

# HIV in statistics

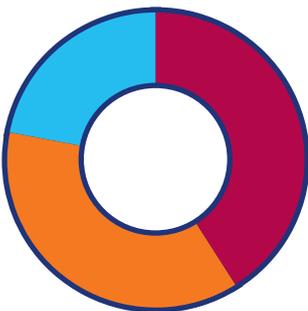
## HIV in the UK

There are currently **105,200**<sup>1</sup> people living with HIV in the UK, of them **6,600**<sup>1</sup> are currently undiagnosed, so do not know they are HIV positive.



Anyone can get HIV, but people from some groups are more likely to be affected.

In particular, **men who have sex with men** and **Black African people** are disproportionately affected.



Of the **4,139**<sup>1</sup> people diagnosed with HIV in the UK in 2019, **41%**<sup>1</sup> were gay or bisexual men, and of the heterosexual people diagnosed, **37%**<sup>1</sup> were Black African.

## Diagnoses

New diagnoses are now **declining** and have been at a steep fall since 2014. In 2019, we saw a **10%**<sup>1</sup> drop in new diagnoses from 2018.

This is a clear win in the mission to ending HIV transmission in the UK, however, of those diagnosed with HIV in 2019, **42% were diagnosed late**<sup>1</sup>.



Late diagnosis means that you may have had HIV for a few years without knowing. Without treatment, HIV is infectious and easily

passed on and may have already started to damage your immune system. People aged over 65 are at greatest risk of late diagnosis, with **59%**<sup>1</sup> of new diagnoses happening late.

## Undetectable Viral Load



'Viral load' refers to the amount of HIV in the blood. A viral load test shows how much of the virus is in the body by measuring how many particles of HIV are in a blood sample.

This is significant, because, for the past 20 years, evidence has been building up to show that the **likelihood of passing on HIV is linked to the amount of the virus in the blood**.



When an HIV positive partner is on effective treatment and their viral load is 'undetectable', it means the virus cannot be passed on

during sex even without a condom. A study in 2014<sup>2</sup> looked at over **58,000** cases where one partner was HIV positive and one was HIV negative and there were zero cases of HIV transmission.

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/959330/hpr2020\\_hiv19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959330/hpr2020_hiv19.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://unaids-ap.org/joint-statement-ministry-of-public-health-of-thailand-world-health-organization-who-and-joint-united-nations-programme-on-hiv-aids-unaids>



# HIV in statistics

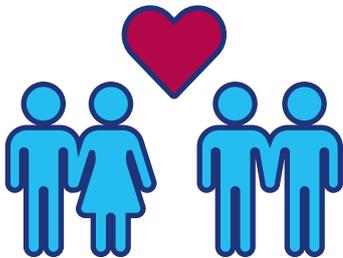
**TOGETHER WE CAN** Remember

Terrence HIGGINS TRUST



This gives us the robust evidence to say, with confidence, that **people on effective HIV treatment can't pass on the virus.**

A further study in 2018 looked at instances of condomless anal sex, which showed **zero transmissions** for both same-sex male couples and heterosexual couples.



**zero transmissions**

With the results of both of these studies, scientists have concluded that the chance of any HIV positive person with an undetectable viral load

transmitting the virus to a sexual partner is **scientifically equivalent to zero.**

## Key data



For the third year running the UK has surpassed the **UNAIDS 2020 target** of **90:90:90**<sup>1</sup> with **94%**<sup>1</sup> of those living with HIV being diagnosed, **98%**<sup>1</sup> of those

being on HIV treatment and **97%**<sup>1</sup> of them having an undetectable viral load, meaning they cannot pass on the virus.

Only **3%**<sup>1</sup> of people diagnosed with HIV in the UK in 2019 had contracted HIV via injecting drug use and more than a third of people receiving specialist HIV care are now aged 50 or over (42%).

## Thank you

With your help this World AIDS Day, we can support people living with HIV by ensuring that there is access to safe and reliable information, raising awareness and creating a better future free from stigma and discrimination. Together we can make changes that last a lifetime and end HIV transmissions in the UK by 2030.

# World AIDS Day 1 December