

Nurses Take Pride

A Nurse-Led World Pride Clinic

Sydney 2023

Tilley DM¹, Price AJ¹, Vaughan M², Read P¹

¹Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Services, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District; ²ACON

BACKGROUND

About Sydney World Pride

- Largest global event promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community, inclusivity and equality
- Held in Sydney, 17 February to 5 March 2023
- Over 300 000 attendees expected from regional areas of NSW, other states and territories, and overseas
- Majority attendees residing or staying within the South Eastern Sydney or Sydney Local Health District areas

Anticipated increase in demand

Service scale up to increase access to:

- Sexually transmissible infection (STI) and blood borne virus testing
- HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- Sterile injecting equipment
- Condoms and water-based lubricant
- Sexual health information and referral for symptoms

APPROACH

Partnerships and Stakeholders

- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) Population and Community Health, in consultation with the NSW Ministry of Health, engaged with key community, sexual health, harm reduction, information and treatment services to plan and support the Nurse-Led Pop-up World Pride Prevention Hub model



Pop-up Prevention Hub located in World Pride epicentre

- Within walking distance to the events and activations for Sydney World Pride
- Near Oxford Street Surry Hills the home of Sydney's LGBTIQA+ communities
- Open 30 January to 18 March 2023 Monday to Friday until 7pm and Saturday until 6pm

Community Peers

- Peers from ACON the local community organisation
- Supporting engagement, information and referral



OUTCOMES

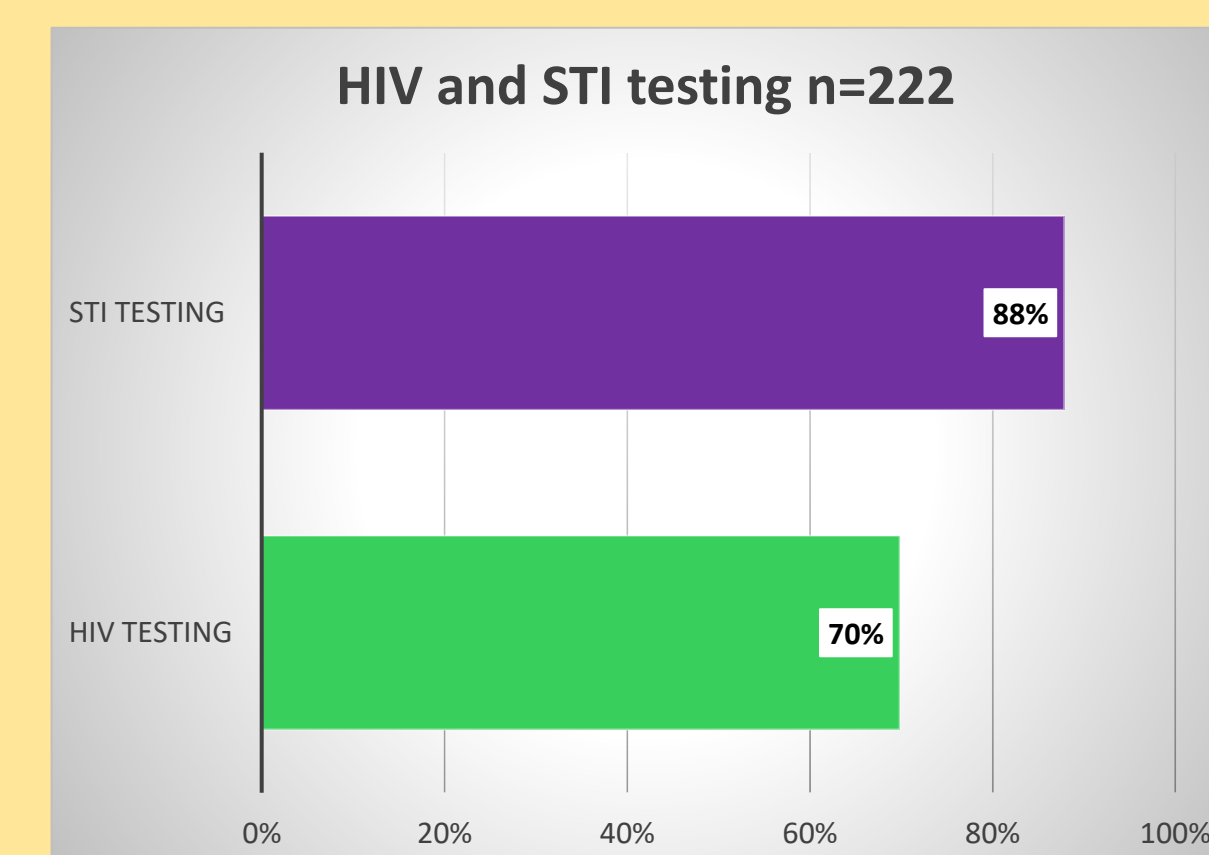


Who we saw

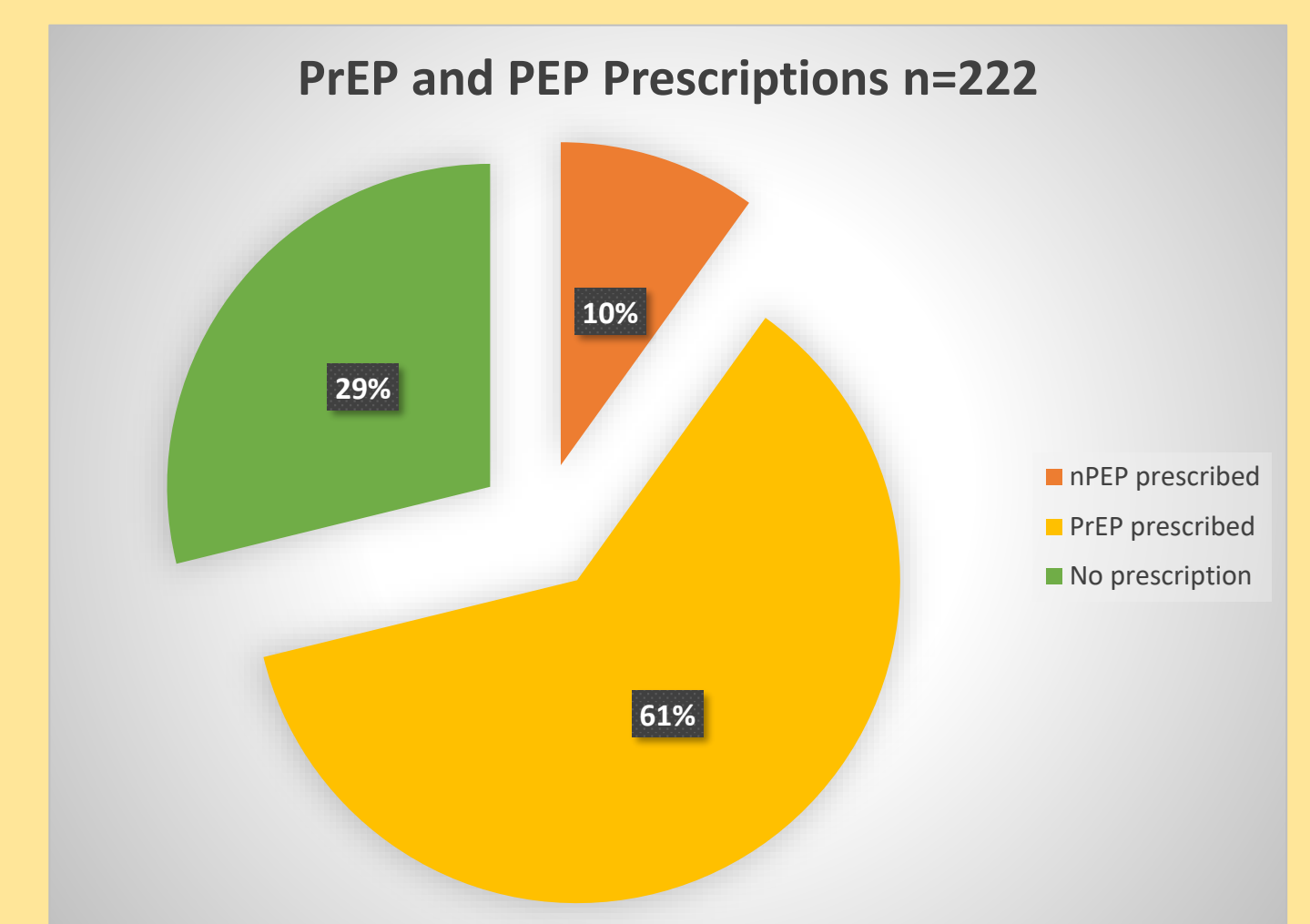
- 179 unique clients
- 96% male
- 90% of males identified as men who have sex with men
- 26% were born Overseas
- 91% English preferred language
- 72% aged 25- 44 years
- 51% tested for HIV in past 3 months
- 4% never tested for HIV
- 61% never used PrEP in past

What we provided

- 222 occasions of service including: HIV and blood borne virus testing
- STI testing
- PrEP (one month at no cost)
- PEP (no cost)
- 7620 Condoms and water-based lubricant
- 3300 Injecting units
- 923 Mpx vaccinations
- 8000 COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits



Reasons for not having HIV and/or STI test include: testing at an a[ll] test clinic on same day and attending Prevention Hub for PrEP, attending for results, people living with HIV.



SUCCESSSES

- Timely access to specialised care during time of high demand
- Welcoming and informative environment created by partnership with peers
- Nurse Practitioner enabled flexible service delivery
- Collaboration with NSW Sexual Health Infolink supported workflow and client journey from booking to results
- Engaged workforce resulted in referrals for sexual health and HIV prevention care
- Client journey pathways and training supported non-sexual health trained nurses to expand their scope of practice

CHALLENGES

- Environment not suitable for symptomatic clients and treatments
- Early identification of staff training needs for electronic patient systems
- Strengthening pathways for culturally and linguistically diverse groups
- Communication with clinicians about event promotions impacting client expectations

FUTURE SCOPE

- Sexual Health RNs accredited in NSW to supply PEP and PrEP could lead Pop-up clinics
- Transferable model of care for future events requiring scale up including Sydney Mardi Gras

"I was thrilled and challenged...it was a joy to provide a service to a community that was engaged, proactive, informed and so ready to celebrate and commemorate...I was so very proud of my peers and...the collaboration by fellow agencies" RN

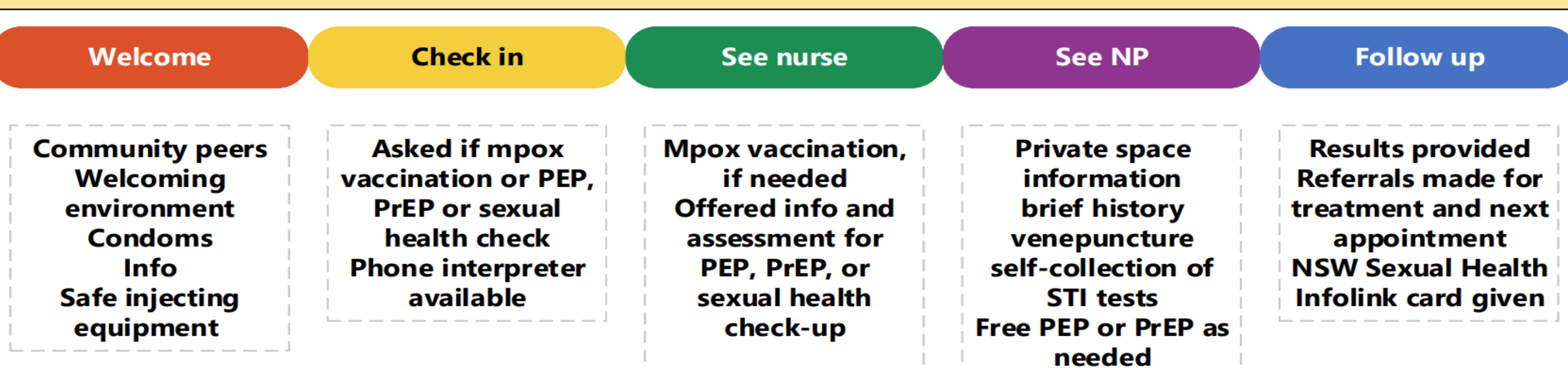
"A wonderful and rewarding experience to see Community and Clinicians come together and work so well and it was such a joy! Great communication and camaraderie and was an absolute pleasure! Also great for people to have the hubs available for not only MPOX vaccinations, but for PEP, PrEP and testing" Peer worker



MODEL OF CARE

Nurse-Led / Interdisciplinary

- Sexual Health and HIV Nurse Practitioner (NP): provision of autonomous client care
- Registered Nurses (RN): non-sexual health trained nurses upskilled to provide sexual health assessment and referral to NP
- Community Peers: support in welcome and waiting areas
- Medical Officer: on call from SESLHD sexual health centres, and leave support
- Pharmacist: medication management processes
- Sexual Health Infolink: extended hours for information, triage to services and results



Acknowledgements:
Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre: provided a Nurse Practitioner Mpx vaccination clinic: admin, Registered Nurses and ACON Peers Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Services: all staff involved
Poster publication: 1 September 2023
Contact: donna.tilley@health.nsw.gov.au