



Implications for the HIV response from the MIBSS survey results

Dr Daniel Vujcich

5 December 2022 || Quarterly Forum

Acknowledgement of Country

SiREN acknowledges that it is based on the land of the Whadjuk people whose sovereignty was never ceded.

We pay our respects to Whadjuk Noongar Elders past and present and extend that respect to any First Nations people who are present today.

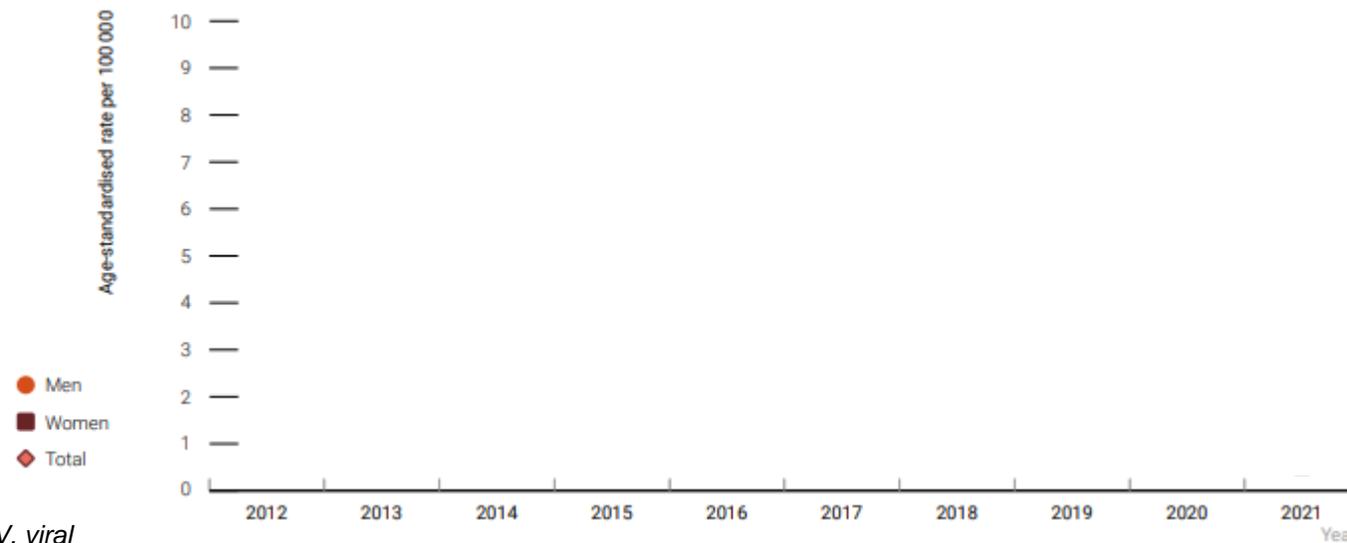


KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our public health response to HIV has been a success ...

Elimination 'entirely achievable':
Australia records lowest number of HIV
cases since 1984
Guardian, 2021

Figure 1 HIV notification rate per 100 000 population by gender, 2012–2021



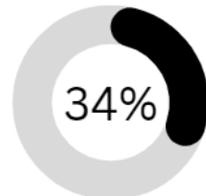
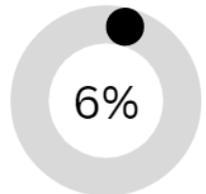
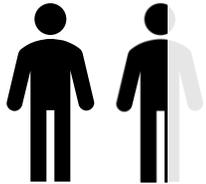
Source: King, J., McManus, H., Kwon, A., et al. *HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia: annual surveillance report 2022*; The Kirby Institute, Sydney, Australia, 2022



KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our public health response to HIV has been a success ...
2. ... but success has **not** been evenly distributed ...

Australian-born

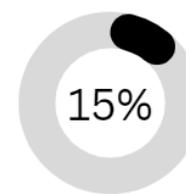
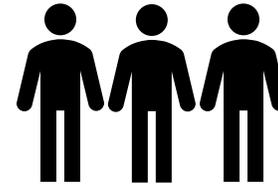


Age standardised HIV notification
rate per 100,000 population (2021)

Percentage of people living with HIV
who are undiagnosed (2017)

Percentage of people diagnosed
with late diagnosis (2017)

Overseas-born



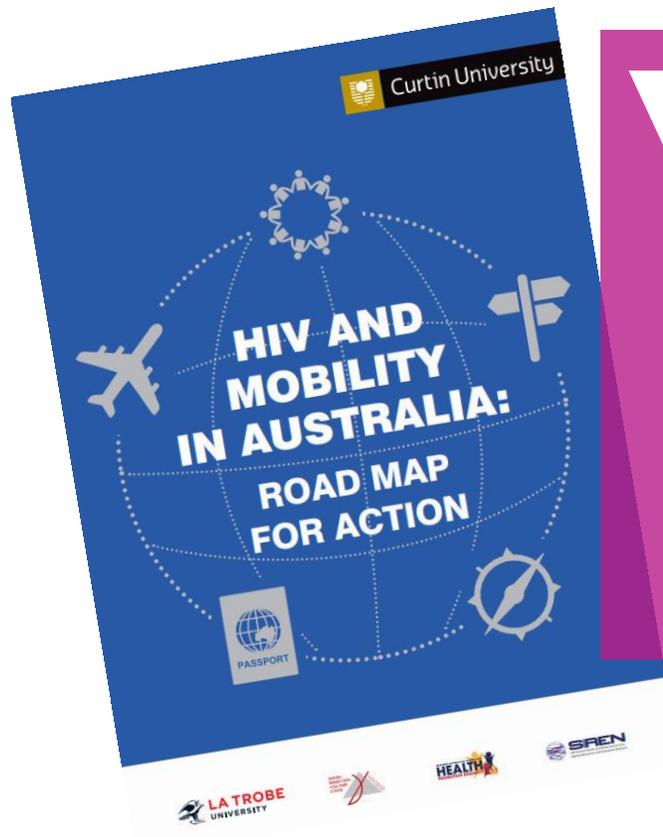
Sources:

King, J., McManus, H., Kwon, A., et al. *HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia: annual surveillance report 2022*; The Kirby Institute, Sydney, Australia, 2022; Marukutira, T., Gray, R., Douglass, C., et al. Gaps in the HIV diagnosis and care cascade for migrants in Australia, 2013-2017: a cross-sectional study. *PLoS Med* 2020, 17, e1003044.; Marukutira, T., Gunaratnam, P., Douglass, C., et al. Trends in late and advanced HIV diagnosis among migrants in Australia: implications for progress on Fast-Track targets. *Medicine* 2020, 99(8): e19289.



KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our public health response to HIV has been a success ...
2. ... but success has **not** been evenly distributed ...
3. ... and the only way to do better is to first understand why.



Goal: Provide high quality information to inform the strategic and policy response to mobile populations and migrants including ... standardised surveillance for sub populations.” (2016)



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Modes of administering sexual health and blood-borne virus surveys in migrant populations: A scoping review

Daniel Vujcich^{1*}, Sonam Wangda², Meagan Roberts¹, Roanna Lobo¹, Bruce Maycock³, Chanaka Kulappu Thanthirige¹, Alison Reid¹

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Translating best practice into real practice: Methods, results and lessons from a project to translate an English sexual health survey into four Asian languages

Daniel Vujcich^{1*}, Meagan Roberts¹, Zhihong Gu^{2†}, Shih-Chi Kao^{3‡}, Roanna Lobo¹, Limin Mao^{4‡}, Enaam Oudih^{5‡}, Nang Nge Nge Phoo^{1‡}, Horas Wong^{4,6‡}, Alison Reid¹

BMJ Open Are sexual health survey items understood as intended by African and Asian migrants to Australia? Methods, results and recommendations for qualitative pretesting

Daniel Vujcich^{1*}, Meagan Roberts¹, Graham Brown², Jo Durham³, Zhihong Gu⁴, Lisa Hartley⁵, Roanna Lobo¹, Limin Mao⁶, Piergiorgio Moro⁷, Amy B Mullens⁸, Baden Offord⁵, Enaam Oudih⁹, Alison Reid¹

Article

Strategies for Recruiting Migrants to Participate in a Sexual Health Survey: Methods, Results, and Lessons

Daniel Vujcich^{1*}, Graham Brown², Jo Durham³, Zhihong Gu⁴, Lisa Hartley⁵, Roanna Lobo¹, Limin Mao⁶, Piergiorgio Moro⁷, Vivienne Pillay⁸, Amy B. Mullens⁹, Enaam Oudih¹⁰, Meagan Roberts¹, Caitlin Wilshin¹ and Alison Reid¹

PrEP: What did we learn?

- 16% (n=213) of sample knew that there are “medicines that people can take BEFORE SEX to protect themselves against HIV” but ...
- Only 17% (n=37) of those could actually name the medicine
- Knowledge higher among MSM (69%) compared to other men (14%) (p<0.001)

PrEP: What can we do?

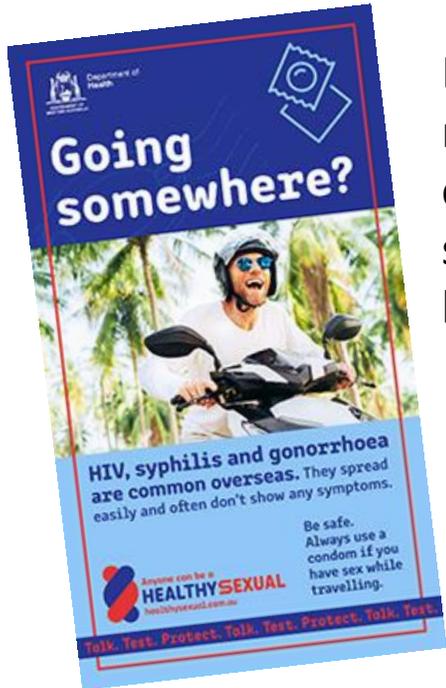
- Develop PrEP campaigns specifically for migrants
- Ensure PrEP messaging is not exclusively targeted at MSM
- Train peers to be PrEP navigators in migrant settings



Sources:

Okoro & Whitson (2020) Sexual health, HIV care and pre-exposure prophylaxis in the African immigrant population: a needs assessment. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. 22:134-144;
Whitzel et al (2018) What qualities in a potential HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis service are valued by black men who have sex with men (BMSM) aged 18-45 in London? Results from a qualitative study. *Sexually Transmissible Infections*. 93: A1-A103.

Sex: What did we learn?



Less than half (43%) of respondents always used condoms during overseas sex with someone who lives outside Australia

Sex: What can we do?

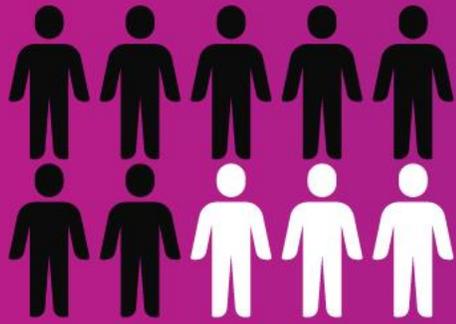
- Consider sensitive representation of people from migrant backgrounds in 'safe sex overseas' campaigns
- Train health providers to include sexual health in pre-travel health consultations (particularly with men travelling to visit friends and family)

Sources:

Matteelli A, Schlagenhauf P, Carvalho AC, et al. Travel-associated sexually transmitted infections: an observational cross-sectional study of the GeoSentinel surveillance database. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2013 Mar;13(3):205-13.

Croughs M, Remmen R, Van den Ende J. The effect of pre-travel advice on sexual risk behavior abroad: a systematic review. *J Travel Med.* 2014 Jan-Feb;21(1):45-51

Testing: What did we learn?



69% had NOT been tested for any STI or BBV in the last two years

Majority of people who ...



had sex with a casual partner



had sex with 2 + partners



travelled overseas

had NOT tested for HIV

Didn't do anything to put me at risk

I did not have any symptoms

Why?

19% of respondents thought HIV tests were included in any blood test.

13 respondents said their reason for getting an HIV test was because they were offered one

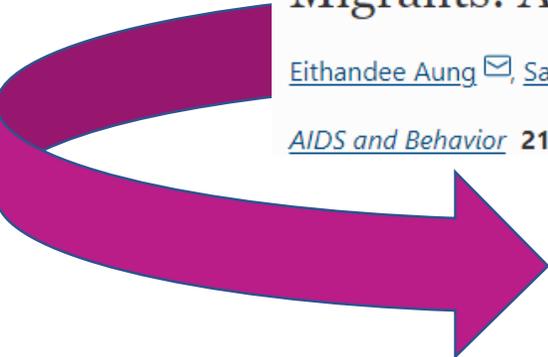
11% of respondents said they'd be offended by an opportunistic offer of testing

Testing: What can we do?

Interventions for Increasing HIV Testing Uptake in Migrants: A Systematic Review of Evidence

Eithandee Aung , Sarah J. Blondell & Jo Durham

AIDS and Behavior 21, 2844–2859 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)



Exposure to messages

- Ethnic print and radio media
- Brochures at outreach events

Interactive education

- Recruiting and training lay health advisors in soccer teams

Direct offers of testing

- Outreach offering rapid testing
- GP-initiated HIV testing and
- Routine voluntary HIV testing at an outpatient department in a refugee settlement

Testing: What can we do?

HIV Testing in Primary Care: Feasibility and Acceptability of Provider Initiated HIV Testing and Counseling for Sub-Saharan African Migrants

Jasna Loos, Lazare Manirankunda, Kristin Hendrickx, Roy Remmen and Christiana Nöstlinger

Published Online: January 2014 • <https://doi.org/10.1521/aeap.2014.26.1.81>



Abstract

Provider-initiated HIV testing and counseling (PITC) is recommended to reduce late HIV diagnoses, common among Sub-Saharan African migrants (SAM) residing in Europe. Primary care represents an ideal entry point for PITC. To support Flemish general practitioners (GPs), we developed a culturally sensitive PITC tool. Over a 12-week period, 65 GPs implemented PITC to assess acceptability and feasibility of PITC. The qualitative evaluation showed high acceptability among physicians. Routine PITC was challenged by physicians' personal discomfort, assumptions of patients' sexual risk, perceived incoherence with reasons for consultation, and time pressure. The best opportunity for PITC was an indicated blood analysis for other medical reasons. Counseling skills improved during the implementation, but participants still advocated for reduced counseling requirements. PITC proved to be feasible in primary care settings, but the up-scaling requires a reformulation of counseling guidelines, a policy stipulating the role of GPs in the prevention-care continuum, and an investment in (continuous) training.

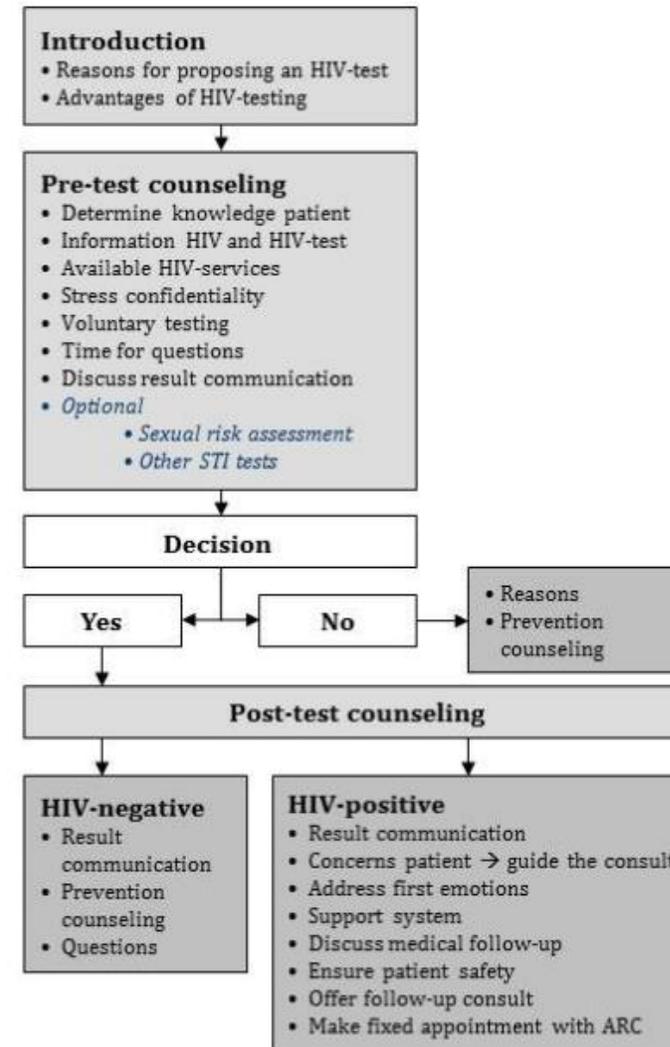


FIGURE 1. HIV-counseling steps as summarized in the PITC tool.

Why should we care?

Editorial

No public health without migrant health

1 billion people in the world today are on the move. There are an estimated 244 million international migrants (3.3% of the world's population)—an increase from 2000. This has led to a need for new approaches of migration and integration policies. Alarming, there is a mismatch between public perception and current evidence about migration. First, regarding numbers, as



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Correspondence

Migrant health is public health, and public health needs to be political

“No public health without migrant health” was the title of *The Lancet Public Health's* June Editorial.¹ Indeed, migrants are the public, and the public are migrants. Having reaffirmed the

knowledge are political.⁴ Who funds what research? Who designs the questions and shapes the methodology? Who interprets the data and determines whether findings will be disseminated publicly? To call for an evidence-driven agenda for migrant health, as was articulated at the May, 2018 World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health, runs the risk not only of oversimplifying the policy process by overlooking

- 1 *The Lancet Public Health*. No public health without migrant health. *Lancet Public Health* 2018; **3**: e259.
- 2 Smith J. Thinking beyond borders: reconceptualising migration to better meet the needs of people in transit. *Int J Public Health* 2016; **61**: 521–22.
- 3 Grove NJ, Zwi AB. Our health and theirs: forced migration, othering, and public health. *Soc Sci Med* 2006; **62**: 1931–42.
- 4 Barnes A, Parkhurst J. Can global health policy be depoliticised? A critique of global calls for evidence-based policy. In: Brown GW, Yamey G, Wamala S, eds. *The handbook of global health policy*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014: 157–73.
- 5 Parkhurst J. The politics of evidence:





Curtin University

Making your Materials Work:

A Quick Guide to Developing Culturally Appropriate and Effective HIV Resource Content

COLLABORATION FOR EVIDENCE, RESEARCH AND IMPACT IN PUBLIC HEALTH



Aimed at those working with people from migrant and CaLD backgrounds

Combines the literature with findings from our work into CaLD HIV Health Literacy

Provides an overview of health literacy principles, taking a comprehensive health promotion approach, using theory, meaningful involvement of community.... And more!

<https://www.odysseyresearch.org/hiv-resources-toolkit>

THANK YOU

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