HIV – Racism as a determinant of sexual health

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About us

NRCH works in partnership with culturally and socially diverse communities to promote and improve: equity, health, and well-being.

CEH assists health & community services to provide a high quality of care to refugee and migrant communities

The MHSS program of CEH provides health promotion about blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) to refugee & migrant communities

Acknowledgement of Country

- Indigenous Australians experience a burden of disease that is 2.3 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.

- Chronic diseases are responsible for more than two-thirds (70%) of the gap in disease burden between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

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HIV rates

Number of HIV notifications newly diagnosed in Australia just over 1,000 per year

People born in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia alone ≈ 20% PLHIV in Australia

Over the last five years the proportion with late diagnoses was highest in people born in Central America (45%), sub-Saharan Africa (43%) and Southeast Asia (43%).
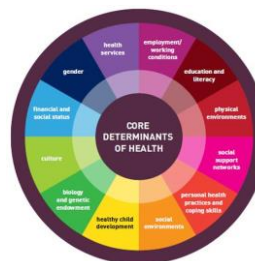
Among notifications attributed to heterosexual sex, 17% were in people born in countries recognised by UNAIDS as having a national prevalence above 1% (high prevalence), and 17% in people with sexual partners born in high prevalence countries.

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Social determinants of health

- Income and income distribution
- Education
- Unemployment and job security
- Employment and working conditions
- Early childhood development
- Food insecurity
- Housing
- Social exclusion/inclusion
- Social safety network
- Health services
- Aboriginal status
- Gender
- Race
- Disability

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Most vulnerable

Understanding of HIV and sex – health beliefs

New arrival and new freedoms

Knowledge of services

Gender inequallity

Past traumas

Visa status

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Working with communities

- Individual factors
- Cultural factors
- Social & political factors
- Environmental & geographic factors

RACISM: IGNORE IT...
AND IT WON'T GO AWAY.

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Engaging for change

- Understanding whom
- Willing to learn about the community
- Ability to see from their point of view
- Whose priorities
- Seeing the bigger picture
- Tailoring messages for audience
- Ability to take up/implement messages
- Skilling up of health/welfare services
- Flexibility and long term view

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Where to next

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Tools to help you

1) Health Translations

The HT enables workers to easily find translated health information – over 16,000 multilingual resources

http://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/

2) Better Health Channel

Health and welfare information from Victorian Government

https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/

3) Cross Cultural training

Upskill your organization on how to engage and collaborate with diverse communities and individuals

https://www.ceh.org.au/training/

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Any questions?

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