



Government of **Western Australia**  
North Metropolitan Health Service  
Mental Health, Public Health and Dental Services

# MCDC's Outreach Syphilis Point of Care Testing Pilot Program

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**One** team, **many** dreams.

Care / Respect / Innovation / Teamwork / Integrity



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# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we conduct our work.



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# Background

- MCDC is Perth's Public Health Unit
- Growing number of syphilis cases among the people experiencing homelessness community
- Contact tracing alone is ineffective
- Need for mass screening realised
- Consultations with health service providers and venues frequented by people experiencing homelessness



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# Aims

1. Increase testing for syphilis amongst people experiencing homelessness in the Perth metropolitan area.
2. Prevent transmission of syphilis from positive cases.
3. Increase testing for HIV amongst people experiencing homelessness in the Perth metropolitan area.
4. Provision of opportunistic influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.



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# Program overview

- Syphilis PoCT – serology, treatment, contact tracing and pregnancy testing for WCBA
- HIV PoCT and referral to RPH Immunology
- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations
- \$20 restricted Woolworths voucher for engagement with any service
- Health promotion resources distributed – condoms, STI pamphlets, harm reduction contacts



# Clinics

Locations	No. visits
St Patrick's Community Support Centre	2
Uniting WA - Tranby Engagement Hub	6
Boorloo Bidee Mia - Wungening	1
The Ruah Centre	2
Peer Based Harm Reduction	3
Moore Street	2
Noongar Outreach (various locations)	4
St Bart's Mens	1
St Bart's Womens	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>



# Results - Syphilis

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>298</b>
History	18
Negative	277
Indeterminate	1
REACTIVE	2
False positive	1
True positive	1

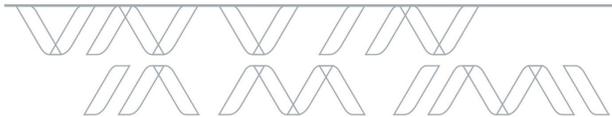
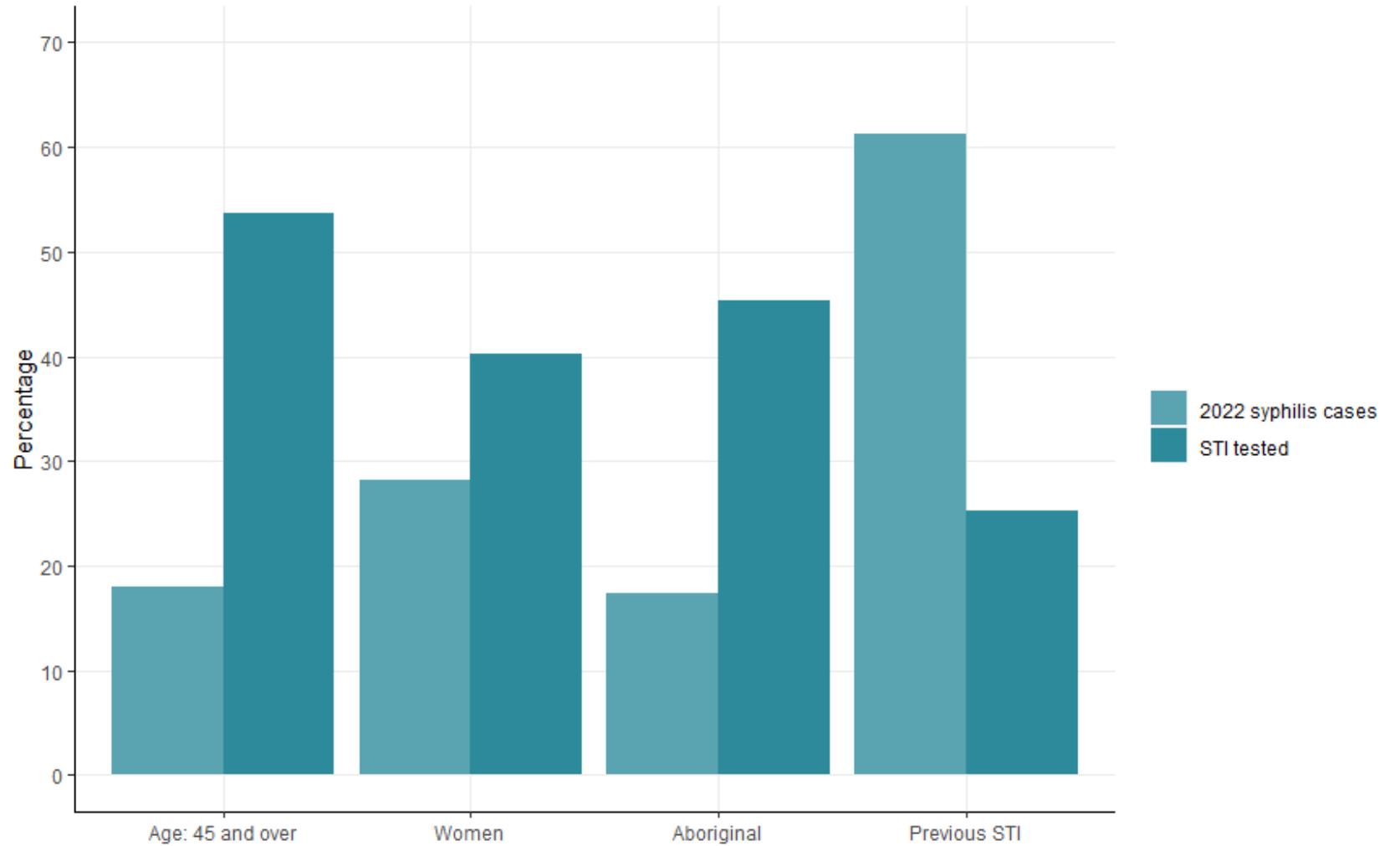


# Results - HIV

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>286</b>
Negative	282
Indeterminate	2
<b>REACTIVE</b>	<b>2</b>
False positive	2
True positive	0



**Demographic differences between syphilis cases notified to MCDC in 2022 and the population screened**



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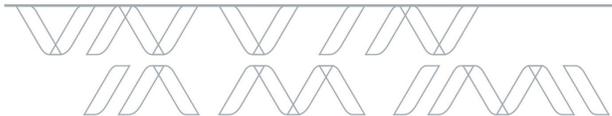
# Takeaways

## Strengths

- Incentives
- Inclusion of HIV testing and immunisations
- Organisational partnerships

## Challenges

- Privacy
- Program duration – lack of time to build trust and rapport
- Cultural sensitivity

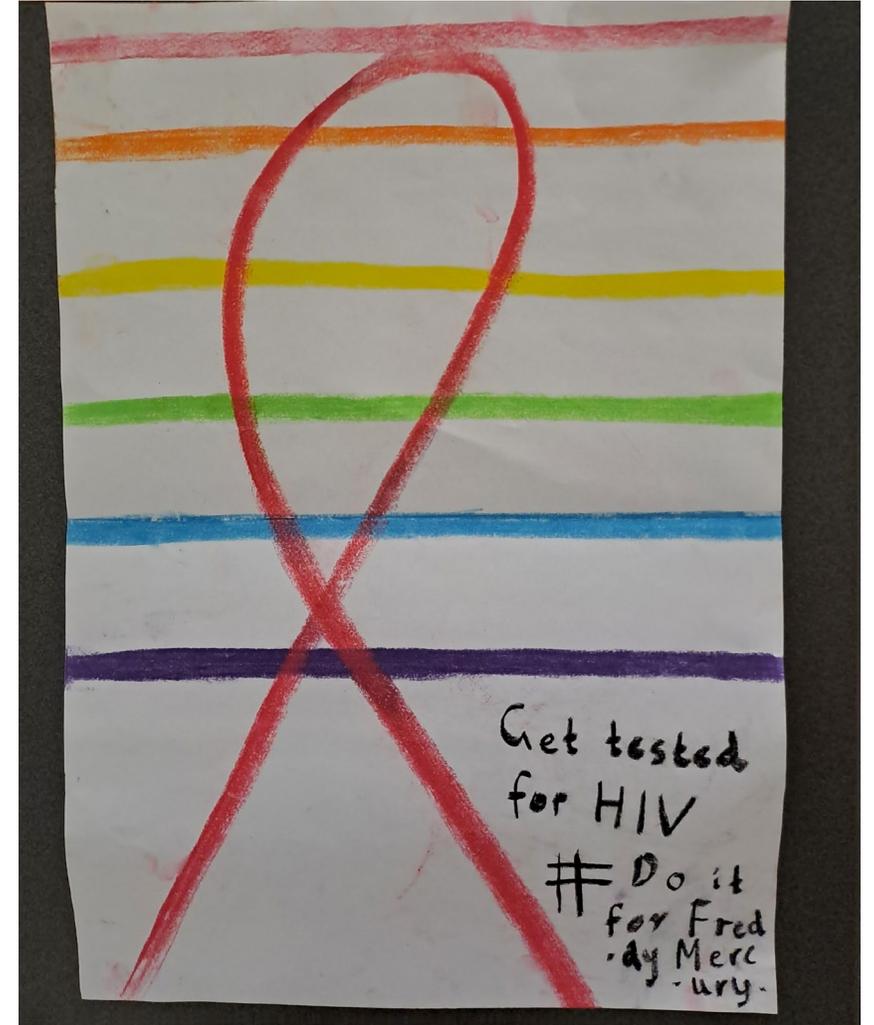


# Community insights

*“...vaccination on the lady and now their having a huge conversation in the room all about “I knew someone who had syphilis” and they’re all talking about “I didn’t realise there’s an outbreak” and there was this great big conversation going on about it”*

*“... I had at least three people, I think that said “I’m actually worried that I do have it [HIV]”*

*“We did have a man who came in and sat... he goes out on the street and he’s talking to people out on the street and he said to me “I knew you guys were here because all I’ve heard is syphilis, HIV, don’t share needles, make sure you got your condoms... Everyone was having a really big conversation because of us being there”*



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# Acknowledgements

- MCDC staff
- Tranby Engagement Hub
- The Ruah Centre
- Peer Based Harm Reduction
- St Bart's
- St Patrick's Community Support Centre
- 360 Street Doctor
- Freo Street Doctor
- Nyoongar Outreach Services
- Homeless Healthcare
- Derbal Yerrigan Health Service
- RPH Immunology
- M Clinic
- WA Primary Health Alliance



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**Thank you & questions?**

