

Men Out West or Bi Out West ? Tailored Sexual Health Clinic For Me Who Have Sex With Men



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Introduction

The Nepean sexual health clinic introduced two key initiatives to promote sexual health screening in men who have sex with men (MSM) and bisexual men (BSM):

- A male sexual health nurse (MSHN) ;
- The only publically funded male sexual health clinic in Western Sydney – The Men Out West clinic (MOW).

These initiatives, in addition to existing clinic services, seek to emphasize the need for men's sexual health.



Methods

The MSHN was appointed in Jan 2012 and the MOW clinic was launched in June 2012. Health promotion strategies were used to promote clinic services particularly for MSM and BSM. Rates of attendance and screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have measured the impact of the clinic between it's opening till June 2014.



Many MSM/BSM in Western Sydney are not "out" yet. Importantly, sociocultural and religious issues are some of the barriers in accessing and engaging with Sexual Health services.

The MOW initiative recognizes the needs and vulnerabilities of men in Western Sydney in navigating health care services and accessing information.

The MOW provides unique "Under one roof" services targeting MSM and BSM .Services include

- Screening;
- Rapid Testing
- Counselling;
- Treatment;
- Immunization;
- Shared care;
- Education.



Our Sexual Health Promotion Team in partnership with other organizations have developed sexual health resources such as:



Our health promotion team participate in community events like "Mardi Gras" and "Parramatta Pride".

- Conduct education sessions at Sex On the Premise (SOPs) and Backrooms.

Making clients aware of and linking them to the services available at MOW .



Pop up advertising through the mobile phone app Grindr® has been used to generate interest, with 100,000 impressions in a 10 km radius around Penrith, advertising our services and linking people to our website.



The Impact

• The first two years of MOW clinic, has seen a significant increase of about **50% in the total number of clients** compared to two years before MOW.

- During this period, we have had a total of 337 clients, 52% of them(176) were new.

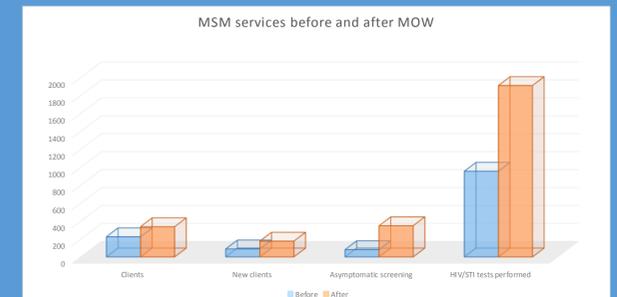


Figure 1: Impact of The MOW on Sexual Health services provided

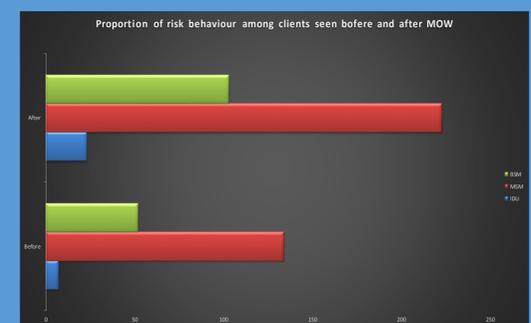


Figure 2: Client risk profile

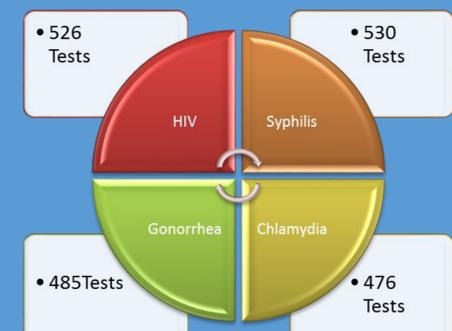


Figure 3: HIV and STI's testing uptake



Figure 4:

Client profile: Significant number of our clients are bisexual.

Conclusion

- Our tailored sexual health services with innovative health promotional strategies have had significant impact in the rates of attendance, uptake of screening and testing and linkage to our clinic services.
- This initiative demonstrate the importance of addressing the specific needs of MSM/BSM in the west who may not have disclosed their sexuality to other health care provider.

Acknowledgement

We would like thank staff , clients of Nepean Sexual Health Clinic and the Sexual Health Promotion Team.