

HIV and Gay and Bisexual Men's Health

Know your Risks
Know your Rights





Three Phases of HIV/AIDS Epidemic



Phase 1 – HIV = AIDS= Death

Phase 2 – Treatment = Living with HIV

Phase 3 – Long Term Health Management





New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai Kore o Aotearoa

Phase One



Now



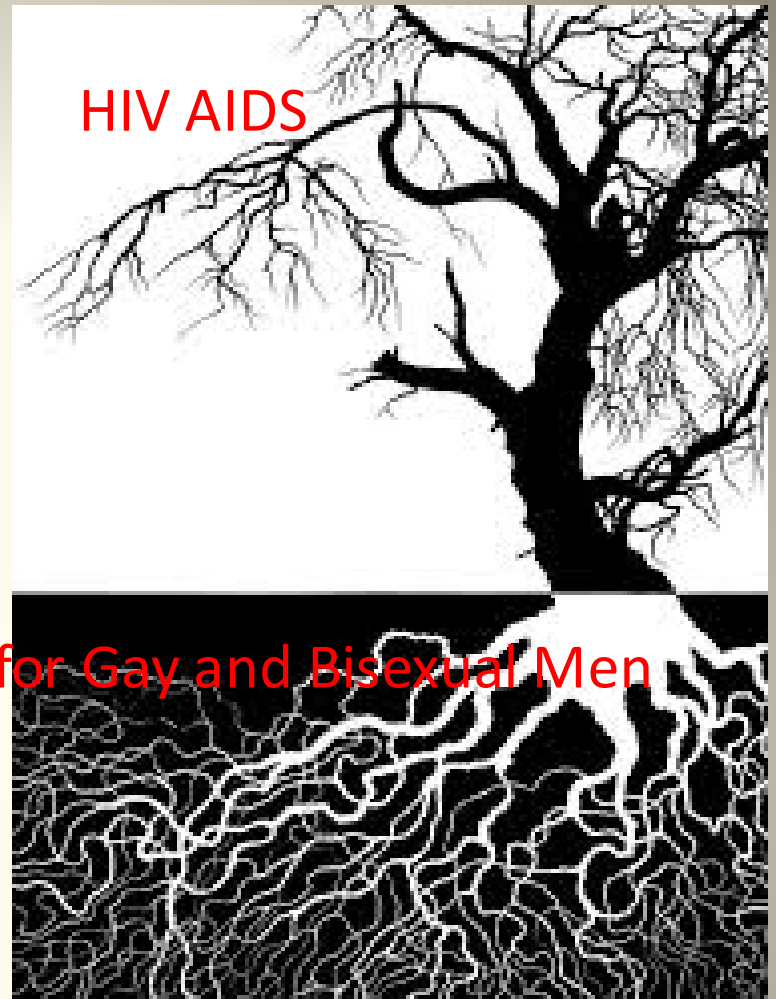


New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai Kore o Aotearoa

Beneath the Surface

HIV AIDS

Health Inequalities for Gay and Bisexual Men





New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai Kore o Aotearoa

These issues are generally ignored by the health system



The system does not count or acknowledge the heightened risk for Gay and Bisexual Men

It does very little to control these specific risks and to support men to make informed choices.



Syphilis

83% of cases in NZ are Gay and Bisexual Men ⁽ⁱ⁾

Accelerating epidemic - ten fold increase in a decade ⁽ⁱ⁾

18% of MSM with Syphilis had HIV ⁽ⁱ⁾

Only half had symptoms ⁽ⁱ⁾



New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai-kore o Aotearoa



Overall national rate of Gonorrhoea increased 35% 2011-1012 (ii)

Anorectal gonorrhoea increased 114% (ii)

NZ Doesn't collect sexuality data on Gonorrhoea

Anecdotally over 80% of Gonorrhoea in men are Gay and Bisexual
– could be over 1300 men in 2012 alone (ii)



Incurable and treatment resistant strains have developed

Often no symptoms

Hep C

Sexually transmitted especially for Gay and Bisexual Men (iii)

Microscopic blood to blood transfers during sex (iii)

An epidemic for Gay and Bisexual Men in Europe Britain and America (iii)

In Australia 500-1000 MSM living with HIV also have Hep C (iii)

Chances of getting Hep C go up 400% if you have HIV (iv)

As at Sept' highest number of cases ever in NZ - not yet a full year (ii)

Again no specific Gay and Bisexual data gathered in NZ



Anal Cancer

More a risk to Gay and Bisexual Men than cervical cancer is to women (v)

Gay and Bisexual Men are 20 times more at risk than heterosexuals (vi)

Men who are living with HIV are 100 times more at risk than the general population (vii)

On the increase - now as common as prostate cancer in Australia (ix)

Decade 1999-2009 156 kiwi men diagnosed with anal cancer (x)

- around 20 men pa
- given risk, most will be gay and bisexual and many HIV positive
- once again we don't actually count how many cases are for MSM despite the risk.





Anal and Genital Warts

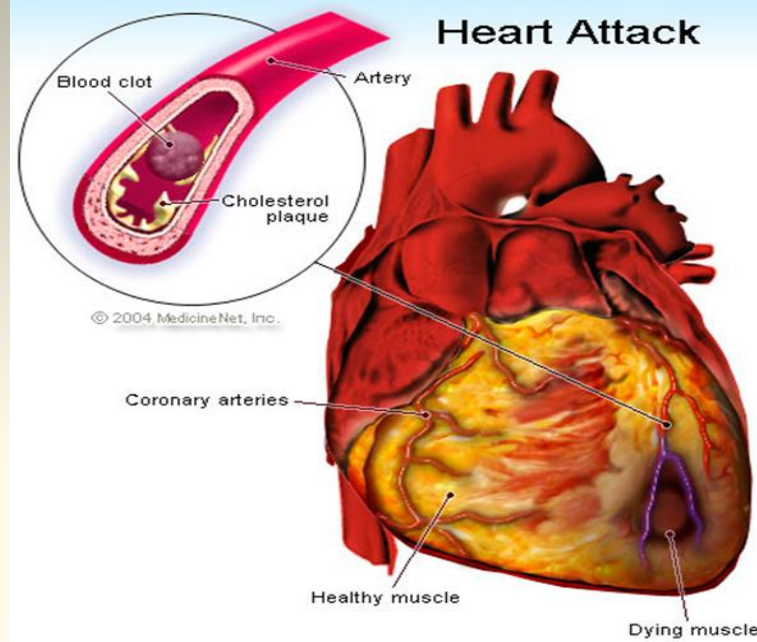
Caused by the same virus (HPV) that causes anal cancer and cervical cancer

- Likely elevated risk for MSM and people living with HIV ^(iv)





New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai-kore o Aotearoa



Heart Disease

A major killer of people living with HIV ^(xi)

Cardio Vascular Disease more common than AIDS defining events for people living with HIV in Australia ^(xii)

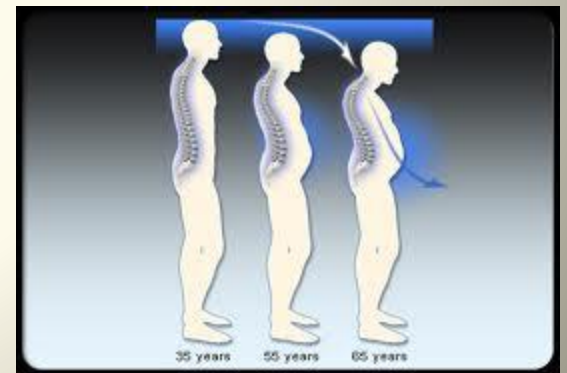
As common as prostate cancer and bowel cancer in Australia ^(xi)

In New Zealand – we can only assume it is the same as we don't count this by sexual orientation.



New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Āraikore o Aotearoa

And On and On...





New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai-kore o Aotearoa

What Can We Do?

Knowledge

Test

Vaccination – Gardasil

Have Sex Safely

Condoms

v high protection: syphilis, gonorrhoea, Hep C,
Halves your risk of anal cancer

Maintain the best health we can: Stop Smoking, Eat well

Be a bit angry!





What NZ Doesn't Bother to Count for Gay and Bisexual Men

- Anal cancer - don't count it
- Heart Disease- don't count it
- Hep C - don't count it
- Syphilis – just got some good information – enhanced surveillance
- Gonorrhoea – don't count it
- Drug and alcohol use – don't count it
- Mental health issues – don't count it
- Suicide attempts – don't count it
- Bone density – don't count it
- Other Sexually transmitted diseases – don't count it – except HIV

It's a world wide thing – Institutional homophobia is alive and well

- Last two World Aids Conferences less than 17% of the papers were on Gay & Bisexual men (xii).
- Yet Gay and Bi men is the one area where HIV numbers continue to increase world wide.



New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Ārai-kore o Aotearoa

Should This Be?



“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognise **the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”**

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 12, ratified by New Zealand 28th December, 1978



References

- i. Psutka, R. et al. Enhanced surveillance of infectious syphilis in New Zealand sexual health clinics. *Int J STD AIDS* 2013; 24: 791-798.
- ii. Sexually transmitted infections in New Zealand 2012: Annual surveillance report 2012. The institute of environmental science and research Ltd. Porirua, New Zealand.
- iii. Pieper, D. HIV and hepatitis C co-infection: Can we avert another epidemic in Australia by acting fast? *HIV Australia* 2013; 11 : 24-26.
- iv. Saxton, P.J.W. Sexually transmitted diseases and hepatitis in a national sample of men who have sex with men in New Zealand. *NZ Med J* 2002; 115: U106.
- v. Dietz, C. A. Nyberg, C.R. Genital, oral, and anal human papillomavirus infection in men who have sex with men. *J Am Osteopath Assoc* 2011; 111 (Suppl 2): S19-25.
- vi. Daling, J. et al. Sexual practices, sexually transmitted diseases, and the incidence of anal cancer. *N Eng J Med* 1987; 317: 973-977.
- vii. Hillman, R. Screening for anal cancer. Presentation to Clinical Round, Auckland Hospital 2012.
- viii. Cranston, R.D. Anal cancer prevention: How we are failing men who have sex with men. *Sex Transm Infect* 2008; 84: 417-419.
- ix. Ong, J. An elephant in the room? Anal cancer and people with HIV. *HIV Australia* 2013; 11 : 11-12.
- x. Ludlam, A. Correspondence. Colorectal cancer, data from: The New Zealand Cancer Registry; New Zealand Ministry of Health.
- xi. McDonald, K. Elliott, J. Cardiovascular disease, smoking and HIV: Findings from the HealthMap qualitative study. *HIV Australia* 2013; 11 : 30-32.
- xii. O'Keefe, F. (ed.) Forbes, L. (ed.) Key community groups under-represented at AIDS 2012. *HIV Australia* 2013; 11 : 4.