

# Progress toward virtually eliminating HIV transmission in New Zealand

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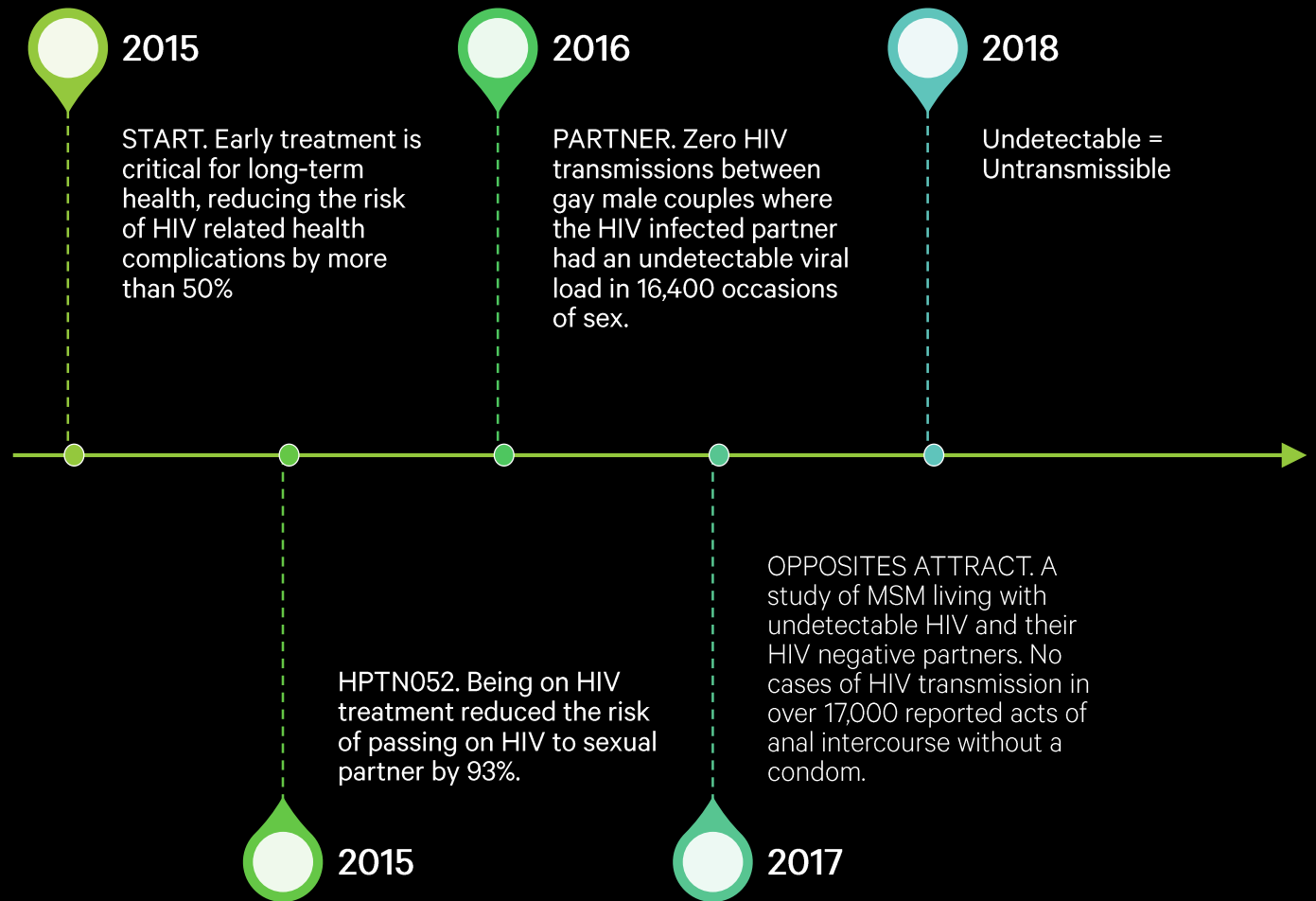
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Presented at the 2019 NZ Sexual Health Society  
Conference, Wellington, New Zealand.



**New Zealand AIDS Foundation**  
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# Treatment as Prevention

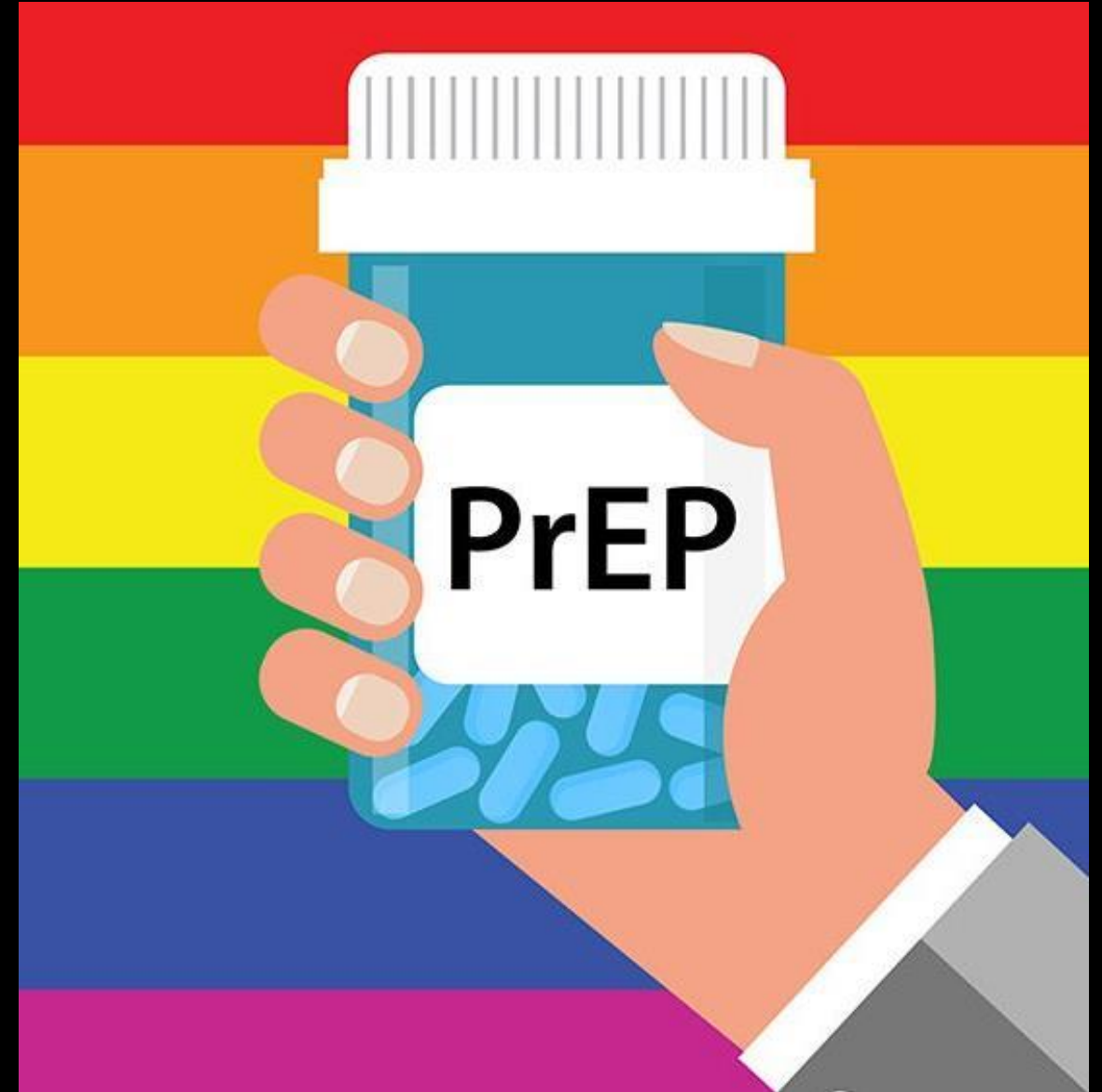


# Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

PrEP is an HIV medication called Truvada that is taken if you are HIV negative. When taken on a daily basis, PrEP builds up in your system and significantly reduces the chances of HIV infection.

iPrEx (2010). Among MSM, if PrEP is taken daily it reduces risk of getting HIV by at least 92%.

PROUD and Ipergay (2015). Overall 86% effectiveness of PrEP among MSM in the real world; 100% among those adhering to daily regimen.





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**Strategic Plan 2019–2022**

Māre Rautaki Mō Te Tūāpapa Māte Āraikore o Aotearoa 2019–2022

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

1. Sophisticated promotion of condoms to protect against HIV and STIs during anal and vaginal intercourse
2. Timely, more frequent and widespread HIV testing by improving access to testing services in clinical and community settings
3. HIV antiretroviral treatment to be offered promptly following diagnosis, and ongoing retention in health care, to achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load
4. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and quarterly STI screening made available to people without HIV at high risk and unable to sustain behavioural risk reduction
5. Improved access to comprehensive STI vaccination, screening and treatment
6. Ongoing surveillance and research into HIV and STI infection and risk behaviours

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



# Labour promises to fund HIV PrEP pill

12/02/2017 | Breanna Barracough



It is designed to be taken daily by people who are HIV-negative. (Getty / iStock)

Labour has promised to fund a medication that can reduce users' risk of contracting HIV by more than 90.



## Stop withholding HIV medicines in NZ

PHARMAC, stop withholding access to HIV medicines that will improve health and reduce new infections.

Signed so far:   
Out of 10,000

Record rates of HIV in New Zealand, yet medicines that can halt transmission are being withheld?

Two Zealanders who battled the pill by denying access to HIV medicines until a person's immune system has been sufficiently damaged.

The policy was developed to decrease expenditure, based on the fact that 10% of people have the virus and 90% do the opposite until absolutely necessary. Newer treatments are far less toxic and globally accessible, conscious support to bring treatment as soon as possible.

Global health agencies have shown that those who start HIV treatment early are 90% less likely to develop serious illness or death compared to those who are made to wait. It's also been shown that if a person living with HIV is on treatment and has an undetectable viral load, then the risk of passing on HIV through sex without condoms is almost zero.

In light of these developments the World Health Organisation and United Nations have recommended that HIV medicines be made available to people in all developed and developing countries, regardless of how damaged their immune systems are, and governments across the world have responded by bringing the medicines.

Why is New Zealand keeping behind? PHARMAC know the pill works really well, so why not get on with it, especially because the number of people taking it is low compared to the rest of the world. Their cost-arms-raise, to claim that recommended funding early access to medication in February 2014, yet nearly three years on PHARMAC have said that they can't fund it yet because there are other priorities.

roughly 600 New Zealanders have been diagnosed with HIV since February 2014 and rates are continuing to rise. 2016 was the worst year on record. How many more do they need to see to PHARMAC to make it a top priority?

Sign today and tell PHARMAC to make reducing rates of HIV in New Zealand a top priority and remove the threshold for accessing medication.



# As HIV numbers surge, advocates push for better access to drugs

Craig Hoyle - 07:35, Dec 01 2016



Aucklander Ashley Barrett, shown right, now lives in Germany with his partner Christian.





# Improving access





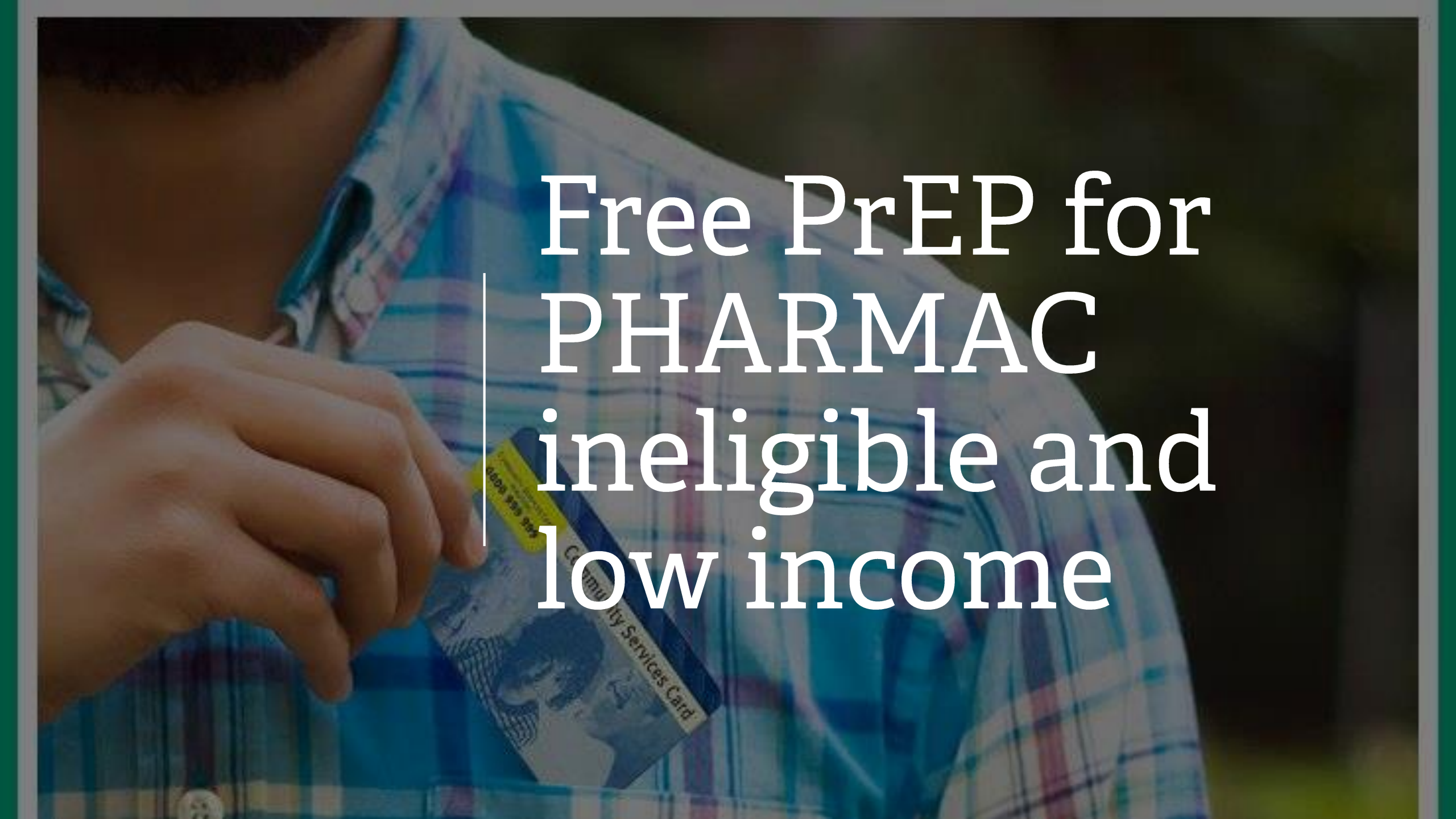
\*Auckland region:

Central	7
North	2
East	2
South	3
West	1

# PrEP locator map

[endinghiv.org.nz](http://endinghiv.org.nz)



A person wearing a blue and white plaid shirt is holding a blue Community Services Card. The card features a portrait of a man and the text 'Community Services Card'. A yellow sticker is attached to the top of the card. The background is blurred, showing an outdoor setting with greenery.

Free PrEP for  
PHARMAC  
ineligible and  
low income

# Workforce development

Online training module for GPs in collaboration with ASHM

NZMJ article

Influencing programmes and supporting PrEP workshops at primary care education events (Goodfellow Symposium & Podcast, GP CME conferences)

PrEP education dinners for primary care with ASHM

PrEP decision-making tool with ASHM

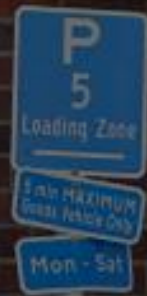
NZ commentary on AU PrEP guidelines (to do)







# Community Mobilisation





2017



$$\boxed{\text{STAY SAFE}} + \boxed{\text{TEST OFTEN}} + \boxed{\text{TREAT EARLY}} = \boxed{\text{ENDING HIV}}$$



2017



2017



2018



2018



2018



2018



2019



2019







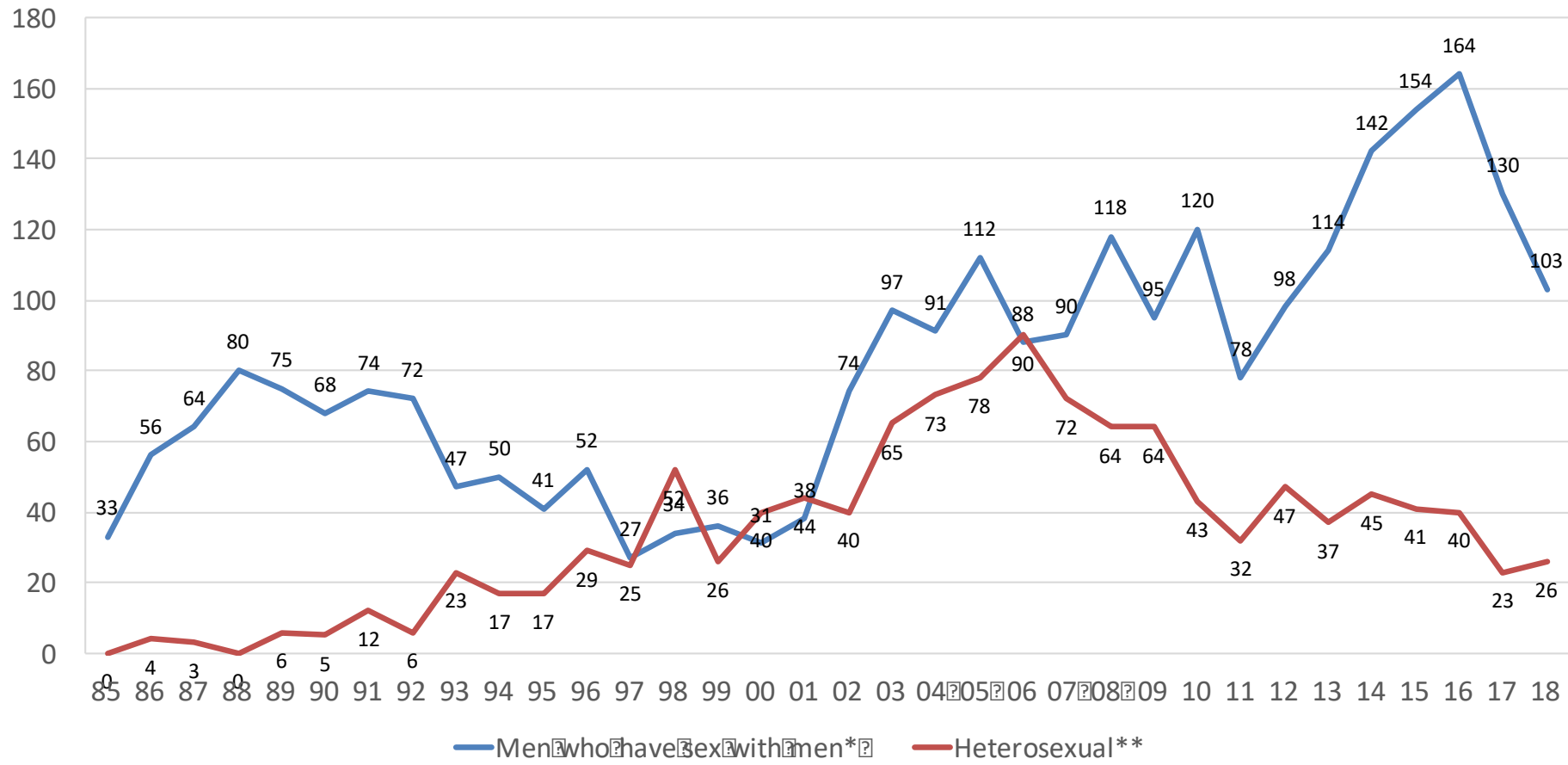
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# Lessons



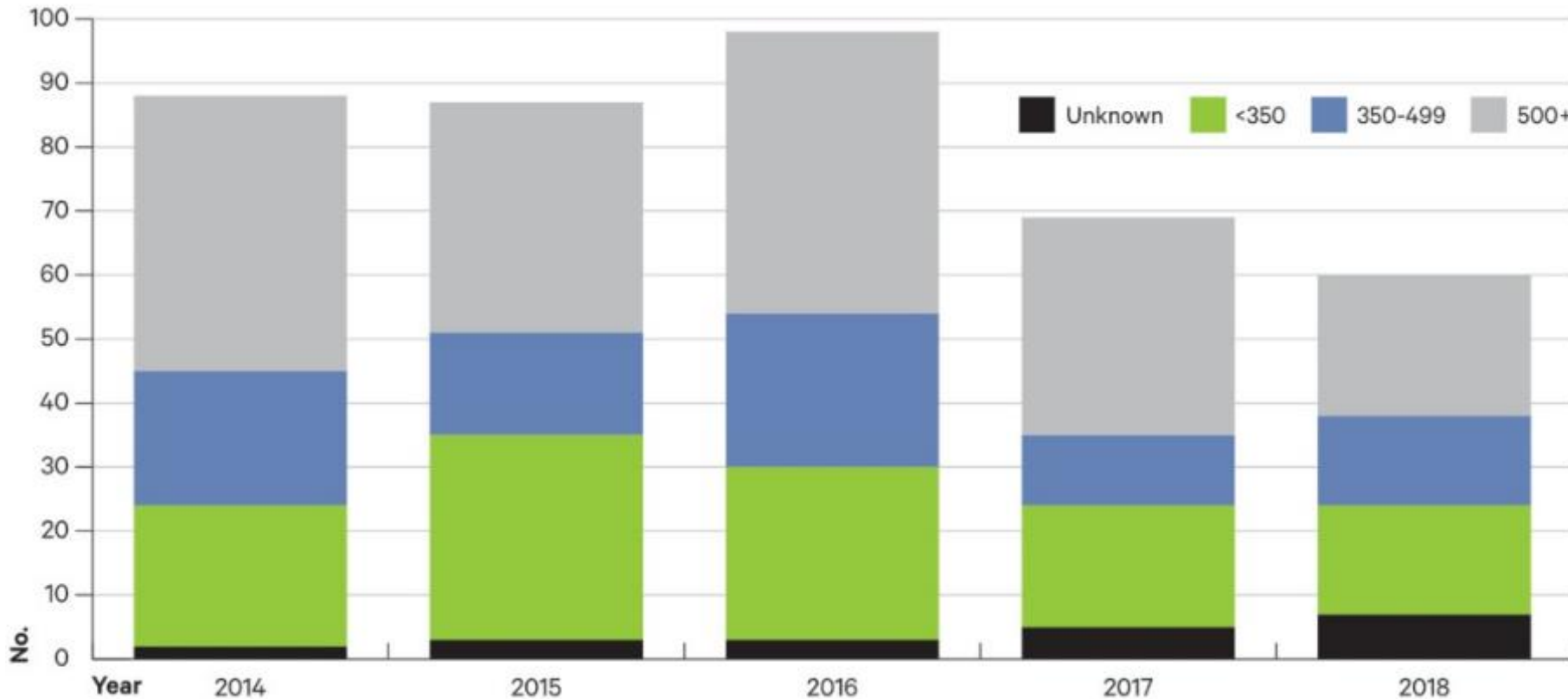


# Annual HIV diagnoses 1985-2018



Source: AEG, University of Otago

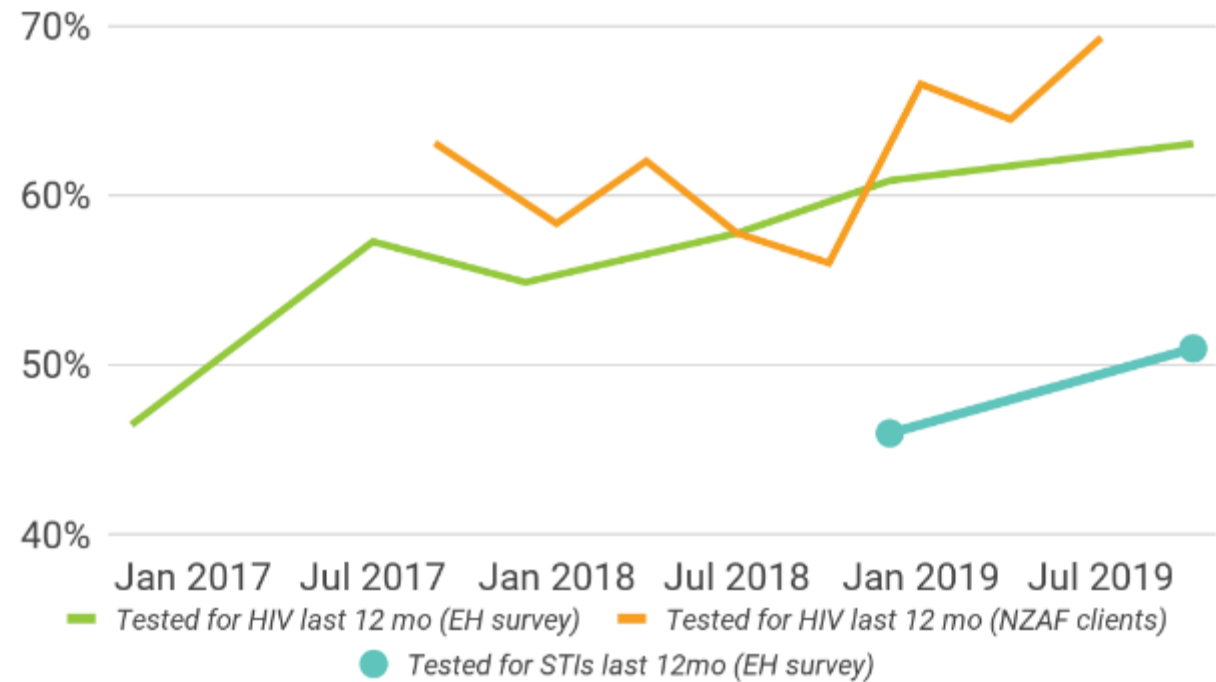
# Initial CD4 count of MSM diagnosed and infected in New Zealand 2014-2018



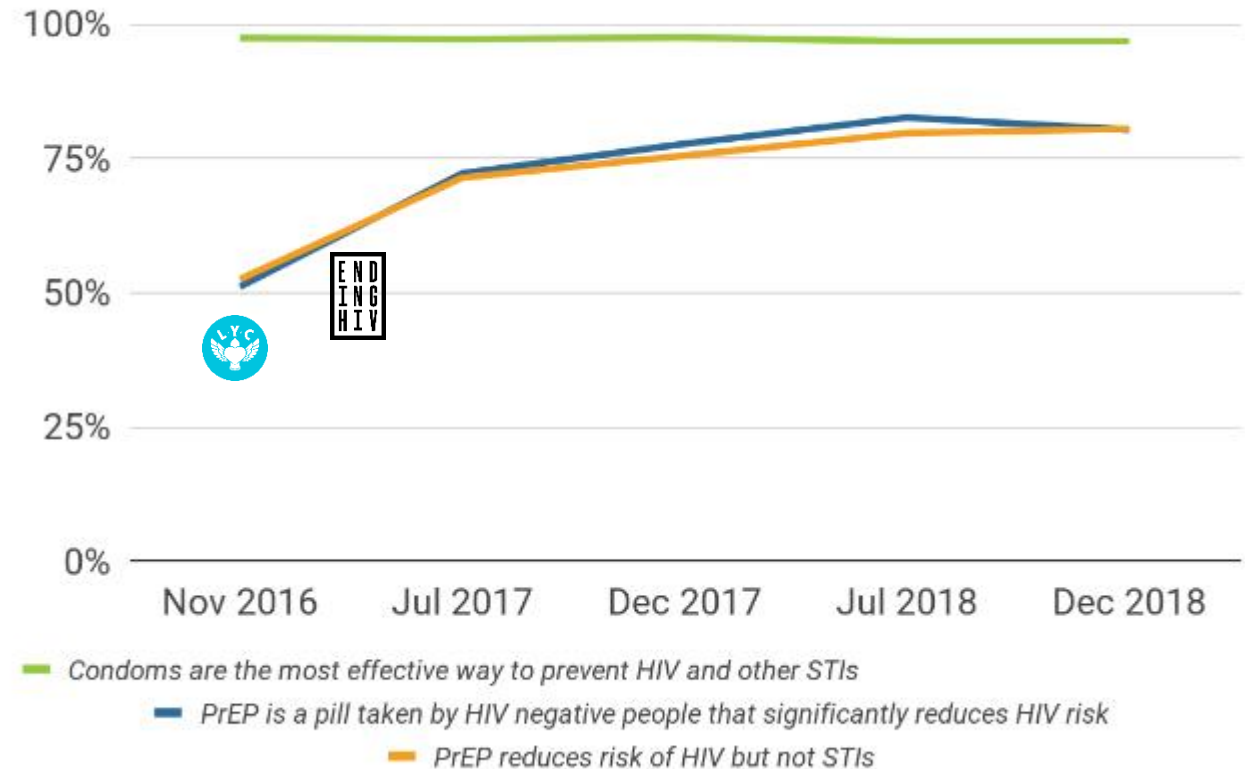
Source: AEG, University of Otago

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

Source: NZAF centres and Ending HIV evaluation surveys



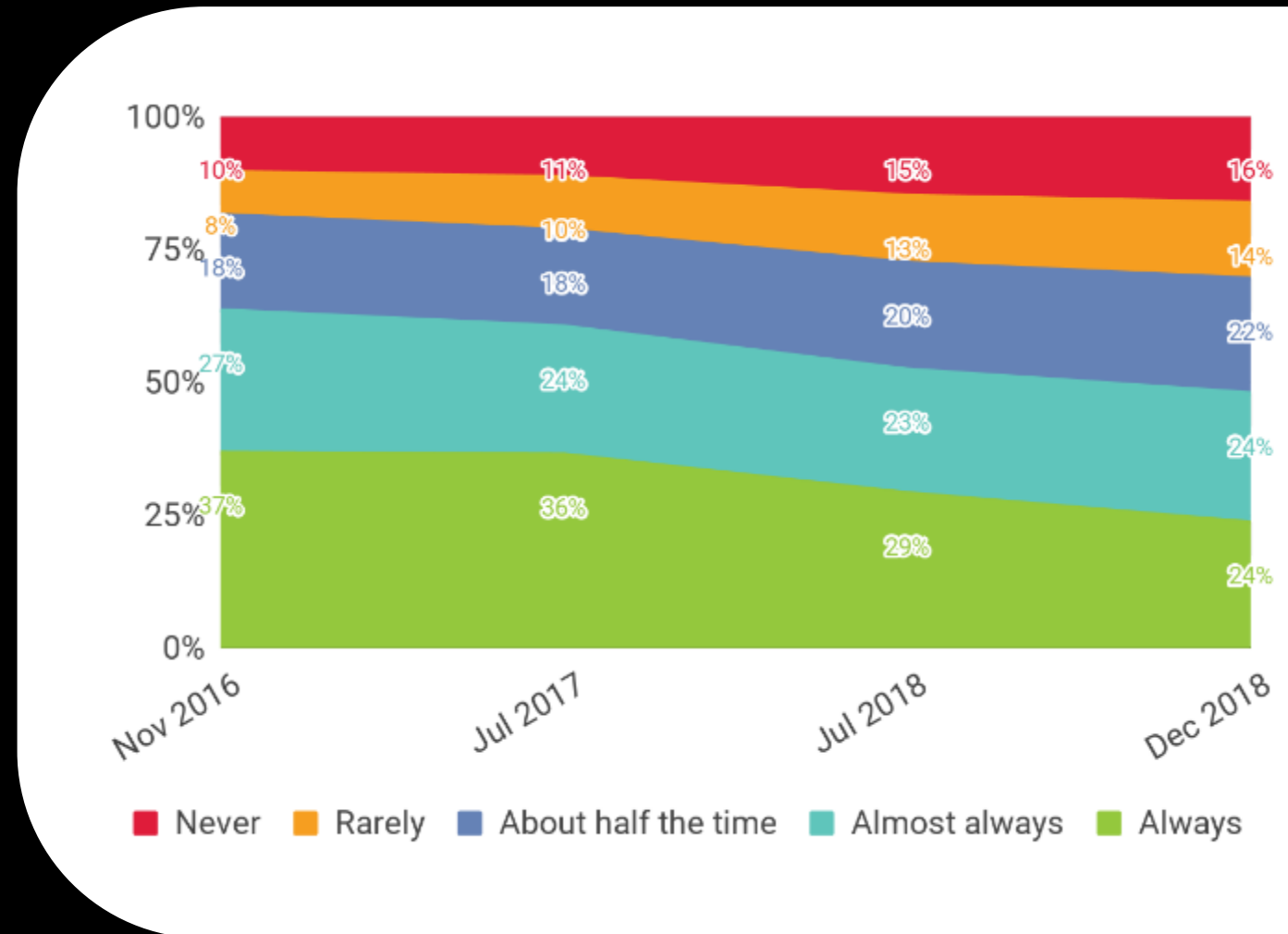
Proportion MSM  
reporting  
knowledge  
regarding  
condoms and  
PrEP



Source: Ending HIV  
evaluation surveys

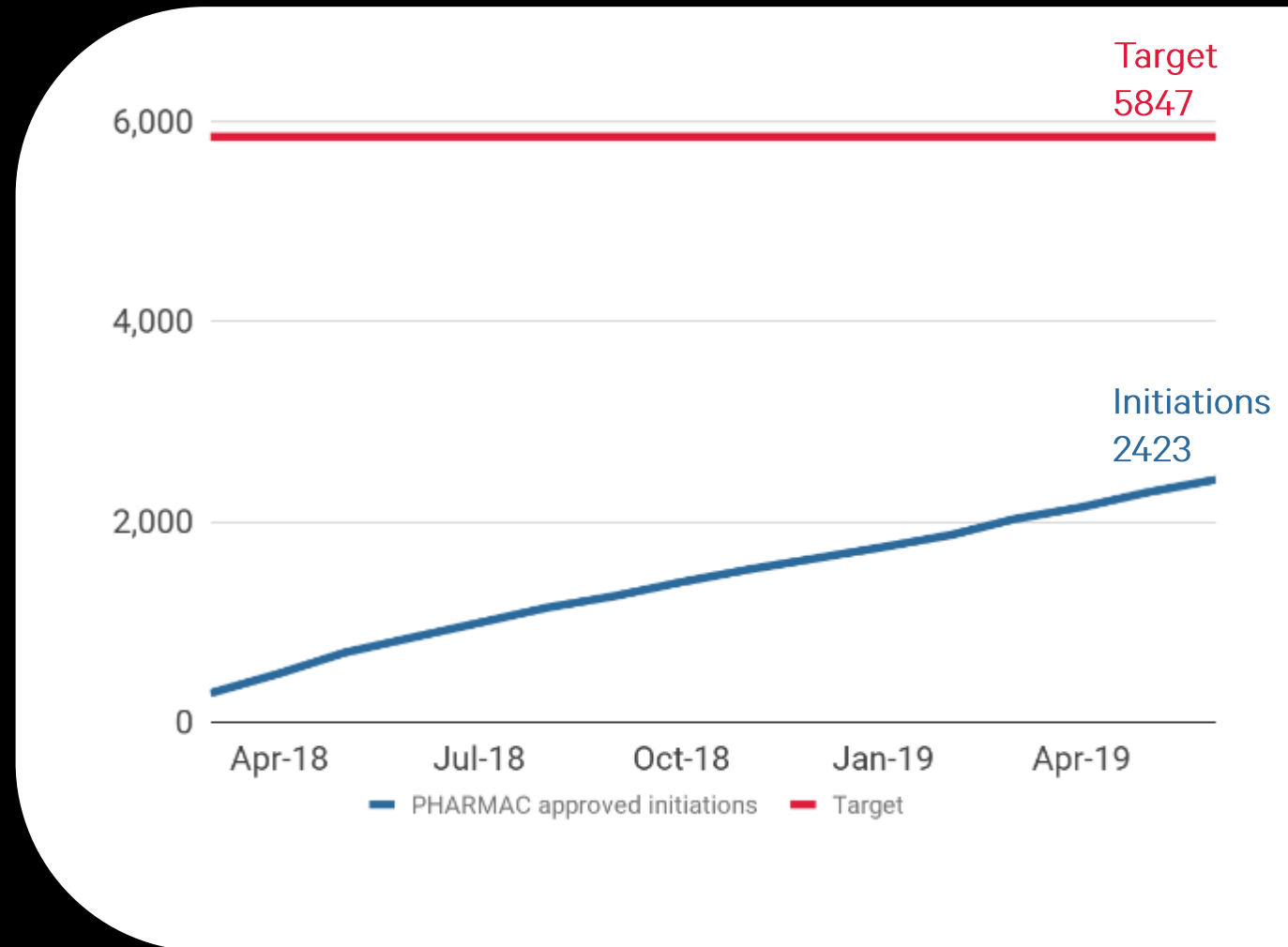


# Proportion MSM reporting condom-use for casual sex

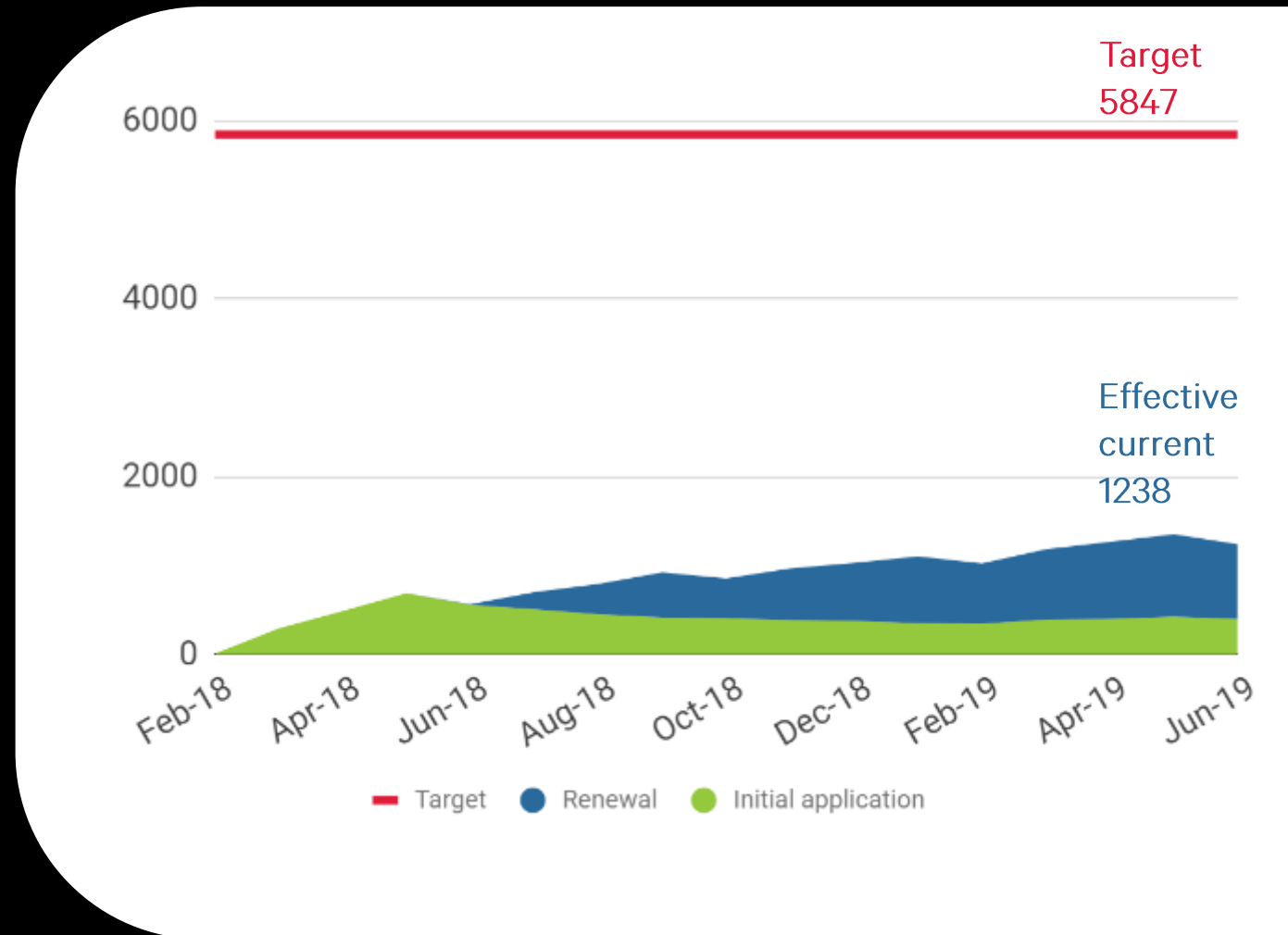


Source: Ending HIV  
evaluation surveys

# Cumulative patient initiations



# Effective current approvals



# Interconnected approach through partnership

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✓ Supportive policies

✓ Supportive services

✓ Increased knowledge

✓ Reduced diagnoses



# Tipping point?

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- In partnership, we've thrown everything at it (including kitchen sink). How sustainable is this?
- We're still flying blind. What interventions are contributing the most? What isn't working? No recent behavioural surveillance and slow health system data.
- Inequities are emerging and risk worsening without better informed action
- Resurgent STIs
- Inconsistent PrEP (and sexual health) readiness in primary care

# Acknowledgements

Community advocates, ambassadors and volunteers

Sexual health and ID services

Primary care providers

HIV Forum attendees

Other HIV organizations

Researchers

NZAF colleagues

Private sector in-kind work

Ministry of Health, PHARMAC

# Thank You

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