

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

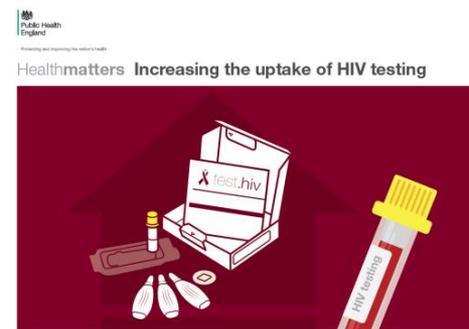
Single Point Lesson

HIV is associated with serious morbidity, high costs of treatment and care, significant mortality and high number of potential years of life lost. Thousands of individuals are diagnosed with HIV each year. The infection is still frequently regarded as stigmatising and has a prolonged 'silent' period during which it often remains undiagnosed.

According to a new Public Health England (PHE) report, published in November 2016, around a fifth (21,900) of people living with HIV in the UK (98,400) are unaware of their infection, and need to be tested. Early HIV diagnosis and timely treatment can now mean a near-normal lifespan. Campaigns are in place to promote HIV Testing and encourage people most at risk to get tested.

1 IN 3 PEOPLE LIVING WITH DIAGNOSED HIV ARE AGED OVER 50 YEARS

Anti-retroviral therapy has resulted in substantial reductions in AIDS incidence and deaths in the UK. People diagnosed promptly with HIV can expect near normal life expectancy. Challenges remain, with high rates of late HIV diagnoses and an ageing population.



The number of healthcare workers that have become infected with HIV as a result of workplace exposure is small considering the frequency of exposure to blood and body fluids in clinical and laboratory work. The greatest risk to healthcare workers of acquiring HIV is following a percutaneous injury involving a hollow needle that has been in the vein or artery of an HIV positive source patient, especially if that patient has late-stage disease and a high viral load.



Protecting and improving the nation's health

Healthmatters Increasing the uptake of HIV testing

1. The scale of the problem

An estimated 101,200 people were living with HIV in the UK in 2015. Of these, around one in eight were unaware that they were living with the virus and may be at risk of passing it on.

The number of people being diagnosed with HIV in the UK has remained steady over the past few years. In 2015, 8,085 people (4,551 men and 1,537 women) were diagnosed with HIV in the UK.

The HIV epidemic remains largely concentrated among gay and bisexual men and black African men and women. Just over half (64%) of all new HIV diagnoses in 2015 were reported among gay/bisexual men.

However, anyone can acquire HIV regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality or religion.

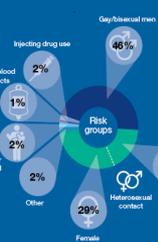
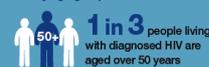
HIV in the UK

101,200 people are living with HIV

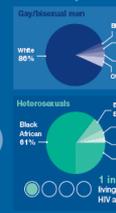


Stats for UK, 2015

HIV by age group



Breakdown by ethnicity



1 in 4 heterosexuals living with diagnosed HIV are white

Infected Health Care Workers

“Provided appropriate infection prevention and control precautions are adhered to scrupulously at all times, the majority of clinical procedures (including many which are invasive) in the healthcare setting pose no risk of transmission of bloodborne viruses (BBVs) from an infected healthcare worker (HCW) to a patient, and can safely be performed.”

Affected dental HCW's are able to perform a wider range of non-exposure prone procedures which was previously only endentulous. Guidance for dental staff is available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/511570/UKAP_General_Dentistry_EPP_Categorisation_FINAL_to_be_uploaded.pdf

Please contact the Infection Control team if you require any additional advice/support on 01744 457314 or 01744 457312