



Getting the All Clear: WA's First STI Testing Facility at a Music Festival

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STIs and Young People in WA

In Western Australia (WA), young people represent a high proportion of sexually transmitted infection (STI) notifications, with chlamydia and gonorrhoea the most notified STIs.

Chlamydia

In 2018, chlamydia notifications remained high among young people aged 16 - 35 at 11,557, making up 83% of chlamydia notifications in WA.

Gonorrhoea

In 2018, 68% of gonorrhoea notifications occurred amongst young people aged 16-35. In 2017 gonorrhoea notifications were 27% higher than the previous 5-year average.

Risk factors

- Lack of STI knowledge.
- Lack of access to STI prevention and testing.
- Social barriers such as fear of stigma.



Onsite STI testing facility

The *WA STI Strategy 2019-2023* highlights targeted STI prevention, testing and health promotion initiatives as essential strategies for reducing STIs in this population.

In 2019 WA Health implemented an onsite STI testing facility at Falls Downtown Fremantle, a two-day music festival. WA Health adapted New South Wales Health's successful 'Down to Test' onsite music festival STI testing program.

Aim and objectives

The aim of the facility was to provide a convenient opportunity for STI testing.

Key objectives were to:

- increase awareness around the ease of STI testing and treatment
- normalise STI testing discussions
- promote safer sex messages.



Music festival sponsorship

WA Health sponsored Falls Downtown to implement the facility and developed the concept of "Get the All Clear", which became the messaging for the STI testing facility. The facility involved a 9m x 9m event marquee and included digital registration, luxury loos for specimen collection, refrigerated specimen storage and provision of condoms and incentives.

The STI testing facility was supported by four clinical volunteers and fourteen peer educators who facilitated the registration and specimen collection process, provided STI testing and treatment education, and provided condoms and incentives. Participants were notified of their test results within one week via SMS and followed up for treatment.

Key partners



South Terrace Clinic

Outcomes

458 participants tested over the two-day festival.

96% of those tested were aged **18-35**.



Anecdotal feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive...

"I'm going to tell my mates to come get tested."

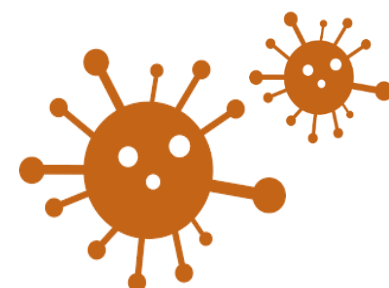
"It's easier than I thought it would be."

"If I find out I'm positive, how will I get treated?"

"This is such a great things you guys are doing!"

Approx. **2,500 condoms** distributed to festival attendees.

14 cases of chlamydia detected and no gonorrhoea. This represents a **test positivity rate of 3%**.



All positives were contacted and treated.

Conclusion

The onsite STI testing facility provided a convenient opportunity for people aged 18-35 to get an STI test and engage in conversations about STIs, testing and treatment, and safer sex with peer educators and each other. The digital registration system enabled all participants to be contacted with their test results and followed up for treatment.

The facility was a pilot project, offering the first facility of its kind in WA and was positively received by all participants. Using an innovative approach to reach a target population in a convenient and comfortable way, WA Health was able to achieve cut through with sexual health messages for a key population and provided a unique opportunity for STI testing and health promotion.

The onsite STI testing facility demonstrated that music festivals are an effective setting to engage with young people, and options for future initiatives of this kind are being explored.