

A CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE HIV PREVENTION IN AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND: HOW WILL WE MONITOR PROGRESS?

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Background: New Zealand has a successful history of controlling HIV but 2016 recorded the highest ever annual new HIV diagnoses and annual HIV treatment costs have doubled in five years from \$16 to \$32 million. This calls for timely and focused action that is embedded in the latest scientific evidence and implemented through renewed partnerships.

Approach: The National HIV and AIDS Forum is a collective comprised of parties working in HIV prevention, care, policy and research in Aotearoa/New Zealand. In 2017 the Forum collaborated to develop a consensus statement on comprehensive HIV prevention (<https://hivconsensus.org.nz/>) in the absence of an up-to-date government HIV strategy. The statement outlines six actions and six principles that should guide HIV prevention in Aotearoa/New Zealand towards the goal of ending HIV transmission by 2025. The statement asserts that New Zealand's HIV epidemic can once again be reversed by implementing effective HIV prevention actions urgently, to scale and in partnership. However it is not clear how progress on these actions might be monitored; we explore possible mechanisms.

Outcomes: The Forum confirmed that it is possible to reach a collaborative multidisciplinary consensus statement even in an environment undergoing rapid change and involving stakeholders with diverse interests. Monitoring progress on the statement's priority actions centering on condom use, HIV testing, HIV care cascade, PrEP and STI screening will require: further investment in HIV behavioural and clinical surveillance; improvements to laboratory and administrative datasets and reporting; and building evaluation capacity in non-government organisations (NGOs) and public sexual health clinics.

Significance: National goals to reverse the HIV epidemic are plausible but unlikely to be achieved without access to regular evidence, and at minimum annual review and response from decision-making bodies. Meaningful investment in core public health intelligence systems is an urgent priority and unlikely to be delivered by relying on highly competitive investigator-driven research alone.

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Theme C: Behavioural research and advocacy