



Syphilis Testing and Treatment Update: PBHRWA

Its Your Right Campaign

**Leanne Myers
Nurse Practitioner – Harm Reduction WA**

Overview



- Syphilis Project
 - Background
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusions
- Its Your Right Campaign

Background

- In response to the syphilis outbreak PBHRWA received a grant to promote and target syphilis testing and treatment utilising the most effective approach within our community



- Focus on reducing stigma and discrimination around testing and treatment amongst target populations



- The grant will also enhance the delivery of the outreach model of health services currently provided to our target population

PBHRWA was a successful applicant for SIREN to develop an evaluation protocol and data collection tools to enable the organisation to evaluate the effectiveness of the mobile health clinic.

How did we do it?



Health professionals undertook SPOCT training and non-health staff undertook specific syphilis education



Resources developed and appropriate STI education was sourced



Stakeholder agency consultations and collaborations were undertaken in relating to siting the van



COME & SEE THE NURSE IN THE

MOBILE CLINIC VAN

GET FREE BLOOD-BORNE VIRUS AND SEXUAL HEALTH TESTING

MIRRABOOKA
COMMUNITY HUB
WEDNESDAYS
10.30AM - 2PM



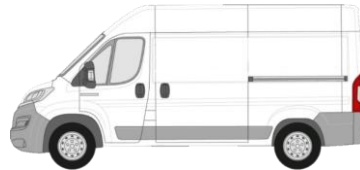
How did we do it?

Perth Fixed Site



Patients referred from the NSEP and outreach SPOCT offered as part of normal screening

Perth Mobile Van



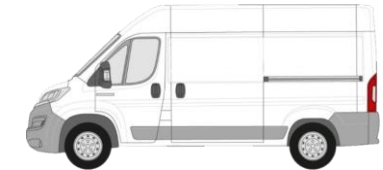
Van purchase
Van fit-out
15 organisations contacted
Nov 2021- mobile clinics commenced
28 mobile clinics
2 staff – 1 health professional, 1 outreach worker

Bunbury Fixed Site



Patients referred from the NSEP and outreach SPOCT offered as part of normal screening

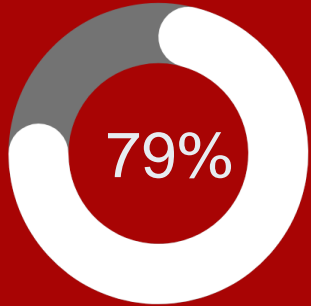
Mobile NSEP



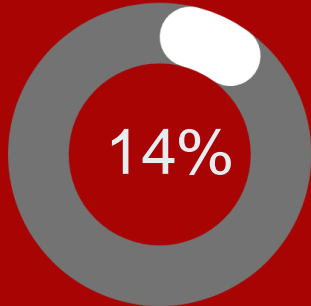
MNSEP already in operation
16 organisations contacted
July 2021 mobile clinics commenced
9 mobile clinics
2 staff – 1 health professional, 1 outreach worker

Results - Demographic characteristics

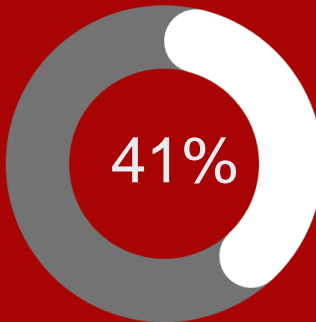
Demographic characteristics	Perth n=72		South-West n=38		Overall n=110	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Gender						
- Male	50	69.44	17	44.74	67	60.91
- Female	22	30.56	21	55.26	43	39.09
Age						
- 16-25	11	15.28	8	21.05	19	17.27
- 26-40	16	22.22	13	34.21	29	26.36
- 41-55	29	40.28	13	34.21	42	38.18
- 56+	14	19.44	4	10.53	18	16.36
- Missing	2	2.78	0	0.00	2	1.82
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	7	9.72	9	23.68	16	14.55
CaLD	1	1.39	3	7.89	4	3.64
Injecting drug use						
- Past	16	22.22	13	34.21	29	26.36
- Current	13	18.06	10	26.32	23	21.15



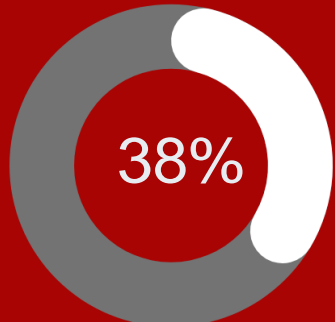
tested for syphilis



tested for chlamydia and gonorrhoea



tested for: HIV, HAV & HBV



tested for HCV (point-of-care)

50% antibody/RNA test



1 case of HCV identified through antibody/RNA testing



4 positive HCV point-of-care tests

Perth Mobile Clinical Services

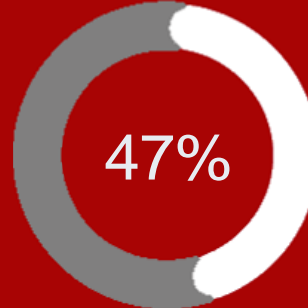
Nov 2021 - 16 May 2022

Southwest Mobile Clinical Services

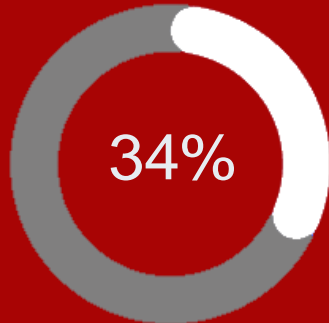
Jul – Dec 2021



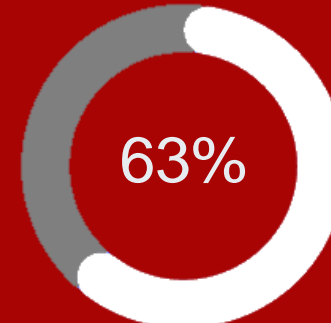
tested for
syphilis



tested for **chlamydia**
and **gonorrhoea**



tested for:
HIV
HAV &
HBV



tested for **HCV**
(point-of-care)

34% antibody/RNA test



case of HCV
identified through
antibody/RNA
testing



positive HCV
point-of-care tests

Overall Positive Results

Tests conducted	Perth		South-West		Overall	
	Number positive cases	Test positivity rate (%)	Number positive cases	Test positivity rate (%)	Number positive cases	Test positivity rate (%)
Hepatitis C antibody/RNA (Perth: n=36) (SW: n=13)	1	2.78%	1	7.69%	2	4.08%
Hepatitis C GeneXpert (Perth: n=27) (SW: n=24)	4	14.81%	3	12.50%	7	13.72%
Chlamydia (Perth: n=10) (SW: n=18)	1	10.00%	0	0.00%	1	3.57%

Program Improvements



Dedicated funding for syphilis project health and outreach staff

Training of non-health staff to perform SPOCT

More partnerships with CALD agencies

Possible extension to other regional areas

Need to incorporate into normal clinic activities

Conclusion



- During this data collection, although there was no syphilis detected, however, there are advantages to normalising syphilis testing and increasing awareness in priority populations
- The steps involved in testing a client also serve as a type of health promotion and function to raise community awareness



The mobile health clinic plays an important role in preventing transmission

Overview

A National Reference Group (NRG) co-designed a national health promotion campaign "*It's Your Right*" to shift perceptions about hepatitis C treatment and to link people to testing and treatment

The campaign is being rolled out in partnership between PBHRWA and EC Australia

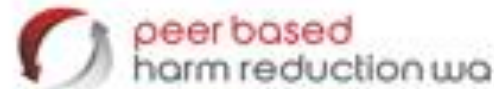
The campaign first launched on April 11 in QLD, SA and the NT

The next States/Territories to launch are WA and ACT, with a focus on Perth and Bunbury in WA



Design of the campaign - peer led and partnership approach

It's Your Right was designed by and for people who inject drugs, using a peer led process



It's Your Right Campaign



Peer Based Harm Reduction WA has launched **It's Your Right** campaign in Western Australia.

Campaign Audience: People who inject drugs.

Campaign Purpose: To shift perceptions about hepatitis C treatment and to link people to testing and treatment.

Campaign Messages: Our messages are vibrant and assertive and address key concerns about hepatitis C treatment for people who currently inject. The call to action refers people to talk to a peer at their local peer-based drug user organisation and/or NSP.

Campaign Activities

Our campaign advertising will be paired with:

Peer outreach/engagement activities to increase conversations about treatment and links with trusted services;

Merchandise giveaways to engage and promote campaign messages;
financial incentives for the treatment pathway;

Online video series to share personal stories about treatment;

Localised referrals to PBHRWA for testing and treatment



Examples of the campaign

On buses panels, digital, street and NSP posters, and banners





Thank you