

On-Site, On-Demand: A Responsive Model for HIV and STI Prevention for MSM Communities- Seeking the final 5%

Authors:

FERGUS MCCABE, DANIEL VUJCICH

Background/Purpose

Recent data from the WA Department of Health reveal a continued rise in HIV notifications, with 77 new diagnoses recorded in 2024, up from 68 in 2023. Notably, 49 cases were reported between July and December, indicating a significant second-half increase.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to be the most affected group, highlighting the need for sustained, community-led responses focused on prevention, testing, and treatment. While cases are also rising among other priority populations, MSM remain the most impacted—often at the intersection of multiple vulnerabilities who are not accessing our services in the traditional manner. We reviewed our service delivery design and developed innovative strategies to seek out those that were in the final 5% in the UNAIDS 95-95-95 target.

Approach

WAAC's M Clinic, led by Clinical Governor Dr. Fergus McCabe, and with the valued support of the owners of the venue adopted a community-first model by integrating free PrEP, PrEP as PEP and Doxy PeP prescribing into its established weekly testing clinic at a Perth sex-on-premises venue.

Rather than relying on traditional clinical settings, the service delivers sexual health care on-site, at no cost, making it immediate, accessible, and stigma-free particularly focused on those who for whatever reason do not access our services at our sexual health clinic specifically including those not covered by Medicare.

In response to rising syphilis and chlamydia rates, DoxyPEP was also introduced, providing post-exposure antibiotics alongside education and prevention messaging. This co-located model empowers clients to make informed choices in a trusted, familiar space and access treatment on-site at the time of risk in a brief, free, safe and focused medical consultation that aims to remove as many of the barriers to access care as possible.

Outcomes/Impact

Since launching, the clinic has delivered 16 sessions, prescribing 82 PrEP scripts, 6 PrEP as PEP scripts and 80 DoxyPEP scripts. The strong uptake reflects both community demand and trust in accessible, affirming care models.

Over the same period we provided STI screening to 377 clients (94 new to our service), administers 108 Mpox vaccines and diagnosed and treated 60 STI's (x29 chlamydia- x 18 gonorrhoea- x11 syphilis- x1 HSV and x1 HCV). Any clients who were not immune to HAV/HBV were offered an appointment at the M Clinic for vaccination at no cost.

The initiative is helping to normalise prevention in high-risk environments, shifting the culture toward empowerment and proactive health engagement.

Innovation and Significance

This model reimagines prevention by embedding services in non-traditional spaces, reducing stigma, cost, and access barriers.

It also creates opportunistic pathways for real-time health promotion, offering safe sex advice and immediate support for those who have or are about to engage in higher-risk activity.

This is not just service delivery—it's care, on-site and on demand, where it matters most.

Disclosure of Interest Statement

WAAC is funded by the WA Department of Health. No grants were received in the development of this project.