

IS HIV SORTED?

LONDON

101,200 people are estimated to be living with HIV in the United Kingdom,¹ with 40% of the HIV-positive population in the country living in London.²

Significant progress has been made for people living with HIV (PLHIV) over more than three decades, which means that many PLHIV can now successfully manage their HIV and expect to live as long as the general population.³

Yet, HIV-related stigma, misconceptions about HIV and complacency about HIV testing and prevention persist in London as major challenges to stopping the virus.

In January 2018, London officially signed up to the Fast-Track Cities initiative, reporting that it had attained the UNAIDS 90-90-90 testing and treatment targets and aimed to achieve even more ambitious targets.

Is HIV Sorted? is a new, large-scale survey jointly conducted by the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and Gilead Sciences Europe to investigate the perception and understanding of HIV amongst the general public. The survey includes over 24,000 respondents across 12 European countries.*

Stigma towards PLHIV remains an issue in London, similar to rates in the United Kingdom as a whole

Of the 2,030 people surveyed...



*The 12 countries surveyed included Italy, Ireland, and Russia, and 9 countries with Fast-Track Cities, including Austria, France, Germany, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Fast-Track Cities, coordinated by IAPAC, is an initiative that aims to bring multiple stakeholders together at a local level to accelerate and scale-up urban AIDS responses.⁴

In London, there is a lack of understanding about HIV transmission

Only 6% [n=15] in the survey understood the meaning of 'undetectable'

Only 29% [n=69] were aware that it is possible for women living with HIV who are undetectable to conceive HIV-negative children

Over 46% [n=109] believed it would still be possible to transmit HIV to others, even if viral suppression had been achieved

In London, worrying levels of complacency exist with respect to HIV prevention

Of respondents who have had a new sexual partner within the last year:



Only 38% [n=16]

in the survey always used a condom during sex with the new partner



21% [n=9]

of Londoners rarely or never used a condom with the new partner

As a whole, Londoners see HIV as a greater health issue than the respondents from the UK in general

33%
[n=79]
of Londoners



believe that HIV is still a major health concern

Only 26%
[n=537]
of UK respondents



44%
[n=104]
of Londoners believe that HIV is under control in their city

56%
[n=134]
of Londoners



believe that funding for HIV should be a priority for their government or health service

Only 47%
[n=958]
of UK respondents

HIV is NOT sorted in London

Despite having recently attained the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment targets, London is focused on addressing complacency and ensuring that HIV is not deprioritised, but there is much work to be done to address:



Lack of understanding about HIV in general



Lack of awareness regarding the reality of successful HIV treatment



Stigma, which creates barriers to HIV testing⁵

By addressing the remaining issues, together, we can stop the virus.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The survey was fielded in June 2018 by independent market research company Opinium, using a consumer panel of HIV-negative (self-described) adults aged 18+.

Additional survey data will be made available during 2019.

References

- ¹ HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom (UK). Avert. Available at: https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/western-central-europe-north-america/uk#footnote1_hqne5xm [last accessed November 2018].
- ² HIV Statistics. Statistics about HIV in the UK, including how many people are currently living with HIV. Terrence Higgins Trust. Available at: <https://www.tht.org.uk/hiv-and-sexual-health/about-hiv/hiv-statistics> [last accessed November 2018].
- ³ The Antiretroviral Therapy Cohort Collaboration. Survival of HIV positive patients starting antiretroviral therapy between 1996 and 2013: a collaborative analysis of cohort studies. The Lancet. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018\(17\)30066-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(17)30066-8) Available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS2352-3018\(17\)30066-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS2352-3018(17)30066-8/fulltext) [last accessed November 2018].
- ⁴ International Association of Providers of AIDS Care. About Fast Track-Cities. Available at: <https://www.fast-trackcities.org/about> [last accessed November 2018].
- ⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HIV Stigma Fact Sheet. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/pdf/campaigns/lsh/cdc-hiv-together-stigmafactsheet.pdf> [last accessed November 2018].