



Measuring health care HIV knowledge within our NHS Trust

Shongwe M, Baulita N, Spellman E, Menin J, Dhairyawan R.
Barts Health NHS Trust, London

Background

The HIV Stigma Survey¹ and Positive Voices Survey² showed that:

- Despite advances in HIV treatment and care, people living with HIV still face considerable HIV stigma
- Stigmatising attitudes and behaviours are a significant barrier to accessing HIV testing, adherence and engaging in care
- HIV stigma impacts on quality of life and psychological wellbeing

1. Kall M *et al.* Positive Voices: The National Survey of People Living with HIV. Findings from the 2017 survey
2. The People Living with HIV Stigma Survey UK 2017



Aims

- The aim of this study was to assess the HIV knowledge and attitudes of healthcare professionals and other hospital workers in our Trust
- Our long-term aim is to increase HIV awareness in our Trust and make Barts Health a HIV Stigma Free Zone



Bart Health HIV Stigma Free Zone



Methods

- Paper questionnaire exploring knowledge of HIV and attitudes towards people living with HIV
- Distributed to staff on adult medical, surgical and critical care wards, A&E and theatres at three hospitals within our Trust, on 3 separate days between December 2019 and January 2020
- Data analysed using Minitab 18



HIV STIGMA AUDIT FOR BARTS HEALTH NHS STAFF

As part of our HIV stigma audit, the Grahame Hayton Unit are collating some quick information about the healthcare staff understanding about HIV. These sets of questions will be collated and will be analysed then will be presented back to the executive board of the Trust.

Thank you for your participation!

Age Group:

18 – 29 30 – 39 40 – 49 50 – 60 Over 60s

Sexuality:

Heterosexual male Heterosexual female
 Gay Bisexual Lesbian Transgender
 Others, please specify _____

What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.

White British
 Mixed Race
 Black British
 Any other Black background
 Asian
 Asian British-Bangladeshi
 Asian British Chinese
 White European
 Latin American/Hispanic
 Other, please specify _____

What Speciality do you work in?

Doctor
 Nurse
 Health Care Assistant
 Pharmacist
 OT (Occupational Therapy) / PT (Physio Therapist)
 Dietician Medical Admin
 Others, please specify: _____

SURGICAL FOCUS QUESTIONNAIRE

How confident do you feel discussing HIV status with your patients?

Confident	Somewhat Confidante	Not Somewhat Confidante at all	Not my responsibility	Responsibility of the HIV team
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I feel at risk of HIV transmission when treating people living with HIV?

Agreed **I don't know** **Disagree**

A person living with HIV, should be placed at the end of the surgical list due to the risk of contamination? **Agreed** **I don't know** **Disagree**

If you get a needle stick injury from an HIV patient who's viral load is undetectable, will you get HIV? **Yes** **No**

a) Would you need: **PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylactic)**
 PEP (Post-exposure Prophylactic)

b) Have you heard about PEP and PrEP? **Yes** **No**

Can a person living with HIV who has an undetectable Viral Load pass the HIV virus to their negative partner through sex? **Yes** **No** **I don't know**

Do you know about U=U? **Yes** **No**

Can a person living with HIV still conceive and have children who are negative? **Yes** **No** **I don't know**

Would you like more information and training about HIV? **Yes** **No**

Please leave your email address so we can give you a feedback about our survey and our future projects within the Barts Health HIV service:



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MEDICAL FOCUS QUESTIONNAIRE

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I feel at risk of HIV transmission when treating people living with HIV?
 Agreed **I don't know** **Disagree**

A person living with HIV, should automatically be put on a side room?
 Agreed **I don't know** **Disagree**

If you get a needle stick injury from an HIV patient who's viral load is undetectable, will you get HIV? **Yes** **No**

a) Would you need: **PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylactic)**
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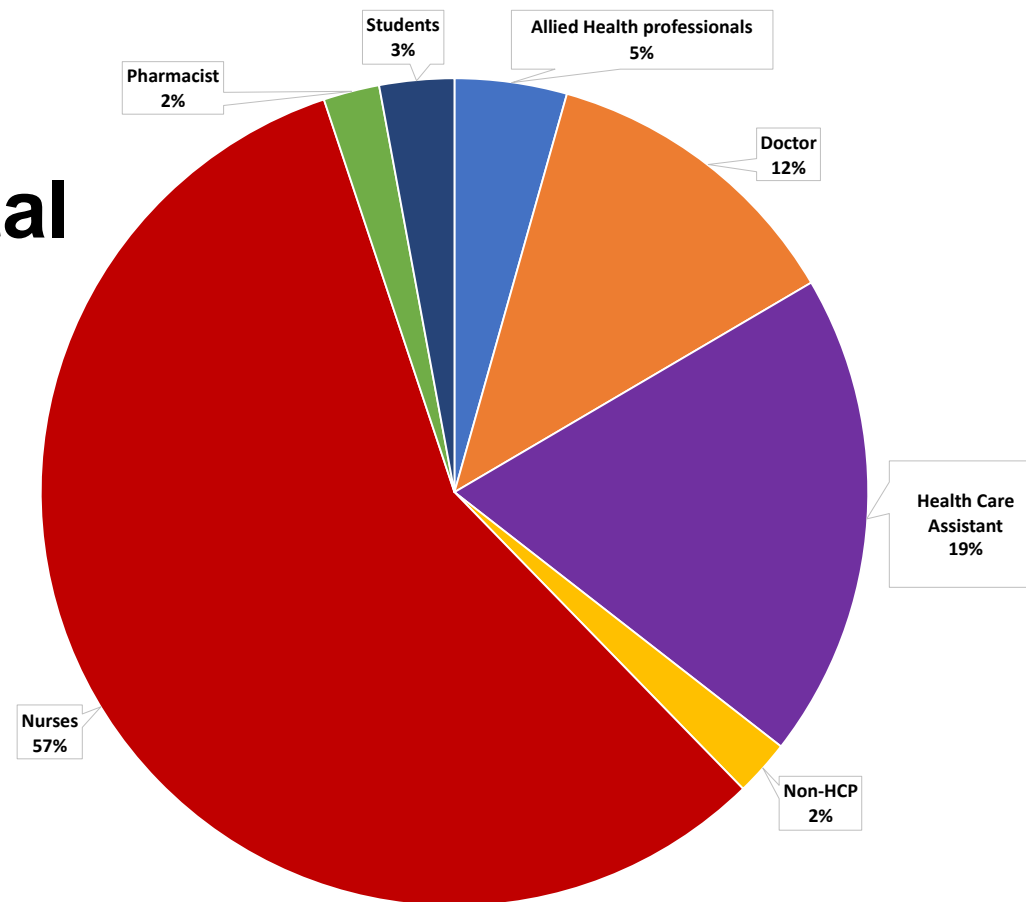


Results 1

411 questionnaires filled out in total

Age range (years)	Number (%)
18-29	136 (33.1%)
30-39	122 (29.7%)
40-49	86 (20.9%)
50-59	55 (13.4%)
≥60	12 (2.9%)

Table 1: Demographics (age)



Graph 1: Professions



Results 2

- 80% had not heard of U=U
- 35% thought that women living with HIV would pass HIV on to their children, even if they had an undetectable viral load
- 38% felt at risk of acquiring HIV when treating people living with HIV
- 47% felt they may get HIV from a needle-stick injury from a patient with an undetectable viral load
- 62% were aware of PrEP and PEP
 - But 45% believed that PrEP should be used after a needle-stick injury

U=U, undetectable = untransmittable; PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis;
PEP, post-exposure prophylaxis



Results 3

- 76% were not confident discussing HIV with patients
- 25% would consider isolating patients in side-rooms due to HIV status alone
- 52% thought people living with HIV should be placed at the end of operating lists
- 82% requested further information and training on HIV



Results 4

What people wrote on the questionnaires

General public (25 people) approached our stand and asked questions

I feel nervous taking
blood from HIV
patients!

U=U - What is that
anyway? I have never
heard of this!

Give PEP only if staff
requested or anxious!

I feel nervous taking
blood from HIV
patients!

Why complete this, it
does not affect me!

Conclusions

- Reducing HIV-related stigma is a vital component of HIV prevention and care
- Our results show that knowledge of HIV transmission, U=U, and prevention is low amongst healthcare professionals and hospital workers in our Trust
- Worryingly, many still believe PLHIV need to be isolated in side-rooms and placed last on operating lists
- However, most are keen for more HIV education and we plan a programme to address this

U=U, undetectable = untransmittable; PLWHIV, people living with HIV



World AIDS Day teaching 2019



Acknowledgments

- The HIV teams at the Grahame Hayton Unit and Greenway Centres, Barts Health NHS Trust
 - In particular Neil Baulita, Elizabeth Spellman, Jen Menin, John Howson, Dr Jennie Robertson, Dr Rebecca Lewis, Dr Rageshri Dhairyawan
- Positive East for their support
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