



HIV 101



DEFINITIONS:

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIV AND AIDS?

- HIV is a virus found in human blood, semen, anal mucus, vaginal mucus and breast milk.
- HIV attacks the body's immune system, in particular white blood cells called CD4 cells.
- People can carry HIV for long periods before they show any symptoms.
- Medications known as anti-retroviral treatments prevent HIV from growing.
- A person living with HIV and taking effective anti-retroviral treatment is highly unlikely to transmit HIV. This is known as treatment as prevention.
- AIDS is the name given to a specific group of illnesses that occur in people who have HIV who are not on anti-retroviral treatment. Some illnesses include pneumonias, cancers and dementia.

HOW IS HIV SPREAD?

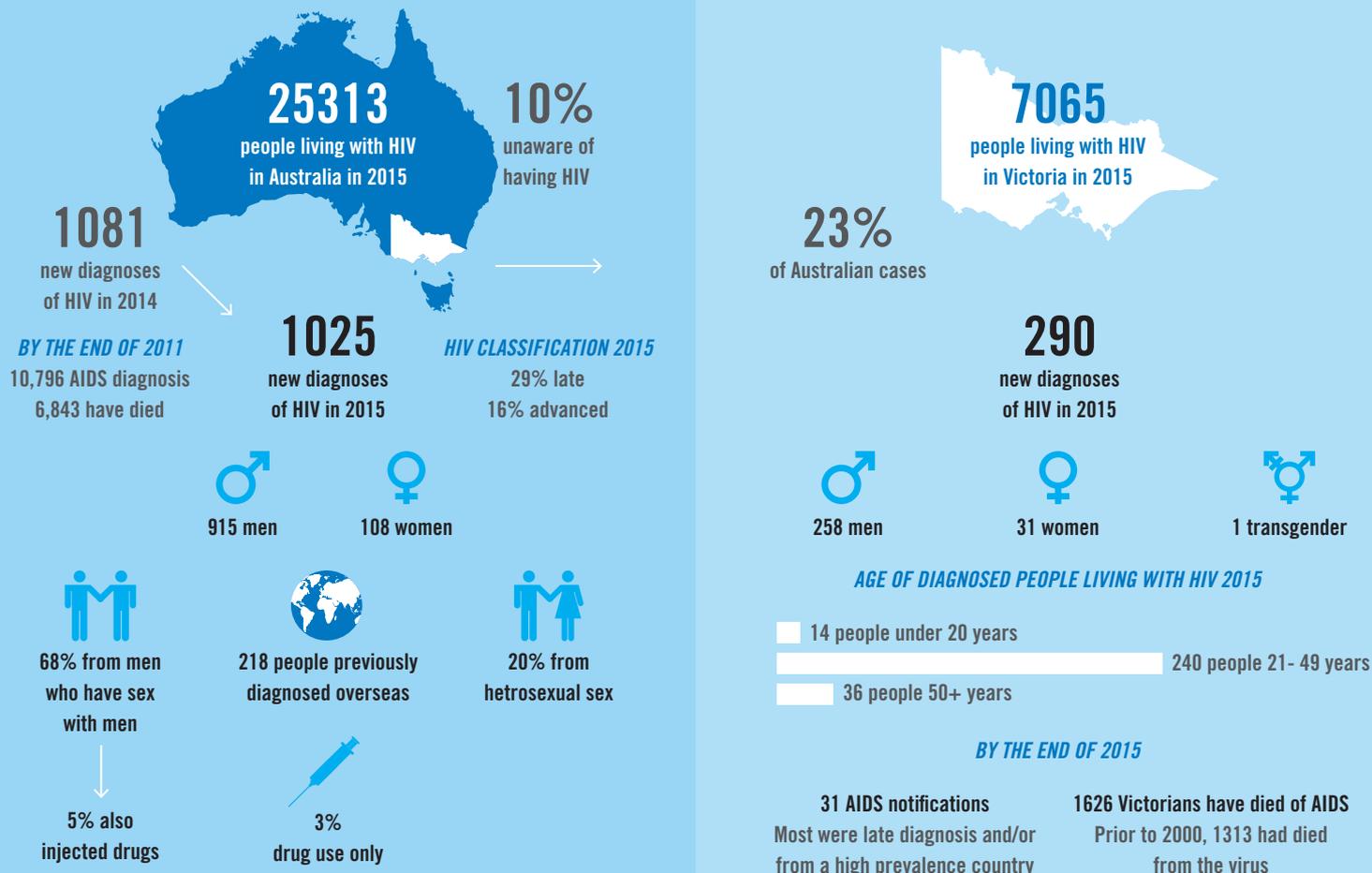
- HIV transmission is nearly always the result of condomless sexual intercourse OR from sharing injecting equipment with a person living with HIV – especially if they do not know they have HIV or are not on anti-retroviral treatment.
- HIV is found in the blood, semen, anal mucus and vaginal mucus of HIV positive people. Only these bodily fluids have enough of the virus in them to pose a risk of transmitting the virus.
- From mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breast feeding when the mother has HIV but she is not treated with anti-retroviral treatment.
- From a blood transfusion with contaminated blood.

All of these ways of transmitting HIV can be prevented.

For more information see HIV Transmission Facts

- In healthcare if correct standard precautions are followed, including wearing disposable gloves when handling any bodily fluid, there is no risk of contracting HIV for healthcare workers or carers.

AUSTRALIAN HIV AND AIDS QUICK FACTS



HIV AND AIDS WORLDWIDE QUICK FACTS

An estimated 37 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2015 and 17 million were accessing anti-retroviral treatment.

New HIV cases have fallen by 35% since 2000.

In 2015 there were around 2.1 million new HIV cases – over 5700 per day, about three every minute – and 96% were in low and middle income countries.

To date more than 35 million people have died of AIDS.

AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 45% since the peak in 2005.

About 1.1 million people died of AIDS in 2015 – more than 3000 people died of AIDS every day.

More than two thirds (25.5 million) of all people with HIV live in Sub Saharan Africa where about three quarters of all AIDS related deaths occur.



About 1.8 million children under the age of 15 are living with HIV in 2015 and 49% were accessing anti-retroviral treatments.

An estimated 150,000 children under 15 contracted HIV in 2015.

New HIV infections among children have declined by 70% since 2000 due to mothers having access to anti-retroviral treatments.

In 2015, 110,000 AIDS deaths were children under 15.

Some 12.6 million youth aged 15 – 24 are living with HIV and an estimated 1855 youth contract HIV each day, about a third of all new cases.

The predominant mode of transmission globally is through heterosexual sex.