

# Engaging infrequent testers: An innovative, free and private way to test for HIV

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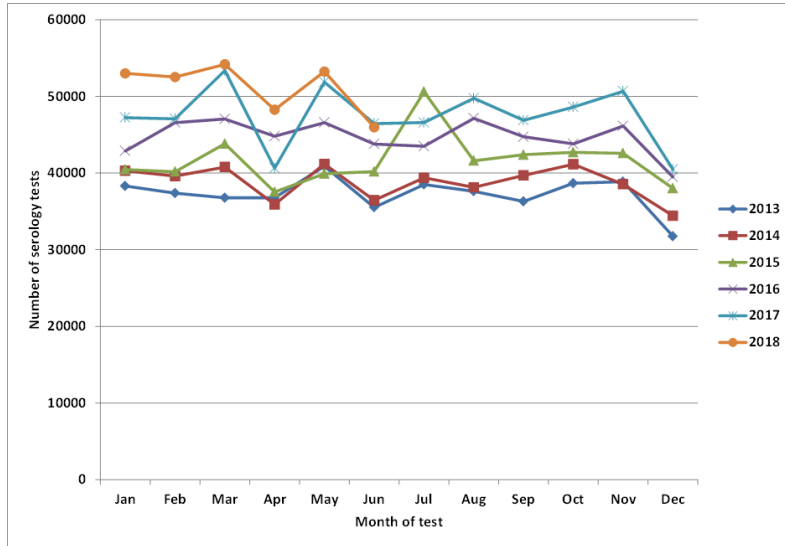


DBS

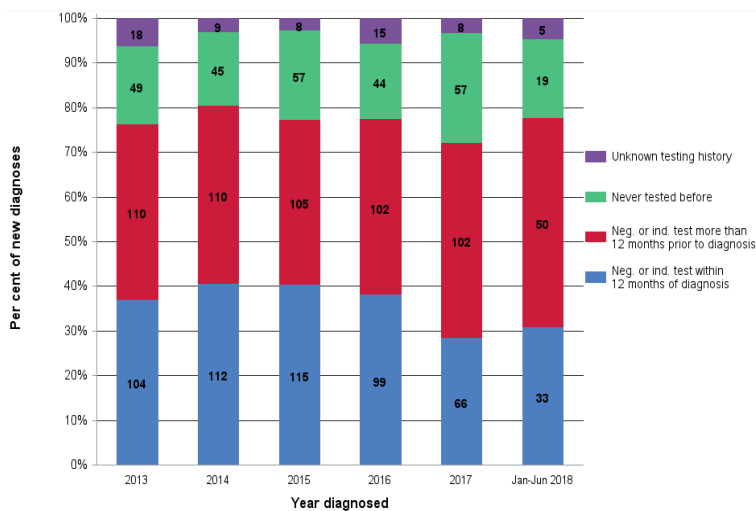
NSW HIV Strategy 2016-2020



## NSW HIV testing: Jan 2013 - Jun 2018



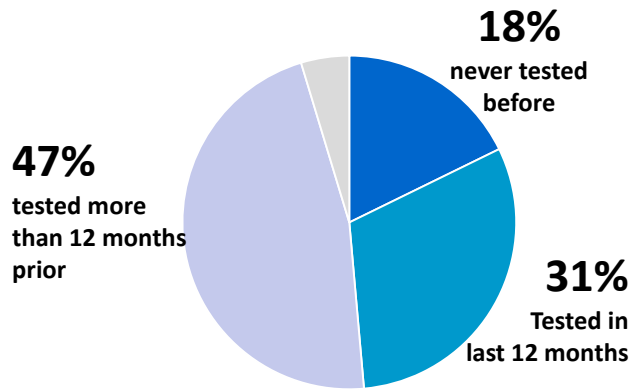
## MSM new diagnosis by HIV testing history Jan 2013 - Jun 2018



**DBS** Focus on targeted HIV testing



Jan-Jun 2018: 107 MSM diagnosed



**DBS** NSW Dried Blood Spot Pilot



- DBS is an innovative finger stick HIV and hepatitis C (RNA) test for people online or via approved site.
- Added to the mix of testing options in NSW to increase access to testing for people who experience barriers
- It is free, easy and confidential.
- Launched in Nov 2016 for HIV testing
- Extended to include hepatitis C (RNA) testing in Sep 2017
- Pilot will run until 31 Dec 2020

# DBS Implementation



- Sites offer DBS when conventional blood testing is difficult due to poor venous access or not possible
- Being scaled up in drug and alcohol services; NSPs, outreach, community health, custodial settings
- Sites can participate in three ways:
  - assist with testing and delivery of results
  - assist with testing and SHIL will deliver results
  - distribute kits for people to take away with them
- Eligible: MSM; Aboriginal people; people & their sexual partners from Africa/Asia; people who have ever injected drugs.

Local Health District	Site
South East Sydney	<b>ACON</b>
	<b>Kirketon Road Centre (KRC)</b>
Justice Health & Forensic Health Network	<b>Justice Health &amp; Forensic Mental Health</b>
Illawarra Shoalhaven	<b>Illawarra Sexual Health</b>
	<b>Illawarra Drug Health</b>
Mid-North Coast	<b>Mid North Coast (Multiple Sites)</b>
Northern NSW	<b>Northern NSW (Multiple Sites)</b>
Northern Sydney	<b>The Beaches Clinic/ Brookvale NSP</b>
St Vincent's Health Network	<b>Rankin Court</b>
South Western Sydney	<b>SWS Liverpool Sexual Health</b>
	<b>SWS Drug Health</b>
Sydney	<b>Sydney Drug Health Services</b>
Western NSW	<b>Western NSW Sexual Health/Hepatitis</b>
Far West	<b>Far Western NSW Sexual Health/Hepatitis</b>
Nepean Blue Mountains	<b>Nepean Blue Mountains NSP</b>
Western Sydney	<b>7 NSP and AOD services</b>



Total Recruitment Data	Number (%)	
	1 Nov 2016 – 31 Aug 2018	
Registrations for HIV	1,292	
Registrations for hepatitis C	228	
HIV tests done	840	
Hepatitis C tests done	169	
Return rate for HIV tests	840 (65%)	
Return rate for Hep C tests	169 (74%)	
Proportion of people registering who have never tested before or had tested over 2 years ago	556 (43%)	
Reactive HIV	5	
Reactive Hepatitis C	27	

Data Sources: NSW DBS Research Database; NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV, St Vincent's Hospital

Target population	Number (%) of tests done	
	1 Nov 2016 – 31 Aug 2018	
Aboriginal people*	57	7%
MSM	522	62%
Ever injected drugs*	175	21%
From Asia/Africa	196	23%
Partners from Asia/Africa	251	30%

Data Sources: NSW DBS Research Database; NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV, St Vincent's Hospital

## Conclusion



## Acknowledgements



Brett Hadlow, DBS Coordinator

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NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV,  
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

NSW Sexual Health Infolink

Study investigators