SNAPSHOT OF PROJECTS IN 2017

- WA PrEP trial service provider evaluation
- Law and Sex Worker Health (LASH 2.0) project
- Australian Research Council Linkage Project grant submission
- Barriers to HIV testing among people born in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia project
- Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM)

WA PREP TRIAL SERVICE PROVIDER EVALUATION

Aim of the evaluation:
- Investigate the experiences of WA service providers involved in the WA PrEP trial
  - Four sites: RPH, South Terrace Clinic, M-Clinic, GP on Beaufort
  - Includes doctors, prescribers, peer workers and nurses

Focus of evaluation:
- Short term impacts of offering PrEP
- Requirements of regional and remote trial participants
- Implementation challenges
- Attitudes and expectations of service providers delivering PrEP
- New insights relating to provision of PrEP in existing clinical services
- Long term implications of PrEP service provision, including similarities and differences between trial sites

LAW AND SEX WORKER HEALTH (LASH) 2.0 STUDY

Aims
- Investigate the impact of the law on Western Australian sex workers; their health and safety; and the interactions between sex workers, health service providers, and police

Study participants
- 354 Western Australian sex workers (permanent or touring) including private workers, men and transgender workers

Findings related to HIV
- High rates of HIV testing: 293 survey respondents reported having ever been tested for HIV infection (89%)
- 109 (37%) of these reported having been tested in the past three months
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to report having had an HIV test in the past six months (80% vs 58%, p=0.006)
- Six respondents reported that they were HIV positive, five were female

ARC LINKAGE PROJECT

Proposal: Reducing health disparities in culturally and linguistically diverse populations
18 partner organisations, SIREN is the lead organisation

Expected outcomes of research
1. Narratives of sub-groups of CALD migrants focused on their sexual health attitudes and beliefs, perceptions of risk, motivations for sexual health seeking and experiences of health care
2. Population health surveillance data on knowledge, risk behaviour, and health service usage among CALD populations in three states
3. Implementation requirements of a tailored, culturally responsive HIV and STI surveillance survey for CALD populations
4. Protocols for interventions to improve migrant health literacy, service integration and models of care for CALD populations

Grant submitted July 2017

HIV KNOWLEDGE AND TESTING

RESULTS: Adult Health Survey with people from sub-Saharan Africa & South East Asia

What about people using health services

92% of people aged 15 years and over who had seen a health professional in the past 12 months used STI services
90% of people aged 15 years and over who had seen a health professional in the past 12 months used HIV services
91% of people aged 15 years and over who had seen a health professional in the past 12 months used PrEP services
90% of people aged 15 years and over who had seen a health professional in the past 12 months used PEP services
### AIMS AND FUNDING

- Focus groups with 77 participants with diverse experiences
  - NSW (1)
  - Victoria (1)
  - SA (2)
  - WA (7)
- Interviews with 11 General Practitioners

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- A Healthway Australian Health Promotion Association Graduate Scholarship
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### ACCESSING HEALTH SERVICES

Only accessing services when very sick

"You go when you are sick, I [am] here for 10 years and I don’t have malaria or anything, I don’t go to a doctor" – Male from South Sudan

### HOME COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Influenced both how they understood HIV and their readiness to test

"...the fear of the unknown is better than the benefit of testing...I’d rather not know...the fear associated with the perception of how people with HIV are still treated within the African community...there’s this other layer of fear upon fear" – Female from Africa

### VISIBILITY OF HIV IN AUSTRALIA

Negative stories of HIV positive people – e.g. criminal cases in the media

"I remember one of my friends asked "so what if you find HIV positive, what do you do?”...[I said] “you get locked up [in] isolated areas...you find you’re HIV positive, you get isolated...you don’t see your family” – Male from South Sudan

### SAFETY IN AUSTRALIA

Australia a ‘safe’ country – HIV doesn’t exist.

"...people think Australia is so safe, it is a safe place, people think it’s okay, I can do anything I want even if I don’t check with the doctor I am okay” – Male from South Sudan
SAFETY IN AUSTRALIA

‘Safety’ described the freedom to be gay and to regularly test for HIV.

“It’s okay to know about testing, it’s okay to know about the gay community.” – Male from Asia

RISK PERCEPTION

HIV was often associated with bad or immoral behaviour

“…because it’s only for bad people you know like bad people like drug people and prostitutes or thing you know or people who have free sex, I’m a good girl… I think that there is no chance I get that issue (HIV)” – Woman from Viet Nam

MOTIVATORS TO HIV TESTING

GP-initiated testing was often described as the reason for voluntary testing

For MSM, peers were incredibly important in regards to education and reassuring safety to test

“I didn’t know anything about testing until last year, and my partner asked me if I’d done it before and I said ‘no’; but he asked me whether I had unprotected sex and I was like ‘oh, yeah, maybe… twice’. So we’ve done it (HIV testing) together… he told me a lot about PrEP and other stuff you can use.” – Male from China

NEW TESTING METHODS

• Lack of knowledge about HIV testing methods across most groups, including testing at GP

• Having different options to test was seen as important

• Most participants wanted to see HIV offered as part of a ‘general health check up’ rather than a response to a risk behaviour — to avoid disclosure

SO WHAT

• Broaden HIV messages to target more than the ‘Australian gay man’

• Promote positive voices and stories

• Offer HIV testing as part of a general health check-up

• Explore new ways to increase HIV testing in different settings — including exploring opportunities to roll out rapid testing and home-testing kits

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ALL OUR PARTICIPANTS
COPAHM

• Roadmap launched at Quarterly Forum Dec 2014
• 71 strategies — in the timeframe of the 2017 National HIV Strategy
• Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (COPAHM) launched 2015
• 165 members across all states
• What are our priorities moving forward?

THANK YOU!

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