

# Diverse testing modalities to facilitate access to HIV testing among MSM in New Zealand

[Alex Anderson](#), New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Wellington, New Zealand

Presented at the 2019 NZ Sexual Health Society  
Conference, Wellington, New Zealand.



**New Zealand AIDS Foundation**  
Te Tūāopapa Māte Āraikore o Aotearoa

# NZAF Strategic Plan 2019-2022

## GOAL TWO

Increase HIV and STI Testing

5

Regular testing as a community norm

6

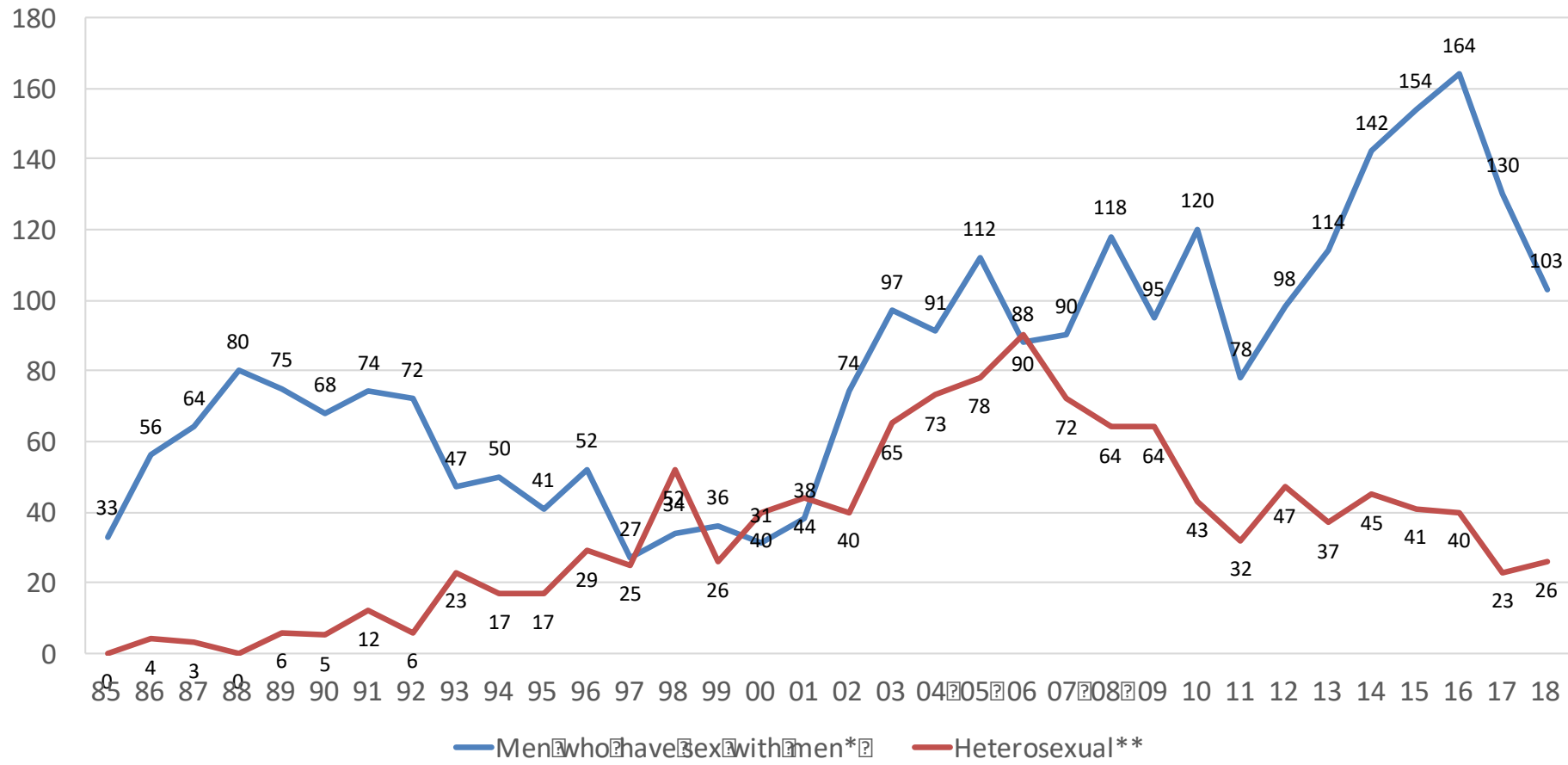
Accessible and responsive testing services

# Consensus statement on comprehensive HIV prevention in Aotearoa/New Zealand:

- 2. Timely, more frequent and widespread HIV testing by improving access to testing services in clinical and community settings*
- 5. Improved access to comprehensive STI vaccination, screening and treatment*

[www.hivconsensus.org.nz/](http://www.hivconsensus.org.nz/)

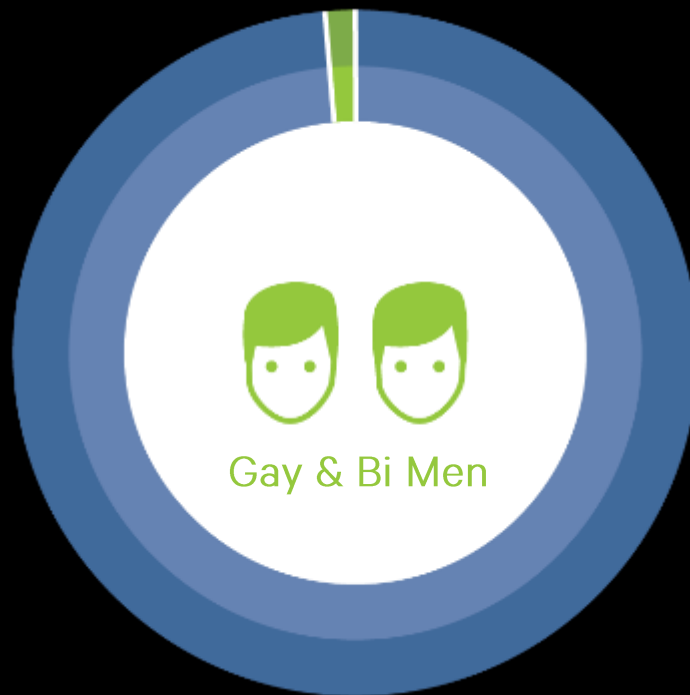
# Annual HIV diagnoses 1985-2018



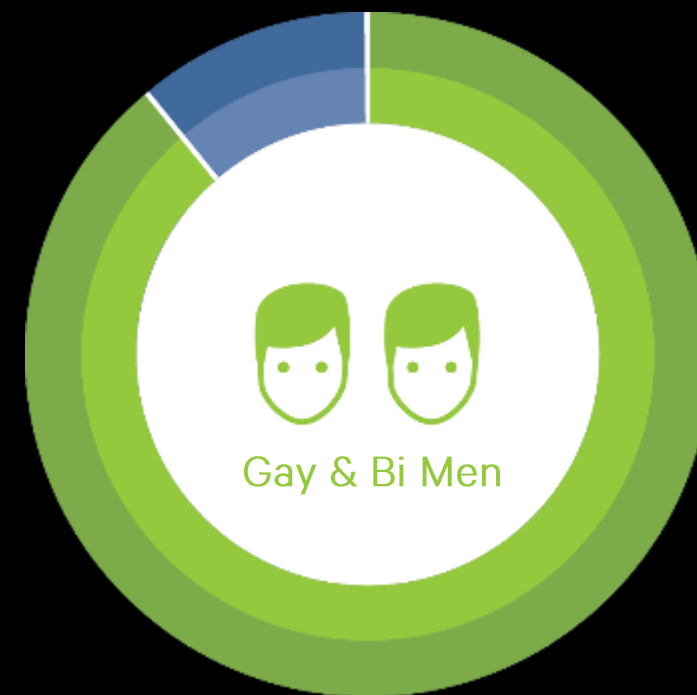
Source: AEG, University of Otago

# The burden of HIV among MSM in 2018

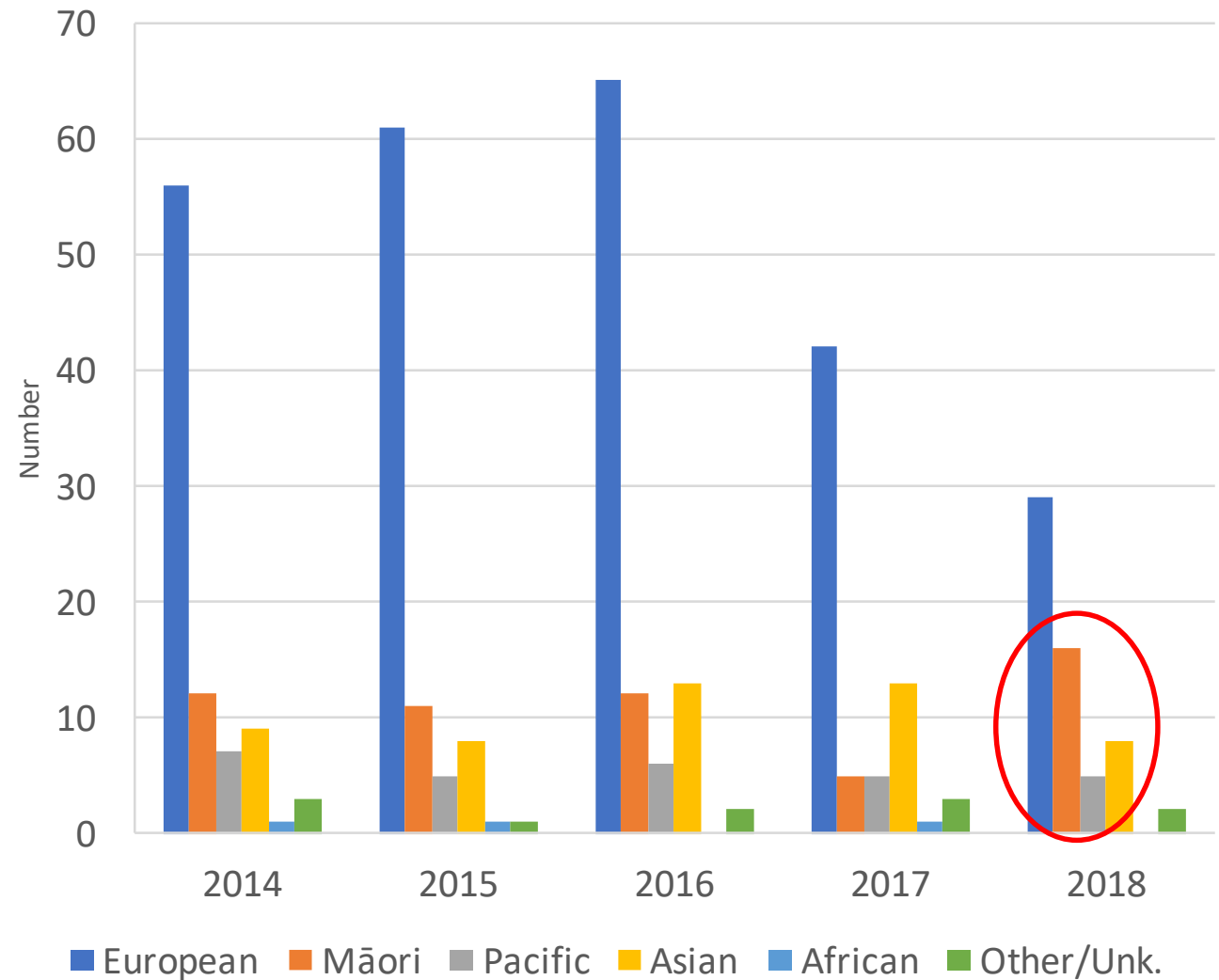
2.5% of NZ  
population



90% of HIV  
acquired in NZ



Ethnicity of  
MSM diagnosed  
and infected in  
New Zealand:  
2014-2018



# Barriers to recent testing for HIV

Barrier	% MSM not recently tested reporting this barrier
Not at risk	43%
Don't have symptoms	29%
Hard to find a location	23%
Don't want to discuss sex with Doctor	23%
Testing makes me feel ashamed	21%
Afraid of what the result might be	17%
Can't find a testing time that suits	14%
Don't want to pay	12%
Can't find a free/affordable service near me	10%
Don't want to tell past partners	7%

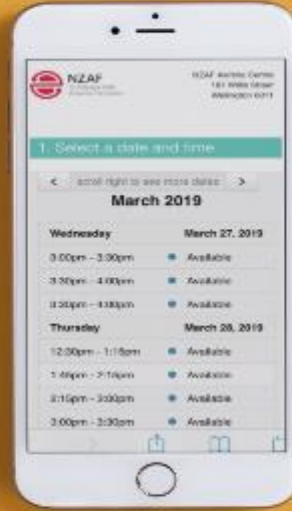
Source: Ending HIV evaluation survey December 2018

# Drop-in HIV & STI testing in Auckland

Every Wednesday  
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Every Saturday  
11:00 am – 2:30pm

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED



# Make testing easier for MSM



# Devices to suit modality



OraQuick
HIV only
Results: 20 mins
Testing sample: Gum swab



Uni Gold
HIV & Syphilis (separate)
Results: 10 mins
Testing sample: Blood - finger prick



INSTI
HIV & Syphilis (combined)
Results: 1 minute
Testing sample: Blood - finger prick

**BOOK YOUR FREE  
HIV & STI TEST  
ONLINE.**

INSTANT ONLINE BOOKING



**Onsite testing – Uni Gold & INSTI**



# Outreach testing - Uni Gold, INSTI & OraQuick

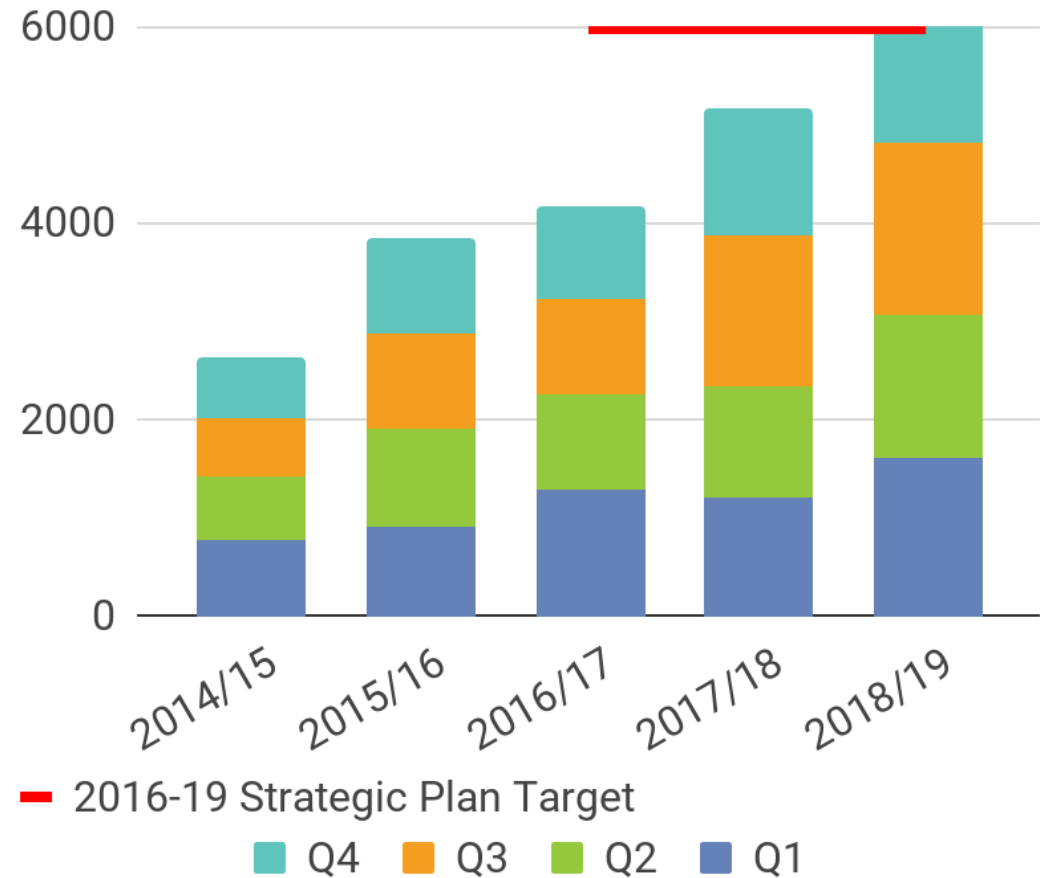


Click to add text



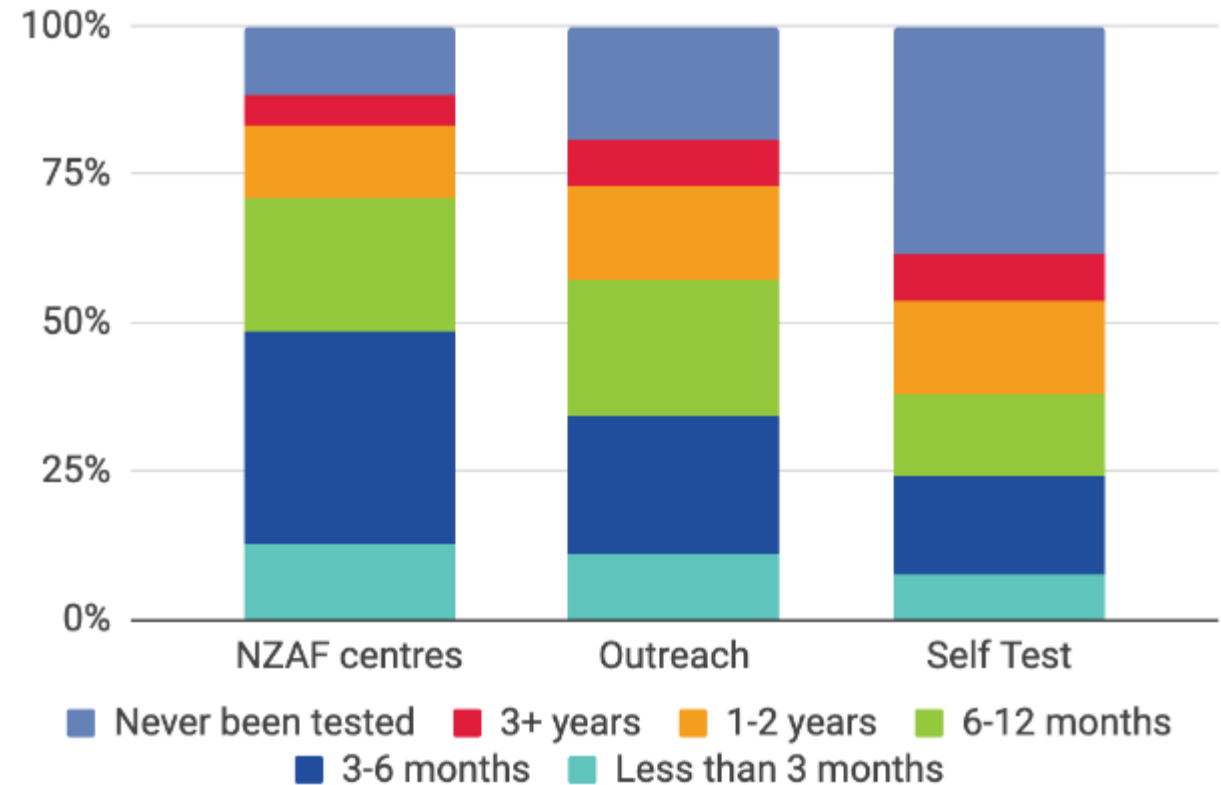
# Self-testing - OraQuick

Number of rapid  
HIV tests  
provided by  
NZAF



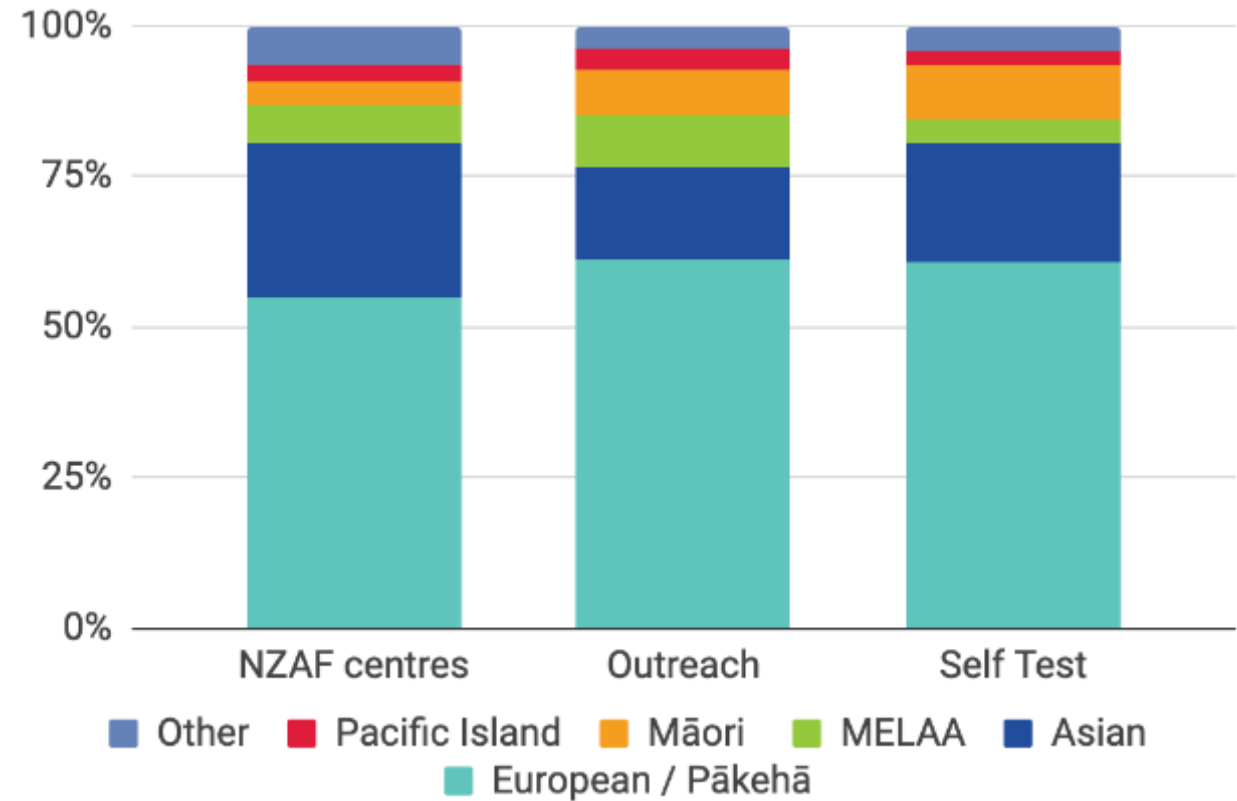
Source: NZAF centres

Recent testing  
among MSM  
using NZAF  
services 2018/19



Source: NZAF health services database.

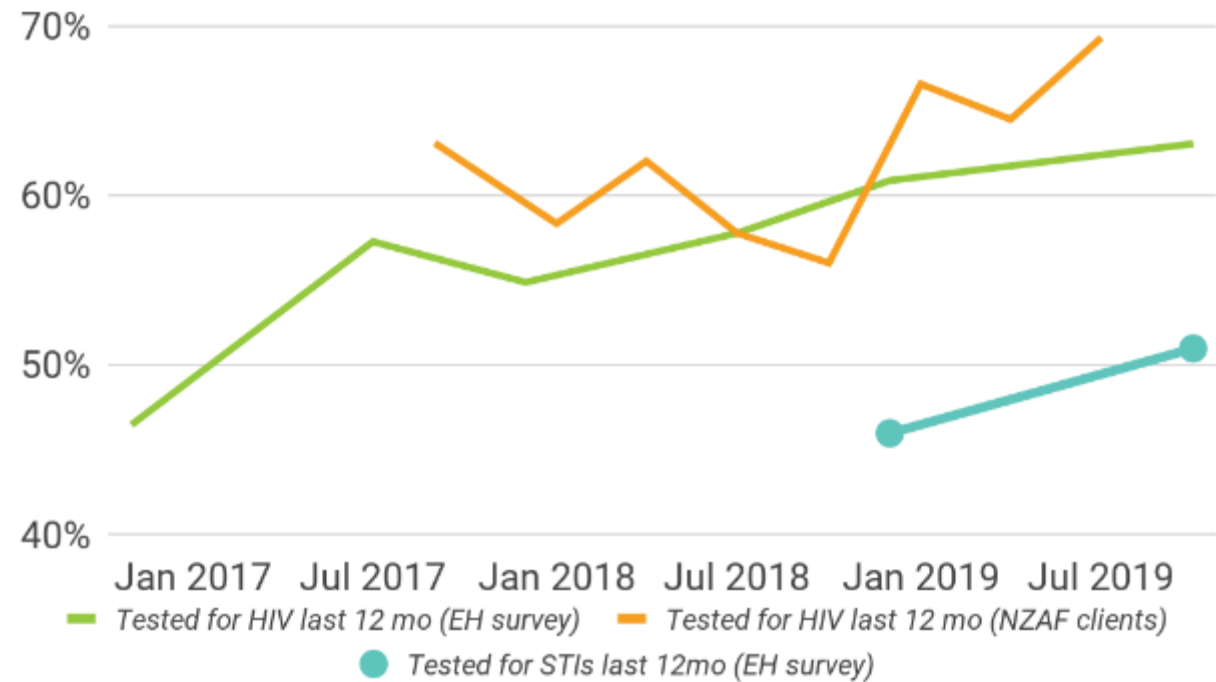
# Ethnicity of GBM using NZAF services 2018/19



Source: NZAF health services database.

# Proportion MSM reporting having tested for HIV and STIs in last 12 months

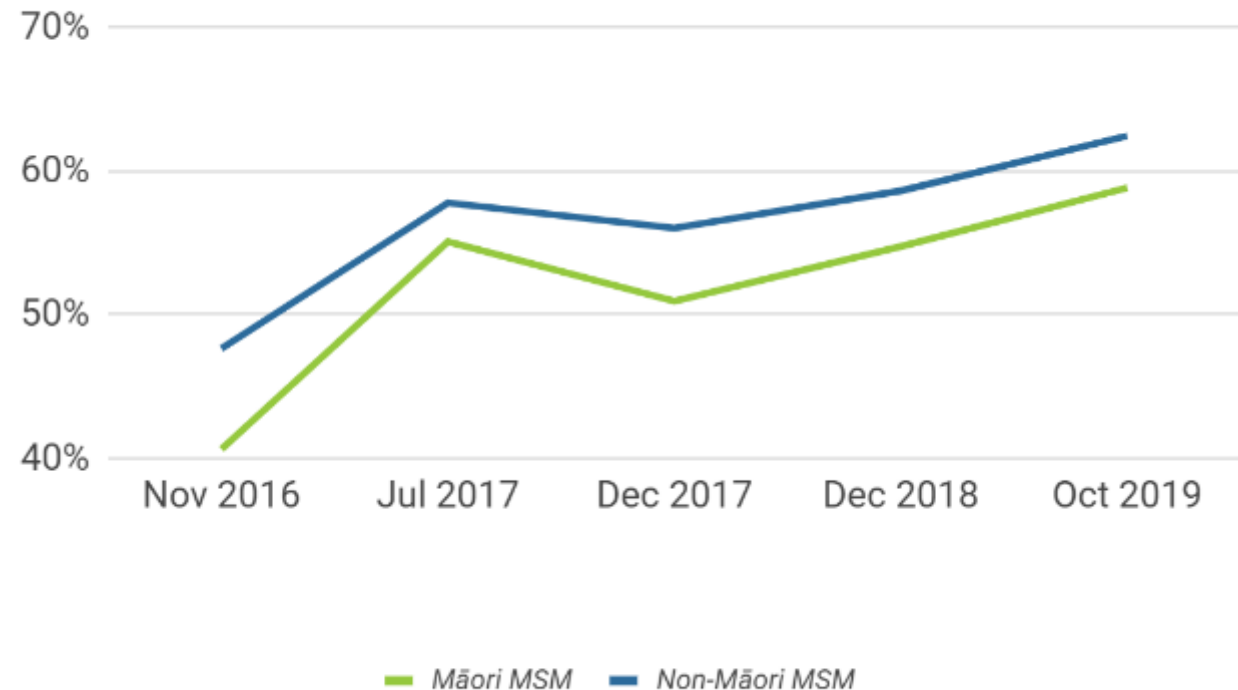
Source: NZAF centres and Ending HIV evaluation surveys





Proportion Māori  
vs non-Māori  
MSM reporting  
having tested for  
HIV in last 12  
months

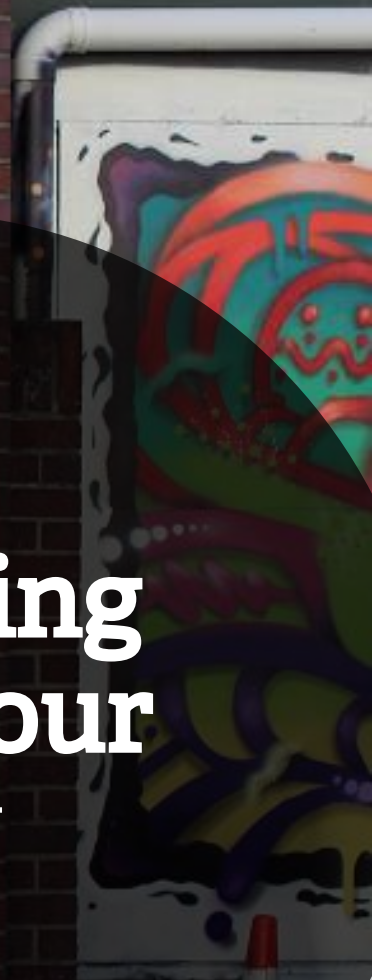
Source: Ending HIV  
evaluation surveys



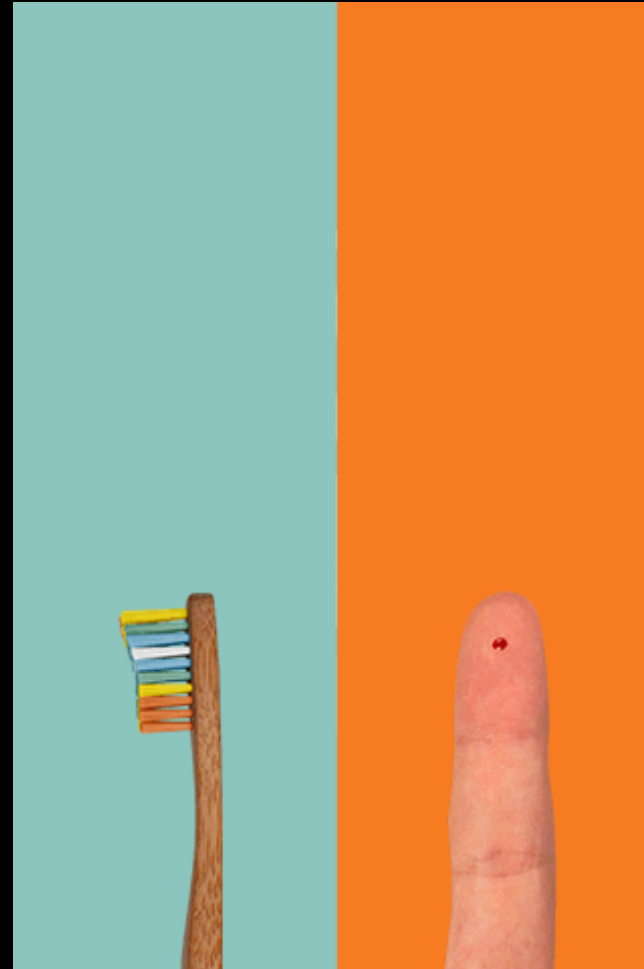


P  
5  
Loading Zone  
5 min MAXIMUM  
Speed Vehicle Only  
Mon - Sat

# Changing behaviour



# Recent NZAF HIV testing campaign





# Early insights from HIV self-testing / toothbrush campaign

Over 500 orders were placed in the first three weeks

Of MSM who ordered a test, 48% hadn't tested in the past 12 months

17% identified as Māori (compared to average 6% across all modalities)

80% opted in for a second test to be sent in 6 months.

Source: NZAF health services database.

# Significance



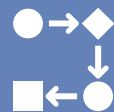
Different strokes for different folks



Can't expect all clients to find single testing modality acceptable



Adding new service modalities need not add additional cost – it could even reduce cost-per-test



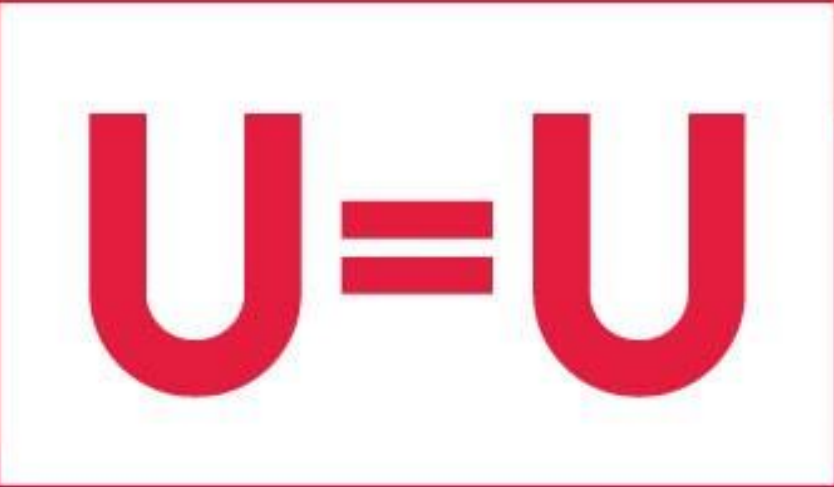
It's about the entire client journey. How easy and inviting is the whole process?

# Thank You

[alex.anderson@nzaf.org.nz](mailto:alex.anderson@nzaf.org.nz)



**New Zealand AIDS Foundation**  
Te Tūāpapa Mātē Āraikore o Aotearoa



U=U

UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE

A person living with HIV (PLHIV) who is diagnosed, on anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and who achieves and maintains an undetectable viral load (UVL) for at least 6 months has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner.