



Melbourne Sexual Health Centre Annual Report 2021



MSHC
MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE
Part of **Alfred**Health

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Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) is a service within Alfred Health. The vision of the MSHC is to be a leader in the management and prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and its mission is to maximize sexual health through innovation and excellence in public health, education, clinical care and research.

OVERVIEW

The MSHC has been in operation since 1918 as a specialised unit for the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmissible infections (STIs). It is the only centre that provides full-time, free sexual health services to the people of Victoria. The Centre became part of Alfred Health in 2003. The services provided by MSHC include general clinics for the management of STIs and HIV and a variety of specialist clinics. The service provided is predominantly walk in led by nurse triage service that focuses on high risk individuals with some appointments.

Special services provided by MSHC include:

- Medical care and community welfare support for people living with HIV
- Dermatology clinic for specialist dermatological management of genital skin disorders and dermatological conditions in HIV positive and negative clients
- Counselling services with qualified counsellors that are available for individuals or couples with concerns about sexual health and STIs, including HIV
- STI testing through a website and/or telephone consultations for young people under 25 years, men who have sex with men (MSM) and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders of any age living more than 100km from Melbourne augmented by self collected specimens and postal treatment
- Express testing service for MSM, Test and Go service (TAG)
- HIV Integrated Prevention clinic (HIP)
- Time to test service (TTT) where a time is booked for clients who have no symptoms and want routine STI testing
- Nursing service for Access Health (Salvation Army) in St Kilda that provides services for marginalised people in the community. Funding by the Drug and Alcohol section of the Department of Health has been provided for 5 hours of sexual health nursing services/week.
- On-site pharmacy provided by Alfred Health
- On-site laboratory service provided by the Public Health Laboratory - Microbiology Diagnostic Unit (PHL-MDU), University of Melbourne which provides assistance to clinicians to make same day diagnoses and treatment

The team of health care providers at MSHC includes 26 doctors, 38 sexual health nurses and 3 counsellors. The clinicians play an instrumental role in screening and testing for STIs and HIV, STI and HIV prevention, education and counselling. The health care team is supported by 15 other staff members in administrative or clerical roles, IT support, pharmacists and medical scientists.

The pharmacy services at MSHC are co-ordinated by Alfred Health pharmacy services. The staff rotate at 6 monthly intervals and cover 4 campuses: The Alfred Hospital, Caulfield and Sandringham Hospitals, and MSHC.

As the population of Victoria grows, so too does the demand for the Centre's services. MSHC has continued to place importance on the provision of services that maximise access for members of the public in most need. This has been achieved through the continued provision of services that are free of charge, have greater flexibility through the use of walk-in triage and additional gains from clinical efficiency. Extra clinical services are provided for men who have sex with men (MSM), who currently constitute a major risk group for STIs in Victoria.

One of MSHC's key roles is to promote public health and education. It aims to provide material that is freely available to both the general public and health care providers, particularly general practitioners (GPs). MSHC provides support to GPs as well as the public through its web based service mshc.org.au and free-call telephone service whereby GPs can receive specialist clinical advice directly from a sexual health physician.

The frequently updated MSHC website mshc.org.au comprises of information divided into five major sections:

- Our clinics and services that includes information about coming to the Centre and the available services
- Sexual health information and resources for the general public
- Resources for health professionals
- Educational videos for health professionals
- Research studies

There are also interactive online services provided:

For the general public:

- <http://www.ispysti.org/> (iSpy STI) is a symptom checker to help users understand their genital symptoms who may have a sexually transmitted infection
- letthemknow.org.au (Let Them Know) for assisting individuals diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections about informing their partners about their possible risk of infection. The site has numerous tools including examples of conversations, emails, SMS and letters to communicate the information as well as fact sheets
- <http://testme.org.au/> (TESTme) provides STI testing through telephone consultations for young people under 25 years, men who have sex with men (MSM) and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders of any age living more than 100km from Melbourne augmented by self collected specimens and postal treatment
- <http://mshc.org.au/syphilis/> (Syphilis) for assisting people who may have concerns about having contracted or have been diagnosed with syphilis. The site has detailed information about symptoms and treatment of syphilis, photographs and information on reducing risk and informing partners
- <https://wgodt.com.au/> ('What's Going On Down There?') information for women about vaginal health, symptoms and information for women who have been diagnosed with BV or thrush
- <https://www.staystifree.org.au/> informative interactive site to check symptoms, what tests are needed and where to get tested. The site provides information on how to prevent and understand transmission, testing and treatment of STIs in English and 8 languages

For general practitioners:

- <https://www.mshc.org.au/images/downloads/stiTool.pdf> this tool has been prepared as an aid for GPs, providing simplified guidelines for STI screening and for dealing with common symptomatic and asymptomatic presentations
- <https://www.mshc.org.au/health-professionals/treatment-guidelines> treatment guidelines
- <https://stiatlas.org/> online STI atlas is a free, open access online atlas showcasing MSHC's extensive library of clinical images aimed at improving diagnoses of STIs for health care providers internationally
- <https://www.mshc.org.au/health-professionals/testing-guidelines> for the type of tests recommended based on sexual history and risk behaviour
- <https://www.mshc.org.au/education/for-gps> for tools and clinical images to a range of clinical education videos and information for general practitioners
- <https://www.mshc.org.au/health-professionals/contact-tracing-notification> contact tracing and partner notification resources

The Centre also fulfills an important role as a principal centre for the training of health professionals in Victoria through Dr Hennie Williams at Melbourne University. The teaching and sexual health courses remain with The University of Melbourne.

MSHC places a premium on the provision of high quality services that are responsive to client needs. To this end, the Centre is active in quality assurance activities, which include an annual client satisfaction survey, where 95% of clients in 2021 expressed satisfaction with the service.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2021

This year saw the return of demand for our services after the unsettling and somewhat frightening 2020. All of us have received our COVID vaccines to protect the public and ourselves so we can finally move the Centre towards a more normal environment. In 2021 demand picked up despite living in the city with one of the world's longest lockdowns. We saw fewer consultations than a normal year with 41,255 consultations and large increases later in the year when Melbourne began actively lifting restrictions. There is a real sense of optimism in the air both among the public we serve and our staff as we move into life as it used to be. A big thank you to everyone for supporting one another through these difficult and strange times, yet continuing to keep the focus on providing excellent services to our community. A special thanks for Claire Randall for her wonderful quizzes which created a wonderful feeling of togetherness during Melbourne's darkest hours. I doubt any of us will forget these last few years, nor have any of us escaped unscathed by the experience.

We have had some large staff changes over this time. We have said goodbye and thank you to a number of our team. Kerri Howley, Anne Reid, Helen Kent, Cecily Sheppard, Alex Marceglia, Kath Fethers, Karen Worthington and Michelle Doyle who have all been with us for many years.

It has been one of our strongest research years, but before I mention these successes, we all need to say a big thank you to our team who help, facilitate and recruit for the research projects that allow the research to happen. It is particularly important to acknowledge this in the context of 4 papers in Lancet ID and one in NEJM in the same year. Credit to the enormous intellect but also a clinical staff who strongly support research. Congratulations to Erica Plummer who received her PhD titled "Investigating the pathogenesis of bacterial vaginosis". She presented this work at the 2021 ISSTD meeting in Amsterdam (albeit virtually) and her work is cited in the latest 2021 US CDC STI treatment guidelines. Congratulations also to Janet Towns who received her PhD titled 'Elucidating Treponema pallidum transmission; and novel strategies for improving early detection of syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections'. Janet's work was published in Lancet Infectious diseases among other journals and led to the successful development of ispysti.org. Janet was awarded a Monash University post-doctoral bridging grant and received The Burnet Prize for Infectious Disease Research. Rosie Latimer was awarded her PhD for her work on Mycoplasma genitalium in genital symptoms in women and MSM.

Congratulations to Marcus Chen who was awarded an NHMRC partnership grant for 5 years aimed at improving syphilis testing and control in the context of growing syphilis epidemics in Australia. Congratulations also to Yasmin Hughes and Stephanie Bond who both won Australian Government Research Training Program scholarships to undertake a PhD with Marcus on improving syphilis control.

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, as part of the 'Melbourne Collaborative Group' won the Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Association 2021 Innovation Award. Eric Chow is one of the 40 under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians Awards. Congratulations to Lucy Donovan for winning the Jan Edwards Prize at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference. Our work shone at the premiere STI research meeting in the world with plenary, symposia and other speakers from MSHC. We had more abstracts than any other clinical STI research group in the world.

We expanded our support to other clinical services in the Victorian Sexual Health Network VSHN (formerly the MSHC Hub and Spoke partnership). Given the enormous effect that health services have controlling access to STIs, this measure is critical to improving STI control in the state.

It has been an extraordinary year and one where our spirit of kindness, compassion and understanding between one another has meant a lot. We all react differently to different events and the empathy that we have shown each other has been impressive. It will be good to leave the disruptions of the last few years behind and return to normal again. Thank you to our wonderful team.

VICTORIAN SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE STRATEGY

We are proud to announce that the Victorian Sexual Health Network VSHN (formerly the MSHC Hub and Spoke partnership) has continued to grow with three new GP clinics added in 2021: in Cranbourne West, Yarram (Gippsland) and Kardinia (Geelong). MSHC has now trained six general practices to assist STI management in areas of need from the North-West to South-East of Victoria.

Highlights over this time have been the visits to Cranbourne West, Tarneit, and Yarram clinics. We were impressed with the level of enthusiasm of the staff at our GP partners, particularly with the considerable challenges posed by COVID both in their recruitment and operation. In 2022, we will be looking toward future possibilities of expanding this successful sexual health network across other regions in Victoria.

The work of the VSHN team includes:

- Support the existing six GP partner clinics consolidate their sexual health services, identifying areas where support is needed and providing it.
- Maintain connection with GP partners and ensure that sexual health services remain a priority.
- Maintain training and education levels in GP partner staff groups including new GPs and nurses that join the GP practices.
- Support STI service data collection
- Continue digital marketing to drive awareness and patient traffic to GP partner locations
- Ongoing case study reviews to advance training of GPs to higher skill levels for STI care
- Community of practice online forums – up to date information, changes to practice
- Evaluate existing GP partner clinic service provision
- Evaluation by medical health economist
- Digital marketing and website support

The VSHN team

Lisa Kennedy and Richard Teague have both stepped into the Operations Lead role for the Victorian Sexual health network.

Medical education - Mel Bissessor

Nursing and administration education - Chantal Maloney

Published [evaluation](#) by Jason Ong Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2022, 19(7), 3935

Acknowledgements

The work of Carly Schreiber and Hennie Williams in building the nurse and administration education.

Suzanne Amisano for her award winning work on the [staySTIfree](#) website and extensive technical assistance.

SERVICES AND CONSULTATIONS

The numbers of consultations by type of service provided onsite are shown in Table 3. A further 34 outreach consultations were carried out offsite at (MSM) and Access Health services for marginalized people.

Table 3

Clinic Type	Total	Male	Female	Transgender
General Clinic	36,439	25,262	10,508	669
HIV Clinic	3,951	3,446	465	40
Counselling	865	492	353	20
Total	41,255*	29,200	11,326	721
Individuals	19,308	13,032	5,974	302

*28% reduction in consultations compared to 2019 (prior to covid19)

Diagnoses

The numbers of the most frequently made diagnoses in consultations are shown in Table 4.

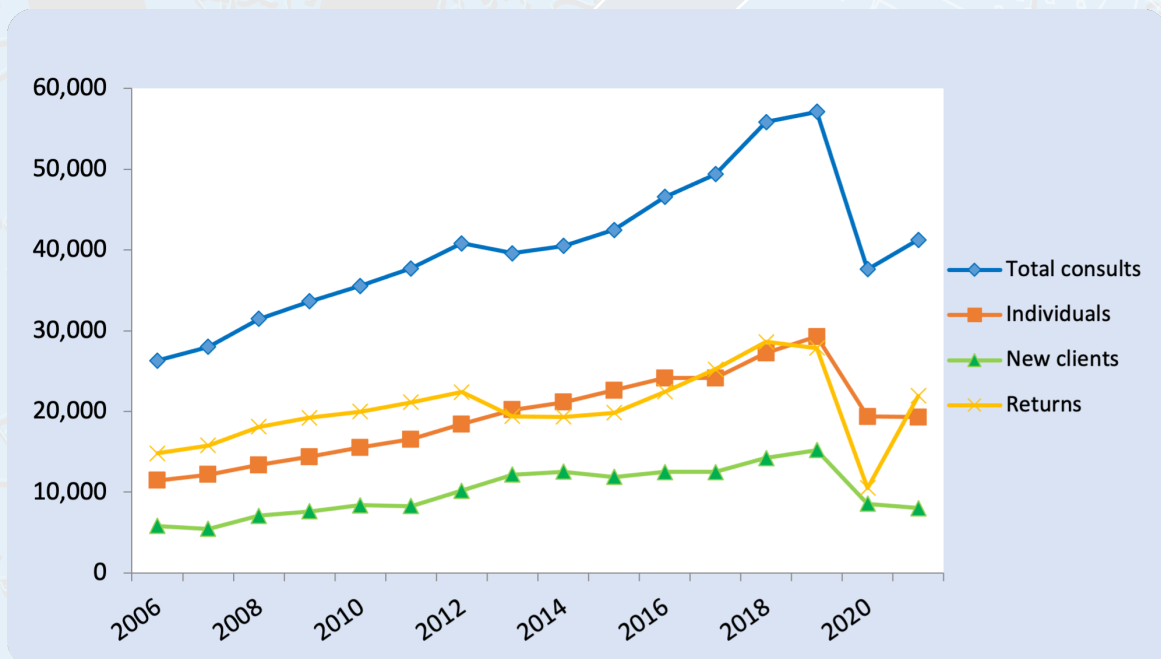
Gonococcal and chlamydial infections included are individuals with a newly diagnosed infection and may have more than one site of infection. Those returning with a new infection following successful treatment are included as a new diagnosis.

Table 4

Diagnoses	Total
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> *	2,426
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> *	1,683
Non gonococcal urethritis (NGU)	1,901
Herpes	837
Infectious syphilis	372
Bacterial vaginosis	993
Warts	803
HIV new cases	27
PID	237
<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i>	702
Lymphogranuloma venereum	15
HIV PEP	742
PCI	30
Gonorrhoea in women	142
Trichomoniasis in women	54
Infectious syphilis in women	7

Not surprisingly in 2021, there was a marked reduction in consultations as a result of extended lockdowns in Victoria. Prior to 2020, the numbers of consultations continued to rise with the number of individuals steadily increasing (Figure 1). In 2015, there were 42,466 consultations in total; 46,564 in 2016, 49,370 in 2017, 55,862 in 2018 and 57,110 in 2019. There was a marginal decrease in consultations in the General Clinic from 36,528 in 2012 to 35,072 in 2013 and in 2014 35,836. Since 2015, consultations in the General Clinic have risen from 37,859 to 52,454 in 2019 (Table 3). The number of returning clients remained at approximately the same level from 2013 (19,410 to 19,851 in 2015) after a significant reduction in returning clients in 2012 as a result of changes to sexworker health checks from monthly to 3 monthly in October 2012 and the change in policy of HIV negative results for all clients being provided by telephone consultations from the beginning of 2013. Since 2016, there has been a significant increase in returning clients (22,422 to 28,614 in 2018 and 27,853 in 2019). This may be the result of the introduction of the Test and Go (TAG) and HIV Integrated (HIP) services.

Figure 1 Increasing numbers of clients each year until COVID-19 in 2020/1



Prior to 2020, the numbers of positive chlamydia and gonorrhoea tests also increased (Figure 2 and 3) as well as the number of infectious syphilis cases (Figure 4).

Figure 2 Number of positive chlamydia tests by year

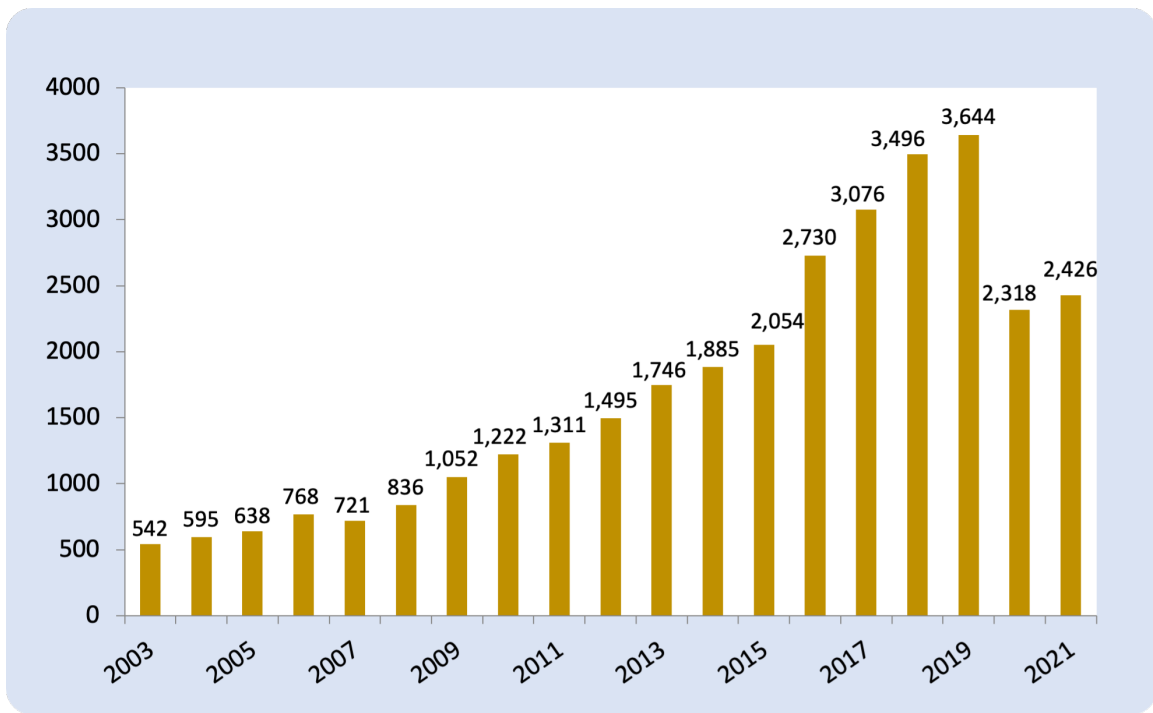


Figure 3 Number of positive gonorrhoea tests by year

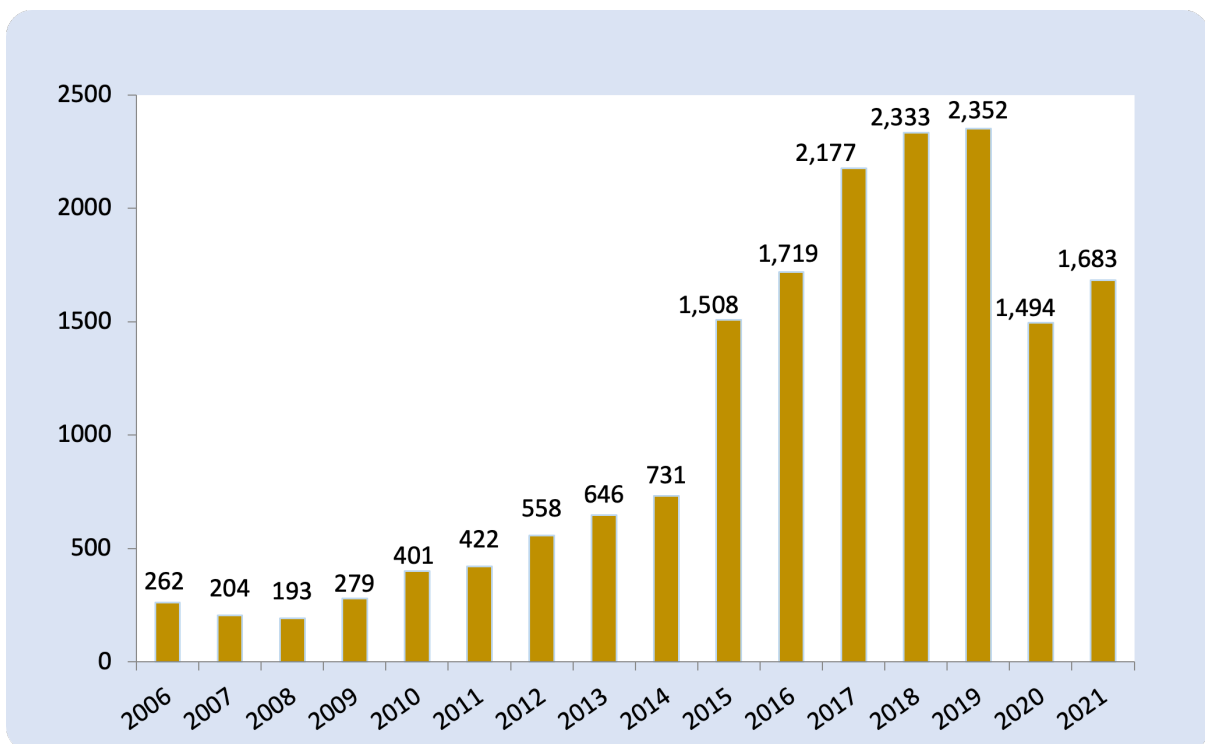


Figure 4 Number of infectious syphilis cases by quarter and year

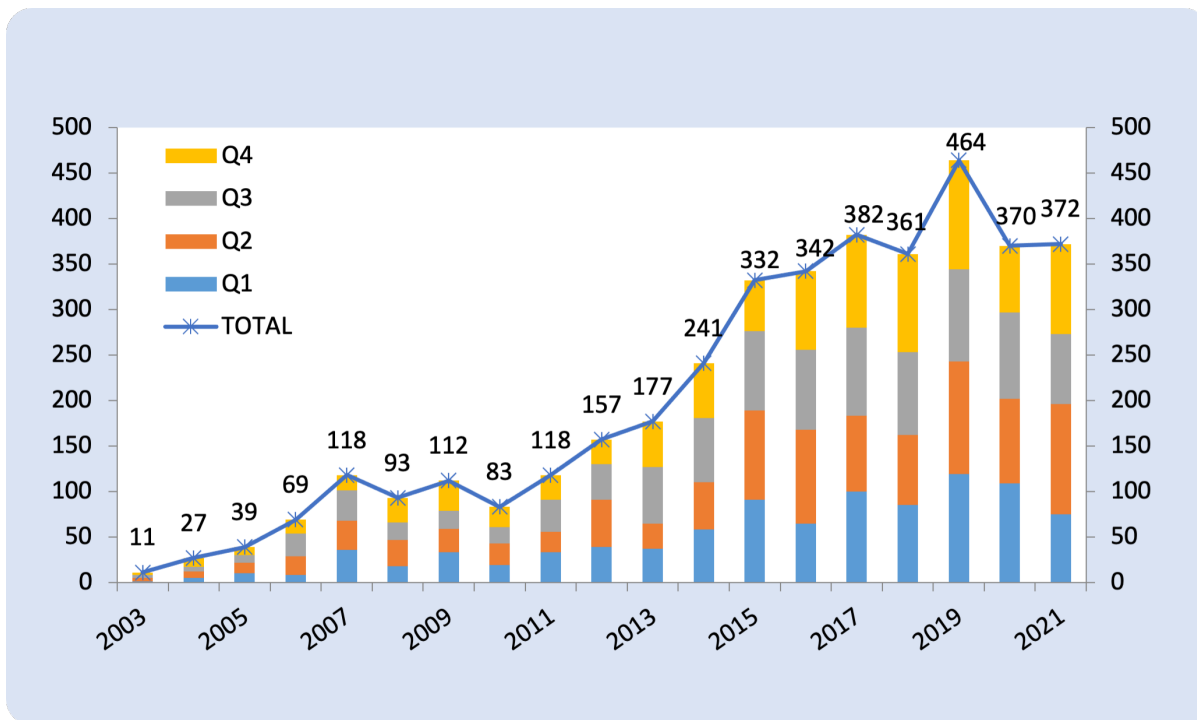
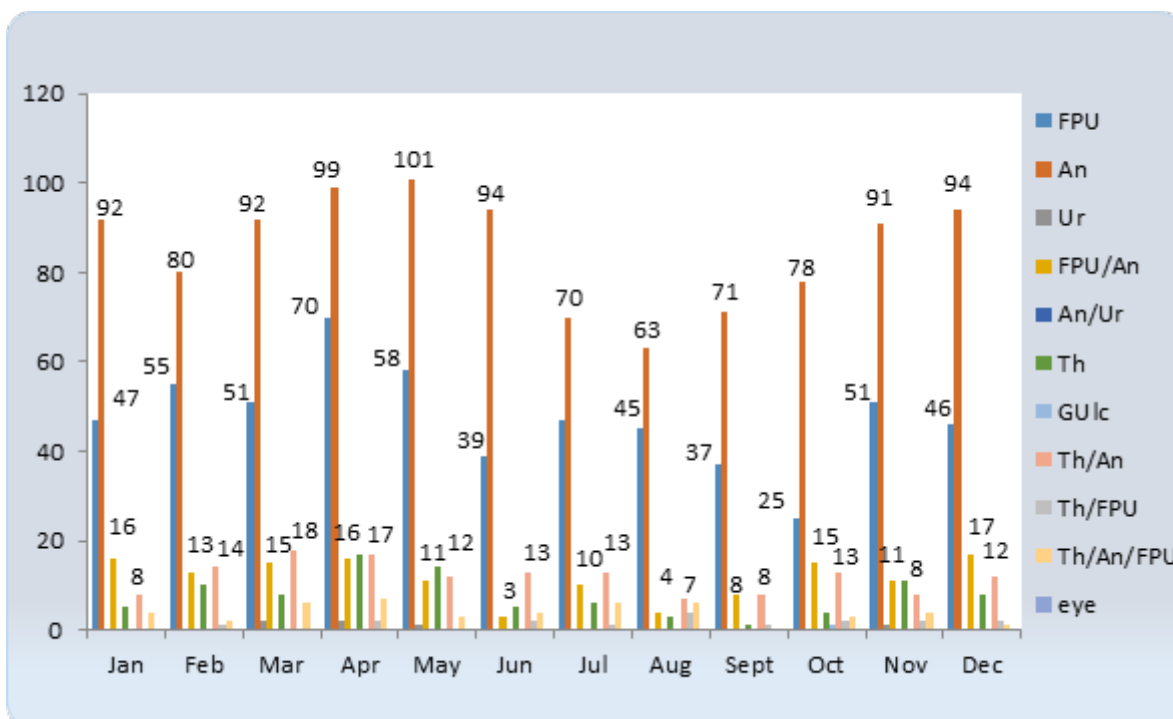
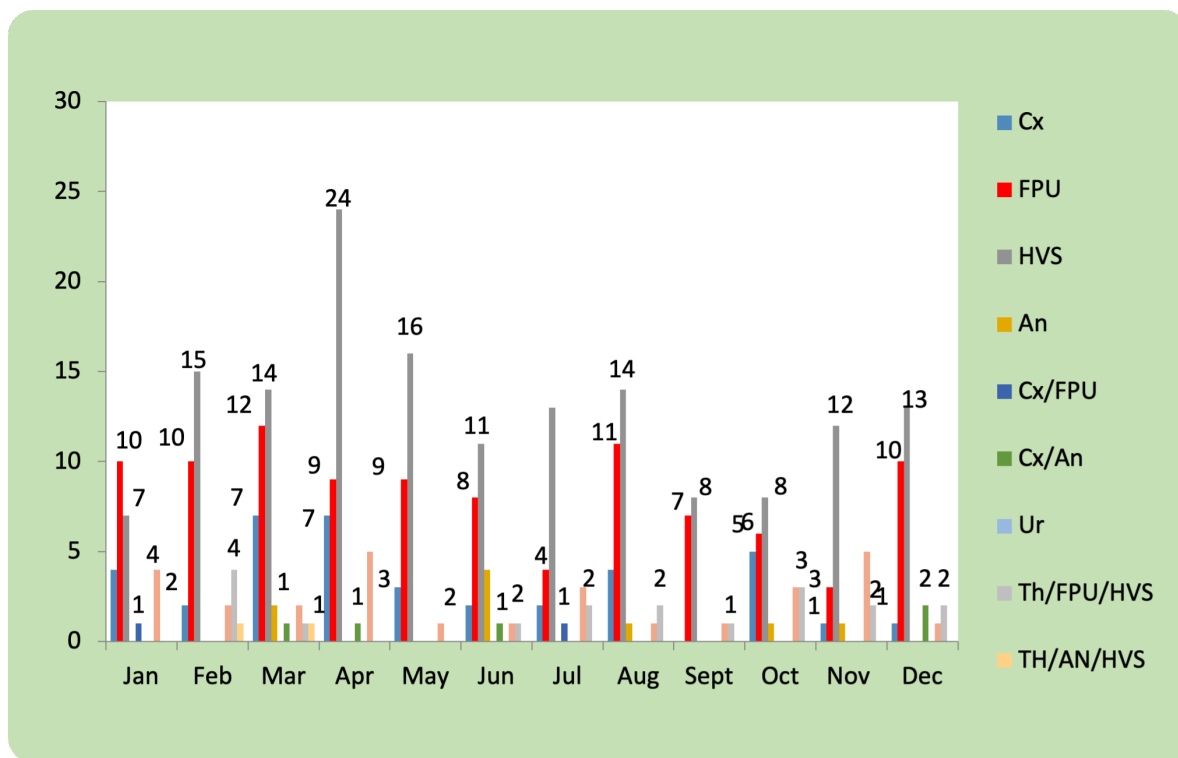


Figure 5 Sites of chlamydia infections among 2,040 males in 2021



List of abbreviations: FPU – first pass urine; An – anal; Ur – urethral, Th – throat, GUlc – genital ulcer

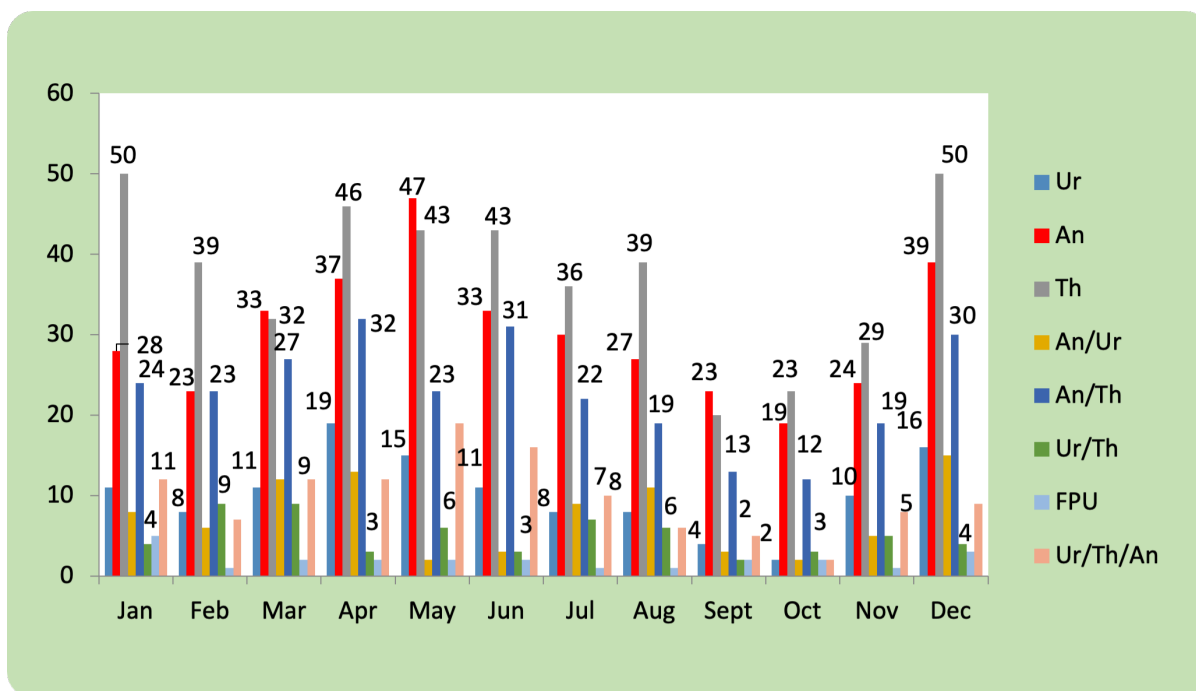
Figure 6 Sites of chlamydia infections among 357 females in 2021



List of abbreviations: Cx – cervical; HVS – high vaginal

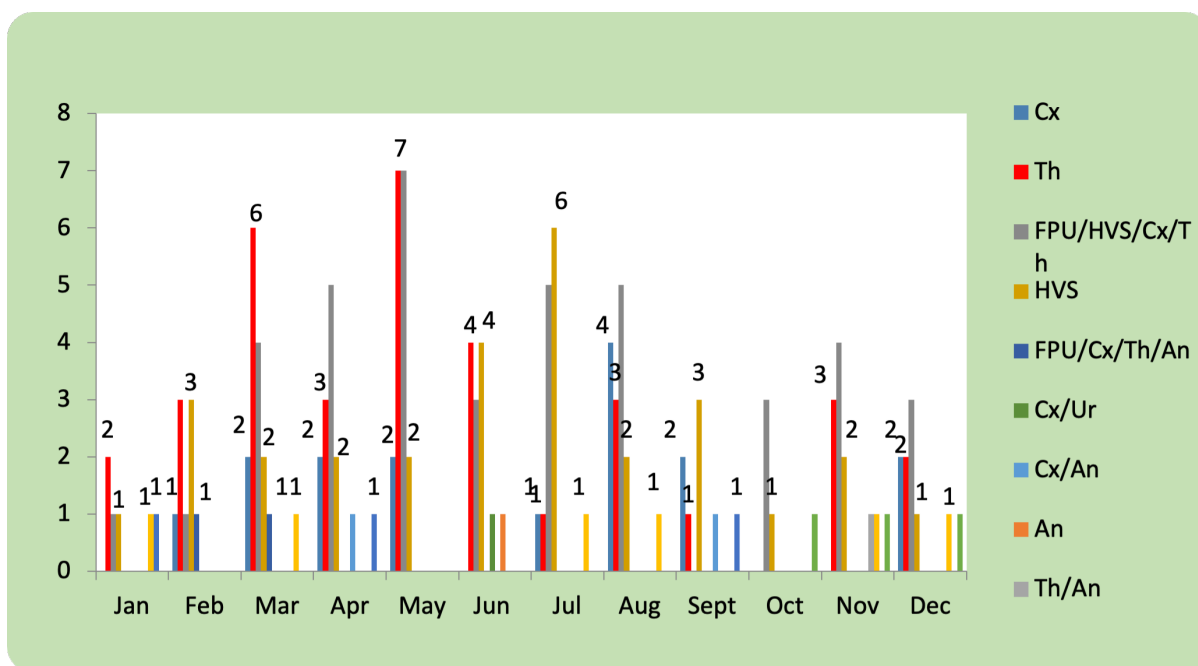
Chlamydia trachomatis remains the most common bacterial STI diagnosed at MSHC. The number of chlamydia infections by sex and site are shown in Figure 4 and 5). The majority of gonococcal infections occur in MSM.

Figure 7 Sites of gonococcal infections among 1,503 males in 2021



List of abbreviations: FPU – first pass urine; An – anal; Ur – urethral, Th – throat

Figure 8 Sites of gonococcal infections among 142 females in 2021



List of abbreviations: Cx – cervical; HVS – high vaginal

Table 5 Number of HIV and Syphilis tests provided by year

Year	HIV tests (Total)	HIV tests(in MSM)	Syphilis (Total)	Syphilis (in MSM)
2012	15168	6304	18129	8176
2013	17518	7544	20580	9489
2014	18666	8500	21881	10674
2015	20499	9931	23630	12199
2016	23307	12241	26443	14549
2017	25686	13753	29161	16332
2018	31315	15378	35245	18024
2019	31978	15008	36350	18043
2020	18900	9560	22650	12233
2021	20962	10559	24933	13382

MSM= men who have sex with men

The numbers of HIV and syphilis tests over time has doubled since 2012 to 2019 (Table 5; Figures 9 and 10)

Figure 9

Numbers of HIV tests taken over time

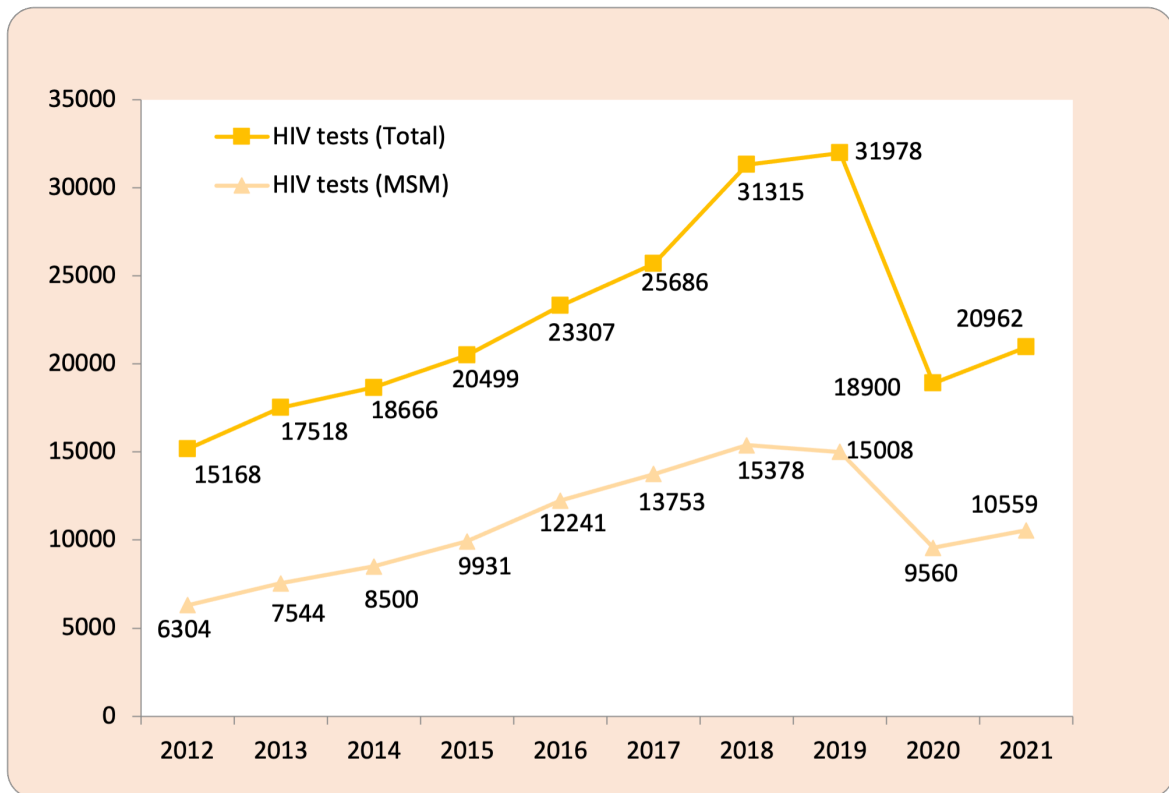
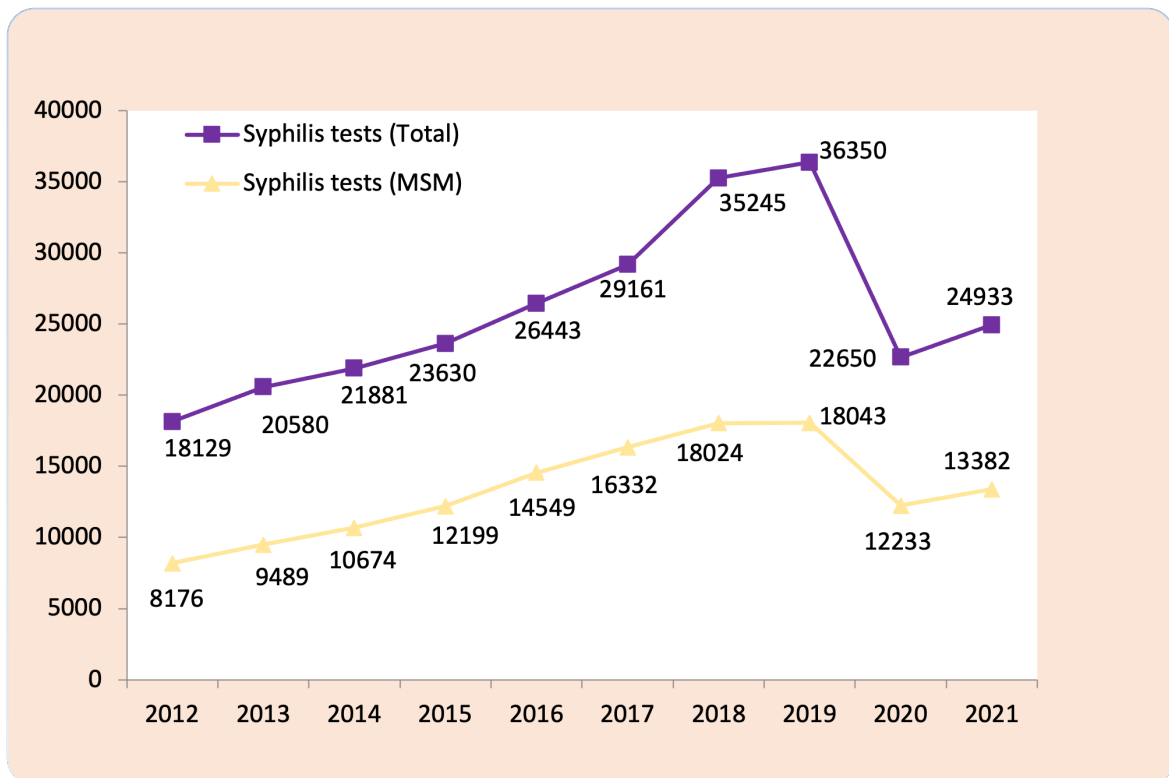


Figure 10

Numbers of Syphilis tests taken over time



RESEARCH

The Centre has continued to maintain strong research and education activities through the Central Clinical School, Monash University and The Sexual Health Unit of the School of Population Health, University of Melbourne

Postgraduate Research

Completed:

Mycoplasma genitalium to genital symptoms in women and MSM. **Rosie Latimer**, PhD, Monash University

Understanding the pathogenesis of bacterial vaginosis. **Erica Plummer**, PhD, Monash University

In progress:

Using metagenomic techniques to investigate the influence of hormonal contraception on the vaginal microbiota and to determine the cause of non-gonococcal urethritis. **Larissa Ratten**, PhD, Monash University

Novel approaches to treatment and testing of sexually transmitted infections. **Duygu Chloe Durukan**, PhD, Monash University

Applications of artificial intelligence on disease prevention in public health. **Xianglong Eric Xu**, PhD, Monash University

Understanding the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and evaluation of control approach. **Ei Aung**, PhD, Monash University

Emerging insights and novel interventions for the transmission dynamics and prevention of sexually transmissible infections among men who have sex with men. **Phuc (Julien) Hoang Tran**, PhD, Monash University

Cost-effectiveness of cervical cancer screening strategies in Japan. **Matthew Palmer**, PhD, The University of Melbourne

Systematic review of the quality of life of people with herpes. **Xiu Qin Xiong**, PhD, The University of Melbourne

Completed research projects as part of MPH

A qualitative study investigating the attitudes of MSM toward routine STI testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea. **Amelia Wardley**, University of Melbourne

The impact of COVID-19 on sexual and reproductive health of people living in Australia: What was the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown on the reported sexual behaviour and use of dating apps of adults aged over 18 years old living in Australia in 2020? A data analysis project. **Soyolmaa Erdenebaatar**, University of Melbourne

Scoping review of behavioural economics in HIV research. **Alex Andrawis**, The University of Melbourne

Cost-effectiveness of pay-it-forward approach to improve influenza vaccination in China. **Fongyi Tang**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Systematic review of the quality of life instruments for people living with HIV. **Sally Ying Zhang**, The University of Sydney

Systematic review of the quality of life instruments for people living with HIV. **Emily Hulse**, The University of Sydney

Medical Student Projects

Group sex practices among at-risk population. **Chen Lew**, Monash University

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual practices. **Sanjana Gupta**, Monash University

Role of syphilis serology on the day of treatment. **Katrina Pandey**, Monash University

Opt-out and opt-in syphilis screening of females at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. **Palak Gupta**, Monash University

Adherence to antiretroviral therapy among people living with HIV in the COVID-19 pandemic in Melbourne. **Dooyeon Lee**, The University of Melbourne

Trends in Trichomonas vaginalis in women in Melbourne. **Esha Abraham**, Monash University

Time between the onset of STI-related symptoms and healthcare seeking among males and females attending the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. **Rebecca Farquarson**, Monash University

Trends in different contraception methods among women in Melbourne. **Brigitte Choo**, Monash University.

Systematic review of the quality of life of people with syphilis. **Patrick Miao**, The University of Melbourne

Systematic review of HIV testing approaches and HIV test uptake. **Qi Rui Soh**, The University of Melbourne

Systematic review of HIV testing approaches and HIV test uptake. **Leon Oh**, The University of Melbourne

Review of Australian anal cancer screening guidelines. **Melissa Shi**, The University of Melbourne

Review of Australian anal cancer screening guidelines. **Emma Sivewright**, The University of Melbourne

Review of Australian anal cancer screening guidelines. **Qi Rui Soh**, The University of Melbourne.

Systematic review of the quality of life instruments for people living with HIV. **Christine He**, The University of Sydney

Systematic review of pooling of STI samples. **Rachel Yangqi Xu**, The University of Melbourne

Systematic review of pooling of STI samples. **Lily Aboud**, James Cook University

Bachelor of Medical Science (Hons)

A Qualitative study: 'Not the answer for everybody': exploring the provision of medical abortion via telehealth in Victoria. **Susan Paloma Saldanha**, University of Melbourne

Examining the characteristics of Neisseria gonorrhoeae clusters in Melbourne. **Roman Mykutowycz**, Monash University.

Understanding the transmission dynamics and exploring novel interventions for gonorrhoea and syphilis. **Julien Tran**, Monash University

Trends in different contraception methods among women in Melbourne. **Brigitte Choo**, Monash University

Infectious causes of cervicitis in women attending Melbourne Sexual Health Centre: ten-year series (2011 - 2021). **Thuy Vy Nguyen**, Monash University

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Eric Chow received the following awards:

- 2021 Melbourne School of Population and Global Health Research Achievement Award (Emerging Researcher) Winner, The University of Melbourne
- 2021 Alfred Health Recognising Excellence Awards for Professional Staff Excellence – Individual Category Winner, Alfred Health
- 2021 Australasian Sexual Health Conference SHSOV Best Poster Award, Sexual Health Society of Victoria
- 2021 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians Award, Asian-Australian Leadership Summit
- 2021 ASRHA Innovation Award, Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Alliance

Jason Ong received the following award:

- 2021 Royal Australasian College of Physicians AChSHM Award for Best Postgraduate Thesis in Sexual Health Medicine

Lenka Vodstrcil received the following award:

- 2021 Monash University - Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences - EMCR Virtual Conference Support Grant

Erica Plummer received the following award:

- “Best oral presentation (Young Investigator) award from the American STD Association at the STI & HIV 2021 World Congress for my talk titled “The impact of concurrent partner treatment for bacterial vaginosis on the genital microbiota of heterosexual couples: a pilot study”

Janet Towns received the following awards:

- A Monash University post-doctoral bridging grant
- The Burnet Prize for Infectious Diseases Research

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Study: Paying for sex among males and females: a cross-sectional survey in Melbourne, Australia

Researchers: Chow EPF, Hocking JS, Bradshaw CS, Phillips TR, Tabesh M, Donovan B, Maddaford K, Chen MY, Fairley CK

Publication: *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* 2021; 48(3): 195-199. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0000000000001307

Summary: A short survey at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre between March and April 2019 included a question on whether males and females had paid for sex in the past 3 months. The number who reported paying for sex in the past 3 months was 12% among heterosexual males, followed by 6% among men who have sex with men (MSM) and 0.2% among females. No MSM living with HIV reported paying for sex in the past 3 months. MSM who paid for sex were found to have infection with gonorrhoea more than those who had not paid for sex. Paying for sex was more commonly reported among heterosexual males, followed by MSM. Females were very unlikely to pay for sex.

Study: Associations between oral sex practices and frequent mouthwash use in heterosexuals: a cross-sectional survey in Melbourne, Australia

Researchers: Phillips TR, Fairley CK, Bradshaw CS, Tabesh M, Maddaford K, Hocking JS, Chow EPF

Publication: *BMJ Open* 2021; 11: e 041782 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-041782

Summary: Heterosexual men and women attending the sexual health clinic answered a survey about their mouthwash use. There were 681 heterosexuals included in the analysis: 315 (46.3%) men and 366 (53.7%) women and 302 (44.3%) used mouthwash frequently, 173 (25.4%) used mouthwash infrequently and 206 (30.2%) never used mouthwash. Frequent mouthwash users were not found to be at risk for sexually transmitted infection. Older heterosexuals were more likely to use mouthwash.

Study: Group sex among men who have sex with men in the era of PrEP: A cross-sectional study

Researchers: Phillips TR, Fairley CK, Bradshaw CS, Hocking JS, Choi EPH, Ong JJ, Tabesh M, Maddaford K, Chow EPF

Publication: *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* 2021; 86(2): e23-e27 doi:10.1097/QAI.0000000000002550

Summary: Group sex has been commonly reported among gay and bisexual men who have sex with men (GBMSM): A study among GBMSM attending a sexual health clinic in Melbourne, Australia included 357 GBMSM who participated in the survey and almost a third had participated in group sex in the last 3 months. Recent group sex participation was not associated with being diagnosed with any STI (chlamydia, syphilis, or gonorrhoea) on the day. PrEP users and MSM attending SOPVs are more likely to participate in group sex. SOPV could be important venues for future public health campaigns.

Study: Sex is associated with the persistence of non-optimal vaginal microbiota following treatment for bacterial vaginosis: a prospective cohort study

Researchers: Ratten LK, Plummer EL, Murray GL, Danielewski J, Fairley CK, Garland SM, Hocking JS, Tachedjian G, Chow EPF, Bradshaw CS, Vodstrcil LA

Publication: *BJOG* 2021; 128(4): 756-767 doi: 10.1111/14710528.16430 & Commentary *BJOG* 2021; 128(4): 768

Summary: Seventy-five reproductive-age women diagnosed with clinical BV were treated and followed for up to 6 months. Women self-collected vaginal swabs and completed questionnaires at enrolment, after treatment and monthly for up to 6 months until BV recurrence or no BV recurrence. Women who reported ongoing sex with a regular sexual partner (RSP) had increased BV bacteria and decreased normal vaginal bacteria (*Lactobacillus* species). BV treatment approaches may need to include partner treatment.

Figure 12 Number of publications over time

The number of publications in peer reviewed journals steadily increased from 6 in 2002 to 30 in 2012, and then significant increases were achieved from 49 in 2013 to 120 in 2017, and 108 in 2021.



PUBLICATIONS

1. Phillips TR, Fairley CK, Bradshaw CS, Tabesh M, Maddaford K, Hocking JS, Chow EPF. Associations between oral sex practices and frequent mouthwash use in heterosexuals: a cross-sectional survey in Melbourne, Australia. *BMJ Open* 2021;11: e041782 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-041782
2. Chow EPF, Hocking JS, Ong JJ, Phillips TR, Schmidt T, Buchanan A, Rodriguez E, Maddaford K, Fairley CK. Changes in PrEP use, sexual practice, and use of face mask during sex among MSM during the second wave of COVID-19 in Melbourne, Australia. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* 2021; 86(2): 153-156. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000002575
3. Phillips TR, Fairley CK, Bradshaw CS, Hocking JS, Choi EPH, Ong JJ, Tabesh M, Maddaford K, Chow EPF. Group sex among men who have sex with men in the era of PrEP: A cross-sectional study. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* 2021; 86(2): e23-e27 doi:10.1097/QAI.0000000000002550
4. Chow EPF, Hocking JS, Ong JJ, Phillips TR, Fairley CK. Sexually transmitted infection diagnoses and access to a sexual health service before and after the national lockdown for COVID-19 in Melbourne, Australia. *Open Forum Infectious Diseases* 2021; 8(1): ofaa536
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Ahead of Print

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STAFF

The continuing successes enjoyed by MSHC hinge on the ongoing enthusiasm and dedication shown by its multidisciplinary team. The professionalism and commitment of all staff of MSHC is reflected in the Annual Client Surveys which have recorded overall satisfaction rates of approximately 97-99% since 2005 (see [Annual Client Survey](#)).

All these people make up our army to help test, treat and terminate- STIs in the communities we serve.

Staff Members

Administration and Computer Services

Afrizal	ICT Analyst
Suzanne Amisano	Operations Manager
Luke Bongalis	Patient Services Officer
Bethany Griffiths	Patient Services Officer
Samantha Jeffers	Patient Services Officer
David Johnston	Patient Services Officer
Mark Lancellotti	Patient Services Officer
Alison Levey	Patient Services Co-ordinator
David Nguyen	Patient Services Officer
Sharon Noronho	Patient Services Officer
Elizabeth O'Neill	Patient Services Officer
Rashidur Rahman	IT Lead Technology Specialist
Max Rex	Patient Services Officer
Cecily Sheppard	Patient Services Officer
Maggie Vandeleur	Patient Services Officer
Wendy Zeng	Patient Services Officer

Other Support

Mark Chung	Multimedia Content Co-ordinator
Glenda Fehler	Clinical Project Manager
James Unger	Personal Assistant to Director
Lyn Zhang	Resource and Billing Officer

Clinical Services - Medical

Ei Aung	Doctor
Karen Berzins	Doctor
Melanie Bissessor	Doctor
Stephanie Bond	Doctor
Catriona Bradshaw	Doctor
Andrew Buchanan	Doctor
Marcus Chen	Doctor, Medical Unit Manager
Kathy Cook	Doctor

Mark Darling	Dermatologist
Ian Denham	Doctor
Christopher Fairley	Professor/Director
Kath Fethers	Doctor
Kate Htaik	Doctor
Helen Henzell	Doctor
Sarah Huffam	Doctor
Yasmin Hughes	Doctor
Kirsty McNab	Doctor
Alex Marceglia	Doctor
Anna Morton	Doctor
Jason Ong	Doctor
Stephen Rowles	Doctor
Tina Schmidt	Doctor
Richard Teague	Doctor
Janet Towns	Doctor
Hennie Williams	Doctor, Senior Lecturer
Josephine Yeatman	Dermatologist

Clinical Services - Nursing and Counsellors

Surbhi Bird	Sexual Health Clinic Support Nurse
Caroline Cittarelli	Sexual Health Clinic Support Nurse
Sara Aberdeen	Sexual Health Nurse
Penne Braybrook	Sexual Health Nurse
Sam Collins	Sexual Health Nurse
Freya Dench	Sexual Health Nurse
Roisin Dennen	Sexual Health Nurse
Sheranne Dobinson	Sexual Health Nurse
Noriko Doktorovich	Sexual Health Nurse
Michelle Doyle	Sexual Health Nurse
Jo Eccles	Sexual Health Nurse
Ria Fortune	Nursing Services Manager
Shauna Hall	Sexual Health Nurse
Nina Hancox	Counsellor
Peter Hayes	Counsellor
Vic Harden	Sexual Health Nurse
Robyn Holmes	Sexual Health Nurse
Jayne Howard	Sexual Health Nurse
Kerri Howley	Sexual Health Nurse
Kayla Jones	Sexual Health Nurse
Jason Kenna	Sexual Health Nurse
Lisa Kennedy	Sexual Health Nurse
Annie Lang	Sexual Health Nurse
David Lee	Sexual Health Nurse Practitioner
Chantal Maloney	Sexual Health Nurse
Luke Mitchell	Sexual Health Nurse
Colette Mc Guinness	Sexual Health Nurse
Lesley O'Donell	Sexual Health Nurse
Kirsty Owen	Sexual Health Nurse
Monica Owlad	Sexual Health Nurse
Susan Peterson	Sexual Health Nurse
Kate Potappel	Sexual Health Nurse
Claire Randall	Sexual Health Nurse

Anne Reid	Sexual Health Nurse
Suzanne Rose	Sexual Health Nurse
Carly Schreiber	Sexual Health Nurse
Anthony Snow	Sexual Health Nurse Practitioner
Haipeing Tang	Sexual Health Nurse
Mark Thompson	Sexual Health Nurse
Jocelyn Verry	Counsellor
Patricia Wakefield	Sexual Health Nurse/Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator
Rebecca Wigan	Sexual Health Nurse
Jordan Wotten	Sexual Health Nurse
Karen Worthington	Sexual Health Nurse

HIV Clinic

Shauna Hall	Clinical HIV Co-ordinator
Stephen Kent	Doctor
Richard Moore	Doctor
Joe Sasadeusz	Doctor
Jeanette Venkataya	Patient Services Officer

Evaluation Unit

Jade Bilardi	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Katie Coulthard	Research Assistant
Eric Chow	Head, Health Data Management and Biostatistics Unit
Michelle Doyle	Research Nurse
Helen Kent	Research Nurse
Kate Maddeford	Research Nurse
Colette Mc Guinness	Research Nurse
Erica Plummer	PhD, Masters in Bioinformatics
Tiffany Phillips	Research Administration
Elena Rodriguez	Research Nurse
Julie Silvers	Research Nurse
Marjan Tabesh	Research Fellow
Gerald Tataro	Research Nurse
Julian Tran	PhD scholar, Research Assistant
Lenka Vodstrcil	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Rebecca Wigan	Research Nurse
Jason Wu	Research Nurse
Lei Zang	PhD, Master of Applied Mathematics

Laboratory

Vesna de Petra	Section Leader
Catherine Flower	Laboratory Scientist
Kate Paoli	Laboratory Scientist
Marleen Tschaepe	Laboratory Section Support
Maree Soumilas	Laboratory Scientist
Phoebe Webster	Laboratory Scientist
Olivia Lay	Laboratory Scientist
Gizem Sen	Laboratory Scientist

Pharmacy

Ivette Aguirre	Senior Clinical Pharmacist
Jenny Ly	Senior Clinical Pharmacist

Long Service Awards

Staff member	No. years
Sarah Huffam	10
Glenda Fehler	15
Lisa Kennedy	15
Kit Fairley	20
Julie Silvers	20
Richard Teague	20
Jeanette Venkataya	20
Jocelyn Verry	20
Wendy Zeng	20

