Of the estimated 25,313 HIV-positive people in Australia at the end of 2015, around 2,619 (10%) were unaware of their status.

Following a rise in HIV in 2012, new HIV diagnoses have stabilised over the years 2012–2015.

HIV prevalence in Australia

- 7.2% Gay and bisexual men
- 1.7% People who inject drugs
- <0.1% Female sex workers
- 0.10% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- 0.13% All adults in Australia

Newly-diagnosed HIV is becoming higher among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people than non-Indigenous people (6.8 v 3.1 per 100,000).

HIV transmission in Australia

- 68% men who have sex with men (MSM)
- 3% Injecting drug use
- 5% either MSM or injecting drug use
- 20% heterosexual sex
- 4% other/undetermined

Highly effective HIV treatment means that AIDS death and illnesses are now rare.

HIV strategy

Why is Australia’s response to HIV one of the best in the world?

Peer Education
Involving key populations in the response. Community-led HIV prevention. Peer-based rapid HIV testing.

Harm Reduction
Needle and syringe program

Prevention programs
Health promotion programs reinforcing condom use; encouraging widespread HIV testing; community-based rapid HIV testing; increasing awareness and access to PEP; implementation of PrEP demonstration projects.

Australia’s Seventh National HIV Strategy has a world-leading, ambitious goal to virtually eliminate HIV transmission by 2020. There is bi-partisan support for an Eighth National HIV Strategy.
Increasing condom use results in a reduction in HIV incidence. Without needle and syringe programs (NSPs) there would have been more than 32,000 new HIV infections and more than 96,000 new hepatitis C infections between 2000-2009. Every $1 spent on NSPs saves the community $27 in healthcare costs. The net present value of NSPs, including productivity, is $5.85 billion.

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UNAIDS has set a global target that by 2020: 90% of people living with HIV diagnosed, 90% of diagnosed people on treatment and 90% of people on treatment with suppressed viral load. This will help end AIDS by 2030. How is Australia tracking?

90-90-90
- 90% are aware of their status
- 84% are receiving treatment
- 92% have an undetectable viral load

Measuring the impact of prevention

**Global target**

**Recent innovations in HIV prevention**

- **PEP**
  - Post-exposure prophylaxis
  - A month-long treatment to prevent HIV after exposure

- **PrEP**
  - Pre-exposure prophylaxis
  - A once-a-day pill to prevent HIV before exposure

- **TasP**
  - Treatment as prevention
  - HIV treatment decreases the risk of HIV transmission

PARTNER study (2016) found zero linked HIV transmissions when the HIV-positive partner was on treatment and with an undetectable viral load, after couples had sex 58,000 times without condoms.

In the first year of PrEP being made available almost 50% of new HIV infections could be averted.

What AFAO 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
- Often enacted through partnership with mainstream
- Dependent on community for authority

Why AFAO and its members lead the HIV response

- Deep epidemiological understanding
- Health promotion expertise
- Extensive networks

**What is needed**

- Make Truvada as PrEP available on the PBS immediately, once recommended by PBAC.
- TGA approval for HIV self-testing.
- Fund a sustained response to HIV and STIs among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Fund the community-based, peer-led responses of AFAO and its national members.

AFAO and its members

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations is the national federation for the HIV community response. AFAO provides leadership, coordination and support to the Australia’s policy and advocacy response to HIV. Internationally, we contribute to the development of effective policy and program responses to HIV/AIDS at the global level, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. AFAO’s members are: Australia’s State/Territory AIDS Councils; the National Association of People With HIV Australia (NAPWHA); Anwermekeke National HIV Alliance (ANA); the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); and Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association.

For data citations and further information, please contact AFAO: Ph (02) 9557 9399 Email enquiries@afao.org.au Website afao.org.au