

## **INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WA: THE ROCKY ROAD TO SUCCESS**

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**Background/Purpose:** The Integrated Case Management Program incorporates Treatment as Prevention as a core element of engaging people living with HIV who are hard-to-reach and have complex psychosocial needs. In mid-2016, the program changed from an “allegation only” approach to a largely preventative model of care, to reduce HIV transmissions in high risk populations, of whom a substantial number are injecting drug users, have mental health concerns and /or identify as Aboriginal.

**Approach:** Two Case Management Officers provide community-based outreach across the Perth metropolitan area to engage this largely transient population. Through proactive outreach, counselling and rapport building, ICMP has had significant success in assisting some of the most hard-to-reach clients to achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load (<200 copies/mL).

**Outcomes/Impact:** The viral load results for 30 ICMP clients, who met the inclusion criteria for the study, were observed between 01/07/2016 and 31/12/2018. All but one client achieved an undetectable viral load after being referred to the Program (n=29; 97%). Most ICMP clients reached undetectable status within six months of referral (n=17; 57%); while 80% (n=27) were undetectable within 12 months. The median time to reach an undetectable viral load was 129.5 days post-referral.

**Innovation and Significance:** Without the intensive outreach approach of ICMP, clients would likely not be accessing HIV treatment services and continue to place others at risk of transmission due to unsafe sex and/ or unsafe injecting practices. As such, ICMP’s new approach and success is likely to have contributed to reduced transmission of HIV in WA.

**Disclosure of interest:** None provided