

# CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIENTS NEWLY DIAGNOSED WITH HIV AT SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE: 2016-2017

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## Background:

Facilitating testing among populations at risk is a key strategy of the *NSW HIV Strategy 2016-2020*. In 2017, the number of new HIV diagnoses in NSW was 41% fewer among Australian-born men who have sex with men (MSM) and 13% higher among overseas-born MSM compared to the preceding six-year average.

## Methods:

As a quality improvement project, we conducted a retrospective medical record review of all Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC) clients diagnosed with HIV in 2016 and 2017. We recorded demographic information, HIV testing history and whether they were diagnosed at the main clinic or the SSHC community testing site.

## Results:

In total, 106 clients were diagnosed with HIV during the study period: 47 at the main clinic and 58 at the community site. Overall, 96% were male, the median age was 30 years and 21% were Australian-born. Of those born overseas, most were born in Asia (47%) or South America (20%), and 58% spoke a language other than English at home. Compared to the main clinic, clients diagnosed at the community site were more likely to be born overseas (84% vs 67%,  $p=0.04$ ), diagnosed at their first visit (79% vs 56%,  $p = 0.01$ ), report no prior HIV test (21% vs 0.1%  $p=0.001$ ) and arrived in Australia less than one year ago (84% vs 55%,  $p0.005$ ). Over half of clients diagnosed at the community site spoke a language other than English at home, most commonly Mandarin, Spanish and Portuguese.

## Conclusion:

More clients were diagnosed with HIV at the community site than the main clinic. While the main clinic offers interpreters, the community site uses an English-only computer-assisted self-interview (CASI). Given the high proportion of clients who speak a language other than English, it is worth considering translating the CASI into the most commonly spoken languages.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The authors have no disclosures.