



MELBOURNE
SEXUAL
HEALTH
CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT

2020



MSHC
MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE
Part of **AlfredHealth**



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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](http://www.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 www.mshc.org.au comprises of information divided into four major sections:

- Clinic information that includes available services recently implemented
- Sexual health for the general public
- Resources for health professionals
- Research and education

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
- <https://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
- [checkyourrisk](http://checkyourrisk.org.au) (Check Your Risk) to check risk of exposure to an STI
- <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
- [mshc.org.au / syphilis](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
- [healthmap](http://healthmap.org.au) (Health Map) for HIV positive people to find out what tests are needed and also what issues should be on the agenda at the next visit to the doctor or clinic. Health Map asks questions about health and provides a personal report, based on expert advice. This report directs users to chosen websites for particular needs, and provides some facts and a "to do" list for medical care
- <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:

- Online STI atlas <https://stiatlas.org/> 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
- [http://www.mshc.org.au/ \(GP Assist\)](http://www.mshc.org.au/gpassist) provides a mechanism to improve partner notification by providing the [www.mshc.org.au/ GP Assist](http://www.mshc.org.au/gpassist) web address on laboratory reports of positive results of common STIs. Accessible information about treatment of the more common STIs and simple tools such as partner letters and fact sheets for GPs to use in discussing partner notification are also available at this site
- <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 presentations. The PDF file may be downloaded to allow offline access, both desktop and mobile, but please make sure you have the latest version. The Tool is an ongoing project and will be updated frequently.

- Treatment guidelines <https://www.mshc.org.au/health-professionals/treatment-guidelines>

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.

This year the nurses course where we offer clinical training was unable to be run due to COVID-19.

Other courses completed were:

- 4 students completed the subject Adolescent Sexuality and Sexual Health as a short course
- 5 students completed the subject Prevention and Control of STIs and HIV at MSHC (3 were nurses working in the National Skin Centre (NSC) in Singapore which is the only publically funded STI service)
- 2 students completed the subject Sexual and Reproductive Health as a short course at MSHC

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 97% of clients in 2020 expressed satisfaction with the service.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2020

Well what an extraordinary year this has been. The strength of our character and of our commitment to serve the Victorian community was clearly demonstrated this year. Despite a real and considerable risk at the peak of the epidemic in Victoria we rose to the challenge and provided services to those in need. We did this at a time when little was known about the epidemic or how best to protect our staff working in the area. Yet we remained open, each and every working day of the pandemic. Not all services in Australia maintained access to the public like we did. Thank you to our MSHC team. Our appreciation to all our staff who volunteered to work in the DHHS COVID-19 team assisting with contact tracing, including Patricia Wakefield, Jocelyn Verry, Anne Reid, Colette McGuinness, Lesley Kotov, Caroline Cittarelli, Jo Eccles, Sheranne Dobinson, Anthony Snow, Kate Potappel and Karen Worthington. Thanks also to Kate Maddeford, Rebecca Wigan, Elena Rodriguez and Helen Kent who went to support Alfred Health Infection Prevention team.

We saw considerably fewer consultations (37,623) than in previous years because of reduced demand. We rapidly adapted the way we provided services to the public to ensure access and minimal COVID-19 risk to staff or our clients. We rapidly implemented enormous changes in the way we did things such as moving to self-collected samples, telephone triage, and waiting outside the building rather than inside. No staff acquired COVID-19 from the workplace. The largest declines occurred in clients at lowest risk and fortunately individuals with important conditions or severe symptoms continued to seek care at a similar rate to previous years, and we were there to serve them.

The highlight of this year was the work being undertaken by Ria Fortune, Suzanne Amisano and Marcus Chen to develop a network of general practices to act as Spokes in a Victorian STI network in an attempt to relieve the unsustainable pressure that was mounting on our service. This program of work is known as the Victorian Sexual Health Service Strategy. In 2020, MSHC received funding from the Victorian DHHS to develop the Hub and Spoke model for STI services in Victoria. We recruited three clinics in 2020; in Clayton, Hillside and Tarneit and provided them with training and support. A special thanks to Melanie Bissessor and Chantel Maloney for the high quality training they provided. An initial evaluation of the first few months of this serviced showed it was being utilized and was highly acceptable. More clinics will be added in 2021. Suzanne Amisano who as part of this project led the development of the staystifree.org.au website which is truly exceptional. Suzanne won the Alfred Health Recognising Excellence Awards- Leading Innovation and Change Award for the Stay STI Free website.

We improved services in the Green Room by implementing a system allowing a much stronger connection between our service and our clients' general practitioners. After each consultation with a doctor the client's general practitioner receives a letter and often a copy of the results. This seamless change began on the 27th of July and is working very well mainly because of the careful and meticulous planning undertaken in preparation for it, including considerable changes to MSHC electronic medical record system to allow this to occur.

We've also had some very considerable success with promotions in 2020. Catriona Bradshaw was appointed to full Professor at Monash University. This is comparable to a 'personal chair' and is a highly significant achievement and credit to her many years of hard work, successful grants, mentorship of junior staff and international recognition. Her application was described by the committee as outstanding.

Congratulations to Marcus Chen who has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Monash University. He has had some stellar publications recently and considerable grant success. Congratulations also to Lenka Vodstrcil and Jason Ong who were both promoted to Senior Lecture/Senior Research Fellow. Both are fabulous assets to our Centre and amazing team players.

Many of our team won prestigious awards this year. Eric Chow won the 2020 Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research, Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council. This means he was the top ranked applicant in the EL2 category of the NHMRC investigator grants in all of Australia. He also received the 2020 Levinia Crooks Emerging Leader in Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Award, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) and the 2019 NHMRC Peter Doherty Investigator Grant Award (Emerging Leadership), Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council. Congratulations to Jason Ong who was awarded an NHMRC Investigator grant and to Janet Towns who obtained her PhD including her seminal work in syphilis and software program ispysti.org. At the 2020 Australasian Sexual Health conference, Michelle Doyle won the prize for the best oral presentation and Tiffany Philips for the best poster prize. Rebecca Wigan, Elena Rodriguez and Eric Xu who received ASHM scholarships for attending the ASHM HIV & Sexual Health Virtual Conference.

In 2020 we published 98 scientific publications including seven papers in the Lancet series and one in the New England Journal of Medicine. This and our grant success would now place us near or at the top of research output in clinical STI services anywhere in the world. Thank you to all of those who have worked so hard over so many years to achieve this. We did it!

We have unfortunately had a few staff leave. Karen Kon retired after many years of exemplary service. She made such a wonderful contribution to MSHC but particularly to the administration team and was a great support to Suzanne Amisano. Thank you also to Fleur whose smiling face and warm manner will be greatly missed. We're also going to miss many other wonderful people who have left this year including Candice Fuller, Jordan Wotten, Kate Seong, Genevieve Lilley, Sabrina Trumpour, Wilson Chan, Katie Coulthard, Marjan Tabesh.

SERVICES AND CONSULTATIONS

The numbers of consultations by type of service provided onsite are shown in Table 3. A further 110 outreach consultations were carried out offsite at various venues for men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) and Access Health services for marginalized people.

Table 3

Clinic Type	Total	Male	Female	Transgender
General Clinic	32,862	22,325	10,130	407
HIV Clinic	4,001	3,510	452	39
Counselling	760	476	283	1
Total	37,623*	26,311	10,865	447
Individuals	27,098	18,642	8,141	315

* 34% reduction compared to last year in consultations due to covid19

Diagnoses

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

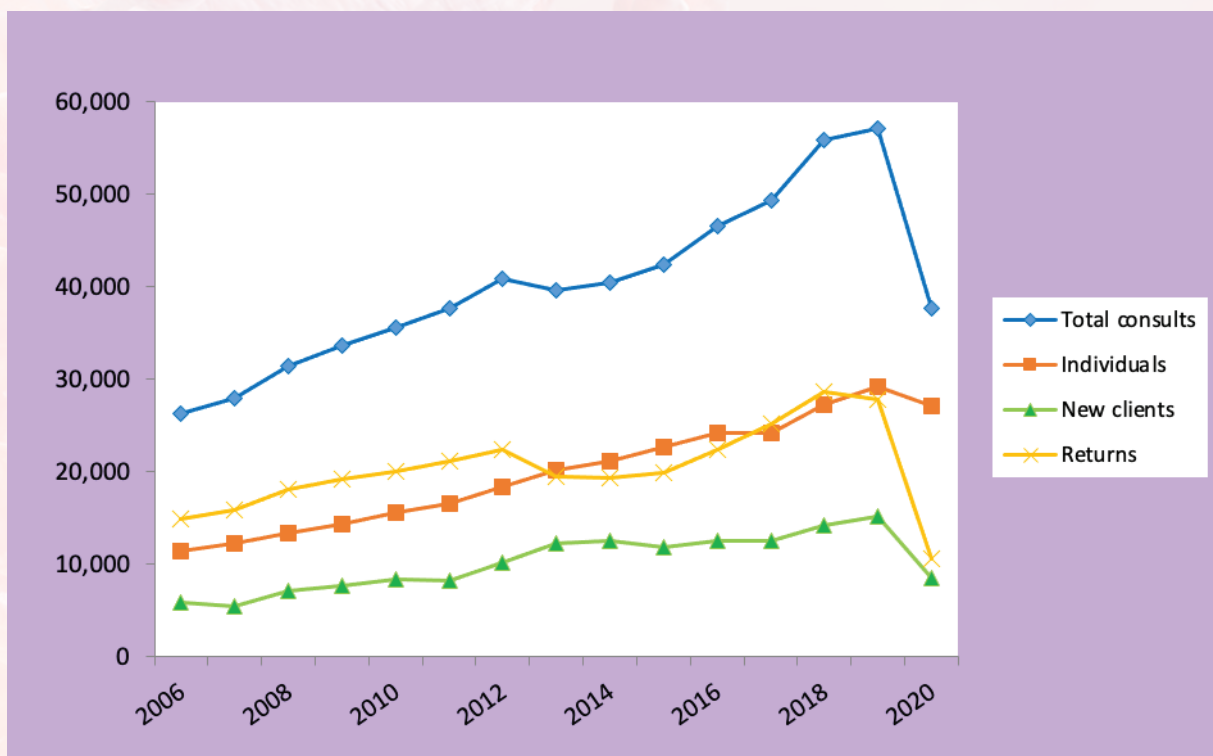
Gonococcal and chlamydial infections included are individuals with a newly diagnosed infection and may have more than one site of infection. Those returning with a new infection following successful treatment are included as a new diagnosis.

Table 4

Diagnoses	Total
Chlamydia trachomatis*	2,318
Neisseria gonorrhoeae*	1,494
Non gonococcal urethritis (NGU)	1,821
Herpes	783
Infectious syphilis	370
Bacterial vaginosis	1,087
Warts	1,000
HIV new cases	40
PID	236
Mycoplasma genitalium	370
Lymphogranuloma venereum	8
HIV PEP	808
PCI	19
Gonorrhoea in women	103
Trichomoniasis in women	37
Infectious syphilis in women	3

Not surprisingly in 2020, 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



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

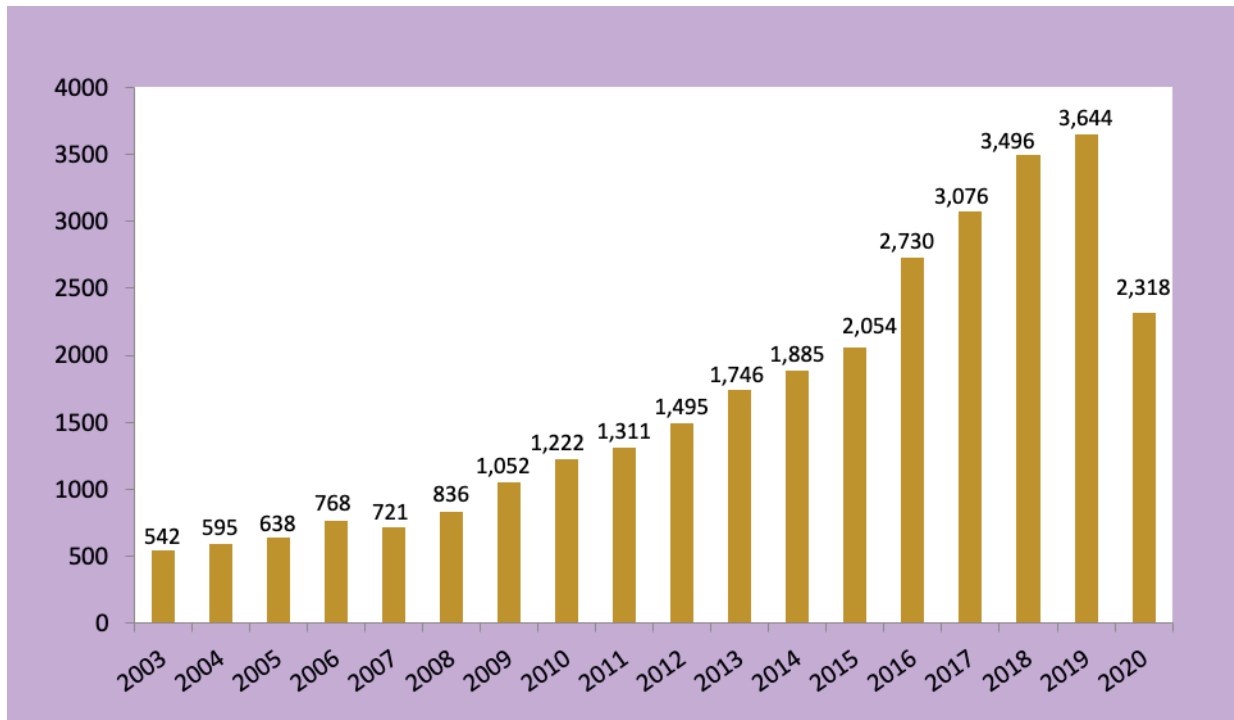


Figure 3

Number of positive gonorrhoea tests by year

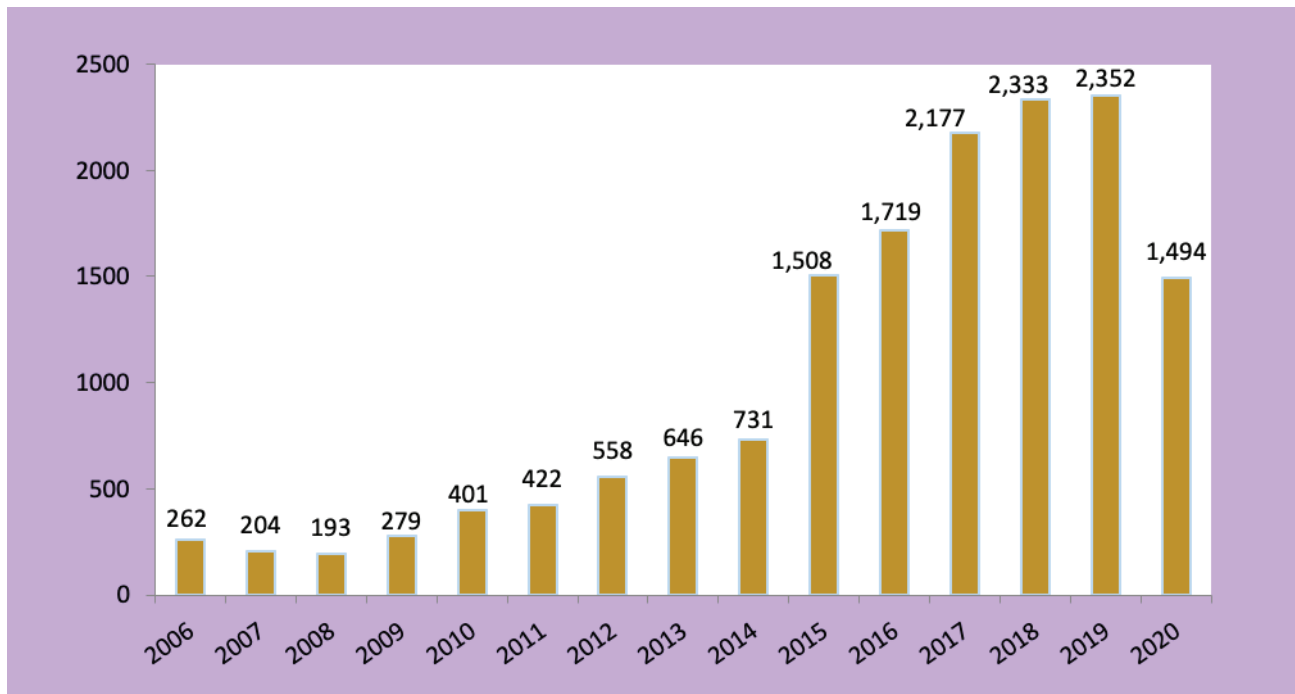


Figure 4

Number of infectious syphilis cases by quarter and year

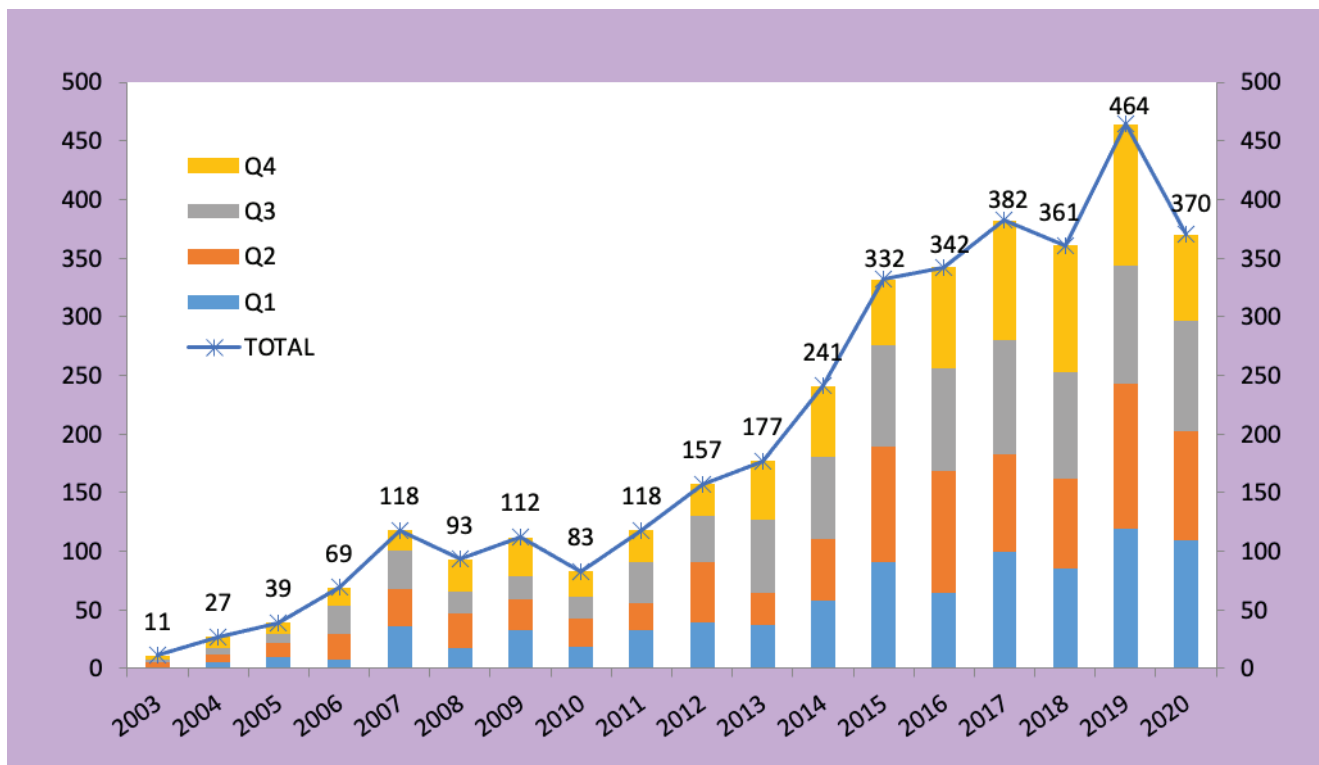
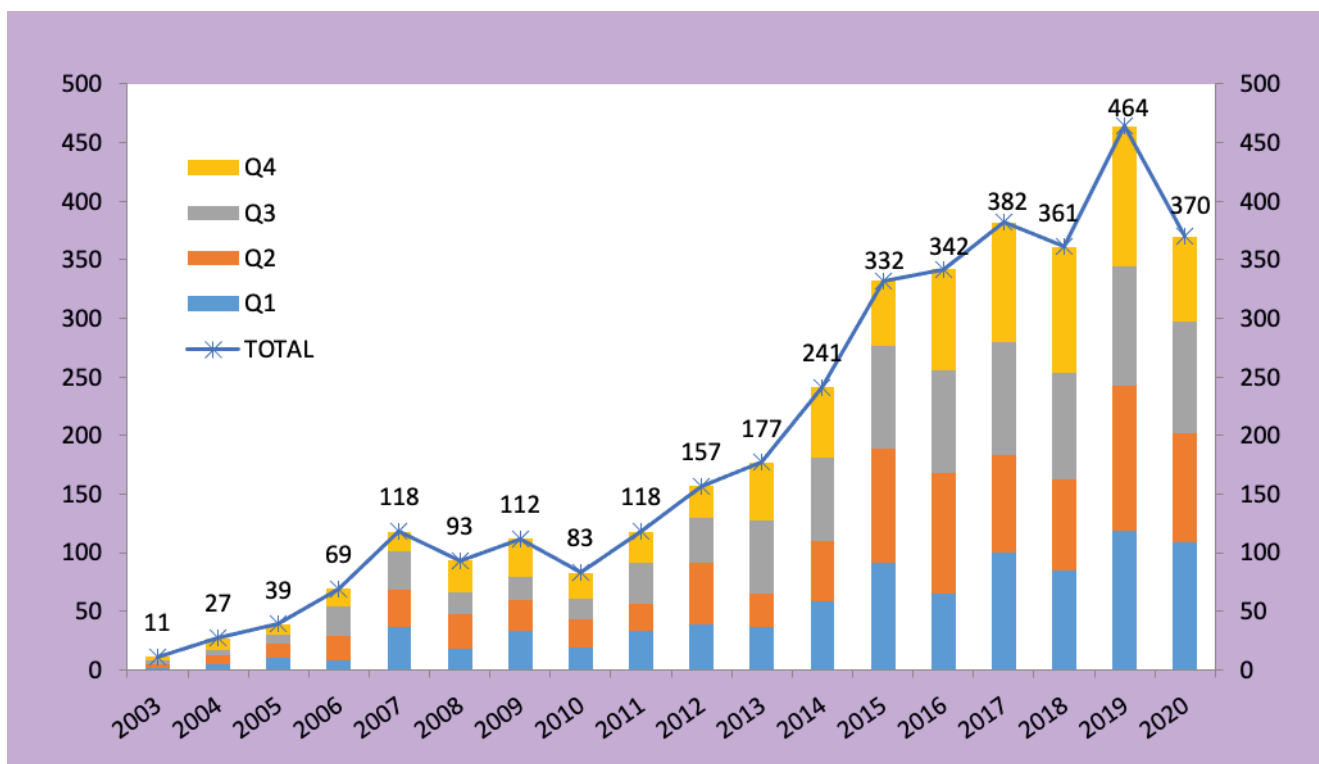


Figure 5

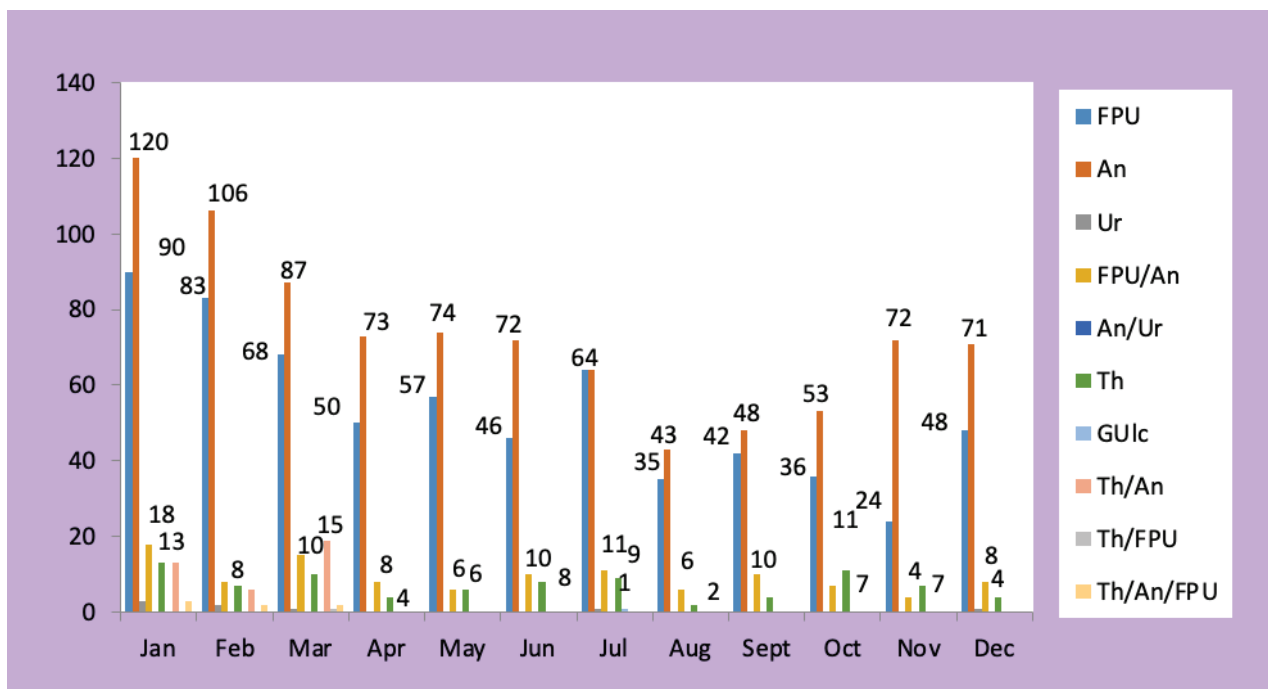
Sites of chlamydia infections among 1,855 males in 2020



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

Figure 6

Sites of chlamydia infections among 437 females in 2020

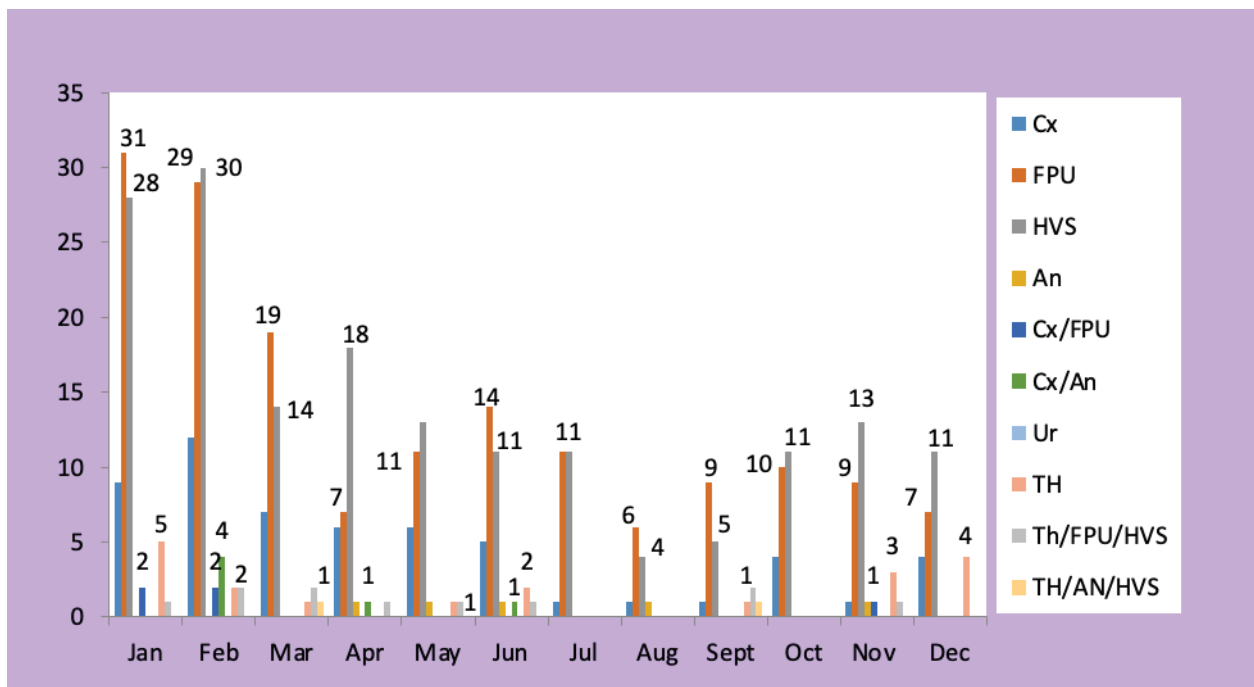


List of abbreviations: Cx – cervical; HVS – high vaginal

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

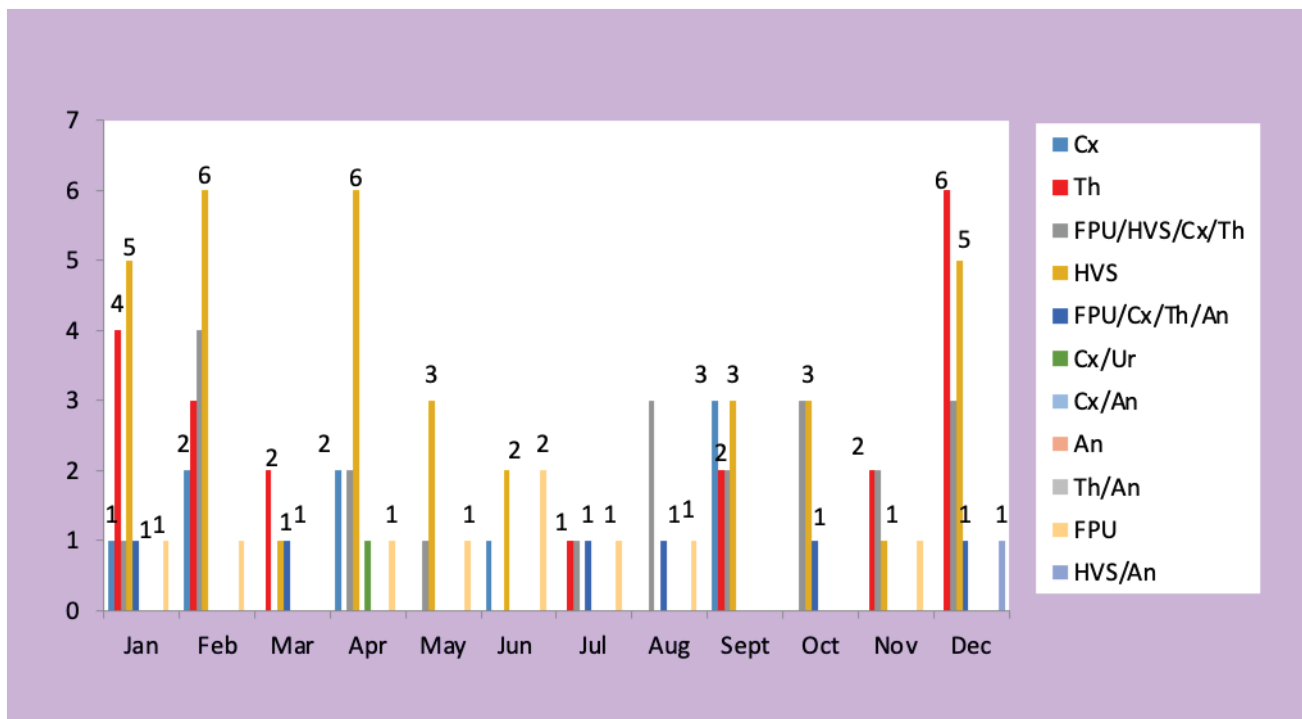
Sites of gonococcal infections among 1,361 males in 2020



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

Figure 8

Sites of gonococcal infections among 103 females in 2020



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

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

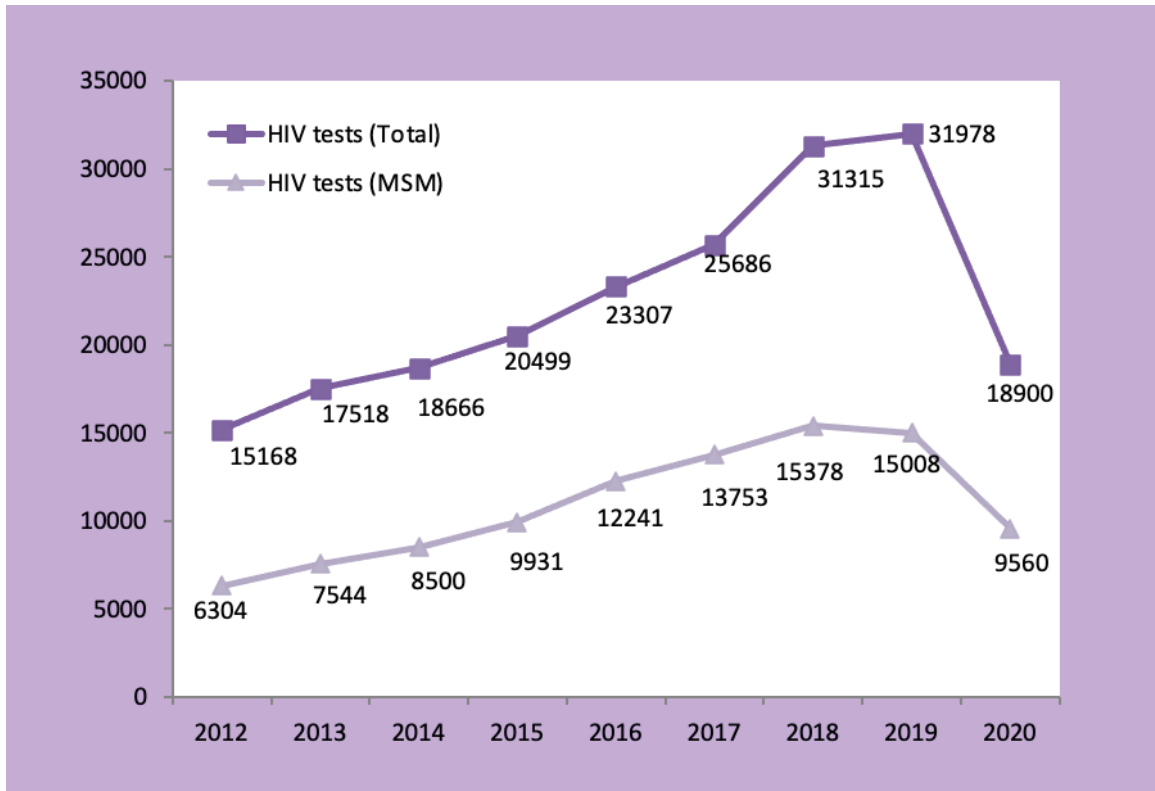


Figure 10

Numbers of Syphilis tests taken over time

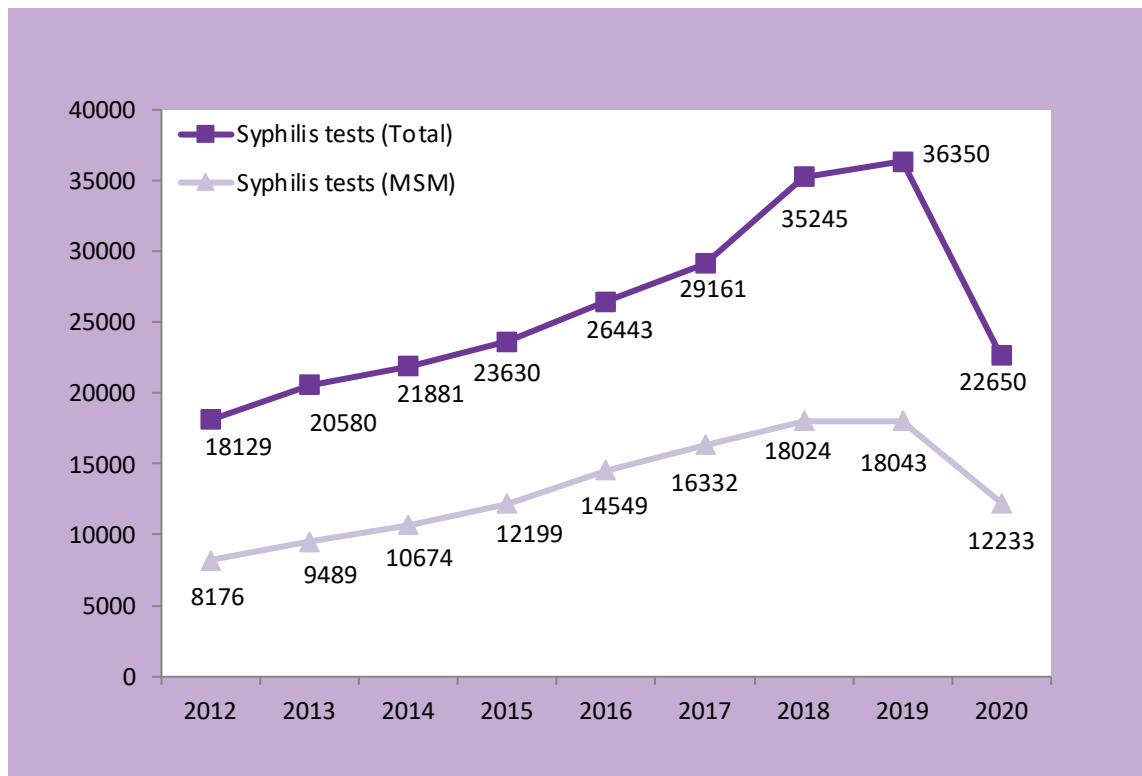
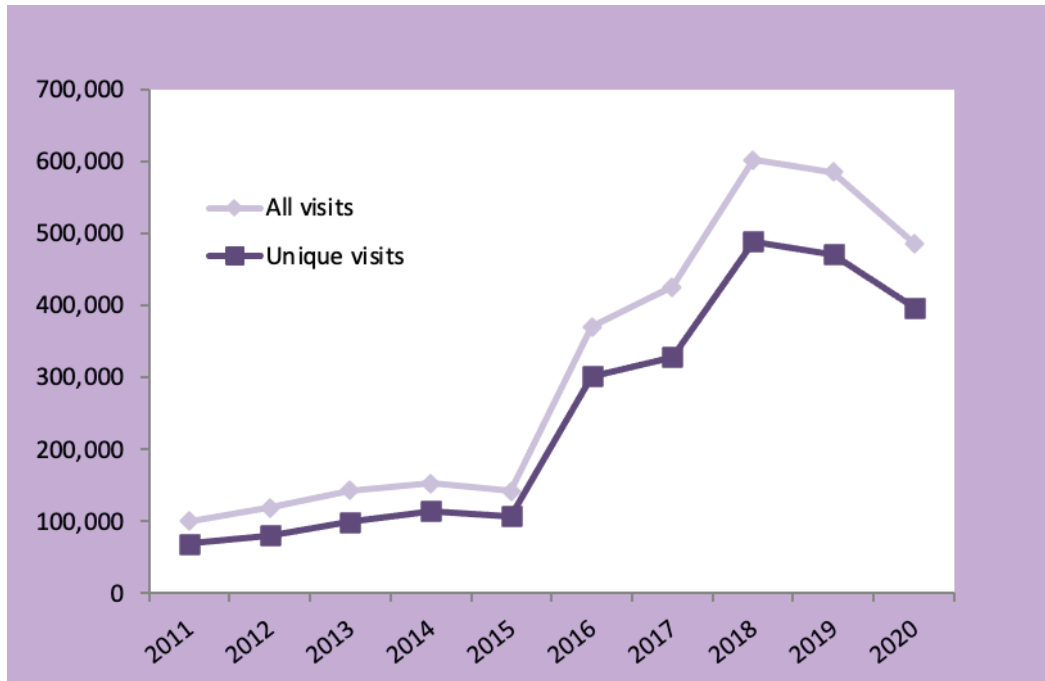


Figure 11

Estimated usage of MSHC website from 2011 - 2020



Note Google Analytics changed their search algorithm in June 2019 resulting in an ~25% reduction in users compared to the same time last year

Use of the MSHC website has steadily increased over time. In 2011 there were 100,125 visits in total and 68,991 unique visits. In 2015 a new website was launched and subsequently visits increased substantially

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:

RTS: Rectal Treatment Study - comparing single dose 1g azithromycin to 500mg doxycycline twice daily for 7 days as treatment for rectal chlamydia in men who have sex with men (MSM). **Andrew Lau, PhD, The University of Melbourne**

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in HIV-infected patients in the Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD), **Brian Mulhall, PhD, The University of New South Wales**

Epidemic syphilis in Victoria 2015: Strategies to improve prevention, early detection and treatment, **Janet Towns, PhD, Monash University**

In progress:

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

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**

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

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

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

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

Digital anorectal examination for the early detection of STIs among men who have with men. **Phuc (Julien) Hoang Tran, PhD, Monash University**

Completed research projects as part of MPH

Cost-effectiveness of patient delivered partner therapy for chlamydia. **Devy Santoso**, The University of Melbourne

Lifetime cost of managing HIV in Australia. **Megumi Lim**, The University of Melbourne

The experiences of, and factors influencing early long acting reversible contraception (LARC) removal in Victorian women aged 18-30. A qualitative research study. **Cassandra Caddy**, The University of Melbourne

Requesting early removal of long-acting reversible contraception: a qualitative study exploring the experiences of primary healthcare providers. **Jacqueline Ding**, The University of Melbourne

A qualitative analysis of the factors that influence young Chinese international students' contraceptive choices. Research project started in 2019 and completed midyear 2020: paper being prepared for submission to peer reviewed journal currently. **Wen Liu**, The University of Melbourne

Medical Student Projects

Prevalence of oropharyngeal gonorrhoea among heterosexuals with genital gonorrhoea. **Connor Allen**, Monash University

Associations between methods of meeting sexual partners and sexual practice among Australian heterosexuals. **Heidi Constantinou**, Monash University

Characteristics and sexually transmitted infections among women who have sex with women attending Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, 2011-2019. **Jaimie Engel**, Monash University

Sexual mixing patterns among male-female partnerships in Melbourne, Australia. **Kate Greaves**, Monash University

Evaluation of HIV self-testing among Australian men who have sex with men. **Dana Lee**, Monash University.

Global systematic review of lifetime cost of managing HIV. **Huynh An Tran**, Monash University.

Preferences for HIV/STI services among men who have sex with men: a systematic review. **Varscika Kula**, Monash University

Optimizing HIV/STI services in Australia: a qualitative study. **Varscika Kula**, Monash University.

Preferences for HIV/STI services among young people: a systematic review. **Joscelyn Gan**, The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Medical Science (Hons)

Infectious causes of cervicitis 2011-2021. **Thuy Nugyen**, Monash University

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Catriona Bradshaw was promoted to a full Professor at Monash University.
Marcus Chen has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Monash University.
Lenka Vodstrcil has been promoted to Senior Lecture/Senior Research Fellow.

Eric Chow received the following awards:

- 2020 Levinia Crooks Emerging Leader in Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Award, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)
- 2020 Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research, Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council
- IPVC 2020 Conference Travel Award, International Papillomavirus Society
- 2019 NHMRC Peter Doherty Investigator Grant Award (Emerging Leadership), Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council

Jason Ong received the following awards:

- A highly competitive NHMRC Investigator's Grant that will fund Jason and his research between 2021 and the end of 2025: *Leaving no-one behind: community-driven approaches to eliminate HIV in Australia*
- The Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand HSRAANZ for best paper for 2020. The HSRAANZ Awards Program celebrates the best health services research and researchers. The paper was a global systematic review of PrEP programs that had two key messages: 1) the high prevalence of STIs at the first visit of PrEP users confirms that individuals at high-risk for STIs are attending PrEP programs; and 2) the high incidence of STIs underscores their need for ongoing STI testing and treatment.
- Gilead Getting to 0 Fellowship Grant
- Alfred Research Alliance EMCR Public Health and Clinical Research Best Paper Award
- ASHM Scholarship to attend AIDS 2020 Conference
- ASHM Scholarship to attend Asia Pacific AIDS & Co-infections Conference

Tiffany Phillips won the Best Poster Award at the Joint Australian HIV/AIDS & Sexual Health Virtual Conference 16 – 20 November, 2020 for her presentation "Acceptability of self-collected throat swabs among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men attending a sexual health centre".

Lenka Vodstrcil, Rebecca Wigan, Elena Rodriguez and Eric Xu received the ASHM scholarships to attend the Joint Australian HIV/AIDS & Sexual Health Virtual Conference 16 – 20 November, 2020

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Study: Changing the use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among men who have sex with men during the COVID-19 pandemic in Melbourne, Australia

Researchers: Chow EPF, Hocking JS, Ong JJ, Schmidt T, Buchanan A, Rodriguez E, Maddaford K, Patel P, Fairley CK

Publication: Open Forum Infectious Diseases 2020; 7(7): ofaa275
doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofaa275

Summary: We surveyed 204 men who have sex with men (MSM) who were pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) users. One in 4 daily PrEP users stopped taking PrEP during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 5% switched to on-demand PrEP. Most men reduced PrEP use because they stopped having casual sex and reduced the number of casual partners during the COVID-19 pandemic

Study: Postexposure prophylaxis during COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne, Australia.

Researchers: Chow EPF, Hocking JS, Ong JJ, Phillips TR, Fairley CK

Publication: The Lancet HIV 2020; 7(8): e528-529
doi: 10.1016/S2352-3018(20)30204-6

Summary: The Australian government introduced several lockdown measures in the state of Victoria on March 23, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown measures included the introduction of physical distancing, closure of non-essential services, the banning of indoor gatherings, shift to working from home for those who could, and restrictions requiring people to stay at home unless necessary for essential shopping, medical needs, exercise, or caring roles. Data from 56 Dean Street in London, UK, showed an 80% reduction in HIV post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) prescriptions in the first 4 weeks after the implementation of a similar lockdown in the UK. We expected to see a similar reduction in PEP prescriptions in Australia from reduced casual sex during the lockdown and were interested in how quickly casual sex would resume. A 66% reduction was seen and may have been due to reduced sexual risk during the COVID lockdown period rather than reduced access to services given our walk-in service remained open and accessible throughout the period. An increase in prescriptions was seen during the lockdown period reaching 17 prescriptions (May 11–17) and 20 prescriptions (May 18–24) in the 2 weeks immediately after restrictions began to on May 13, 2020, and individuals were allowed to visit friends and family indoors with no more than five visitors. If PEP prescriptions are used as a proxy for risky behaviour then our data suggest that any decrease in HIV and STI diagnoses will be temporary

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 2020; doi:10.1111/1471-0528.16430

Summary: All women were treated for BV and then followed for up to 6 months. We found that the women who had sex with the same partner before and after being treated or who had a past history of BV had more BV-associated bacteria following treatment. They were also less likely to have normal vaginal bacteria which together with more BV bacteria increase the likelihood of BV occurring again. This data highlights the need for therapy that includes the partner.

Study: An open-label, parallel-group, randomised controlled trial of antiseptic mouthwash compared with antibiotics for oropharyngeal gonorrhoea treatment (OMEGA2)

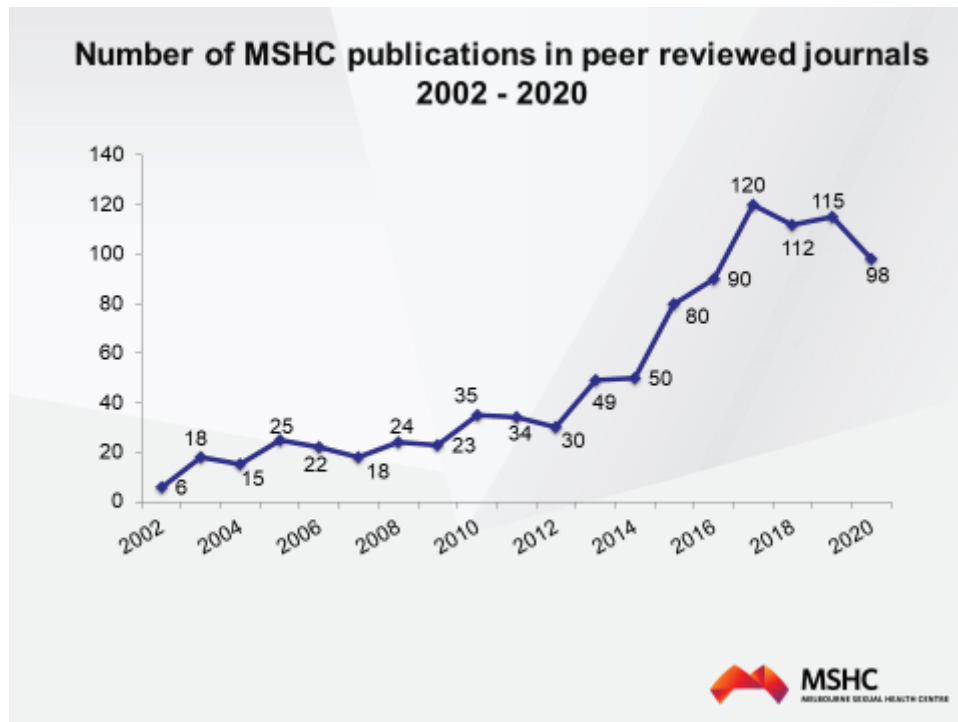
Researchers: Chow EPF, Maddaford K, Hocking JS, Bradshaw CS, Wigan R, Chen MY, Howden BP, William DA, Fairley CK

Publication: Scientific Reports 2020; 10:19386 doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-76184-1

Summary: New treatments for throat gonorrhoea are needed because of rising antimicrobial resistance. The OMEGA2 trial gave men either rinsing, gargling or spraying mouthwash twice daily for 14 days or the standard antibiotic treatment. Participants were advised to go without sex and kissing with anyone for 14 days after joining the study. Throat swabs were collected for testing of gonorrhoea at each visit. This trial was stopped early due to a high failure rate in the mouthwash group. A 14-day course of mouthwash failed to cure throat gonorrhoea cases. This trial was registered on the Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ACTRN12618001380280)

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 98 in 2020.



PUBLICATIONS

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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](#)).

Staff Members

Administration and Computer Services

Afrizal	ICT Analyst
Suzanne Amisano	Operations Manager
Saffron Brady	Patient Services Officer
Fleur Glenn	Patient Services Officer
Bethany Griffiths	Patient Services Officer
David Johnston	Patient Services Officer
Karen Kon	Patient Services Co-ordinator
Mark Lancellotti	Patient Services Officer
David Nguyen	Patient Services Officer
Sharon Noronho	Patient Services Officer
Elizabeth O'Neill	Patient Services Officer
Rashidur Rahman	IT Lead Technology Specialist
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
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
Helen Henzell	Doctor
Sarah Huffam	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
Penne Braybrook	Sexual Health Nurse
Suzanne Brown	Sexual Health Nurse
Beth Costelloe	Sexual Health Nurse
Freya Dench	Sexual Health Nurse
Sheranne Dobinson	Sexual Health Nurse
Michelle Doyle	Sexual Health Nurse
Jo Eccles	Sexual Health Nurse
Ria Fortune	Nursing Services Manager
Tessa Grause	Sexual Health Nurse
Shauna Hall	Sexual Health Nurse
Nina Hancox	Counsellor
Peter Hayes	Counsellor
Robyn Holmes	Sexual Health Nurse
Jayne Howard	Sexual Health Nurse
Kerri Howley	Sexual Health Nurse
Marti Kaiser	Sexual Health Nurse
Jason Kenna	Sexual Health Nurse
Lisa Kennedy	Sexual Health Nurse
Abby Knoester	Sexual Health Nurse
Annie Lang	Sexual Health Nurse
David Lee	Sexual Health Nurse Practitioner
Genevieve Lilley	Sexual Health Nurse
Chantal Maloney	Sexual Health Nurse
Luke Mitchell	Sexual Health Nurse
Colette Mc Guinness	Sexual Health Nurse
Lesley O'Donell	Sexual Health Nurse
Monica Owlad	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
Inkyung Kate Seong	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

Susan Peterson	Clinical HIV Co-ordinator
Stephen Kent	Doctor
Richard Moore	Doctor
Joe Sasadeusz	Doctor
Ivan Stratov	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
Marti Kaiser	Research Nurse
Helen Kent	Research Nurse
Kate Maddeford	Research Nurse
Colette Mc Guinness	Research Nurse
Erica Plummer	PhD scholar, Masters in Bioinformatics
Tiffany Phillips	Research Administration
Elena Rodriguez	Research Nurse
Julie Silvers	Research Nurse
Marjan Tabesh	Research Fellow
Lenka Vodstrcil	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Rebecca Wigan	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

Pharmacy

Ivette Aguirre	Senior Clinical Pharmacist
Jenny Ly	Senior Clinical Pharmacist

Long Service Awards

Staff member	No. years	Staff member	No. years
Peter Hayes	35	Marcus Chen	15
Andrew Buchanan	30	Carly Schreiber	15
Karen Berzins	25	Hennie Williams	15
Stephen Kent	25	Freya Dench	10
Richard Moore	25	Kate Potappel	10
Anna Morton	25	Haipeing Tang	10
Stephen Rowles	25	Maggie Vandeleur	10
James Unger	20	Karen Worthington	10

