

The 100 Club

100 key supporters at the cutting edge
of eliminating HIV stigma
and discrimination



HIV in the UK

HIV

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus which attacks the immune system. Treatment means people living with HIV can have a healthy immune system and can't pass the virus on.

There are over 105,000 people living with HIV in the UK.

AIDS

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the most advanced stage of an HIV infection. Someone with AIDS has both HIV and at least one of a specific list of 'AIDS-defining' illnesses. AIDS is not the same as HIV. If HIV is caught early and treated, it will not lead to AIDS.

Progress

- Undetectable=Untransmissible or U=U.
When on effective treatment, the level of HIV (the viral load) in the blood is extremely low and referred to as undetectable. At this stage HIV cannot be passed on sexually.
- New diagnoses are now declining – 32% decrease over the past 10 years.
- PrEP is only available free on the NHS in England because of the work of National AIDS Trust. It prevents people getting HIV and is almost 100% effective when taken as prescribed.

Forty years have passed since the first deaths from AIDS-related illnesses and much has changed.

Effective prevention and treatment are now freely available, so we don't live under the same cloud of fear. We can even see a possible end to new cases by 2030.

But the battle is far from over. People living with HIV continue to be viewed negatively and discrimination remains rife. Our community are more likely to live in poverty, be unemployed, be lonely and experience mental ill health.

Forty years on, we still fight daily for equality. Equality in the workplace, in education, in access to products and services, in care homes, and even in healthcare. We tackle this head-on, going straight to the heart of the issues, changing policies, practices, laws and public opinion.

Established in 1987, the National AIDS Trust has been the driving force behind numerous key successes often undertaking significant work behind the scenes. Our 100 Club champions support these wins and are on the inside track of creating systemic change.



“

I am proud to lead an organisation so committed to making a real and lasting difference for so many people. Our successes in the past show the huge progress that can be made with the right expertise and focus meaning that you can be confident your investment will result in real change”.

**Deborah Gold,
Chief Executive**

Just one-third of the public say it wouldn't negatively impact their relationship with a family member and just 3% would be comfortable having a sexual relationship with someone living with HIV.

National AIDS Trust is the UK's HIV rights charity. Our vision is of a world where HIV doesn't stand in the way of health, dignity, and equality.

Our strategic aims are to:

STOP

we will stop new HIV infections.

CHAMPION

we will champion the needs of people whose voices and experiences are too often ignored.

PROTECT

we will protect the rights of everyone living with and at risk of HIV.

DRIVE

we will drive engagement and activism to change attitudes to HIV.

Our expertise, research and advocacy secure the leadership, resources and focus to make sustainable change for everyone living with or at risk of HIV. We act as a catalyst and work closely with allies, maximising our impact.



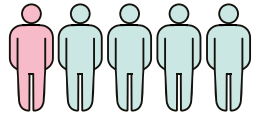
For example, we are the reason:

- PrEP, the HIV prevention medication, is available for free on the NHS.
- Pre-employment health questionnaires are illegal – so employers can't decide whether to offer a job based on HIV status.
- There is an end to the discriminatory lifetime ban and subsequent restrictions on gay and bisexual men donating blood.
- HIV is recognised as a disability, leading to a host of legal protections.
- Welfare benefit assessments can take into account fluctuating conditions such as HIV.
- Individual income protection policies are available for people living with HIV and rules that perpetuate HIV stigma in insurance services have been removed.
- The NHS and Home Office no longer share data for immigration tracing purposes.
- More new mothers can access free formula milk to avoid HIV transmission, including in Manchester and other areas.

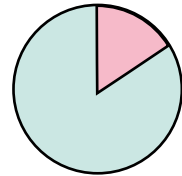


Stigma and discrimination

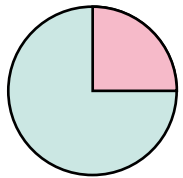
New research we've carried out in partnership with Fast-Track Cities London shows very low public knowledge and understanding of HIV.



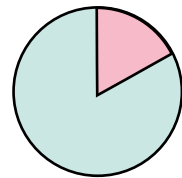
1 in 5 respondents were able to identify the main, or potential routes of HIV transmission, without identifying incorrect routes.



16% were aware that HIV treatment stops HIV from being transmitted.

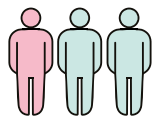


A quarter know that there is a medication (PrEP) to prevent someone from acquiring HIV.

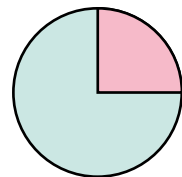


17% think 'from a toothbrush' is a transmission risk.

There are also deeply entrenched stigmatising views about HIV:

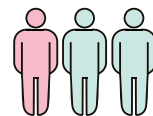


One-third said it would definitely not negatively impact their relationship with a family member if they said they were living with HIV.



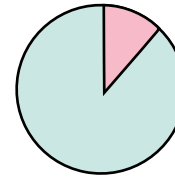
One-quarter feel their employer should have to tell them if a colleague was living with HIV.

Just **3%** of people said they would definitely feel comfortable having a sexual relationship with somebody living with HIV.

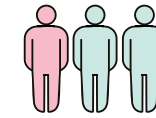


One-third fully agree they have sympathy for people living with HIV, regardless of how they acquired it.

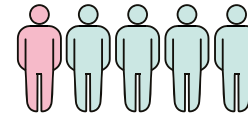
This results in significant inequalities and serious harm:



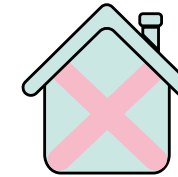
11% report being refused healthcare or having a treatment delayed due to HIV status.



1 in 3 live in poverty, with barriers to accessing and thriving in employment, and inequality in access to financial products and services.



1 in 5 needs help with loneliness and isolation.



We hear about people treated differently in, or even prevented from accessing, residential care.

Depression and anxiety are reported twice as often than in the general population.

Stigma also hinders HIV prevention efforts so tackling this is vital to ending new HIV cases by 2030.



I certainly haven't told all my friends because I fear their reaction".

Kelly, 31



A few days after I told my employer I had been diagnosed with HIV, I was told my hours were being cut. They took away all my extra responsibilities, cut my hourly rate and made me sign a form saying I consented to it".

Jimmy, 32

The future

HIV stigma is persistent and complex and takes place in between individuals but also in settings such as healthcare, employment and in accessing services. We believe the most successful model is to tackle it at source – by both supporting individuals and ensuring lasting, top-level change.



When we were contacted by a student nurse who had been suspended for not disclosing that they live with HIV, we identified that the national guidance on this area was unclear.

Our advocacy ensured that the student is now back to their studies and we ensured the guidance was updated to be clear when healthcare workers need to share their status.

Examples such as the one opposite are where National AIDS Trust comes in. First, with your support we can ensure that the right laws and policies are in place, and we can challenge inequalities.

Using our expertise, knowledge and strong relationships with decision makers we'll ensure that institutions take action, and we'll ensure the right funding is in place for work to stop stigma and discrimination in its tracks.

We've already created the political and policy environment where the Government has publicly committed to ending new HIV transmissions by 2030, and tackling stigma is a key part of this. We will push for the Government to commit to a national approach to improving HIV knowledge and challenging stigma.

We're working towards a future where everyone living with HIV has equal rights and where everyone has accurate, up to date information about HIV and living with HIV in the UK today.



The 100 Club

By joining the 100 Club, you will be on the inside track of change. We'll work closely with you ensuring you have key information from 'behind the scenes' and have knowledge of the inner workings of how we are changing policies and practices to create systemic change. You'll be the first to hear about our successes, hearing from policy and influencing experts.

You'll also get early access to our reports and publications, invites to events, and you'll be welcomed to networking opportunities with other 100 Club members.

We'll thank you publicly on our website and in our annual accounts unless you'd prefer your support to remain confidential.



100 Club supporters invest a minimum of £2,500 per annum.
Please contact Chris Dye (Partnerships and Philanthropy Specialist) for more information
chris.dye@nat.org.uk or 020 7814 6726 or make a donation at www.nat.org.uk/donate



NATIONAL AIDS TRUST

Securing rights
Stopping HIV

We're the UK's HIV rights charity. We work to stop HIV from standing in the way of health, dignity and equality, and to end new HIV transmissions.

www.nat.org.uk

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With thanks to James Lee Kennett of Paper & Pixels for design, and to Allen & Overy for kindly supplying the printing