



# HIV, STI & TB BULLETIN

Vol.1 Issue. 8, August 2018  
HIV, STI, and TB Programme of the Ministry of Health, Samoa



## MID-YEAR UPDATE ON HIV, STI'S AND TB 2018

STI rates are increasing all over the world, and Samoa has continually faced high rates of infections (particularly Chlamydia, known locally as Ma'i afi). Recent surveillance shows HIV and STI's are increasing, but voluntary testing which links people to treatment & prevention is also increasing.

### CURRENT HIV AND STI CASES DETECTED...

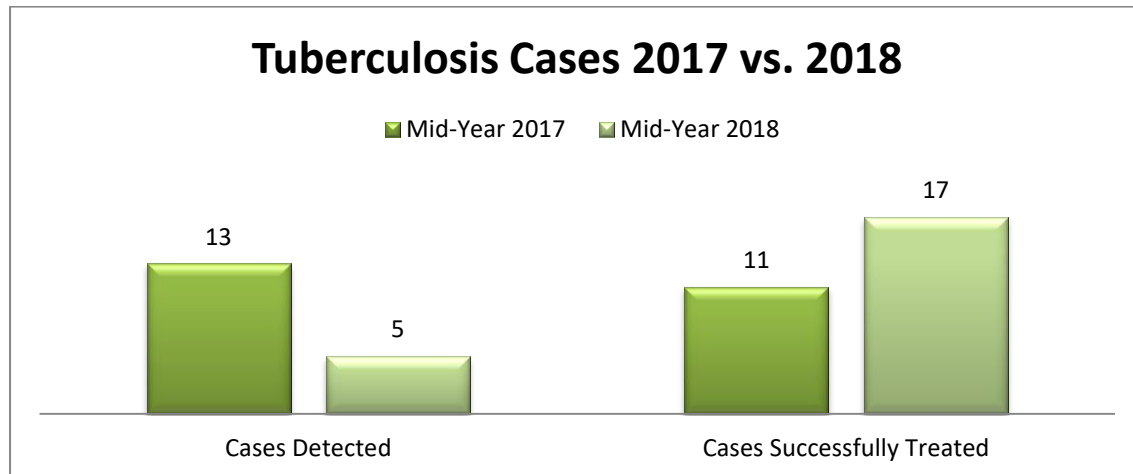
More cases are being detected, which means more people are linked to treatment and care. However the challenge remains in preventing new infections. For the first time since 2012, new cases of HIV (2) have been detected, and these patients have begun treatment. Chlamydia continues to increase especially in people ages 20-24 (males higher than females).

#### Percent of People Testing Positive at Mid-Year 2017 & 2018

Prevalence	Mid-Year 2017	Mid-Year 2018	Comments
Chlamydia	20.70%	24.22%	Increase
Gonorrhoea	21.21%	5.56%	Decrease (with increase in testing)
Hepatitis A	14.40%	14.80%	No significant change
Hepatitis B	2.35%	1.89%	Decrease
Hepatitis C	0.13%	0.06%	Decrease
HIV	0.00%	0.03%	Increase (2 new cases detected due to improved screening and outreach)
Syphilis	0.73%	1.04%	Increase (significant for Syphilis rates)

\*Data reported by NHS Laboratory Services, represents all specimens tested nationally  
\*\* Figures cover mid-year only (1<sup>st</sup> Jan.- 31<sup>st</sup> July), full testing to be completed in 31 Dec. 2018

### CURRENT TUBERCULOSIS CASES DETECTED...



\*Data reported by Communicable Disease Clinic NHS, represents all patients tested/treated nationally  
\*\* Figures cover mid-year only (1<sup>st</sup> Jan.- 31<sup>st</sup> July), full testing to be completed in 31 Dec. 2018

Last year in 2017, increased outreach efforts resulted in a big increase in detected TB cases. This led to an increase in successful treatments in 2018, as patients take 6-10 months to finish treatment. Over all there was a decrease in cases and increase in treatment success rates between mid-year reports. Although the 12 month reporting will capture the full progress of TB programming, we are hopeful for continued progress as TB service delivery is being improved and up-scaled to rural areas in both Savai'i and Upolu.



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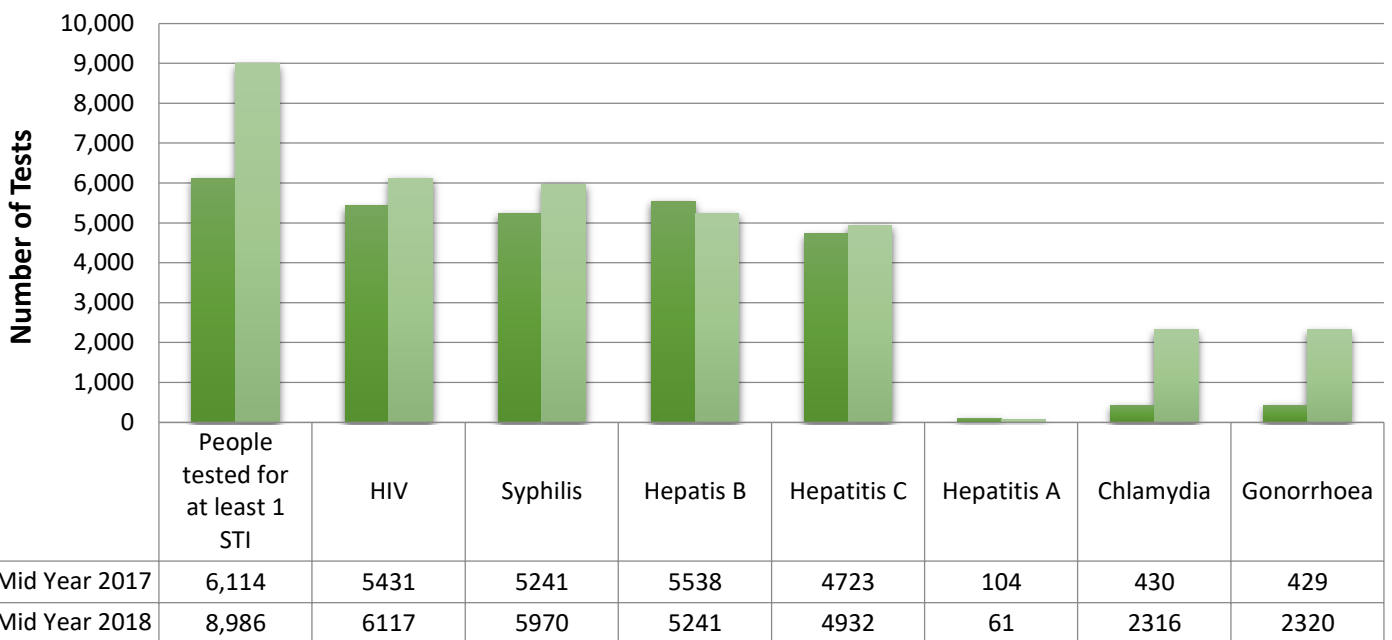
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## HIV AND STI TESTING

People tested for at least 1 STI increased from **6,114 at mid-year 2016** to **8,986 in mid-year 2017** (47% increase). This indicates great progress, as increasing voluntary testing is the best way to control STI rates. Testing links people to care and treatment. HIV and Syphilis testing are high, Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea has greatly increased. The need for improving public awareness and access for testing services is on-going.

## HIV & STI Testing Mid year 2018 vs. 2017



Why was there an increase in testing? The placement of diagnostic technologies in MT2 Hospital in Savaii during 2017 and additional equipment for TTM Hospital Apia increased the access of testing services. Additionally in 2016-2017, the HIV, STI and TB programme up-scaled public awareness efforts via the T3 campaign in order to increase voluntary testing, promote dialogue on sexual health to reduce stigma, and encourage people to access treatment services.

For inquiries, please contact the HIV, STI, and TB Programme at the Ministry of Health via phone 68100 ext. 195 or go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HIVSTITBMoH/>

**T3** Talk it  
Test it  
Treat it  
For any Sexually Transmitted Infections  
Don't just make choices  
Make the right Choice

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