

INCIDENT HIV INFECTION HAS FALLEN RAPIDLY IN MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (2013-2017) BUT NOT IN THE NEWLY-ARRIVED ASIAN-BORN.

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Background:

We examined differences in incident HIV infection between newly-arrived Asian-born and the other men who have sex with men (MSM) after the introduction of universal HIV treatment guidelines in 2015 and pre-exposure prophylaxis in 2016.

Methods:

Clinical, demographic, laboratory and behavioural data on MSM presenting for HIV testing at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre from July 2013 to June 2017 were extracted. We compared the proportion of newly-arrived (four years or less in Australia) Asian-born and other MSM tested each year who were diagnosed with incident HIV infection (negative test within one year or diagnosis with indeterminate or negative Western Blot).

Results:

We analysed 35,743 testing episodes in 12,180 MSM, including 2,781 testing episodes in 1,047 newly-arrived Asian-born MSM. The proportion of other MSM tested each year who were diagnosed with incident HIV infection fell from 0.83% in 2014 to 0.38% in 2017 ($p=.001$), but did not fall in newly-arrived Asian-born MSM (from 1.18% in 2014 to 1.56% in 2017, $p=.76$). In the multivariate logistic regression, in 2016/2017 but not in 2014/2015, being newly-arrived Asian-born was associated with an increased odds of diagnosis of incident HIV infection (aOR 3.29, 95%CI 1.82-5.94, $p<.001$).

Conclusion:

The epidemiology of HIV in Melbourne Australia has changed dramatically. While there has been an overall reduction amongst MSM, the incidence of HIV in newly-arrived Asian-born MSM remains high. Failing to address these new inequalities leaves individuals at risk and may offset the population benefit of biomedical HIV prevention.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

All authors declare no potential conflicts of interest.