



Why is Australia successful?

COMMUNITIES LEADING THE RESPONSE

- Ongoing investment in community-led HIV organisations
- Nationally coordinated health promotion
- Local implementation through Health Equity Matters members

PEER EDUCATION

- Involving priority populations in the response
- Community-led HIV prevention
- Peer-based HIV and sexual health testing

HARM REDUCTION

- Continued investment in Needle and Syringe Programs

PREVENTION

- Treatment as Prevention (TasP) – Undetectable = Untransmissible (U=U)
- Regular HIV testing, TasP, PrEP, PEP and condom use

HIV transmission in Australia 2023

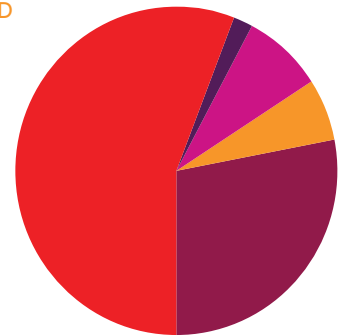
MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN
56%

OTHER/
UNSPECIFIED
6%

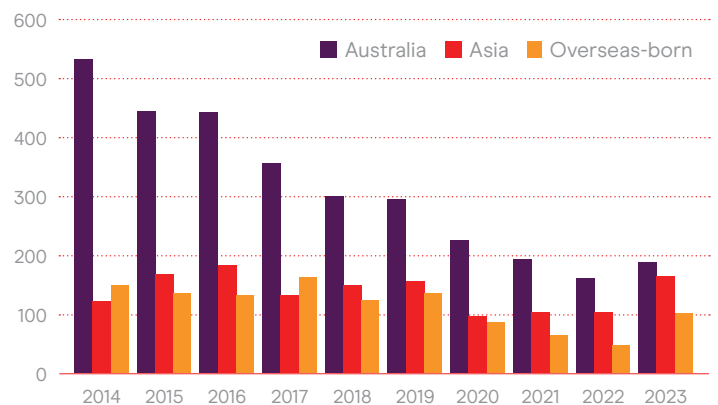
HETEROSEXUAL CONTACT
28%

INJECTING DRUG USE
2%

MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN AND INJECTING DRUG USE
8%



HIV Among Gay and Bisexual Men by place of birth



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Between 2014 and 2023, the HIV notification rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples declined by 45% from 5.3 to 2.9 per 100,000, which was similar to the rate among non-Indigenous people (2.7 per 100,000).

Co-designed campaigns, developed in partnership with local community organisations, are needed to ensure, focused on testing, treatment and PrEP.



What Health Equity Matters and its members bring to the response

- Initiated by the community
- Designed by the community
- Implemented by the community
- Responsive to the evolving needs of the community
- Partnerships with mainstream health providers
- Dependent on community for authority