

HIV in North East England

Overview

- There are more people living with HIV in the North East than ever before. At the end of 2008 there were likely to be around 1,500 people living with HIV in the region. 27% of these people were undiagnosed.
- Terrence Higgins Trust is calling for levels of undiagnosed HIV in the UK to be halved by 2014 through the introduction of a targeted national screening programme.

New diagnoses

- In 2008, 129 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in the North East. Between 2007 and 2008, numbers of new diagnoses in the North East decreased by 15%. This compares to a UK-wide decrease of around 3%. Numbers of new diagnoses are likely to increase as late reports are submitted to the HPA.
- The HPA estimates that 42% of those who were newly diagnosed in 2008 in the North East were white gay men. This compares to an average of 33% of new diagnoses across the UK.
- According to HPA estimates, 33% of those who were newly diagnosed in 2008 in the North East were black African heterosexuals. This compares to a UK average of 38%.
- People aged between 35 and 44 were the age group most likely to be diagnosed with HIV in the North East in 2008. Across the UK, the most common age group for those newly diagnosed in 2008 was 30-39.

People accessing HIV care

- At the end of 2008, there were 1,086 people accessing HIV care in the region. This is an 8% increase from 2007 and a 105% increase from 2003.
- At the end of 2008, 41% of those needing HIV care in the North East were gay men. Between 2007 and 2008, there was a 10% increase in numbers of gay men accessing HIV care. Between 2003 and 2008 this increase was 105%.
- HIV is now affecting older people in the North East. At the end of 2008, 20% of those accessing care in the region were over 50 years old. A further 13% were aged between 45 and 49.

All data taken from the Health Protection Agency www.hpa.org.uk

The HIV and sexual health charity for life

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