

NURSE-LED MPOX VACCINATION POP-UP SATURDAY CLINIC AT AN URBAN SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC IN MELBOURNE: IMPLEMENTATION AND SERVICE OUTCOMES

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Background/Purpose:

Mpox vaccines are available to eligible individuals for free through state and territory government health departments in Australia and have been available in Victoria since August 2022.

In 2025, the Victorian Department of Health funded the implementation of a weekend nurse-led mpox vaccine pop-up clinic at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC). The aim of this pop-up clinic was to increase the accessibility of mpox vaccination and to reach individuals at risk of mpox who may not typically engage in sexual health or weekday services. Anyone identifying themselves as at risk of mpox was able to access the vaccine.

Approach:

A 12-week Saturday nurse-led mpox vaccine pop-up clinic was implemented from April to June 2025 at MSHC. Data were collected on client demographics, prior mpox vaccination, reasons for receiving the vaccine, any barriers experienced, and how they learned about the weekend clinic. The pop-up clinic was advertised via SMS to existing clients at MSHC, along with posters and social media advertisements. Eligible individuals could book an appointment online, call or walk in on the day.

Outcomes/Impact:

A total of 159 mpox vaccines were administered to 129 individuals, with a median age of 33 years (IQR= 29-38), and 19% (25/129) were women. Over a third (36%, 46/129) were new to MSHC, 90% (143/159) booked an appointment online, 10% (16/159) walked in. About half (48%, 50/105) of the individuals reported that they wouldn't have had a mpox vaccine if the weekend clinic was not available. Barriers to accessing the mpox vaccine before attending the clinic were due to work constraints and difficulty in attending on a weekday (34%, 17/50), and limited access to the vaccine (16%, 8/50).

Innovation and Significance:

This nurse-led mpox vaccine pop-up clinic successfully increased access to and uptake of the mpox vaccine among priority populations in Victoria.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No disclosures of Interest.